HansonBridgett



Michelle Akerman

Partner

MAkerman@hansonbridgett.com
(415) 995-5172

Hanson Bridgett LLP
425 Market Street, 26th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Firm Leadership
Construction Section Leader
Women's Impact Network, Member

Areas of Focus

- Real Estate
- Construction
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution

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Michelle represents owners, general contractors, lenders, and subcontractors in all manner of construction-related disputes. A top-rated litigation attorney, she has experience in contract negotiation, claim preparation and evaluation, and prosecution and defense of contractor claims from pre-litigation through trial. She represents clients before state courts, federal courts, and arbitration tribunals, and has resolved numerous complicated construction disputes at mediation. Michelle's practice has particular emphasis on private commercial and mass residential construction projects.

Publications

"New California Construction Laws Taking Effect in 2026," co-author, Construction Legal Alert (December 2025)

"California to Implement Retention Cap and Change-Order Dispute Requirements for Private Works in 2026," co-author, Construction Legal Alert (November 2025)

"2025 Construction Law Updates," co-author, Construction Legal Alert (January 2025)

"2024 Construction Law Updates," co-author, Construction Legal Alert (January 2024)

"5 Things Contractors Should Know About the Infrastructure Act & the Inflation Reduction Act," co-author, *Construction Business Owner* (August 2023)

"Q&A on IIJA: How Contractors Can Leverage Federal Infrastructure Funding for Maximum Benefit," co-author, *California Constructor* (May 2023)

"San Francisco Imposes Quarantine on Travelers and Commuters from Outside the Bay Area with Two Exceptions for Construction Workers," co-author, Construction Alert (January 2021)

"Business Realities in the Age of COVID-19," co-author, *Seniors Housing Business* (June 2020)

"Bay Area Counties Issue New Orders Permitting Construction to Resume with Conditions," co-author, *Construction Law Alert* (May 2020)

"New Orders from 6 Bay Area Counties Require Face Coverings to be Worn During Work in Most Circumstances," co-author, *Government + Construction Law Alert* (April 2020)

"Bay Area Counties Further Restrict Construction, Extend Shelter-in-Place Orders Until May 3, 2020," co-author, *Construction Law Alert* (April 2020)

"Governor Newsom's 'Stay at Home' Order Allows Construction to Continue, but Many Cities and Counties are Banning Most Construction," co-author, *Construction + Government Law Alert* (March 2020)

"Important Shelter-in-Place Exceptions for Some Construction Activities," co-author, *Construction Law Alert* (March 2020)

Presentations

"Cybersecurity and the Construction Industry: Obligations, Liabilities, Insurance and Best Practices," co-presenter, USLAW Construction Law Executive Risk Forum (September 2023)

"Prefabrication - What Counsel Should Know," USLAW Network Spring Client Conference (April 2023)

"Mechanic's Liens," panelist, NorCal Women in Commercial Leasing Law Symposium (November 2018)

"Project Teams: You Just Don't Get It," moderator, California Women in Design + Construction (September 2017)

Press

"Hanson Bridgett Announces New Construction Section Leader," *Law360* (July 2022)

"Bay Area Construction Resumes Today With Stringent Safety Rules," GlobeSt.com (May 2020)

Honors & Awards

Chambers and Partners USA, Construction (2026)

California Lawyers Association, Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Legal Services Award (2022)

Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, (2015-2019)

Professional Affiliations

American Arbitration Association – International Centre for Dispute Resolution, Construction Arbitration Panel

Association of General Contractors Legal Advisory Committee

The Bar Association of San Francisco's Justice & Diversity Center, Board of Directors

Bar Association of San Francisco

Education

J.D., *cum laude* UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings) (2009)

B.A., University of California, Davis (2004)

Admissions and Courts

California