



Hon. Christi L. Underwood ,
Winter Park, Florida



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Current Employer-Title

Underwood Arbitration, LLC

Profession

Construction, Commercial, and International Arbitrator

Work History

Arbitrator, 2018 - Present; Florida Circuit Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2013 – 2018; Arbitrator & Mediator, Christi L. Underwood PA, 2002 – 2013; Partner/Associate, Foley & Lardner, 1992 – 2002; Associate, Maguire Voorhis & Wells, 1989 – 1992; Commercial Construction Company Executive, 1974 – 1988.

Experience

After working as an executive in the commercial construction field for 10 years, returned to college, graduating from law school in 1988; practiced construction and commercial law and/or served as an arbitrator and mediator for over 23 years before becoming a Florida Circuit Court Judge in 2013. Following service as a judge in the civil and felony divisions, including presiding over numerous jury and bench trials, retired early from the bench and resumed arbitration practice in 2018. Substantial experience as arbitrator and panel chair in large monetary disputes and multi-party complex arbitrations concerning construction and commercial contracts, professional services and business transactions.

Construction Experience

Former construction and commercial contract litigation attorney in private practice; qualified for and obtained Florida Certified General Contractor license; former legal counsel for two Florida international airports for renovation, capital improvement, and expansion programs (including runways, taxiways, terminals, and new international terminal procurement process); represented public owners, contractors, and subcontractors in

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Neutral ID: 112039*

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construction disputes; represented contractor in delay damages dispute with an international airport in south Florida; represented various construction participants in lien law and surety bond matters; experience as client's counsel and arbitrator in multiple project delivery methods (design/build, EPC, program management, CM, design/bid/build). Represented U.S. domestic and international contractors and subcontractors, architects, engineers, equipment manufacturers, sureties in various matters. More than 50% of law practice was construction related.

Commercial Experience

Previously represented individuals and businesses as legal counsel in commercial contract disputes, represented FDA regulated pharmaceutical company in international arbitration, represented U.S. manufacturer of construction materials in interstate commerce dispute, represented international construction company involved in disputes within U.S. over quality of construction management services, and international subcontractor in dispute over performance of pile driving services for a 19-story courthouse.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience

Member of American Arbitration Association's Judicial Panel, Construction Mega Project Panel, Large Complex Case Panel, International, Construction, and Commercial Panels. Served as an arbitrator in over 125 matters, including U.S. and international construction and commercial disputes.

Construction Experience

Numerous disputes involved large complex construction projects and multiple matters in controversy exceeding \$75 million USD (some arising from projects with total contract values exceeding \$2 billion). Served as arbitrator in disputes regarding: the design, engineering, or construction of horizontal and vertical projects, concrete superstructure, infrastructure foundations, steel erection, welding, concrete design and placement, pile driving, framing, mechanical and electrical trade work, fire-code compliance, drywall, stucco, plastering, roofing, bridges, highways, storm water systems, high security U.S. military runway, heavy industrial process facilities, tunneling projects, marinas, mega hotel projects, commercial pier for heavy crane operations, chemical and manufacturing plants (including steam generators for power plant; organic sulfur compound processing plant; design build of specially designed distribution plant), government buildings, high-rise office buildings, hotels, schools, condominium projects, and others. Disputed issues presided over as a construction arbitrator include contracts, fraud, business torts, liquidated damages, punitive damages, delay and disruption, lost productivity claims, Eichleay formula damages, change order claims, hurricane related damages, insurance claims, performance and payment surety bond claims and defenses, equitable subrogation, indemnity, design standards, wrongful termination, attorneys' fees entitlement, among others. Substantial experience as panel chair and in

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multi-party disputes.

Commercial Experience

Contract disputes, purchase and sale agreements, partnerships, joint ventures, real estate transactions, multi-party investment agreements, insurance, accounting, product manufacturing and distribution agreements (disputes between parties to domestic and international agreements); manufacturing equipment compliance for specialized operation of facilities; civil fraud, secured transactions, commercial code issues, UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (“CISG”), leases, business terminations; complex multiparty business dissolutions involving business activities throughout the U.S. Served as panel chair and tribunal member of domestic and international arbitration proceedings involving disputes over: purchase and sale of commercial real estate; breach of purchase orders for products; breach of contract for international sponsorship of a sports tournament; breach of management contracts; investor disputes; partnership disagreements, luxury condominium purchase and sale; dispute over territory of international distribution of a trademarked product, quality of compliance with specifications for manufacturing facilities for specialized commercial products (including gas turbine engines; components within compound processing plants), trade secrets, quality of design, engineering of manufacturing plants for specialized products; disputes between contracting parties and end users of industrial manufacturing plants concerning design criteria and quality of output. Experience presiding over matters in multiple jurisdictions, and issues of conflicts of laws, business torts, contracts, fraud, punitive damages, and multiple parties. Substantial experience as panel chair.

