

Adrian L. Lavarias

Partner

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Services

[Construction Law & Litigation](#)

[Real Estate Litigation](#)

[Trust & Estate Litigation](#)

Admissions

Hawaii, 2006

U.S. District Court District of Hawaii

U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit

Education

J.D., *summa cum laude*,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa,
William S. Richardson School of
Law, Honolulu, Hawaii (2006)
Law Review: University of
Hawaii Law Review, Casenotes
Editor and Member

B.B.A., Finance, University of
Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of
Business Administration,
Honolulu, Hawaii (2001)

Overview

Mr. Lavarias joined the firm as an associate in 2006 and became a partner in 2014. Mr. Lavarias' areas of practice include construction litigation, personal injury litigation, real estate litigation, trusts and estates litigation, and commercial litigation.

Mr. Lavarias graduated *summa cum laude* from the William S. Richardson School of Law. During law school, Mr. Lavarias worked as a summer associate with the firm. Mr. Lavarias also worked as an extern to the Honorable Susan Oki Mollway of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, the Honorable Michael D. Wilson of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii (now an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court), and the University of Hawaii General Counsel's office. Mr. Lavarias also served as a member and casenotes editor of the University of Hawaii's Law Review and was a member of the Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity.

Mr. Lavarias is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Business Administration, where he obtained a degree in Finance. During his undergraduate studies and during law school, Mr. Lavarias also worked as a student assistant to the Athletics Director at the University of Hawaii.

Experience

Select Results

Construction Litigation

- Represented a general contractor in securing a \$29 million mechanics' and materialman's lien against a Maui hotel, resulting in a favorable settlement out of court.
- Negotiated settlements for claims involving project delays and inadequate designs for the Hilo Judiciary project, securing damages for a general contractor.
- Defended a mechanical design contractor against defective design claims brought by a condominium homeowner's association, achieving a favorable defense verdict in a mini trial.

Real Estate Litigation

- Successfully represented a large landowner in a dispute over ownership of dozens of acres in Laie, resulting in declaratory and monetary judgments and significant sanctions against the opposing party.
- Secured a favorable arbitration decision for a commercial lessee in a lease rent dispute, saving the client millions over the lease term.
- Settled a complex case involving affordable housing credits for a developer in litigation with a former landowner and the County.

Trusts and Estates Litigation

- Defended Trustees of the late Hawaii entertainer Don Ho's estate, achieving a settlement that preserved the trust and released all claims.
- Represented an interested party in a conservatorship dispute, resulting in the removal of the emergency conservator and the appointment of the client as conservator.
- Successfully resolved claims between family members over trust asset sales, facilitating a favorable outcome for the Trustee/Beneficiary client.

Personal Injury Litigation

- Defended a prominent private school and a national youth group against sexual abuse claims brought under Hawaii's extended statute of limitations, resolving the claims successfully.
- Negotiated favorable settlements for landowners and contractors in personal injury cases, including a \$1 million defamation claim settlement involving a contractor.

Commercial Litigation

- Secured a permanent injunction for a multinational company against a former employee threatening workplace violence, barring the individual indefinitely

from contacting employees or entering company property.

- Represented contractors and design professionals in breach of contract and payment disputes, obtaining recovery of unpaid amounts under various contracts.

Honors

- Best Lawyers In Hawaii (recognized since 2018): Construction Law; Litigation – Construction Law; Litigation – Real Estate; Litigation – Trusts and Estates; and Real Estate Law
- Best Lawyers: 2026 Lawyer of the Year in Litigation – Construction

Affiliations

Professional Associations & Memberships

- Hawaii State Bar Association – Litigation Section
- Hawaii State Bar Association – Probate and Estate Section
- Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association
- CAAP Arbitrator

Fraternities/Sororities

- Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity