



Micah C. Zeno

Associate

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Overview

Micah Zeno is a civil litigator and trial attorney representing clients in a wide range of industries. He has a broad legal practice that includes complex litigation, appellate practice, civil procedure, property law, commercial litigation and risk management. A former banker, Micah also provides businesses with advice on a variety of issues including participation agreements, early termination clauses, remedies for breach of contract, and mitigation of repayment risk. Micah is also an arbitrator with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Micah is a member of the firm's Diversity Committee.

Before joining Gordon Arata Montgomery Barnett, Micah served for two years as a law clerk for Chief Judge June Berry Darensburg of the 24th Judicial District Court. Micah is also former judicial intern for Deputy Chief Judge Fredericka Homberg Wicker of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Prior to practicing law, Micah worked for six years as a credit analyst and commercial banker at Regions Bank (formerly AmSouth). While at Regions Bank, Micah structured loans for commercial clients in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi with credit needs of up to \$1,500,000.00 and negotiated financing for multi-million dollar healthcare real estate projects. Micah is also a former Loaned Executive for the United Way.

Micah graduated from Tulane Law School Order of the Barristers and received the Tulane 34 Award and Tulane Student Crest Award. Micah was also a recipient of the Dean's Honor Scholarship and the Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association Scholarship. While at Tulane Law, Micah served as a member of the Faculty Interviewing & Appointment Committee, Chief Justice of the Honor Board, an associate in both the Civil Rights & Federal Practice Clinic (formerly Civil Litigation Clinic) and the Tulane University Legal Assistance Program, and a member of Moot Court. As a distinguished member of Tulane's Moot Court, Micah competed in the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition, the Louisiana State Bar

Association Law School Mock Trial Competition, and placed first in the coveted Tulane 3L Intraschool Competition. Micah's name is now forever inscribed on the marble tablets in The Wendell H. Gauthier Moot Court Room at Tulane Law.

Micah is an active member of the legal community. He is a member of the Louisiana Law Institute and has held various leadership positions with the Federal Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. Micah is a lecturer at the Louisiana State Bar Association Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and the Louisiana State Bar Association Law School Professionalism Orientations. Micah also volunteers as a judge at the National High School Mock Trial Competition and is a speaker with the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education Lawyers in the Classroom/Judges in the Classroom program.

While at Florida A&M, Micah was awarded a Presidential Special Scholarship (full academic scholarship), served as legal counsel to the Student Government Association President and Vice President and was the graduate student member of the Student Government Association Budget Committee.

Micah is a native of Terrytown, Louisiana. He currently lives in New Orleans with his wife Johana and their precocious three-year-old son, Melvin.

Practices

- Appellate
- Arbitration and Mediation
- Banking
- Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights
- Business Transactions and Entity Formation and Governance
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- Corporate and Securities Litigation
- Employment
- Environmental and Toxic Torts
- Healthcare

Industries

- Banking
- Construction
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Industrial, Chemical and Manufacturing
- Insurance
- Real Estate
- Telecommunications and Utilities
- Transportation
- Healthcare

- Oil, Gas and Energy Litigation and Arbitration
- Oil, Gas and Energy Regulatory
- Products Liability
- Professional Liability Defense
- Real Estate and Commercial Leasing

Admissions

- Louisiana
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of LA
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of LA
- U.S. District Court, Western District of LA

Education

- Tulane University Law School, J.D. and Civil Law 2015
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, M.B.A.
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, B.A. *magna cum laude*

Affiliations

- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (Arbitrator)
- Louisiana Law Institute (Property Committee)
- Federal Bar Association Younger Lawyers Division Board of Directors (Communications Committee Chair, Law School Committee)
- Louisiana State Bar Association (Diversity Committee, 2018-2020 Outreach Committee Co-Chair, 2019 Louisiana Access to Justice Commission Strategic Planning Committee, 2017-2018 Leadership Class Co-Sponsor, 2016-2017 Leadership Class)
- Louis A. Martinet Legal Society Board of Directors, 2018-2019 (Young Lawyers' Committee Co-Chair, Pathways & Pipelines to Success Committee)
- American Bar Association
- New Orleans Bar Association
- Jefferson Bar Association
- Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans
- National Bar Association
- NAACP (Life Member)

