



Gerard J. Onorata

Partner

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BIO

Gerard J. Onorata has been with Peckar & Abramson since 1992 in the construction practice. He concentrates primarily on representing general contractors. He has authored a number of articles related to ERISA preemption of the New York Lien Law, the New Jersey Bond Act and the New Jersey Construction Lien Law for the *Construction and Public Contracts Law Section Newsletter* of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Gerard has worked on an array of cases arising out of projects being constructed within and outside the United States. He routinely handles multimillion-dollar litigations and arbitrations, some of which have resulted in several published decisions. To his credit, he has obtained a number of successful arbitration awards during his time at Peckar & Abramson and has developed a reputation as being a tough and aggressive adversary. His experience ranges from handling disputes that relate to large commercial projects to infrastructure projects to extremely high-end residential homes. He has been recognized by *New Jersey Super Lawyers*, *New York-Metro Super Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers* and *The Legal 500* for his prominence in construction law. In 2019, Gerard was invited to become a member of the panel responsible for rating arbitrators on the American Arbitration Association's Construction Mega Projects panel. According to AAA, "the rating committee is a diverse group of advocates and in-house counsel representing owners, contractors, design professionals and insurers with experience in disputes arising out of significant construction and infrastructure projects".

HIGHLIGHTS

ADMISSIONS

- State of New York
- State of New Jersey
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court of the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

EDUCATION AND COURSES

- University of New Haven, B.A.
- Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Construction and Infrastructure
- Residential and Multi-Family

MEMBERSHIPS

- Morris County Bar Association
- Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (2016 - present)
- District XA Ethics Committee (Member- Morris & Sussex, 2007 - present)
- America Bar Association (Labor and Employment Litigation Sections)
- New Jersey Bar Association (Labor and Employment and Construction Law Sections)
- Defense Research Institute (1996 - present)
- New Jersey Business and Industry Association (2015 - present)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- *Best Lawyers*, 2012-2026
- *Best Lawyers*, "Lawyer of the Year" in Litigation – Construction – Hackensack region, 2019
- *New York-Metro Super Lawyers*, 2012-2025
- *New Jersey Super Lawyers*, 2007, 2015-2025
- *The Legal 500: United States* - "Key Lawyers," 2024
- *ALM & Martindale-Hubbell* "New York Top-Rated Lawyers", 2020
- *Bergen Magazine* "Top Lawyer" – Construction, 2021-2025
- *New Jersey Law Journal* Professional Excellence Award, Mentor, 2021
- NJBIZ Leaders in Law, 2021

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "To Settle or Not Settle: Factors to Weigh and Practical Considerations," *ConsensusDocs*, December 2025 (author)
- "Retainage: What Contractors Need to Know and Helpful Strategies," *ConsensusDocs*, May 2024 (author)
- "Building a Solid Foundation: Strategies for Operational Risk Management," Construction Financial Management Association NJ Dinner Meeting (speaker), May 2024.
- "Productivity Loss: How to Quantify and Preserve your Right to Recovery," FTI and Peckar & Abramson Joint Webinar (speaker), May 2024.
- "Navigating the NJDOT Claims Process," P&A Webinar (speaker), June 2022.
- "A Brief Discussion – Liquidating Agreements," *ConsensusDocs Newsletter*, June 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- “Building Blocks for Handling Construction Law Cases,” New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education Webinar (speaker), April 2022.
- “The Basics of Subcontractor Defaults – Key Considerations,” *ConsensusDocs Newsletter*, February 2021.
- “Construction Disputes - Session 3: What Can We Do to Make the DRB Work for Us?,” P&A Webinar (speaker), January 2021.
- “Construction Disputes - Session 2: Contract Provisions,” P&A Webinar (speaker), October 2020.
- “Construction Disputes - Session 1: Tackling Subcontractor Disputes,” P&A Webinar (speaker), August 2020.
- “Construction Law Issues in the Age of Coronavirus (COVID-19),” P&A Webinar (speaker), April 2020.
- “Successful Strategies for Preparing and Putting Forward Claims for Additional Compensation and Time,” P&A Breakfast Seminar (speaker), January 2019.
- “Winning The Subcontractor Fight,” P&A Breakfast Club Seminar (speaker), January 2018.
- “It’s Complicated: Public-Private Relationships on Transformative Developments & Infrastructure,” Third Annual Anchin Construction & Development Forum (moderator), February 2017.
- “Ownership Rights of an Architect’s Work,” *New Jersey State Bar Association Construction and Public Contracts Law Section Newsletter*, June 2005.