



Tara Nunez Smith

MANAGING MEMBER

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EDUCATION

Loyola University School of Law

JD, Certification in International Law
2002

Baylor University School of Law

LL.M. Litigation Management
2019

Southeastern Louisiana University

*Political Science with Minors in Spanish
and International Studies*
1998

BAR ADMISSIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

State of Louisiana, State of Texas

*United States District Court for Eastern
and Middle Districts of Louisiana, United
States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal*

Certification in International Law

Louisiana Real Estate Commission

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/ ASSOCIATIONS

- 22nd Judicial District Bar Association
- New Orleans Bar Association
- DRI
- LADC

ABOUT

Tara served as Lead Counsel for Fortune 1 for thirteen years where she managed general liability, asset protection and premises security matters. In addition, she supported the Health & Wellness division providing advice and counsel on Patient Safety Organizations, pharmacy, optical, dental and virtual care clinics. Prior to joining Walmart Tara was a litigator in the greater New Orleans area where she handled a significant litigation docket in state and federal courts consisting of premises and products liability, complex toxic tort and general insurance defense matters. Tara holds a real estate license with the Louisiana Real Estate Commission. She has extensive experience in short- and long-term rentals, commercial and residential real estate. Tara currently counsels another publicly traded company where she guides their compliance programs and advises on risk management, internal policies, training programs and regulatory compliance aimed at preventing issues before they arise. Tara is licensed to practice in both Louisiana and Texas and holds a Certification in International Law as well as an LL.M. in Litigation Management.

CORE PRACTICE AREAS

Retail & Premises Liability

Tara focuses her litigation practice on representing retailers, restaurants, and commercial property owners in premises security, asset protection, and general liability matters. She advises clients on risk mitigation and litigation management strategies designed to minimize financial exposure and protect brand reputation. Tara routinely defends claims alleging unsafe conditions, negligent maintenance, third-party criminal conduct, inadequate security or lighting, slip and falls, falling merchandise and other premises-related issues.

She takes a proactive, strategic approach to litigation, guiding clients through e-discovery obligations, document preservation, and targeted production strategies, as well as the selection and management of experts. These efforts frequently result in early claim resolution, successful dispositive motion practice, or reduced settlement outcomes aligned with broader risk management objectives.



REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- *Musa v. Litton-Avondale Industries, Inc.*, 63 So.3d 243, 10-CA-627 (La. App. 5th Cir. 3/29/10); writ denied La. S.Ct. 5/16/11
- *Jamison v. D'Amico et. al.*, 955 So.2d 161, 2006-0842 (La. App. 4th Cir. 3/14/07)
- *Peralta v. Perrazzo et. al.*, 942 So.2d 64, 06-343 (La. App. 5th Cir.10/31/06)
- *Maiorana v. Melancon Metal Buildings, Inc. et. al.*, 927 So.2d 700, 05-933 (La. App. 5th Cir. 4/25/06)

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

As the mother of a child with developmental disabilities, Tara is passionate about true diversity and inclusion. Her Pro Bono work focuses on helping families of loved ones with developmental disabilities navigate state and federal resources as well as the challenges that arise in areas of education and employment. She served on the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council for four years, as well as served as the Regional Chair of the Williams Syndrome Association for ten years.

BEYOND THE OFFICE

Tara lives in Madisonville with her husband, Bobby where they practice zone defense parenting three active, teenage boys. Their oldest daughter recently promoted them to their greatest role yet — grandparents — welcoming their first granddaughter, Emma Grace.

Corporate, Business & Healthcare Litigation

Tara guides clients through complex litigation involving prescription drugs, regulated products, and healthcare compliance issues. Her experience includes defending claims involving tort liability, multidistrict litigation, failure-to-warn allegations, and claims arising from manufacturing, labeling, and marketing practices under the Louisiana Products Liability Act. She also advises on the development and implementation of Patient Safety Organizations, leveraging federal discovery protections to reduce exposure and protect sensitive information. Tara coordinates defense strategy across stakeholders, responds effectively to regulatory scrutiny, and emphasizes early case assessment and expert-driven defenses—often resulting in narrowed claims, reduced damages, or efficient resolution—while remaining fully prepared to litigate when necessary to protect clients' products, reputations, and long-term business objectives.

Real Estate

Tara provides comprehensive counsel on a wide range of real estate matters, including contracts, sales, redhibition claims, landlord-tenant disputes, leasing, easements, land use and boundary disputes, and property management issues. She regularly advises property owners, managers, and associations on compliance with Louisiana's Planned Community Act and Condominium Act, vendor oversight, and premises liability and security considerations.

Drawing on her experience as a Louisiana-licensed real estate professional and owner of a property management company, Tara brings a practical, operations-focused perspective to every engagement. By addressing risk at both the transactional and operational stages, she helps clients prevent disputes, resolve conflicts efficiently when they arise, and reduce long-term exposure associated with property ownership and management.