



Sonja C. Rice

Senior Counsel

sonja.rice@icemiller.com

216 394 5082

Sonja C. Rice focuses her practice on commercial transactions and construction. Her commercial transaction practice includes the development and negotiation of a wide variety of commercial contracts, including supply chain, distribution, and warehousing agreements, manufacturing and co-manufacturing agreements, professional services contracts, intellectual property development and licensing agreements, master services agreements, and global and regional facilities management and real estate portfolio management outsourcing agreements. Sonja's construction practice focuses on the development and negotiation of a wide range of construction contracts including design-build, EPC, and energy savings performance contracts. She supports construction project participants at all levels, representing owners, developers, architects, general contractors, subcontractors, and equipment suppliers.

Sonja has more than two decades of experience representing Fortune 500 companies, large and small privately held businesses, and non-profit organizations across the United States in fields including manufacturing, energy, information technology, telehealth, and construction.

Sonja is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics including contract terms and conditions, construction contract negotiation, claims avoidance, and risk mitigation. She regularly leads seminars for clients, focusing on best practices in the negotiation of supply chain agreements and construction contracts. She has also been a professor of appellate practice at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Education

- Oberlin College (B.A., 1992)
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, *Order of Barristers*, 2001)

Admissions

- Ohio
- United States District Court - Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court - Southern District of Ohio
- United States Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit

Services & Industries

- Business
- Construction
- Data Centers
- Licensing
- Supply Chain & Logistics

- United States Court of Appeals - District of Columbia Circuit
- Supreme Court of the United States

Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- Asian American Bar Association of Ohio, Board of Trustees Member, 2007–present

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Corporate Law, 2024–2026
- *Crain's Cleveland Business Women of Note*, 2023
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*, 2026
- Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Big Heart Award for Professional Services, 2023
- *Crain's Cleveland Business Notable Nonprofit Board Leaders*, 2023

Thought Leadership

June 9, 2026

***The Legal Intelligencer* | What 'Montgomery v. Caribe Transport' Means for Brokers and Shippers**
The Legal Intelligencer

September 2023

***Properties Magazine* | 'Greening' Your Contracts**
Properties Magazine

Speaking Engagements

- Guest Lecturer, “Legal Contracting Basics,” University of Akron Mechanical Engineering Senior Seminar, April 22, 2024
- “Construction Law: Advanced Issues and Answers,” National Business Institute, May 26, 2022
- Women in Construction Week Panel, Construction Employers Association, March 9, 2022
- “Joint Venture Basics,” Ohio Department of Transportation Bonding Education Program, February 24, 2022
- “Construction Law: Advanced Issues and Answers,” National Business Institute, April 6, 2021
- Panelist, “A Call to Collective Action: Dismantling Xenophobia and Racism Against the Asian American Community,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, April 6, 2021
- Speaker, “Construction Law from Start to Finish,” National Business Institute, December 19, 2019
- “Effective Project Documentation and Contract Provisions,” Construction Employers Association, September 12, 2018
- “Managing Risk and Protecting Rewards in Design Build Construction,” Construction Employers Association, June 5, 2018
- “Construction Contracts: Negotiating Key Provisions,” National Business Institute, April 10, 2014
- “LEED/Green Construction Seminar,” American Arbitration Association, June 14, 2010