GOLDBERGSEGALLA



lcolca@goldbergsegalla.com
716.710.5840
Buffalo

PRACTICES

- Corporate Law and Transactions
- Commercial Litigation and Arbitration
- Real Estate and Land Use
- Construction Litigation and Counsel
- Retail and Hospitality
- Intellectual Property

INDUSTRIES

- Construction
- Retail and Hospitality
- Sports and Entertainment
- Education
- Startups and Small Businesses
- Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries
- Cannabis and Hemp

Laura A. Colca

PARTNER

EXPERIENCE

Laura A. Colca is a highly skilled transactional and corporate counselor, intellectual property attorney, and litigator who brings 30 years of experience to her practice. She is a trusted legal advisor to a wide variety of clients, including manufacturing and technology companies, construction and development companies, retail and hospitality franchises, media entities, higher education institutions, nonprofits, and small and family-owned businesses. Laura has an extensive background in construction contract review and counsel, and she has successfully negotiated numerous seven- and eight-figure construction contracts, helping clients navigate complex terms and mitigate risk.

Whether acting as outside general counsel to a long-time client or parachuting in to handle a complicated matter, Laura's practice includes high-value transactions; corporate formation, governance, and dissolution; commercial litigation and contractual disputes; estate and trust work; and numerous matters related to trademarks, patents, and copyrights.

As a prominent member of several legal, business, and professional organizations, including the American Business Women's Association, Laura devotes a significant portion of her practice to advising women business owners and executives in many industries on the unique challenges and opportunities for women- and minority-owned businesses. Her guidance to clients seeking to obtain MWBE certification includes assisting clients who have been denied certification and/or re-certification. When a small woman-owned business in the construction service industry was denied recertification, thereby jeopardizing a multi-million dollar contract on a significant government project, Laura immediately filed an appeal and successfully had the denial reversed – saving not only the contract at issue, but also the future of the company.

Laura's expertise in MWBE matters includes analyzing the company's suitability for certification, advising on the documentation needed for the application, and assisting clients in navigating the filing process. When an appeal is required, she interfaces with hearing officers and attorneys with the goal of obtaining certification without engaging in the costly hearing process.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Transactions and Corporate Services

Laura has led multiple multimillion-dollar merger-and-acquisition transactions, and possesses a deep understanding of the complexities of due diligence, regulatory compliance, and tactical key employee issues in the M&A process. Laura also regularly drafts complex contracts, and is skilled at negotiating critical business governing agreements, including confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements, terms and conditions, distribution agreements, licenses, and commercial leases.

Commercial Litigation

Complementing Laura's transactional experience is her capability in the litigation arena. Laura is experienced in commercial and business litigation, and regularly represents clients in commercial disputes in both state and federal courts in matters involving breach of

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contract issues, corporate dissolution, and trade secret misappropriation.

Intellectual Property

Rounding out Laura's triple-threat business law skill set is her intellectual property experience. Laura is well-versed in trademark law, having successfully obtained numerous federally registered trademarks for her clients. Additionally, Laura has co-chaired several complex patent infringement litigations in federal courts across the country, including appearances before the Federal Circuit.

MWBE Certification

Laura regularly helps owners and executives in women- and minority-owned businesses to achieve state certification as a Minority and/or Women-owned Business Enterprise and enjoy the developmental benefits that certification offers. Her services include analyzing the company's suitability for certification, advising on the documentation needed for the application, and assisting clients in navigating the filing process.

Should an appeal be required, Laura interfaces with hearing officers and attorneys with the goal of obtaining certification without engaging in the costly hearing process. She recently helped a small woman-owned business in the construction service industry that was denied recertification, thereby jeopardizing a multi-million dollar contract on a significant government project. Laura immediately filed an appeal and successfully had the denial reversed – saving not only the contract at issue, but also the future of the company.

