



2025 Finance & Contract Administration Workshop

Matthew Michaels



Matthew Michaels – Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Matthew Michaels is a partner in the Washington, DC offices of Barnes & Thornburg. helps government contractors navigate the complex regulatory, compliance, and business challenges involved in doing business with the federal government. He represents clients across many industries, including aerospace, construction, manufacturing, information technology, and space exploration – providing strategic counsel on bid protests, prime/subcontractor disputes, federal investigations, regulatory compliance and transactional due diligence.

Matt advocates for both protesters and awardees before the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Court of Federal Claims, procuring agencies, and the Small Business Administration Office of Hearings and Appeals. He also defends individuals and companies facing Procurement Integrity Act allegations and federal investigations involving the False Claims Act, helping clients mitigate risk and navigate high-stakes government enforcement actions.

Recently, Matt helped a space launch services company challenge a \$4.5 billion dollar Air Force solicitation, leading to corrective action and a revised evaluation scheme. He also secured a favorable outcome for a large defense contractor in the protest of a \$300 million contract award, where the GAO recommended corrective action and awarded attorney's fees to the protester.

With in-house counsel experience at government contracting firms in the information technology and space launch sections, Matt brings a practical, business-oriented approach to legal challenges. He advises clients on Buy America requirements, joint ventures, teaming

arrangements, data rights, and small-business size affiliation rules, helping them maximize contracting opportunities while ensuring regulatory compliance. His experience spans small business procurements to multibillion dollar acquisitions, equipping clients with the insight and legal strategies needed to protect their interests and secure government contracts.

Experience

- Represented a space launch services company challenging an Air Force solicitation worth up to \$4.5 billion dollars. A successful protest of the agency's novel evaluation methodology caused the agency to take corrective action and revised its evaluation scheme
- Represented large defense contractor in protest of \$300 million contract award; GAO recommended corrective action and awarded attorney's fees to the protester
- Represented data analytics firm in protest against use of LPTA evaluation methodology; the government took corrective action and revised the solicitation
- Represented large aerospace manufacturer in \$12 million claim against the government for contract modification without consideration; reached settlement agreement with government
- Advised small government contractor in civil False Claims Act case against allegations of improper small business size certification
- Represented subcontractor in a dispute with prime contractor over prime's failure to pay for all work performed prior to partial termination for convenience of prime's contract; successfully negotiated payment in full without litigation
- Advised US subsidiary of German manufacturer on creation of a joint venture with a tribe-owned small business

Credentials

Education

- Skidmore College, B.A.
- George Washington University Law School, J.D., cum laude

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- California

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Federal Claims