

Shepard D. O'Connell

Associate



CONTACT INFO

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OFFICE

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Shepard O'Connell focuses her practice on complex civil litigation and white collar defense and investigations. A fluent Spanish speaker, Shepard draws on her experience litigating international disputes to serve corporate and individual clients from diverse backgrounds in federal and state courts.

MY PRACTICE

COMPLEX CIVIL LITIGATION

Shepard represents individuals and businesses in high-stakes business matters, particularly in federal court and the North Carolina Business Court. Shepard's broad experience includes litigating shareholder disputes, contract disputes, unfair business practices, misappropriation of trade secrets, and trademark infringement. Shepard also has experience litigating various tort claims arising under state law, including claims for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, and fraud. The following are representative of the types of matters Shepard has handled:

PRACTICE AREAS

Compliance & Internal Investigations
Intellectual Property
International & Cross Border
Latin America
Litigation
› Complex Business Litigation
› Federal Litigation
› IP Litigation
› Mediation & Arbitration
Privacy
White Collar Defense and Investigations

INDUSTRIES

Banking, Investment & Financial Services
Construction & Development
Health Care
Insurance
Utilities

EDUCATION

University of California at Berkeley
School of Law
J.D., 2014
University of Chile
M.A., 2011, with distinction
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
B.A., 2008, with highest honors;
Morehead-Cain Scholar; Phi Beta Kappa

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

California
District of Columbia
North Carolina
US District Court - North Carolina
Middle District
Eastern District

The defense of a closely-held corporation in a shareholder dispute involving claims of breach of fiduciary duty and minority shareholder oppression.

The representation of a multinational health information technology company in a multimillion dollar contract dispute.

The defense of an insurance company against class action claims for unfair trade practices and false advertising.

The representation of a manufacturer in the specialty gifts industry in a trademark infringement dispute.

The defense of an international professional services firm involving claims of breach of fiduciary duty and fraud.

WHITE COLLAR DEFENSE AND INVESTIGATIONS

Shepard represents individuals and companies who are under criminal or regulatory scrutiny concerning their business practices. She assists companies involved in sensitive internal investigations with issues raised by federal and state regulators and internal whistleblowers.

CROSS-BORDER DISPUTES

Shepard represents individuals and corporate clients involved in cross-border disputes. She has experience representing investors and sovereign states in international commercial arbitration proceedings as well as investment treaty disputes. Her cross-border matters have involved a broad range of industries, including utilities, renewable energy, construction and development, and banking and financial services. Shepard is fluent in Spanish.

DATA PRIVACY

Shepard counsels businesses of all sizes in data collection and privacy issues, helping clients evaluate how safely they collect, use, and store data. She drafts privacy policies and terms and conditions documents, ensuring their compliance with all state and federal regulations, including the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), and HIPAA.

HONORS

Member, North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society (2018-2019)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member, CJA Training Panel, Eastern District of North Carolina

Member, Women's White Collar Defense Association

Member, [North Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#)

Regional Selection Committee Member, [Morehead-Cain Foundation](#)

Teaching Assistant (Litigation Practice in International Arbitration), Georgetown University Law Center, Fall 2015

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

"Enforcing Arbitration Awards in North Carolina," *Practical Law*, 2016 (co-written by Arty Bolick)

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Serve on Criminal Justice Act Panel , July 29, 2020

Eighteen Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized for Pro Bono Work, December 16, 2019

Brooks Pierce Grows International Practice with Addition of Three Attorneys, September 23, 2016