



Jayna

Jayna Marie Rust
Partner

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Washington, D.C.
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MY SERVICES

Higher Education
Government Contracts
Public Transit
Regulatory
Transportation

EDUCATION

The George Washington University Law School, J.D.,
with honors
Notes Editor & Technology Editor, Public Contract Law
Journal
Loyola Marymount University, M.A.
University of Missouri-Columbia, B.A., *magna cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

Virginia
District of Columbia
The Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. District Court Eastern District Virginia
U.S. Court of Federal Claims
U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Circuit

I use my experience in government contracts and grants to help clients navigate compliance issues, transactions, and litigation involving the Federal Government.

overview

Jayna Marie Rust advises clients doing business with or receiving financial assistance from the federal government and represents them in litigation against and with it on contract disputes and bid protests.

Few attorneys have the deep experience advising and representing clients in federal government contracts and grants that Jayna brings to the table. Because she understands the intricacies of navigating these relationships, Jayna's clients depend on her counsel, which is based not only on the laws and regulations but also on what she knows from experience. In addition, she is able to make highly complex legal issues clear and understandable.

On government contracts matters, Jayna's diverse practice includes helping clients recover funds owed under those contracts. She also regularly challenges adverse agency actions, protests problematic contract awards, and defends against competitors' protests. Resolving client issues often means representing them before numerous agencies, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the U.S. Small Business Administration, Boards of Contract Appeals, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and other entities.

Clients also turn to Jayna for counsel regarding mergers and acquisitions, conversions, name changes, and other corporate transactions when government contracts are involved. And when issues arise between contractors, she represents them in prime/sub disputes before state courts or federal district courts and in arbitration hearings. She also counsels clients in negotiating subcontractor agreements and complying with a host of regulations and policies, including small-business requirements and domestic-preference policies such as the Buy American Act; the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA); the Trade Agreements Act; and the Cargo Preference Acts. She helps companies understand labor and employment obligations specific to their federal funding, including those related to the Service Contract Act, Davis-Bacon Act, and Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors.

Jayna counsels on federal grant-related matters, which includes negotiating subrecipient agreements and compliance with 2 CFR Part 200 (the Uniform Grant Guidance) and in preparing for and responding to investigations, audits, and reviews

related to those obligations. She has also worked with clients to understand agencies' unique approaches and supplemental regulations.

affiliations

- American Bar Association, Public Contract Law Section
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims Bar Association
- National Contract Management Association
- National Grants Management Association
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- Asian Pacific American Bar Association of D.C.

recognitions

- Listed in "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" (by BL Rankings) for Administrative / Regulatory Law, 2024, 2025
- 2021-22 Leadership Advancement Program, NAPABA
- Asian Pacific American Bar Association of D.C. Rising Star, 2018

publications

- **Quoted, ["What to Know About Trump's Strategy Targeting Colleges' Grants and Contracts"](#)**
Inside Higher Ed, April 18, 2025
- **Quoted, ["The next big post-affirmative action legal ruling to drop targets billions in small business contracts"](#)**
CNBC, October 25, 2023
- **Quoted, ["US Law Favoring Vendors With Disabled Staff Tested by E-Commerce"](#)**
Bloomberg Government, March 20, 2023
- **Quoted, ["Buy American initiative may push federal contractors to study shipping rules more closely"](#)**
Federal News Network, July 22, 2021
- **["3 Compliance Obligations You May Not Know You Have"](#)**
Law360, December 2017
- **["Gift-Giving Policies: Seven Ethics Checks in Light of OGE's Updated Standards"](#)**
Public Contracting Institute Blog, April 2017
- **"Government contractors must address domestic trafficking"**
Law360, January 2016
- **Note, "How to Win Friends and Influence Government Contracts Law: Improving the Use of Amicus Briefs at the Federal Circuit"**
Public Contract Law Journal, 2012

presentations

- **"Grants Attorney Panel"**
National Grants Management Association Annual Grants Training, March 2025
- **"Navigating Federal Contracting Compliance: Upcoming Changes and Strategies"**
SHRM Workplace Law Forum, November 2024
- **"Contracts Key Decisions, Help Wanted, and Hot Topics"**
Federal Circuit Bar Association Bench & Bar, June 2024
- **"Deep Dive into Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Tax Incentives and Grants"**
Women in Government Relations, May 2024

