



Luke P. Cantrell

Shareholder

Memphis | 901.577.8188 | lcantrell@bakerdonelson.com

Luke Cantrell represents clients in all aspects of construction law and disputes, as well as in general business litigation matters.

Mr. Cantrell represents owners, contractors, subcontractors and design professionals in all aspects of construction disputes, from construction contract drafting and negotiation to mechanics' liens, contractor licensing issues, payment and performance bond claims, retainage issues, litigation and arbitration. Providing additional perspective to his work with design professionals and contractors, his prior work experience includes working as an engineer in the oil and gas industry and in the development department of a local municipality, where he worked with many engineers, developers and contractors on both public and private construction projects.

In addition to his construction practice, Mr. Cantrell represents clients in general business litigation matters including cases involving non-compete agreements, employment discrimination claims, contract disputes, transportation and personal injury defense.

Mr. Cantrell also handles federal trademark applications, counsels clients on branding decisions, and has experience in protecting and enforcing clients' intellectual property rights.

While in law school, Mr. Cantrell clerked at the Shelby County Public Defender's Office and helped found the Memphis Chapter of the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP) Clinic, a legal clinic servicing homeless individuals.

Representative Matters

Construction

- Obtained summary judgment for a global construction materials and aggregates company after extensive discovery and motion practice defending against multiple lawsuits brought by mineral lessors. That ruling was affirmed after oral argument by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The outcome provided value to the client by eliminating the threat of lawsuits by numerous similarly-situated lessors.
- Part of litigation team that secured successful outcome for owner in connection with the design-build contract of a \$300 million manufacturing facility in Memphis, Tennessee.
- Draft and negotiate construction and design contracts for owners, contractors, and design professionals.
- Key member of team representing owner of multi-family residential properties in complex arbitration involving installation, removal, and impact of flow control devices on municipal and multi-family residential water systems across the Southeastern United States.
- Advise and assist clients with wide-range of contractor licensing issues including quick turnaround and hardship license applications for out-of-state contractors in complex commercial projects.
- Secure payment owed to subcontractor in significant payment dispute while avoiding the expense of litigation.

Labor & Employment

- Advise schools and employers on best practices and draft policies to address guns and other weapons in their facilities.

- Defended employers against employee claims brought through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Obtained dismissal of prospective employee's lawsuits based on discriminatory hiring practices.
- Successfully defended contractor in \$1.5 million suit attempting to enforce non-compete.
- Obtained summary judgment on ERISA benefits claim for employer.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Construction Law and Construction Litigation (2021 – 2025)
- Named a Mid-South Rising Star (2016 – 2022)
- Member – Tennessee Bar Association
 - Construction Law Section Executive Council
- Member – Tennessee Association of Construction Counsel
- Member – American Bar Association, Forum on Construction Law
- Member – Memphis Bar Association



Publications

- "The Seniors Housing Crisis: Opportunities for Developers and Contractors" (May 2025)
- "Protecting Against the Impact of 2025 Tariffs on Construction Costs" (March 2025)
- "Regaining Predictability by Planning for Price Fluctuations in Construction Materials," *Construction Executive* (December 2021)
- "Leveling the Peaks and Valleys: Best Practices to Proactively Address Price Fluctuations in Construction Materials," republished in *New Orleans CityBusiness* (July 2021)
- "State-by-State Guide to Architect, Engineer, and Contractor Licensing," (*Aspen*), Second Edition, Tennessee Chapter (co-author), Supplements 2014 – 2019
- "Fracking and Local Laws," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal* (November 2014)
- "Cost-Effective Completions," co-author, *Oil & Gas Financial Journal* (June 2014)



Speaking Engagements

- "Visible Commencement, Completion, and Abandonment," TBA Construction Law Forum (January 2022)
- "Balancing Safety and Legality in Regulating Employees' Gun Rights and Drug Use," 2016 Tennessee SHRM State Conference (September 2016)



Webinars

- Leveling the Peaks and Valleys: Best Practices to Proactively Address Price Fluctuations in Construction Materials (December 2021)



Education

- The University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D., 2012, magna cum laude
 - Executive Articles Editor – *Mississippi Law Journal*
 - Represented defendant on appeal in the Mississippi Court of Appeals
- Mississippi State University James Worth Bagley College of Engineering, B.S. Mechanical Engineering, 2005



Admissions

- Tennessee, 2012
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 2015