



Steven M. Charney

Firm Chair

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BIO

Since 2008, Steven M. Charney has served as the Chair of Peckar & Abramson, the largest construction law practice in the United States and the only firm to be awarded the highest nationwide recognition in construction law by Chambers USA every year since the award's inception. Steve has also received similar recognition as one of the foremost construction lawyers in the nation. He is among the few construction lawyers ranked in Chambers USA's highly coveted Band 1 position nationally and is recognized by many other lawyer rating services.

Steve is well recognized for a rare ability to bring together the theoretical and practical aspects of construction and construction law, yielding results, insights and solutions for both clients and the industry. His background couples extensive academic and hands-on experience in the construction industry with decades of experience in litigating for and providing legal counsel to contractors and developers. Regular representation of contractors that are among the top ten as reported by Engineering News Record, industry associations, and developers, have been a hallmark of Steve's distinguished career.

Throughout Steve's career, he has successfully handled numerous construction-related disputes, in court, arbitration or in alternative dispute forums, including multimillion-dollar delay, lien, default, equitable adjustment, termination, and construction and design defect matters. Steve embodies the results-driven mindset at Peckar & Abramson, with a remarkable record of outstanding results delivered for clients.

In addition to representing clients in connection with disputes, Steve has extensive experience as an advisor and counselor to leading contractors, developers and owners across the country. He is regarded for his rich understanding of the transactional aspects of construction law, which includes FIDIC certified training. His role as lead negotiator and draftsman of agreements for a wide range of construction projects includes office and residential towers, health care facilities, sports facilities, hotels and casinos, manufacturing plants, and international airports.

Steve has represented contractors and owners/developers in connection with some of the most prominent projects built throughout the United States. He represented the developer of the then largest private building construction project ever to take place in New York City and represented contractors and design/builders in connection with numerous professional sports facilities (examples include prominent hospitals; international resorts; and U.S. Open Tennis, National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and Major and Minor League Baseball stadiums and arenas). Steve's experience extends to an array of construction project types and delivery methods, including EPC, design build, power generation, and transportation, across the United States and internationally.

Steve is a constant presence in leading the construction industry when addressing and responding to emerging issue and challenges, and is often sought as a public speaker regarding such issues. His contributions to the construction and development industry include serving as general counsel to the Building Trades Employers Association New York (BTEA) and ACE Mentor of America, and active engagement with the Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure (AIAI), which awarded him the distinction of “Most Valuable Player” in 2018.

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) awarded Steve the prestigious Gold Coin for his contributions to this leading national organization, including his service on the Risk Management and Contract Document Committees. As mold related issues were beginning to impact construction projects and the industry, Steve presented the AGC with the concept of developing relevant guidance and standards. He then vice-chaired the AGC task force in studying the topic and drafting the industry’s first standards in regard to this problem, all accomplished within eight months.

Steve also guided the AGC and ConsensusDocs as principal draftsman of the first standard form industry agreement pertaining to “green” construction, in addition to co-chairing the ConsensusDocs task force focused on that effort.

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks at the World Trade Center, Steve was called upon to guide the construction industry as it faced the challenge of participating in recovery efforts essentially without insurance. Steve’s leadership and efforts led to the passage of unprecedented federal legislation establishing a captive insurance company funded by the federal government as a solution.

Steve’s industry service is too extensive to list, but also includes transformative leadership to the New York City construction industry related to construction labor, executive orders, and legislation, as well as a key role in the New Jersey legislation that authorized Public Private Partnerships.

In 2017, Steve conceived and founded the Syracuse University Infrastructure Institute, the first of its kind globally to integrate all colleges and schools at a major university with a focus on infrastructure delivery and policy. He serves as Founding Advisor to the Syracuse University Infrastructure Institute, and on the advisory council to the university’s Whitman School of Management and Real Estate Center.

Steve also serves as an adjunct professor at Columbia University, through a dual appointment in both the College of Engineering and College of Law, teaching Construction Industry Law to graduate level engineering and law students. He has also served on Law360’s Construction Editorial Board since its creation, offering insight and knowledge on construction law, helping shape the publication’s editorial coverage.

Before joining Peckar & Abramson, Steve served as Eastern Division Counsel for Turner Construction Company. He was employed by Turner Construction Company for nearly a decade, prior to entering private legal practice, in a number of operations related roles, including field superintendent, cost and scheduling engineer, and manager of litigation and claims, before assuming the role as counsel.