- Florida A&M University National Alumni Association (Life Member)
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Recognition

- Selected to Ones to Watch, *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation and Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, 2021 to Present
- Selected to Top 40 Under 40 – Nation’s Best Advocates, National Bar Association, 2020 – 2021
- Named the 2019 Outstanding Young Lawyer of Louisiana, Louisiana State Bar Association, 2020
- A.P. Tureaud Award (Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, 2018-2019)
- Legacy of Leadership Honoree (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Omega Chapter, 2009)
- Named as One of Six Attorneys in the U.S. to Receive the StepUp Pro Bono Challenge Award,

Federal Bar Association, 2021



Publications

- *Bankruptcy Courts Differ on Application of Force Majeure to Coronavirus Restrictions, The Advocate, Summer Edition 2021, page 18, Federal Bar Association*
- *Louisiana to join U.S. Climate Alliance, become carbon neutral by 2050, August 3, 2021*
- *Supreme Court Rules Nearly Half of Oklahoma is Owned by Sovereign Tribes; Oil and gas producers express concern about regulatory changes, Drill Deeper Blog, April 2021*
- *Biden Administration “pauses” new oil and gas leases on federal lands, Drill Deeper Blog, February 2021*
- *COVID-19 Restrictions and Implications for Debtors in the Northern District of Illinois, American Bar Association, November 2020*
- *Coronavirus, Contracts, and Force Majeure: What You Need to Know, Drill Deeper Blog, April 2020*
- *Federal Court Rules Demand From Owner Inadequate, Penalty Against Operator Too Harsh, Drill Deeper Blog, February 2020*
- *1995 Law Allows Producers to Save \$18 Billion in Royalties, Professional Landmen’s Association of New Orleans, December 2019 and Drill Deeper Blog, November 2019*
- *In Louisiana, No Protection from Your Own Gross Negligence, Drill Deeper Blog*
- *Blame Game Continues Under Texas Indemnification Law, Drill Deeper Blog, March 2019*

- *Your Non-Compete Agreement is Probably Not Enforceable. Here's Why*, Drill Deeper Blog, October 2018
- *Enforcement of Non-Compete Agreements in Louisiana Still an Uphill Battle*, Drill Deeper Blog, August 2018
- *Can Parties Form an Enforceable Contract to Sell Assets Based on Exchanged Emails When the Bid Procedure Required a Purchase and Sale Agreement? Texas Court of Appeals says Maybe*, Drill Deeper Blog, January 2018

PRESENTATIONS

- *Law Clerk Insider*, Moderator, Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Conference, January 17, 2020
- *The Louisiana State Bar Association: Serving Our Members in Many Ways*, Co-presenter, St. Charles Parish Bar Association, December 7, 2018
- *E-Discovery Boot Camp: Spoliation and Sanctions*, Co-presenter, Louisiana State Bar Association, December 5, 2018
- *The Importance of Mentorship to Diversity in the Legal Field*, Panelist, Tulane University Law School, November 9, 2018
- *What I Will Do Differently After Serving as Judge Pro Tempore*, Co-presenter, Tulane University Law School 27th Annual CLE by the Hour, December 26, 2017
- *Drafting and Enforcing Confidentiality and Non-Solicitation Agreements*, Presenter, Gordon Arata Montgomery Barnett Annual Duck Lunch and Seminar, October 2017
- *Professionalism: Law Clerks*, Panelist, 2017 Jefferson Bar Association CLE by the SEA, April 1, 2017
- *Behind the Scenes with Law Clerks*, Panelist, New Orleans Bar Association, December 14, 2016