



DAVIS GRAHAM

TESS HAND-BENDER

PARTNER

tess.hand-bender@davisgraham.com

303.892.7476

EDUCATION

University of California Berkeley School of Law, J.D., Order of the Coif, 2010

Stanford University, B.A., 2005

EXPERTISE

Commercial Litigation, Appellate, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution, and White Collar Defense & Investigations

ADMITTED IN

Colorado

Tess Hand-Bender focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, white collar defense, and investigations. She has represented clients from a variety of industries at all stages of litigation and confidential arbitration, from initiation of proceedings through trial and appeal. Tess has experience in a wide range of commercial disputes, including contract and business tort matters.

Tess also maintains an active pro bono practice. In addition to working with the Colorado Lawyers Committee, she first-chaired a pro bono misdemeanor trial for an indigent client and served on the trial team representing nine Colorado couples who successfully challenged the constitutionality of Colorado's ban on same-sex marriage. Tess and the team were honored with a Special Recognition Award from the Colorado Lawyers Committee and the Visionaries in Action Award from the GLBT Community Center of Colorado.

Tess currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Colorado Lawyers Committee. She also serves as co-chair of the Davis Graham Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and the Davis Graham

Women's Network. She is a member of the 2020 class of the General Counsel Mentor Program. Tess has previously served as Chair of the Colorado Lawyer's Committee's Young Lawyers Division and completed the Colorado Bar Association's Leadership Training Program (COBALT).

Before joining Davis Graham, Tess practiced at a boutique litigation firm in Denver. She also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Neil M. Gorsuch of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and to the Honorable Philip A. Brimmer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Tess graduated from Berkeley School of Law, where she was Order of the Coif and served as the submissions editor for the Criminal Law Journal. She is active in the Colorado Women's Bar Association and the Colorado LGBT Bar Association and has been named in Colorado Super Lawyers and as well as a "Rising Star" by Colorado Super Lawyers. She is admitted to practice in Colorado and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

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REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented Fortune 500 Company in Trade Secrets Litigation.
- Represents major telecommunications company in a variety of commercial disputes.
- Represented a large company in the internal investigation and disclosure of potential False Claims Act violations.
- Obtained Summary Judgement in client's favor in complex contract dispute.

REPRESENTATIVE TRIAL EXPERIENCE

- First chaired bench trial in breach of contract matter involving \$9 million counterclaim and prevailed on all issues.
- Won acquittal for client after jury trial in felony criminal matter.
- Defeated class certification during four-day class cert hearing.
- Prevailed in fee dispute arbitration.