

Zelma Murray Frederick



member

baton rouge

zfrederick@mcglinchey.com

T (225) 382-3615 F (225) 343-3076

Legal Secretary

Angela Marcotte

amarcotte@mcglinchey.com

(225) 382-3605

education

Mississippi College School of Law (J.D., 2007)

Spring Hill College (B.A., English, 2004)

admissions

Louisiana

Mississippi

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi

honors

- *Chambers USA*, Louisiana Construction, "Up and Coming," 2023
- Influential Women in Business honoree, *Baton Rouge Business Report*, 2023
- Sustainer of the Year, Junior League of Baton Rouge, 2023

With litigation, there is a cast of characters – the client(s), the attorneys, the Judge, their staff, our staff, third parties, and so on. Working through a complex litigation matter is always interesting because each "character" plays a role in the conflict and ultimate resolution. I enjoy putting a case together, investigating the evidence, figuring out "where the wheels fell off" and then developing a compelling case for my client.

Zelma Murray Frederick serves a diverse client base in all aspects of litigation with a focus on commercial, construction, complex commercial litigation, bank lending practices, and collection disputes.

The core of Zelma's practice consists of complex commercial litigation in a wide array of disputes, including "bet the farm" litigation. Zelma is comfortable litigating in state or federal court, as well as through alternative dispute resolution.

Zelma handles a wide variety of construction litigation for owners and subcontractors, including delay and defective work claims, bid disputes, and lien rights under the Public and Private Works Acts.

- “Forty Under 40,” *Baton Rouge Business Report*, 2018
- *Louisiana Super Lawyers* “Rising Star” (General Litigation; Construction Litigation: Business; Creditor Debtor Rights: Business; Government Contracts), 2018–2022

affiliations

Professional

- Louisiana State Bar Association
- Baton Rouge Bar Association (Holiday Star Committee Chair, 2012; Attorney Volunteer for Thirst for Justice, 2008–2015)
- Federal Bar Association
- The Mississippi Bar Association
- National Association of Women Lawyers
- Council for a Better Louisiana, 2021 Leadership Louisiana Class
- Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Baton Rouge Area Leadership Program, 2017
- Forum 35’s John W. Barton, Sr. Community Leadership Program, 2015

Community

- Junior League of Baton Rouge, Sustaining Advisor (2022–present), Community Advisory Board (2019–2020), President (2018–2019)
- The Emerge Center, Board of Directors (2020–present)
- Our Lady of Mercy School Advisory Board (2021 – present)

Zelma litigates governmental disputes, commercial and consumer collection matters, class actions, and landlord/tenant disputes, and defends financial institutions in bank lending disputes.

A unique aspect of Zelma’s practice involves enforcement of the Louisiana Lease of Movables Act, which governs recovery of leased collateral located in Louisiana. Whether the item at issue is a consumer vehicle, construction equipment, or leased fleets, she has both an in-depth knowledge of the applicable statutes and a streamlined process for clients to exercise their recovery rights quickly and cost-effectively.

Published Cases

Oliver v. Orleans Parish School Bd., et al, 2012-1520 (La. App. 4 Cir. 1/15/14), 133 So.3d 38, reversed, 2014-0329 (La. 10/31/14), ---So.3d---, 2014 WL 5507968

presentations

"ACC Louisiana Professionalism and Cannabis in the Workplace CLE Programs," Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), New Orleans, Louisiana, November 3, 2023

"Arbitration 101: What Practitioners Should Know about Navigating the Procedures and Practicalities of Arbitration," Baton Rouge Bar Association, December 19, 2022

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