



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 Courts for the
Eastern and Middle Districts of
Louisiana*

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 casualty, 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 has a particular interest in real estate and 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 serves as Vice President and Compliance Counsel for NPFI where she guides their compliance programs which includes advising 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 advises retailers and commercial property owners on risk mitigation and litigation management with a focus on minimizing financial exposure and reputational impact. She routinely handles claims involving allegedly unsafe conditions, negligent maintenance, third-party conduct, inadequate security or lighting, and other premises-related allegations. Her proactive approach includes guiding clients on e-discovery obligations, document preservation, and targeted production strategies, as well as strategic expert selection. These efforts frequently lead to early claim resolution, favorable motion outcomes, or reduced settlement values aligned with insurer and risk management goals.



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

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 real estate matters, including contracts, sales, redhibition claims, landlord-tenant disputes, leasing, easements, land use and boundary disputes, and property management issues. Her practice also includes advising on compliance with Louisiana's Planned Community Act and Condominium Act, vendor management, and premises liability and security concerns. By addressing risk at the transactional and operational stages, Tara helps clients prevent disputes, streamline resolution when conflicts arise, and reduce long-term exposure related to property ownership and management.