

Alison R. Mullins

FAIRFAX, VA

Alison R. Mullins is a partner in the firm's Fairfax, Virginia office and focuses her practice on all aspects of construction law and civil litigation in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Mullins primarily represents architects, engineers, contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, and owners in technical construction industry matters. She provides clients with thorough risk analysis, evaluation, allocation, and management of business practices, in addition to assisting with the preparation and negotiation of contracts. Ms. Mullins also provides pre-claim counseling to clients. When disputes arise, she negotiates, mediates, and/or arbitrates contract enforcement issues, and works out payment plans for monetary defaults. She has tried cases before judges and juries regarding complex civil litigation, including matters involving commercial and residential construction projects.



Ms. Mullins is admitted to practice in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the U.S. District Court of Maryland, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of the United States.

She is peer rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell for very high ethical standards. Among her many recognitions, she has been named to the list of *Best Lawyers in America*® for Construction Litigation annually since 2022 and was named a *Super Lawyer* in Virginia and the District of Columbia in 2021, 2022 and 2023 in the area of Construction Litigation, and *Top Attorney* by Arlington Magazine in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Ms. Mullins is very involved in the professional community outside of the office, including serving as an adjunct professor at the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, a Fellow of The Construction Lawyers Society of America, Chair of the Virginia State Bar's Construction & Public Contracts Law Section, and President-Elect of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, State Board, among many other activities.

Prior to joining C&W, Ms. Mullins was a founding partner at Shannon Mullins & Wright LLP. Before entering private practice, she started her legal career as a contracts manager and in-house counsel at a large architectural firm in Northern Virginia. From that experience, Ms. Mullins gained unique insight and perspective on client needs, and how to meet them.

Ms. Mullins received her B.S. from Southern Connecticut State University in 2002 and her J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island in 2005.

When she is away from the office, she enjoys spending time relaxing at home in North Arlington with her family, running marathons, and traveling (especially to Disney).

Professional & Community Involvement

Adjunct Professor, Transactional Drafting, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School
 Fellow, The Construction Lawyers Society of America
 Immediate Past, Chair, Construction & Public Contracts Law Section, Virginia State Bar
 Vice President, Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board Member, Virginia State Bar
 President, Virginia Women Attorneys Association, State Board
 Past-President, Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Virginia Chapter
 Supporting Partner, American Institute of Architects, Northern Virginia Chapter

Member, Fairfax County Bar Association

Member, Alexandria Bar Association

Awards & Recognitions

The Best Lawyers in America®, Litigation – Construction, 2024, 2023 & 2022

Super Lawyers, Top Rated Lawyer for Construction Litigation, Virginia and District of Columbia – 2023, 2022 & 2021

Super Lawyers Rising Star, Virginia and District of Columbia – 2020-2015

Legal Elite, Construction, Virginia Business Magazine – 2023-2016

Woman Leader in The Law, Legal Leaders Top Rated Lawyers – 2022 & 2020

Client Champion Platinum, Martindale-Hubbell – since 2021

Peer Rating of AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell – 2023-2017

Judicial Edition Rating of AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell – 2023-2017

Top Attorneys, Construction, Arlington Magazine – 2023, 2022, 2021, & 2019

AIA Northern Virginia Chapter Award, The American Institute of Architects Northern Virginia Chapter – October 2020

Top Lawyer, Civil Defense, Northern Virginia Magazine – 2020 & 2019

Top Attorneys, Virginia's Outstanding Young Lawyers – 2020-2018, 2016

Top Attorneys, Washington DC's Outstanding Young Lawyers – 2020

America's Most Honored Professionals – Top 1% – 2021-2018

Publications

Co-Author, Do Your Words Really Matter? Shop Drawing Liability, AIA Northern Virginia News, Issue 4, 2021

Co-Author, Please... SIGN HERE – The Validity of E-Signatures, AIA Northern Virginia News, Issue 3, 2021

Chapter 4: Design Professionals & Chapter 28: Condominiums, Virginia Construction Law Deskbook, 2019

