



## Gabrielle (Gabs) Lalonde

Associate

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Denver, CO – 303.572.5337

Gabs Lalonde defends carriers and insurers in general civil litigation matters with an emphasis on construction defect actions.

Previously an associate at a real estate and insurance defense firm, Gabs defended insurers and insureds against construction defect actions and carriers and insureds against claims of personal injury, premises and products liability, contract disputes and other torts.

As a Colorado public defender in Arapahoe County, Gabs represented hundreds of indigent defendants accused of crimes from low-level traffic offenses to serious and complex felonies. She chaired more than 15 jury trials.

While in law school, Gabs served as a student attorney in the Civil Rights Clinic, and represented an incarcerated client in state clemency and post-conviction relief matters.

### **Construction**

Passionate about the construction industry in Colorado Gabs enjoys representing construction professionals. Prior to law school she worked in the HR department of a prominent commercial construction company in Denver.

### **Insurance Defense**

Gabs helps public- and private-sector clients identify and prevent exposures and, if they occur, capably manages reaction and recovery. She handles small claims to the most complex legal matters and the related transactional and jurisdictional issues.

### **Education**

- University of Denver Sturm College of Law (J.D., 2018)

### **Services**

- Construction
- Commercial Contracts & Agreements
- Insurance & Reinsurance Defense
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Professional Liability & Services

- Certificate in Constitutional Rights and Remedies; Denver Law Review, Symposium Editor (vol. 95), Staff Editor (vol. 94)
- University of Kansas (B.A. Spanish, 2013)
  - Legal Internship and Language Immersion, Madrid, Spain

## **Bar Admissions**

- Colorado

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Colorado Bar Association

## **Languages**

- Spanish

# **Client Wins**

## **Williams, O'Brien, and Lalonde Secure Appellate Affirmance for Construction Company Client**

Ryan Williams (Partner-Denver), Edward O'Brien (Partner-Louisville), and Gabrielle Lalonde (Associate-Denver) secured an appellate victory in the Colorado Court of Appeals for Wilson Elser's client, Jim Black Construction. The court affirmed the trial court's judgment in favor of the client in its lien foreclosure and breach of contract action against a property owner for whom it provided services. The panel rejected the property owner's challenges to the validity and amount of the mechanic's lien and upheld the trial court's findings that the lien was not knowingly excessive. The court also affirmed the contract judgment, concluding that the parties' proposal and work authorization are to be construed together and that the record supported the scope of work and the charges awarded. This decision allows Jim Black Construction to proceed toward foreclosure and enforcement upon issuance of the mandate, absent any further review.

## **Williams and Lalonde Received Defense Verdict at Trial in Construction Defect Case**

Ryan Williams (Partner-Denver, CO) and Gabrielle Lalonde (Associate-Denver, CO) obtained a defense verdict following a four-day bench trial in Jefferson County, Colorado. The plaintiff, a homeowner, hired our client, a restoration contractor, to repair his home following an electrical fire. The plaintiff claimed our client promised completion by a certain date, which he denied. Upon initiation of repair work, our client discovered numerous latent conditions, including asbestos and structural defects, which greatly complicated the repair plan and required additional engineering and design efforts. As these initial issues approached resolution, the plaintiff elected to make additional changes to the design of the house, which necessitated further design and engineering changes. Following more than two years of effort by our client, the plaintiff fired him, claiming failure to timely complete

the work and defects in the work performed to that point. Claims included negligence, breach of contract and fraud. Ryan and Gabrielle asserted claims arising out of the plaintiff's failure to pay for completed work. Following trial, the court entered an order denying all plaintiff's claims and awarding our client more than 98 percent of the amount of damages sought and attorneys' fees pursuant to the parties' agreement.