Education

University of Florida (JD-1988; BS-1985).

Diploma, International Arbitration, Oxford University, St. Anne’s College (2012), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Completed focused course in International Commercial Arbitration at Pepperdine University, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (2011); and at Columbia Law School (2018).

Professional Licenses

Admitted to the Bar: Florida (1989), New York (2004), District of Columbia (1991); U.S. District Court: Middle District of Florida (1990), U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit (1993); U.S. Supreme Court (2006).

Florida Certified General Contractor, CGC031743 (1985-inactive).
Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator (2003-2015).
Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Attorney (2006-2016).

Professional Associations

Fellow, American College of Construction Lawyers (previously served on: Board of Governors; Dispute Resolution Committee; Nominating Committee); Fellow, College of Commercial Arbitrators (previously

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served on: Board of Directors; Executive Committee; Membership Committee); Orange County Bar Association; Florida Bar (Construction Law Committee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section; previously served on Construction Law Institute Committee); American Bar Association (Forum Committee on the Construction Industry; Sections: Dispute Resolution, Litigation; former Co-chair of The ABA's Arbitration Institute). Fellow, American Bar Foundation; Fellow, Florida Bar Foundation. Member of Board of Directors, and Council, of the American Arbitration Association/ICDR. Association affiliations prior to judicial service: American Arbitration Association, Board of Directors (served on Executive Committee; Practices and Rules Committee); AAA National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee.

Recent Publications & Speaking Engagements

Publications

Co-author, "Arbitration vs. Litigation: You Control the Process v. Process Controls You," Dispute Resolution Journal, vol. 64, no. 4, November 2009-January 2010; Author, "Construction Arbitration: The Deliberation Process and Practice Tips for Advocates," The Florida Bar Journal, vol. 80, no. 3, March 2006; Co-author, "Time and Cost Solutions for Commercial Arbitration," Dispute Resolution Journal, vol. 66, no. 1, February-April 2011; Author, article on criminal embezzlement published by Associated General Contractors of America magazine.

Book Chapters

Author, "The Business of Being a Construction Neutral," chapter 29, CONSTRUCTION ADR, American Bar Association, Forum on the Construction Industry, 1st ed.

Co-author, "Post-Award Matters," chapter 11, COLLEGE OF COMMERCIAL ARBITRATORS GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICES IN COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION, JurisNet, LLC, 2nd, 3rd eds.

Co-author, "Rights and Liabilities of Construction Managers," chapter 4 FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION LAW AND PRACTICE MANUAL, Florida Bar, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th eds.

Continuing legal education speaker, arbitrator trainer before judicial service (1989-2013) and after (2018-present). The following is a representative sample of such presentations:

* Perspectives on admission of evidence at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Construction Lawyers, Arizona, 2020

* "The Presentation of Evidence in International Construction Arbitration," ICDR Annual International Presentation, Florida Bar, Miami, 2019

* "Managing Your First Arbitration," College of Commercial Arbitrators, American Arbitration Association, JAMS, faculty member for programs in Miami, Nashville, and Boston, 2010 and 2011

* "Managing Discovery; Managing the Parties and Their Lawyers," AB. Sixth Annual Arbitration Institute, Los Angeles, 2011

* "Making Disclosures, Preventing Disclosure Problems," AAA Neutral Conf., Orlando 2010; and, The Arbitration Institute, Los Angeles 2011

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- * “Risks, Damages and Alternative Dispute Resolution in Green Construction,” Practising Law Institute, New York City, 2010
- * “Means, Methods to Resolve Construction Disputes without Litigation” World of Concrete, Las Vegas, 2009
- * “Ways that Discovery and Presentation of Evidence in Arbitration Differ from Trials,” ABA, Section of Litigation Conference, Atlanta, 2006
- * “Practice Tips for Analyzing Risks in Construction Contracts,” Lorman Education Services, Daytona Beach, 2006
- * “Post Completion Issues from the Contractor’s Perspective,” Practising Law Institute, New York City, 2005
- * “The Legal Implications of Construction Scheduling,” Lorman Education Services, Orlando, 2004

Citizenship	United States of America	
Languages	English	
Compensation:	Hearing:	\$6,000.00 per day
	Study:	\$600.00 per hour
	Cancellation Period:	0 days
	Comment:	Requires deposits in advance of hearings. Hourly study rate is charged for all time associated with the engagement, including study, administrative, conference calls, deliberation, award preparation, and all other matter related activities. Expenses to be reimbursed as incurred (including business or first class airfare if applicable).

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