Steve is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law, where he attended as an evening student while working full-time in the construction industry. In 1983, Steve received a Master of

BIOGRAPHY CONTINUED

Science degree in construction management from the School of Civil Engineering at New Jersey Institute of Technology (where he also studied as an evening student while working full-time in the construction industry). Steve also holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Syracuse University, with a concentration in construction technologies.

HIGHLIGHTS

ADMISSIONS

- State of New Jersey
- State of New York

EDUCATION AND COURSES

- Syracuse University, B.S.
- New Jersey Institute of Technology School of Civil Engineering, M.S.
- Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Construction and Infrastructure
- Contracts, Project Documentation and Risk Management
- Construction Dispute Resolution
- COVID-19 Task Force
- Public-Private Partnerships

MEMBERSHIPS

- New York City Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Building Trade Employers' Association
- Associated General Contractors of America
- Fellow, American College of Construction Lawyers
- Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), Contract Documents Committee and Risk Management Committee

AWARD AND RECOGNITIONS

- *Chambers USA*, Construction Law, New York, Band 1, 2004-2024
- *Chambers USA*, Construction Law, National, Band 1, 2018-2022
- *Business Today's* "Top Influential Construction Lawyer", 2023
- *ALM & Martindale-Hubbell* "New York Top-Rated Lawyers", 2019-2020
- *The Legal 500: United States*
- *The Legal 500: United States*, "Recommended Lawyer", 2021-2022
- *New Jersey Super Lawyers*, 2007-2025
- *New York Metro Super Lawyers*, 2006-2024
- *Best Lawyers*, 2006-2025
- *Best Lawyers*, "Lawyer of the Year" in Construction Law - New York City, 2013
- *Lexology Index* - Thought Leaders Global Elite, 2025
- *Who's Who Legal* - Thought Leader: USA, 2024
- *Who's Who Legal* - Thought Leader: Construction, 2020-2023
- *Who's Who Legal: Business Lawyers*
- *Who's Who Legal: Construction*

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Breaking the Silence: Mental Health in the Construction and Legal Industries” 2024 Construction Super Conference, December 2024 (Speaker)
- “Beyond College Admissions: The SCOTUS Decision’s Impact on Construction, Law Firms and DE&I,” Construction Super Conference, November 2023 (Speaker)
- “Perspectives From the Top Legal Officers of the Nation’s Leading Contractors,” Construction Super Conference, December 7, 2022 (Moderator)
- “Advancing P3 in US Infrastructure Sustainability & P3 Highway Projects,” AIAI and Syracuse University Infrastructure Institute Webinar, June 2021 (Speaker)
- “How 2020 Transformed the Conversation Around Hate and Racism in Construction,” Construction SuperConference, March 2021 (Moderator)
- “An International Discussion on Contractors’ Assumption of Design Liability,” Leading Construction Lawyers Alliance (LCL Alliance) Webinar, February 2021 (Speaker)
- “COVID-19 Discussion: The Present and Future for the Construction Community,” P&A and South Florida AGC Webinar, July 2020 (Speaker)
- “The Current and Future State of Construction and Infrastructure: Opportunities and Challenges in the Evolving Crisis,” P&A, Turner Construction Company, Grassi Advisors & Accountants, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Star America Infrastructure Partners Joint Webinar, July 2020 (Speaker)
- “MTA Implements Revised Contractors Debarment Regulations,” *P&A Client Alert*, June 2020
- “How to Manage the Impact of COVID-19 on the Construction Industry,” P&A and Anchin Webinar, March 2020 (Speaker)
- “Coronavirus – What is the Construction Industry’s Response?,” P&A Call-In Program, March 2020 (Speaker)
- “Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Guidance For Contractors,” *P&A Client Alert*, March 2020
- “Consequential Damage Waivers and Limitations of Liability: When Should I Include Them in My Contract and How Do I Overcome Them When They Gouge Me? Proving Bad Faith and Fraud”, Construction SuperConference, Rancho Palos Verdes, California, December 2019 (Presenter)
- “Technology and the Future of Project Delivery - New and Emerging Technologies that will Shape the Construction Industry of the Future”, Construction SuperConference, Rancho Palos Verdes, California, December 2019 (Keynote Speaker)