

William R. Joseph, Partner

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Focus

Construction & Design Litigation

Profile

Bill Joseph leads the firm's Construction and Design Team and is also a member of the firm's Litigation Team. His practice emphasizes serving as outside general counsel for construction industry clients who either do not employ their own in-house attorneys or who need counsel in areas outside their usual expertise.

Bill advises developers, general contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, real estate professionals, as well as product manufacturers and suppliers regarding matters ranging from entity formation and administration, insurance and bonding, bidding and contracting, project administration and workouts, as well as liens and collections. Bill also has significant litigation and dispute resolution experience including successful representation of clients in mediation, arbitration, court trials and appeals.

He has litigated and tried construction and real estate-related disputes, including breaches of contract, construction defects, lien foreclosures, bond actions, adverse possession actions, encroachments, subsidence and other real estate disputes, unlawful trade practices and breaches of fiduciary duty claims, corporate and partnership disputes, statutory violations, negligence and other general tort matters.

Bill is also adept at handling transactional matters that clients regularly encounter in any general construction practice, including business formation and administration, contract drafting; real estate transactions, employment matters, and other construction and design-related issues.

Bill uses a holistic approach to problem solving, encouraging clients to look beyond the issue at hand and address larger structural or operational issues when possible. He finds this is the most effective way to help clients prevent future—and often more costly—legal problems.

When Bill isn't practicing law, he is an avid guitar and ukulele player. He and his wife, Joanna Lezak, have a band called Baby Carrots that plays kid music they hope parents appreciate as well. Bill plays all kinds of guitar music, but his true love is jazz.

Admissions

Washington, 2008

Oregon, 2000

California, 1996

Education

George Washington University Law School, J.D., with Honors, 1996

Boston University, B.A., International Relations, *cum laude* with Distinction, 1992

Results & Expertise

Representative Matters

Durig v. Washington County, 177 Or. App. 227 (2001)

People v. Dewey, 42 Cal. App. 4th 216 (1996)

Published Work

"Document Retention: Legal Aspects & Best Practices," *CFMA's Building Profits*, March/April 2015

"What to Expect When Working with Legal Counsel," *CFMA's Building Profits*, September/October, 2014

"When to Consult an Attorney: A Commonsense Approach to Utilizing Legal Counsel," HBA News, November 2013

"Legal Cases Affecting our Industry," HBA News, March 2013

"The Dangers of Allowing Your Contractor's License to Lapse," Associated Builders and Contractors, The Contractor Quarterly, January 2013

Presentations

Succession Planning, Construction Financial Management Association, 2016,

Boilerplate Contracts: Talking About Legalese and What it Means, International Builders Show, 2015,

Common Sense Legal Strategies for Managing Subcontractor Relations, International Builders Show, 2014

Mitigating Circumstances: Minimizing Risk & Liabilities, radio interview with Rod McLaughlin from radio station Sunny 1550AM, BuildRight Conference and Expo, March 2014

Common-Sense Legal Strategies for Selecting, Delivering & Administering Your Warranty, 2014 National Association of Home Builders International Builders Show, February 2014

Industries

Construction & Design

Practice Areas

Litigation

Honors & Affiliations

Professional Affiliations

Multnomah Bar Association, Member

Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, Member

National Association of Home Builders, Construction Law Attorney Forum, Member

Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland, Board Member, Executive Committee, Member and General Counsel

Associated General Contractors, Associates Committee Member

Associated Builders & Contractors, Board Member, Government Affairs Political Action Committee Chairman

Construction Financial Management Association, Member and General Counsel

Honors & Recognitions

Bill McNutt Award, Associated General Contractors Oregon-Columbia Chapter, 2013

Associate of the Year, Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland, 2010

Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2008-2009

Media

“Mild-Mannered Attorney by Day, Itinerant Jazz Musician by Night,” Multnomah Bar Association, 2012