

Carter S. McDonnell

ASSOCIATE

Denver, CO | 303.583.8209
cmcdonnell@polsinelli.com



Carter McDonnell represents owners, developers and design professionals in a wide range of construction and development matters, with a focus on efficiently navigating disputes and litigation. He guides clients through the full life cycle of a dispute—assessing risk, identifying resolution strategies and pursuing litigation when it serves their business goals and best interests.

In addition to his litigation practice, Carter counsels clients on the drafting and negotiation of development and construction agreements for large-scale residential, commercial and industrial projects. Known for his responsiveness and practical approach, Carter is committed to protecting client interests and delivering effective, business-minded results in high-stakes matters.

Education

- University of Denver Sturm College of Law (J.D.)
- Vanderbilt University (B.A.)

Bar Admissions

- Colorado, 2017

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Memberships

- Denver Downtown Leadership Program, 2026
- Denver Bar Association
- Colorado Bar Association
- Minoru Yasui Inn of Court, Executive Committee
- Faculty of Federal Advocates
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, Mentor

Capabilities

- Construction
- Real Estate
- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation

Recognition

- Named one of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in Construction Law, 2026
- Participant, Polsinelli Trial Academy facilitated by NITA, 2025
- *Denver Law Review*, Assistant Managing Editor

Matters

- Three-week 2025 federal jury trial for an international oil and gas refinery contractor in the United States District Court for District of Montana against a top five global oil company on a dispute relating to a \$160 million refinery turnaround mechanical construction project. The jury verdict awarded client \$64 million in damages and rejected the refinery owner's consequential damages counterclaim; pending judgment for additional interest, Montana Prompt Payment Act Penalties, attorney fees and expenses.
- Four-week 2024 federal jury trial for an international highway engineering client in the United States District Court for District of Colorado against a design-build contractor on a dispute relating to a \$500 million, 13-mile highway expansion project. Jury verdict awarded client \$5.25 million in damages and rejected the entirety of the defendant's \$260 million in counterclaims; Court awarded client \$14.2 million in attorneys and expert witness fees and costs.