Cover Feature, The Construction Law & Public Contracts Issue, Virginia Lawyer, Vol. 69, No. 6, April 2021

Co-Author, Issues with Remote Depositions & Hearings & How to Overcome Those Hurdles, Virginia Lawyer, Vol. 69, No. 6, April 2021

Managing Expectations for Payment: "Pay-When-Paid" v. "Pay-If-Paid," AIA Northern Virginia News, Issue 1, 2021

The Devil is in the Details: Contractual Scope Provisions, AIA Northern Virginia News, Issue 1, 2021

Co-Author, Is OSHA or VOSH Stepping up their PPE Game? PPE Regulations & Guidelines in the COVID-19 Era, Virginia State Bar Construction Law and Public Contracts News, Issue No. 77, Fall 2020

Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: Certificates of Merit, AIA Northern Virginia News, Issue 3, 2020

Employers "New" Rights & Limitations Under the New Relief Packages, AIA Northern Virginia News, March/April 2020

You Are NOT Sherlock Holmes: An Architect's Duty During Site Visits, AIA Northern Virginia News, November/December 2019

Even "Perfect" Designers Use Pencils with Erasers: A Review of the Standard of Care, AIA Northern Virginia News, September/October 2019

Out with the Old, In with the New! Termination Provisions, AIA Northern Virginia News, January/February 2018

Do Not Destroy the Evidence! Office Policies for Document Retention, AIA Northern Virginia News, July/August 2017

Co-Author, Protecting Your Assets – Employment Basics, AIA Northern Virginia News, May/June 2017

It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3: Basic Contract Review, AIA Northern Virginia News, March/April 2017

Ring in 2017! Making Resolutions and Setting Goals, AIA Northern Virginia News, January/February 2017

Communication is Key – Especially Written Communication, AIA DC News, April 2015

Co-Author, Chapter 28: Condominiums, Virginia Construction Law Deskbook, 2015
Think Before You Write – It May Be Evidence One Day, AIA DC News, February 2015
The What and Why of Indemnification, AIA DC News, January 2015
Prevailing Party Attorneys’ Fees – The Good. The Bad. The Ugly., AIA Northern Virginia News, November/December 2014
Ownership, Copyright, License – What’s An Architect To Do?, AIA Northern Virginia News, September/October 2014
Mechanic’s Liens and Your Condominium Unit, Quorum Magazine, November 2013
Roadblocks to Baseless Claims: Certificates of Merit, AIA DC News, November 2013
Perfection Not Required, An Architect’s Standard of Care, AIA DC News, October 2013
The Law’s Ticking Clock, Statutes of Limitations & Statutes of Repose, AIA DC News, August 2013
The Ties That Bind, Step 2: Alternatives to the Traditional Written Contract, AIA DC News, June 2013
The Ties That Bind (Part 1), AIA DC News, May 2013
Co-author, What is Betterment?, AIA Northern Virginia News, January/February 2009
Show Me the Money! Show Me Your License!, Mid-Atlantic Construction, Winter 2008
Notice Me, Masonry Magazine, December 2008
Quick Escape Acts – Part IV, Legal Claim Based Arguments, AIA Northern Virginia News, November/December 2008
Co-author, Don’t Fall Asleep at the Switch, Multifamily Advisor, October 2008
Co-author, Exploring Uncharted Waters – Planning for Green Building Liability, Electrical Contractor, October 2008
Quick Escape Acts – Part III, Party Based Arguments, AIA Northern Virginia News, September/October 2008
Liability May Be Limited, Masonry Magazine, September 2008
Documenting Changes – Highlights of the AIA Documents Changes, Electrical Contractor, August 2008
Co-author, Contract Terms That Help you get Paid, Masonry Magazine, July 2008
Co-author, Going Once, Going Twice...Competitive Bids on Government Contracts, Electrical Contractor, June 2008
Co-author, Pointing Fingers, Masonry Magazine, May 2008
Co-author, Transportation Funding Takes a Big Hit, Mid-Atlantic Construction, Summer 2008
Co-author, Architect and Performance Bond Surety – No Relationships Here, Mid-Atlantic Construction, Spring 2008
Co-author, Another Way To Go, Electrical Contractor, April 2008
Co-author, Subcontractors Beware: Bid Conditions Matter, Masonry Magazine, March 2008
Co-author, Waivers of Subrogation, Electrical Contractor, February 2008

