

Gabriela M. Barake *Associate*

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Overview

A dedicated fiduciary litigator who handles probate, trust, and guardianship matters, Gabriela M. Barake is an associate who works closely with trustees, administrators, guardians, and executors to meet their legal needs. Named one of the “Top 40 Under 40” by the American Academy of Attorneys, Gabriela’s practice includes dealing with probate and trust administration, the prosecution and defense of fiduciary claims, as well as commercial and business litigation, and employment law. She is committed to ensuring that individuals suffering from dementia, mental illness, physical and mental limitations, and other disabilities have guardians who protect them physically, financially, and emotionally.

Education

J.D., University of Houston Law Center

B.A., Criminal Justice & Public Policy,
University of Guelph

Practice Areas

Fiduciary Litigation

Probate, Trust and Guardianship

Fluent in Spanish and conversational in French, Gabriela is able to communicate with clients in multiple languages. Experienced in representing individuals and companies before administrative agencies, state and federal courts, Gabriela has also worked with some of the most important pieces of federal employment legislation, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In her practice, Gabriela has made a huge difference for her clients, including helping to secure a \$1 million-plus judgment in a collective action trial.

When she’s not practicing, Gabriela enjoys riding her motorcycle, watching the Toronto Blue Jays with her rescue dog, and playing hockey.

Experience

Gabriela represents clients in probate, trust, and guardianship matters, as well as commercial and business litigation matters. In recent years, she has:

- Represented claimants and respondents at unemployment and wage claim hearings before the Texas Workforce Commission, resulting in favorable decisions.

Admissions

Texas State Bar
Southern District of Texas

- Conducted workplace investigations and interviews, and recommended actions to address immediate concerns and ensure best practices in the future.
- Helped secure a unanimous jury victory for Galveston County in an employment matter.
- Obtained dismissal of a lawsuit and an award of fees under Rule 91a.
- Prepared detailed, persuasive demand letters that have helped recover over \$750,000 for clients without initiating litigation
- Represented individuals and businesses at mediation and brought all to mutually agreeable settlements
- Second-chaired trial, including assisting in preparing opening and closing statements and demonstrative evidence
- Prepared and presented multiple witnesses at a collective action bench trial that resulted in a total judgment in excess of \$1 million
- Prepared and delivered informative presentations to the general public on the Fair Labor Standards Act in English and Spanish
- Represented claimants and respondents at unemployment and wage claim hearings before the Texas Workforce Commission, resulting in favorable decisions
- Prepared and analyzed severance, employment, noncompetition, non-disclosure agreements and other employment-related contracts, and advised clients on same

Memberships

- American Academy of Attorneys

Recognitions

- "Top 40 Under 40", American Academy of Attorneys