



Bert Chollet

Shareholder

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Bert Chollet practices in all areas of construction law.

Bert Chollet is a shareholder in Baker Donelson's Nashville office and a member of the Construction Group. He advises owners, developers, and contractors on some of the most complex and high-stakes matters in the construction industry across the United States and internationally.

Bert's practice focuses on both transactions and dispute resolution, with a record of guiding clients through contract negotiations, litigation, and arbitration involving large-scale commercial, industrial, and infrastructure developments. He has handled disputes involving claims related to project delays, impacts, productivity, design errors, change orders, defects, termination, mechanics' liens, surety bond claims, bid challenges, and minority/disadvantaged business enterprise (MBE/DBE) matters.

His representative experience includes advising clients in connection with advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, health care, hotel and hospitality, energy, and other commercial projects. He has also represented clients performing government contracts, including Department of Defense projects in Asia and Europe and public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

Prior to joining Baker Donelson, Bert practiced at law firms in Chicago, Illinois, and Memphis, Tennessee. Before practicing law, he served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Holly M. Kirby. Bert joined Baker Donelson in January 2020.



Representative Matters

- Represented a foreign-based contractor in connection with an EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) petrochemical contract in excess of \$1 billion.
- Represented an owner in connection with a battery manufacturing project in excess of \$1 billion.
- Represented an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) in the negotiation of a contract for an automobile component facility approaching \$1 billion.
- Represented global defense contractors in connection with contracts, subcontracts, and claims on projects throughout the world.
- Represented a contractor in connection with multiple large-scale infrastructure projects throughout the United States, including multiple projects valued in excess of \$300 million each.
- Represented the owner of a dual-brand, multitower luxury hotel project in litigation and post-completion sale of ownership entity, with claims including contract, change order, and delay claims approaching \$50 million.
- Represented an international general contractor pursuing change order and impact claims in an arbitration arising out of a manufacturing facility, obtaining a damages award of \$17 million.
- Represented a subcontractor as lead trial counsel in litigation arising out of the construction of a mixed-use, 34-story, 380-unit residential tower located above retail, entertainment, and cultural amenities, with delay and change order claims in excess of \$5 million.
- Represented a foreign owner in defense of a \$52 million delay claim arising out of the construction of a consumer goods manufacturing facility.

- Represented a hospital in connection with contract negotiation and contract claims arising out of the construction of numerous medical office building (MOB), ambulatory, and other related facilities projects.
- Represented a developer in connection with contract disputes arising out of a \$190 million hospitality project.
- Represented a large commodities supplier in numerous contract disputes and contract negotiations throughout the United States.
- Represented a defense contractor in connection with the negotiation of contracts and claims arising out of an ordnance manufacturing facility.
- Represented an owner in connection with the negotiation of contracts and claims arising out of a \$10 million consumer goods project.
- On behalf of a major automobile manufacturer, prepared an EPC contract for use on projects throughout the United States and prepared FIDIC (International Federation of Consulting Engineers) special conditions for use on international construction projects.
- Counseled a United States government defense contractor in connection with a contract for radar installation at an international military base, advising the contractor regarding federal contracting issues, subcontracts, and compliance with various treaties, armed forces agreements, and local laws.
- Represented a foreign-based owner in the negotiation of design and construction contracts for an automobile component manufacturing facility in excess of \$30 million.
- Represented a foreign-based owner in the negotiation of a design-build contract for an electric vehicle component manufacturing facility in excess of \$10 million.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Construction Law (2024 – 2026)
- Listed in *Chambers USA* as a leading Construction lawyer in Tennessee (2024, 2025)
- Recognized in *2019 Emerging Lawyers in Illinois* under 40 for Construction Law
- Chicago Building Congress Future Leaders
- National Bond Claims Association
- Forum on the Construction Industry



Publications

- "Fast-Track Construction Strategies For Manufacturers," *Industry Today* (September 2022)
- "Navigating Lost Productivity Claims," *Construction Client Alert*
- "Delegated Design and the Black Hole of the Inartfully Drafted Contract," *Construction Client Alert*
- "Recent Appellate Court Ruling Potentially Increases Sureties' Performance Bond Exposure In Illinois For Payment Claims," *Construction Client Alert*
- "The Sovereign Act Doctrine and Federal Contracts," *Construction Client Alert*
- "Preserving Mechanics' Lien Rights in Bankruptcy Proceedings," *Construction Client Alert*
- "Illinois Construction Law," HKL Global Communications, Inc.
- "The Potential Expansion of Subdivision Bond Liability on Public Projects: The Illinois Supreme Court's Decision in *Lake County Grading, Co., LLC v. Village Of Antioch*," Surety Claims Institute
- "Case Update: Providing Clarity For Differing Site Conditions Claims On Federal Design-Build Projects," *Construction Client Alert*
- "The Reallocation of Risk for Differing Site Conditions in *Metcalf Construction Company, Inc. v. United States*," *Construction Client Alert*
- "Securing the Road to Nowhere: When Subdivision Bond Payments Constitute Economic Waste or an Unreasonable Windfall to the Obligatee," International Association of Defense Counsel Fidelity & Surety Committee Newsletter

- "Obtaining Judicial Relief From an Improper Arbitration Award on the Basis of Corruption, Fraud, Undue Means, the Failure to Hear Material Evidence, or Other Misbehavior Prejudicing the Rights of a Party," *Construction Briefings*, Thomson/West
- "Enabling the Gaze: Public Access and the Withdrawal of Tennessee's Proposed Rule of Civil Procedure 1A," *University of Memphis Law Review*, Volume 36, Book 3



Speaking Engagements

- "Tips in Dealing with Bankruptcy," Midwest Construction Claims Conference
- "Considerations for the Surety's Analysis and Preparation of its Principal's Affirmative Claims," National Bond Claims Association
- "Contract Change Provisions," Lorman Education Services seminar
- "Troubled Developments: Surety Bond and Lien Claims," Illinois Institute for Local Government Law, 18th Annual Conference, Naperville, Illinois
- "Troubled Developments in a Troubled Economy," American Public Works Association, Schaumburg, Illinois
- "Mechanics Liens," and "The Illinois Bond Act," Lorman Education Services seminar, "Construction Lien Law in Illinois," Orland Park, Illinois



Education

- University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, J.D., 2005
 - Notes and Comments Editor – *University of Memphis Law Review*
- Carson-Newman University, B.A., 2001



Admissions

- Tennessee, 2005
- Illinois, 2007