

Stephanie M. Harden | Partner
Government Contracts

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Stephanie M. Harden has extensive experience representing government contractors in a wide array of litigation and counseling matters and was recently recognized as a *Law360* Rising Star in the area of government contracts. Stephanie's experience includes:

- **Bid Protests:** Stephanie is a seasoned bid protest litigator, having litigated numerous protests before the Government Accountability Office (“GAO”), the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Stephanie’s protest experience includes both protesting and defending agency award decisions in procurements of all sizes, including numerous multibillion-dollar procurements. Two of Stephanie’s significant protest wins are *Lockheed Martin Corp. v. United States*, 124 Fed. Cl. 709 (2016) (successfully defeating preliminary injunction alleging a range of protest allegations in major defense procurement) and *AllWorld Language Consultants, Inc.* (2016 CPD ¶ 12) (sustained protest of GSA Schedule contract award where putative awardee’s FSS contract did not meet solicitation requirements).
- **Mandatory Disclosures:** Stephanie helps clients navigate the FAR’s Mandatory Disclosure Rule and other regulatory disclosure requirements. Stephanie speaks annually on the Mandatory Disclosure Rule at the Year-in-Review Conference held by Thomson Reuters.
- **Cost and Pricing Matters:** Stephanie regularly counsels clients on responding to government audits (including by DCAA, DCMA, and SIGAR), the submission of Requests for Equitable Adjustments and claims, defective pricing matters, and claims litigation before the Boards of Contract Appeals. Stephanie has helped clients recover millions of dollars of costs in these matters. Stephanie regularly speaks and writes on cost accounting and

pricing issues and currently serves as a Vice Chair on the American Bar Association's Accounting, Cost and Pricing Committee, where she recently led a Task Force Working Group on potential changes to the Contract Disputes Act and related regulations.

- **False Claims Act ("FCA") Litigation:** Stephanie has extensive experience with FCA litigation, particularly cases involving complex government contracting principles.
- **Internal Investigations/Compliance:** Stephanie has counseled clients on compliance matters and internal investigations involving all manner of federal regulatory requirements, including small business regulations, the Service Contract Act, the FAR's Combatting Trafficking in Persons ("CTIPs") requirements, the Anti-Kickback Act, and gift and gratuity regulations.

Stephanie writes and speaks regularly about issues facing government contractors, including, most recently, inflation relief and COVID-19 claims. In 2018, Stephanie co-authored the chapter "History and Development of Suspension and Debarment" in *The Practitioner's Guide to Suspension and Debarment, Fourth Edition* (ABA Book Publishing, 2018).

Stephanie previously served as a law clerk to Judge Victor J. Wolski on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. She also worked as a summer associate at the GAO. While in law school, she was an editor of the *Harvard Journal on Legislation*.

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Georgia
- Superior Court of Ware County GA
- U.S. District Court - District of Columbia
- United States Court of Federal Claims

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Court of Federal Claims Bar Association
- National Defense Industrial Association

Education

- American University, BA, summa cum laude
- Harvard Law School, JD, cum laude

Recognitions

- 2022–2023, listed in *The Legal 500 United States*

- 2021, "Rising Star" in Government Contracts, listed in *Law360*
- 2021, listed in Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll

Professional Activities

Stephanie is a member of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims Bar Association.

Stephanie serves as a co-chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Public Contract Law's Accounting, Cost and Pricing Committee and is a member of its Bid Protest Committee.