Speaking Engagements

Presenter, “*Practice Management – AIA Contract Review Documents*” ARE Prep Seminars 2022, The Young Architects Forum of AIA Northern Virginia, March 2022
Presenter, “*Contracts, Construction Documents, and Licensing Obligations*” and “*Ethics and Standards of Practice*”, AIA Northern Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture 2022 Honors Academy, March 2022
Presenter, *Practicing Law The Jetson’s Way: Effective Advocacy in Remote Proceedings*, Virginia State Bar 42nd Annual Construction Law and Public Contracts Seminar, November 2021
Presenter, *The Ethics of Mediation*, Virginia Women Attorneys Association Annual Conference, September 2021
Presenter, *Handling Ethical Issues in Engineering Practice*, Sponsored by HalfMoon Education Inc., May 2021
Presenter, *Architect Registration Exam, Contract Documents, Legal* (Prep Course), AIA Northern Virginia Young Architects Forum, 2014-2021
Presenter, *At the Crossroads of Contracts, Construction Documents, & Licensing Obligations*, Emerging Leaders in Architecture Sponsored by American Institute of Architects, March 2019-2021
Presenter, *Ethical Considerations in Contract Negotiation, Drafting and Administration*, Advanced Construction Contracts: Sustainability and Ethics Sponsored by HalfMoon Education Inc., July 2020
Presenter, *Contract Law Primer for Engineers*, Sponsored by HalfMoon Education Inc., January 2019
Presenter, *The Power of Networking*, 11th Annual Virginia Women’s Business Conference, December 2019
Presenter, *Contract Provisions Expanding Liability*, Emerging Leaders Institute Sponsored by American Council of Engineering Companies, February 2018
Presenter, *Setting Relationships Up for Success*, Virginia Women’s Business Conference, December 2017
Presenter, *To Document or Not to Document: That is the Question*, Design Professionals Learning Event Sponsored by

RLI, 2017

Co-Presenter, *Evidentiary Issues in a Construction Trial/Foundation and Admissibility of E-Documents; Update on Federal and State Evidentiary Rules*, Virginia State Bar, Construction Law & Public Contracts Section, Annual Seminar, November 2015

Moderator, *Great Expectations: What Insureds Expect from Outside Counsel*, 54th Meeting of Invited Attorneys Sponsored by Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc., May 2015

Moderator, *Mediation Ethics*, Construction Law & Public Contracts Section, Virginia State Bar, Norfolk, March 2015

Moderator, *Mediation Ethics*, Construction Law & Public Contracts Section, Virginia State Bar, Roanoke, September 2014

Co-presenter, *Contracts*, Structural Engineers Association of Metropolitan Washington, March 2014

Co-presenter, *Virginia Engineering Law*, Halfmoon Education, Inc., September 2013

Co-presenter, *The 411 on RFP Preparation and AIA Documents*, Community Associations Institute, Washington Metropolitan Chapter, September 2013

Co-presenter, *Show Me the Money – Contract Terms That Help You Get Paid...and Make Your Life Easier*, Presentation to RLI Insurance, April 2013

Co-presenter, *Take It or Leave It*, Structural Engineers Association of Metropolitan Washington, November 2011

Presenter, *Architects and the Law*, Professional Practice Class at the Washington-Alexandria Center for Architecture, November 2008

PRACTICE AREAS

- Construction
- Commercial Litigation

EDUCATION

Southern Connecticut State University (B.S., 2002)

Roger Williams University School of Law (J.D., 2005)

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