

"Driving Southeastern Infrastructure Growth,"  
*Industry Today*



In an [article](#) published in *Industry Today* on March 26, Burr Partner [John Kavanagh](#) discusses the growth of the automotive industry in the

Southeast.

Taking Care of Business: Effectively Using L and E Visa Strategies to Address Workforce Needs



Now that the April 1, 2019 H-1B visa deadline has passed, thousands of employers may find themselves looking for an alternative to employ valuable foreign workers. While not receiving as much media popularity as the H-1B program, there are various alternative approaches to avoid disruption with respect to foreign labor such as the E-2 and L-1 visa.

Read the full [article](#), written by the Burr & Forman Immigration Team: [Melissa Azallion](#), [Anna Scully](#), and [Jon Eggert](#).

EPA Administrator Nomination

Burr & Forman Expands Services to Hemp Industry With Addition of Agriculture Funding & Lending Group



Burr & Forman announces the addition of the [Agriculture Funding & Lending Group \("AFLG"\)](#) to the firm's list of services. The AFLG practice consists of a team of practitioners with experience in the corporate, finance, tax, lending, real estate and regulatory spaces. Primarily focused on projects related to the hemp industry, the AFLG practice will place a particular emphasis on capital raising (equity and debt) activities, corporate transactions related to businesses throughout the industry's supply chain and structuring financing transactions.

Matt DeVries and Erik Doerring Recognized in JD Supra's 2019 Readers' Choice Awards

[Matt DeVries](#) and [Erik Doerring](#) have been recognized in JD Supra's Readers' Choice Awards for 2019. Matt is recognized in the area of construction while Erik is recognized for his tax and real estate articles.

The Readers' Choice Awards recognize top authors and firms who were read by C-suite executives, in-house counsel, media, and other professionals across the JD Supra platform during 2018. The awards recognize authors for their visibility and thought leadership covering 26 key, cross-industry topics. Read more about the awards [here](#).

Burr Expands Charlotte Office and Lending Practice

[Tricia Gordon](#) and [Cybil Abrao](#) have joined the firm's Charlotte, North Carolina office as partners in the regional Lending practice group.

Abrao represents national and regional financial institutions and investors in connection with complex financial transactions, with an emphasis on transactions involving commercial real estate. Her

## Confirmed by Senate While EPA Defends Recent Analysis Showing Decline in Enforcement



The Senate narrowly confirmed Andrew Wheeler as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday, February 28, 2019, by a vote of 52-47. Wheeler's

confirmation comes amid a Congressional inquiry into recent reports of a significant reduction in EPA enforcement efforts. [Ron Farley](#) covers details on Burr's [Environmental Law Matters Blog](#).

## EPA Speaks on Groundwater Permitting Issue



On April 15, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") released a much-anticipated *Interpretative Statement on Releases of Pollutants from*

*Point Sources to Groundwater*. [Schuyler Espy](#) covers details on Burr's [Environmental Law Matters Blog](#).

"Insight: EPA Enforcement Curbs Shouldn't Translate to Less Compliance, Unless...," [Bloomberg Environment](#)



In an [article](#) published in *Bloomberg Environment* on April 8, [Ron Farley](#) and [Schuyler Espy](#) discuss the drop in EPA enforcement actions and inspections. While this is in line with the administration's emphasis on deregulation, it still raises questions about if this drop will have a significant impact on the enforcement of environmental regulations nationwide.

## 11th Circuit Clarifies "Similarly

practice includes commercial loan origination, structuring, syndication and participation, debt restructuring, defaulted loan workouts and restructuring, portfolio loan sales, including both syndicated and single-lender transactions and secured and unsecured transactions.

Gordon primarily advises financial institutions and investors in real estate and corporate finance transactions including the origination and structuring of new transactions, the syndication, and participation of credit facilities involving multiple banks, and working out distressed or non-performing loans. She also represents clients involved in real estate foreclosures, portfolio sales, and distressed debt trading. She has significant experience partnering with clients to resolve problems and successfully originate and restructure loans in an efficient and responsive manner.

## 16 Burr Attorneys Named to 2019 South Carolina Super Lawyers and Rising Stars



Burr announces that 13 of its South Carolina attorneys have been selected for inclusion among Super Lawyers for 2019. In addition, 3 attorneys were recognized as "Rising Stars," up-and-comers under the age of 40.

Columbia-based Partner [Judith L. McInnis](#) was recognized in the area of Real Estate. Click [here](#) to view the complete list of Burr attorneys named among the South Carolina Super Lawyers and Rising

Stars for 2019.

## Burr & Forman Receives High Score in 2019 Corporate Equality Index

Burr & Forman recently scored a 90 on the 2019 Corporate Equality Index ("CEI"), the nation's premier benchmarking survey and report on corporate policies and practices relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer ("LGBTQ") workplace equality, administered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. The firm's score reflects a commitment to LGBTQ workplace equality, with respect to tangible policies, benefits, and practices. Read more about the 2019 CEI [here](#).

## Reggie Gay Featured in *HR Daily Advisor*: No Protection for Drinking on the Job



Can an employer terminate an employee for drinking on the job without violating the Americans with Disabilities Act or exposing the company to liability? [Reggie Gay](#) provides answers in an [article](#) published by *HR Daily Advisor*.

Reggie is a Partner in the Labor & Employment Group and is the Managing Partner of the Greenville office. He focuses his practice on labor and employment law, Workers' Compensation, litigation, health care, and appellate advocacy.

## Situated" Standard for Discrimination Claims



On March 21, 2019, a 9-3 en banc majority announced that a plaintiff proceeding under the *McDonnell Douglas* framework must demonstrate as a part of her *prima facie* case

that she and her comparators are "similarly situated in all material respects."

Read the full [alert](#), written by [Emily Burke](#).



## Making Headlines

- [Artisan Yards Touted as Next Major South Downtown Atlanta Project](#)  
(Source: Atlanta Intown, 2019-04-12)
- [Zoning Changes Spur Wave of North Miami Beach Redevelopment](#)  
(Source: Miami Today, 2019-03-12)
- [Sarasota Commission Backs Move to Boost Mixed-Use Projects](#)  
(Source: YourObserver.com, 2019-04-04)
- [February New Homes Sales Increased 4.9 Percent to 11-Month High](#)  
(Source: MarketWatch, 2019-03-29)
- [Democratic Leaders Seek \\$2T in Funds to Rebuild Infrastructure](#)  
(Source: Reuters, 2019-04-11)
- [Builders Say Immigration Problems Constricting Their Hiring](#)  
(Source: The New York Times, 2019-04-03)
- [Construction Industry Touts Advantages Amid Worker Shortage](#)  
(Source: Marketplace, 2019-04-11)
- [Fewer Workers Testing Positive for Opioids, More for Marijuana](#)  
(Source: BenefitsPro, 2019-04-15)

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