

Doreen Spears Hartwell Bio

Doreen Spears Hartwell co-founded Hartwell Thalacker, Ltd. in 2014 with Laura Thalacker, a friend and accomplished attorney with whom she worked for over 14 years at Nevada's then-largest law firm. Doreen has practiced in the area of business and commercial litigation in Nevada since 2000. Her litigation practice includes employment law, trade secret, non-compete claims, real estate, trust-probate matters and a wide range of other business-related disputes. Doreen has successfully defended employers in cases involving wrongful termination, breach of contract, discrimination and/or harassment in violation of Title VII, the ADA, the ADEA and state employment statutes. She also has substantial experience in successfully bringing breach of contract, trade secret, non-compete and trust and probate claims on behalf of her clients.

Doreen currently serves on the board of the Nevada Center of Civic Engagement and the Las Vegas National Bar Foundation. She is the former Chair for the Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and is a former Lawyer Representative for the Nevada United States District Court. She is a 2010 graduate of the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Las Vegas program, a past president of the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association and former chair of the LVNBA's Attorneys in the Schools Program (www.lasvegasnba.org).

In 2021, Doreen was named to Law dragon's list of 500 Leading U.S. Corporate Employment Lawyers. She is listed in both Best Lawyers in America (Las Vegas)® and Mountain States Super Lawyers for Commercial Litigation. Doreen, who has an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®, has also been recognized by her peers as one of Nevada's Legal Elite® since 2012.

Doreen is the former chairperson of the Pro Bono Advisory Council for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) (<https://www.lacsn.org>). She was appointed to the Nevada Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission in February 2014 and is currently the chair of the nomination committee. As one of the founding members of Hartwell Thalacker, Ltd., Doreen remains committed to providing bono legal services to deserving individuals through the LACSN. Doreen has received various awards for her pro bono work, including the 2014 "Pro Bono Attorney of the Year" Award from the LACSN, 2008 Attorney of the Year from the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association, 2008 Bank of America Local Hero Award, 2005 Judge Sally Loehrer Pro Bono Service Award, and 2001 Myrna Williams Children's Pro Bono Award.

Doreen, who is originally from Connecticut, attended Fairfield University where she earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Spanish. In 2000, Doreen obtained her J.D. from McGeorge School of Law with honors and moved to Las Vegas to begin her legal career.