- **"New Build America, Buy America Domestic Sourcing Requirements for Federally Funded Projects"**
Strafford CLE, November 2023
- **"Supporting Utilities and Electric Cooperatives in Grant Management"**
October 2023
- **"Investment: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act"**
September 2023
- **"New Employment Issues in Government Contracting"**
National HUBZone Conference, August 2023
- **"Government Contracts for In-House Counsel: Getting FAR More Answers in Less Time"**
Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) 5-Session Program, June-July 2023
- **"Women in Government Contracting"**
Court of Federal Claims Bar Association, June 2023
- **"Corporate Client Privilege: Protecting and Preserving Client Confidences in the Corporate Setting"**
Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) (St. Louis) 2023 Corporate Counsel Institute (CCI), May 2023
- **"10 Common Procurement Mistakes Under Federal Grants (and How to Avoid Them)"**
National Grants Management Association 2023 Annual Grants Training, April 2023
- **"How to Access Federal Grants for Your Campus"**
Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), February 2023
- **"Built to Last: The Nonprofit Agencies of the Future (AbilityOne Track)"**
Melwood Inclusion Through Policy Innovation Conference, December 2022
- **"What Every Attorney Needs to Know About No-Poach Agreements"**
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Webinar, September 2022
- **"Non-Traditional Matters at the Government Contracts Courts and Boards"**
American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section, Federal Procurement Institute, March 2022
- **"Working with Other Companies as a Government Contractor Small Business"**
Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition, October 2021
- **"Recent Labor & Employment Issues for Government Contractors,"**
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Webinar, November 2021
- **"HEERF Audit Guide for Proprietary Institutions: Key Takeaways"**
McClintock & Associates Webinar, May 2021
- **"COVID-19 Legal Update"**
American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section, March 2020
- **"Anti-Trafficking Requirements: Recent Updates"**
Government Contracts Roundtable, October 2019
- **"Talking About FAR 52.222-26 and EO 11246: What Government Contracts Attorneys Need to Know about Bias"**
American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section Webinar, July 2019
- **"SBA's All-Small Mentor Protégé Program: What Businesses Want to and Should Know"**
Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Center, June 2018
- **"Assigning Contracts with State Entities"**
American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section, State and Local Committee Meeting, June 2019

- **"SBA's All-Small Mentor Protégé Program: What Businesses Want to and Should Know"**
AFCEA Scott AFB, June 2018
- **"Contract Compliance and Dispute Avoidance"**
Javits-Wagner-O'Day Legal Symposium, October 2018
- **"Ethics in Government Contracts"**
American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section Federal Procurement Institute, March 2018
- **"Federal Appropriations/Fiscal Law: Fact or Fiction"**
American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section Annual Meeting, August 2018
- **"Recent Small Business Developments"**
AFCEA Scott AFB, March 2017
- **"Recent Small Business Developments"**
Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, April 2017
- **"The 5 Differences Between Commercial and Government Contracts You Need to Know"**
November 2017
- **"SBA's All-Small Mentor Protégé Program: What You Should Know Before Jumping In"**
Eastern Foundry, October 2017
- **"Buy American!"**
July 2017
- **"The Trade Agreements Act"**
June 2016, August 2016
- **"Regulatory Update: How Will Select New Rules and Regulations Impact Our Business? Are Human Trafficking Regulations Really a Concern for Us?"**
Government Contracts Update (CLE), Thompson Coburn, May 2016
- **"Formal Contract Changes, 'Constructive' Changes, and Requests for Equitable Adjustment"**
Eastern Foundry, February 2016
- **Various Topics (Including Contract Types, Cargo Preference Act, Differing Site Conditions, Small Business Requirements, Anti-Trafficking Obligations, NAICS Codes, Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors)**
Public Contracting Institute, Ongoing