



J. Thomas Nocar

senior attorney

Tom co-chairs the firm's Construction Practice Group. Before becoming a construction lawyer, Tom spent 26 years managing construction projects. This experience provides him with a unique set of skills to offer clients: broad technical knowledge of the commercial construction industry and a practical approach to dispute avoidance and resolution.

Tom regularly represents construction and real estate industry clients in transactional needs (i.e. contract negotiations and drafting, teaming agreements, licensing), project claims (i.e. nonpayment, nonperformance, defect cure, delay, acceleration, mechanic's liens) and dispute resolution including negotiation, mediation, arbitration and litigation. He is a trained arbitrator and serves on the American Arbitration Association Panel of Construction Arbitrators.

Tom is a builder's attorney having worked as both a builder and a construction company owner. His experience allows him to counsel clients in an effective and efficient manner in all their construction business needs.

Tom is well-versed in the intricacies of commercial real estate development. He has bought, developed, leased and sold commercial property. Tom has created proformas, developed if-come design, negotiated easements and tenant leases and secured financing for projects. He has constructed infrastructure, storefronts, vanilla boxes and lease-back developments in a variety of industries including medical, retail, industrial and office. Tom understands that in real estate development - time is money. His hands-on approach benefits his clients through efficient communication and prompt counsel on critical issues.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

The Ohio State University Michael
E. Moritz College of Law, J.D., 2013

The Ohio State University, B.S.,
cum laude, 2008

SERVICES

Construction

Real Estate

- Construction and design contracts
- Real estate litigation
- Sustainability initiatives

Business Growth & Operation

- Sustainability initiatives

Litigation

- Commercial litigation
- Arbitration and mediation

Having formed and operated a successful construction company, which was selected as the fastest-growing company in Central Ohio by *Columbus Business First* in 2000, Tom is competent in company formation, business planning, target marketing and staffing. He understands the business side of the industry to best serve construction business owners protecting their interests through contract review and analysis, timely practical advice and defending rights when their interests are challenged. Tom understands entrepreneurial drive and protects against the risks associated with creating and operating a successful business.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

PRESENTATIONS

- “Avoiding Construction Litigation,” Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, Jan. 24, 2023
- “Power Buttons: Arbitration Can Be Cost-Effective and Faster Than Court - Here’s How To Take Control,” Construction Super Conference, Dec. 7, 2022
- “Field Supervision – Documentation and Risk Management,” Builder’s Exchange of Central Ohio, Sept. 22, 2022
- “Top 10 Negotiation Construction Contract Terms and How to Protect Them,” Construction Financial Management Association, Central Ohio Chapter, March 15, 2022
- “Avoiding Construction Litigation: Contracts, COVID Response & More,” Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, Aug. 26, 2021
- “Elements of Risk in Construction,” Rea & Associates, Sept. 17, 2020
- “Avoiding Construction Litigation: The Top Ten Contract Provisions,” Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, Jan. 21, 2020
- “Best Practices for Hot Tubbing in Arbitration,” Construction Super Conference, Dec. 18, 2019
- “Contract Administration,” AGC Project Manager Development Program, Aug. 21, 2019
- “Top 20 Contract Terms,” Construction Law Forum, Porter Wright, March 20, 2019
- “Construction Law Seminar: Building Out Your Litigation Avoidance Plan,” Porter Wright, June 28, 2018
- “Innovative Approaches to ADR,” D1 Lunch Program, Forum on Construction Law, Oct. 6, 2017
- “Breaking Ground: Project Documentation,” Construction Law Forum, Porter Wright, Nov. 9, 2016
- “Ethics in Estimating and Bidding - Panel Presentation and Discussion,” Buckeye Chapter of the American Society of Professional Estimators, June 13, 2016
- “In-House Perspective: What is the Client Looking for from Outside Construction Counsel,” ABA Forum on Construction Law, June 8, 2016

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Arbitration Association, Panel of Construction Arbitrators
- U.S. Green Building Council, LEED Accredited Professional, 2005
- Columbus Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association

HONORS | AWARDS

- Ohio Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition
- *Columbus Business First*, Forty Under 40
- CALI Excellence for the Future Award® in Pretrial Litigation

COMMUNITY

- Miranova Homeowners Association, Board of Directors, 2020