Jarett J. Dillard

Counsel

700 Louisiana Street Suite 4300, Houston, TX USA 77002
t 281.809.4087
jdillard@ktslaw.com



Services

Complex Commercial Litigation

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Construction & Infrastructure

Construction Litigation

Contracts & Commercial Agreements

Government & Regulatory

Government Contracting & Public Procurement

Litigation

Industries

Construction & Infrastructure

Energy

Jarett Dillard focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation. He helps clients involved in disputes by focusing on the central issue and not the emotionally charged and oftentimes costly distractions they can generate. Jarett supports businesses with disputes that range from construction projects to general breach of contact matters. He drafts and negotiates engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contracts, designed to protect clients undertaking complex commercial, energy, and renewable energy projects by ensuring services are delivered safely, reliably, and efficiently. Well-versed in mechanic's lien disputes, clients also rely on Jarett to resolve issues created by work performed by other parties that is defective, not completed to specification, or otherwise disrupts progress—whether through litigation, arbitration, or other strategies that make the most business sense.

In his broader commercial practice, Jarett negotiates myriad agreements and represents plaintiffs and defendants in litigation resulting from their breaches. He has handled arbitrations and led national commercial litigation efforts, including but not limited to claims related to commercial contract disputes, real estate disputes, and private disputes pertaining to regulations enforced by federal, state, and local governments. Jarett provides clients with ongoing legal counsel on compliance issues.

Jarett is known for his listening skills and team-oriented approach—qualities he honed on the gridiron—and he continues to find creative solutions by having honest, straightforward conversations with clients about their challenges, then developing and executing gameplans that successfully address them.

Prior to rejoining the firm, Jarrett was a senior counsel in the Houston, Texas office of a prominent full-service national law firm where he focused on business, commercial, and construction litigation. He worked previously with the firm as an associate in its Houston office where he concentrated his practice on construction litigation, contract disputes, and alternative dispute resolution.

Jarett is deeply committed to helping the disadvantaged and offers legal advice to indigent clients on issues including civil, family, probate, estate, and criminal disputes through the Houston Bar Association's LegalLine. His pro bono accomplishments include successfully representing a victim of Hurricane Harvey that devastated Houston, Texas, against a contractor seeking to recover damages for unperformed work and also successfully representing an indigent client against an employer who challenged the client's unemployment benefits after experiencing a clear and apparent layoff.

While attending law school at South Texas College of Law, Jarett competed on the school's nationally recognized Moot Court team.

While attending Rice University, Jarett captured national attention as a member of its varsity football team during the 2006 season. He shattered the school's receiving records on the way to becoming a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award, given to the nation's top receiver. Jarett concluded his collegiate career being selected as a two-time All-American team member (2006, 2008), most notably by the Football

Writers Association of America, Sports Illustrated, the Walter Camp Foundation, and ESPN. In 2015, Jarrett was inducted into the Rice Athletic Hall of Fame.

After Jarett completed his undergraduate studies but before commencing his legal studies and career, he was drafted in the 2009 National Football League ("NFL") by the Jacksonville Jaguars, where he went on to become a professional athlete playing in the NFL for over four seasons. Jarrett is a recipient of the NFL's Ed Block Courage Award (2011), presented to players of NFL organizations who display perseverance and courage. Jarett also served as a fellow of the City of Philadelphia's Office of the Mayor in the offseason. During this formative time, he conceptualized a program that aims to lower recidivism by financially incentivizing employers to hire the previously incarcerated, as well as those reintegrated citizens who complete their assignments.

Jarett routinely presents at construction law conferences, giving insight on the legalities and practice of construction law in the state of Texas.

Jarrett was recognized in 2027 and the six years immediately preceding as one of the "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" for Construction Law and Construction Litigation by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. He was honored with the Retha Swindell Athletic and Community Service Award in 2025 by the Texas Black Legacy Foundation (TBLF).

Experience

*Successfully achieved summary judgment in arbitration under the statute of repose against a titan in global energy.

*Obtained a favorable summary motion ruling on removing an invalid mechanic's lien filed against an affordable housing development in Texas.

*Successfully defended against a temporary injunction seeking to enjoin a contractor from performing its scope of work on multiple real estate ventures and maintenance contracts.

*Prepared detailed briefing regarding the Residential Construction Liability Act and its limitations associated with residential construction lawsuits.

*Experience gained by attorney prior to joining Kilpatrick

Education

Rice University B.A. Political Science

South Texas College of Law J.D.

Admissions

Texas

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

Professional & Community Activities

City of Houston Contract Compliance Commission, Board Member

National Association of Minority Contractors (“NAMC”), Member

State Bar of Texas, Construction Section, Member

Houston Bar Association, Member

LEAD (Letting Everyone Achieve Dreams) Houston, Co-chair

TaxAct Texas Bowl, Former Committee Chair

Insights

AUGUST 20, 2026 **NEWS RELEASES**

Kilpatrick Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America

AUGUST 18, 2026 NEWS RELEASES

Leading Litigator Jarett Dillard Rejoins Kilpatrick in Houston

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