

Richard B. Murphy

Partner

murphy.richard@dorsey.com

Phoenix – 602.837.3057



Richard Murphy defends and advises owners, contractors, design professionals, and suppliers through every stage of construction disputes and project development in Arizona and beyond — from six-figure payment claims to billion-dollar healthcare, commercial, and semiconductor-manufacturing developments.

Rich joined Dorsey & Whitney in 2026 as the first dedicated construction litigation partner in the firm's Phoenix office. He has spent more than three decades representing every major participant in the construction industry: owners, developers, design professionals, general contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers. His practice covers the full arc of a construction project — from contract formation through dispute resolution — giving clients a single point of counsel whether a deal is being structured or a claim is being litigated.

On the disputes side, Rich litigates Arizona Prompt Payment Act claims, mechanic's lien foreclosure actions, payment bond claims, construction defect litigation, delay and impact claims, and contract interpretation disputes. He also represents licensed contractors before the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC). His litigation experience spans matters ranging from six-figure payment claims to complex, multi-million-dollar cases involving institutional and commercial projects.

Rich's transactional practice is equally active. He drafts and negotiates construction contracts, subcontracts, EPC agreements, development agreements, including for semiconductor, data center, and other advanced-manufacturing facilities. Institutional clients rely on him to work through risk allocation, indemnification, insurance, and regulatory compliance throughout the project lifecycle. He has advised on high – value projects, including major healthcare facilities, commercial buildings, industrial developments, and mixed-use projects across Arizona and other states.

Beyond construction, Rich handles a range of commercial litigation matters and serves

Education

- University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law (J.D., 1993)
- University of Arizona (B.A., Political Science, 1989)

Bar Admissions

- Arizona

as a private arbitrator and mediator in construction, real estate, and commercial cases. Clients describe his approach as practical and resolution-focused.

Select Experience

Construction Disputes & Litigation

- Represented a subcontractor in five years of multiparty litigation over defective design, construction defect and mechanic's lien claims on a large senior living development co-located on a university campus, resolving claims of more than \$35 million through negotiated settlement over a period of a year.
- Served for more than five years as construction counsel to a hospital system on a \$330 million hospital tower, addressing a pandemic-related construction shutdown, a lease dispute, and the general contractor's defaults, and overseeing a \$200 million completion effort.

Construction Contracts & Transactional

- Negotiated a subcontract valued at more than \$90 million for a specialty mechanical subcontractor on a federally funded semiconductor manufacturing facility in Arizona, addressing CHIPS Act and Davis-Bacon flow-down compliance, intellectual property licensing, and Arizona Prompt Payment Act requirements.
- Drafted and negotiated a \$128 million engineering-procurement-construction agreement for a semiconductor cleanroom contractor on a Texas cleanroom construction project, including limitation-of-liability architecture, indemnity provisions, a standby letter of credit, and a parent guarantee.

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Accolades

- *Martindale-Hubbell*, Rated AV[®] Preeminent[™]
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*[®], 2019-2026
- Fellow, Construction Lawyers Society of America

Professional Affiliations

- State Bar of Arizona, 1993 – 2026 (Former Chair, Construction Law Section)
- Member, Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix Finance Council Strategic Planning Committee, 2026 – present
- Franciscan Renewal Center, Inc. Board of Trustees, 2023 – 2026
- Xavier College Preparatory Board of Trustees, 2020 – 2026
- Xavier College Preparatory Development Committee, 2019 – 2023