



Josephine M. Bahn

Associate

Washington, D.C.

jbahn@cozen.com | (202) 280-6484

Josephine (Jo) focuses her practice on commercial litigation and construction law. She counsels real estate developers, project owners, contractors, and design professionals in all phases of the construction process. Jo's practice includes public and private projects as well as bid protests throughout the United States. She also regularly handles claims related to mechanics' liens on projects. Jo has wide-ranging experience litigating construction defect claims including stucco and other water intrusion claims. She has litigated in a wide range of forums, including state, federal, and administrative forums as well as various boards of contract appeals.

Prior to joining the firm, she was a senior attorney in the enforcement section of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). There, Jo focused on banking laws and regulations, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Federal Housing Act, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act. She managed, investigated, and developed legal strategy for 10c enforcement litigation matters and investigations involving deceptive and unfair practices to consumers and fraud or other risk-related harm to FDIC insured institutions. She worked with the FDIC's seven regional offices and examiners in the FDIC's Division of Consumer Protection and Risk Management Supervision. She developed methods to streamline pleadings related to 10c investigations and other consumer related enforcement documents. Through the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI), Jo provided advice to the FDIC chairman on diversity and inclusion concerns. She developed and implemented OMWI activities that addressed cultural diversity, differences, similarities, and contributions of the FDIC's workforce. Prior to joining the enforcement section, she served as an honors attorney, detailed in 7, 12-week rotational placements within the FDIC Legal Division Section, including the Dallas and Chicago offices.

Before joining the FDIC, Jo served as a federal judicial law clerk for the Honorable Joel H. Slomsky, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania during the 2016-2017 term.

Jo earned her bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's University. While earning her bachelor's degree, she was an intern for the John Kluge Center for Research at the Library of Congress and an intern for Inese Vaidere, member of European Parliament (Latvia), European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. Jo earned her law degree from New York Law School. While in law school, Jo was an intern for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. and New York City and the Honorable Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri.

Outside of her legal practice, Jo is very involved in civic, charitable, bar, and community organizations. Jo served as chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD), the largest organization of young lawyers in the world, from August 2022 to August 2023. Jo is also a regular columnist for Law360, where she shares her insights on current Construction Law issues.

Experience

Won at trial in a major voting rights case, *Nairne v. Ardoin*, challenging Louisiana's state legislative maps under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. At the conclusion of the trial, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana found that, while the proportion of Louisiana's Black population

Practice Areas

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law
- Financial Services
- Government & Regulatory

Education

- New York Law School, J.D., 2016
- St. Joseph's University, B.A., 2013

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- New York
- Virginia

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court

Affiliations

American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division: Chair, 2022-23; Journal Board of Editors 2022-25 Section of Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar, Council: Member, 2021-25; Forum on Construction

American Bar Foundation, Fellow

Association of Junior Leagues International, Governance Committee (2020-22); Junior League of Washington, DC

District of Columbia Bar Association, Under 36 Representative to the American Bar Association House of Delegates, 2020-24; Committee on Continuing Legal Education, Member, 2020-22

Maryland Court of Appeals' Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, Member, 2021-2024

Maryland State Bar Association, Board of Governors Member, 2021-2023

Montgomery County (MD) Commission on Veterans Affairs, Public Commissioner (2017-2023)

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Board Member

Washington Council of Lawyers

Law360 - Columnist

Awards & Honors

Josephine M. Bahn

jbahn@cozen.com

P: (202) 280-6484 | F: (202) 861-1905

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- Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2023
- The Daily Record, Maryland Top 100 List, 2022
- The Daily Record, The VIP List Award, 2021
- Washington Council of Lawyers, 2020 Government Pro Bono Award
- American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, On the Rise National Top 40 Under 40, 2020
- The Daily Record, Leading Women Award, 2019
- The Daily Record, Leadership in Law: Generation JD Award, 2018
- American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, Star of the Quarter, 2017

Clerkships

Honorable Joel H. Slomsky, U.S. District Court
– Eastern District of Pennsylvania

increased from 2000 to 2020, the Enacted Senate and House Plans unlawfully diluted the Black vote such that these population gains were not reflected in the Enacted Plans. The Court enjoined the use of the Enacted Senate and House Plans and allowed the State a reasonable period of time to draw new plans to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Our team handled this case in conjunction with co-counsel from the ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, and Harvard Law School Election Law Clinic, and two Louisiana civil rights attorneys.

Defended an agency award decision by acting as intervenor's counsel in a bid protest before the United States Government Accountability Office to support the United States Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's ("USACE") award of a \$37 million contract to our client for certain dam maintenance and support efforts at the USACE's Ohio River Olmstead Locks and Dam in Olmstead, Ill.

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