



Elena Thompson

Associate

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“I value developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with clients to help them achieve their business objectives. Through clear communication and dynamic problem solving, I provide practical advice and exceptional legal service.”

Elena Thompson focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation. She supports all aspects of dispute resolution and litigation, including drafting briefs and declarations, conducting research, and analyzing probable litigation outcomes. Clients benefit from her ability to effectively strategize and navigate arguments in arbitration, mediation, court, and before public agencies.

In addition to her litigation experience, Elena also negotiates contracts and advises clients from various industries on risk management strategies to resolve disputes in a timely and cost-effective manner. Elena represents clients in a diverse group of public and private sector industries including municipalities, transit, real estate, franchises, education, and organizations involved in eminent domain and condemnation disputes.

Elena also serves on the firm’s pro bono committee and uses her experience to support pro bono clients, including cases managed in partnership with the ACLU of Washington and the ACLU of Louisiana. She also co-leads Miller Nash’s team that participates in the Legal Foundation of Washington’s Associates Campaign for Equal Justice. The team works to expand access to critical legal services for families experiencing poverty.

Prior to joining Miller Nash, Elena was a legal fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, where she led the organization’s education and students’ rights law program. She also served as a law clerk to the Texas Civil Rights Project and contributed to election protection initiatives.

Representative Experience

Litigation

- Successfully represented local transit authority in a significant arbitration briefing that resulted in a multi-million dollar resolution. Services included preparing opening and closing briefs, pretrial motions, and cross-examination outlines.

Education

J.D., University of Texas at Austin School of Law, 2020

- Articles Editor, *Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights*
- Dean’s Achievement Award, Outstanding Student in Health Law & Policy

B.A., University of Oklahoma, *summa cum laude*, 2017

Bar Admissions

Washington, 2022
Ohio, 2020

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio

- Represented client in a residential multi-million-dollar real property dispute, including taking depositions, drafting trial-related briefing, and settlement negotiations that resulted in a positive outcome.
- Drafted trial and appellate briefing used in a successful contract claim for breach of a real estate lease agreement appeal before the Washington Court of Appeals.
- Represented cannabis producer in a complex dispute regarding cannabis sales, including drafting briefing, managing all aspects of discovery, and settlement negotiations.
- Served as lead counsel in a highly public dispute involving four separate cases that included civil and criminal claims in state and federal courts in Washington and Oregon. Successfully and discreetly negotiated a complex global settlement on terms favorable to client while managing a high volume of press and social media coverage.
- In partnership with the ACLU of Louisiana, currently representing client in a lawsuit challenging an unconstitutional arrest after a dispute regarding the first amendment right to peaceably assemble. (Ongoing)
- In partnership with the ACLU of Washington, challenging the Department of Licensing's practice of suspending driver's licenses for failure to appear or pay traffic violations. (Ongoing)

Presentations

- "Arguing the Reasonable Probability of a Rezone," The Seminar Group, 14th Annual Cutting-Edge Issues in Condemnation (October 2024)
- "Exceptions to the Unit Rule," Appraisal Institute Seattle Chapter, 18th Annual Fall Real Estate Conference (Oct. 2024)

Personal Activities

Elena enjoys spending time outdoors, either in her garden or with her husband as they hike their way through every U.S. national park. When it's raining, you can find her watching college football (Boomer Sooner!) or playing pub trivia.