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Leisure and Hospitality Law, 2026-27
  - Construction Law, 2027
- *Buffalo Business First: Power 200 Women*, 2026
- Upstate New York *Super Lawyers,* 2023-26
- *Buffalo Business First*'s Legal Elite of Western New York, 2020
- Legacy Award, For Our Community Unity & Support, Inc. (FOCUS), 2020

BACKGROUND

ADMISSIONS

- New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

EDUCATION

- State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1993
- State University of New York at Buffalo, B.A., *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 1990

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Erie County Bar Association: Corporate, Surrogate's Court, and Matrimonial Committees
- American Business Women's Association
- WNY Chapter of BNI (Business Network International)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Kenmore Mercy Hospital Foundation Board of Directors
- For Our Community and Support (FOCUS) Addiction Prevention Coalition

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS

- "FinCEN's Residential Real Estate Rule: Essential Insights for New York Attorneys" (Co-Author), *Attorney at Law,* June 16, 2026
- Quoted in "Dotted Line: Tips to de-risk chip factory projects," *Construction Dive*, March 26, 2024
- Quoted in "Five tips on navigating a hot M&A market," *Buffalo Business First,* May 5, 2022
- Quoted in "A Pivotal Piece of Your Business' Succession Plan: Retaining Top Talent," *Buffalo Business First*, October 13, 2021
- "Essential Contract Terms to Include in All Construction Contracts," *Construction Executive,* April 29, 2020
- Laura A. Colca Honored With FOCUS Legacy Award
- Quoted in "When Construction Companies Need to Build a New Identity," *Construction Drive*, October 30, 2019
- Quoted in "Women Make Headway in Technology Law," *Buffalo Business First*, January 21, 2019
- "Construction Projects: Who's in Charge?" *Buffalo Law Journal*, January 10, 2019
- "You Can't Unring the Bell: Costly Waivers in LLC Operating Agreements" (Co-Author), *New York Law Journal*, November 13, 2018
- "Planning for Weather Delays," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, September 2018
- "Essential Construction Contract Terms," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, August 2018
- "A New Reality: Providing for Drones in Construction Contracts," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, July 2018
- "Key Considerations in a Fixed-Price Construction Contract," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, June 2018
- "Navigating the Competitive Bid Process for Public Contracts," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, May 2018
- Quoted in "Blockchain Technology Could Have IP Law Applications," *Buffalo Law Journal* "Special Report: Intellectual Property," May 7, 2018
- Quoted in "Trademark Holders Defend Their Products," *Buffalo Law Journal* "Special Report: Intellectual Property," May 7, 2018
- "How To End a Business — Or How To Start One the Right Way," *Buffalo Law Journal*, August 9, 2017
- "The Importance of Year-End Contract Audits," *Buffalo Law Journal*, November 3, 2016

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PRESENTATIONS

- "D&O & Areas of Concern in 2025 and Beyond," (Co-Presenter), Client Presentation, June 25, 2025
- "Cranes 101," (Co-Presenter), Client Presentation, March 26, 2025
- "Critical Issues for MWBE in 2020" (Presenter), MWBE CLE Seminar, Buffalo, NY, March 13, 2020
- "Startup Seminar: Intellectual Property and Deal Formation for High Growth Companies," (Co-Presenter), Buffalo, NY, June 26, 2019
- "Complying with M/WBE Participation Goals" (Co-Presenter), Construction Exchange Presentation, Buffalo, NY, March 13, 2019
- "Top Legal and Business Landmines in Selecting a Construction Project Delivery Method" (Co-Presenter), Onondaga County Bar Association, February 20, 2019
- "Mechanics' Liens: What Every Lawyer Should Know" (Co-Presenter), Onondaga County Bar Association, Syracuse, NY, November 28, 2018

WEBINARS

- "Building Under Pressure: Navigating the Impact of Recent Tariffs on Construction Contracts," GS Webinar Series, March 25, 2025
- "Artificial Intelligence in Construction Contracts – Evaluating the Risks and Benefits," GS Webinar Series, October 29, 2024
- "Building to a Head: An Overview of Construction Contract Disputes," (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, April 15, 2021
- "Hammering through 2020: The Year in Construction Defect Review," (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, January 26, 2021
- "Ethical Issues in Business Acquisitions" (Presenter), National Business Institute Webinar, June 17, 2020
- "Contracts and COVID-19: Navigating Contract Terms Impacted by the Pandemic and Demystifying Loan Forgiveness Under the CARES Act" (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, June 4, 2020
- "Understanding the Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise Certification Process in New York" (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, May 9, 2019
- "Construction Contracts – Indemnity Language that Ranges from Peculiar to Unenforceable" (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, February 14, 2019