

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

C. Allen Gibson Jr.

Allen Gibson is a Partner in the Charleston, South Carolina, office of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP. His practice includes representation of parties in the construction industry in the areas of contract negotiation and dispute resolution, including arbitration and litigation. His clients include owners, contractors, subcontractors, and design professionals. He is also an active mediator and arbitrator of construction disputes. He is a former Chair of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry and is currently an Officer in the American College of Construction Lawyers. Mr. Gibson received his B.A. with high distinction from the University of Virginia and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was selected for Order of the Coif.

A. Holt Gwyn

Holt Gwyn is a principal in the law firm of Conner Gwyn Schenck PLLC in Greensboro and Raleigh, North Carolina. His practice is concentrated in construction, environmental, surety, insurance, and other business disputes for private industry clients. His practice regularly includes contract drafting and negotiation, prosecution and defense of design and construction defects, mold and environmental issues, lien and warranty disputes, and delay, interference, and acceleration claims. Mr. Gwyn is a former Chair of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry, and a Fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers, where he is Editor-in-Chief of the college's semiannual law journal, the *Journal of American College of Construction Lawyers*. He is a member of the Large Complex Case Program (LCCP) Panel of Arbitrators for the American Arbitration Association and the Mediation Panel for the Association and for North Carolina's state and federal courts. He is a frequent author and speaker at bar and industry events on construction and environmental law, and on alternative dispute resolution issues. Mr. Gwyn received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina and his J.D. from Wake Forest University.

Leslie O'Neal-Coble

Leslie O'Neal-Coble is associate general counsel with Brasfield & Gorrie, L.L.C., which is an ENR top 100 general contractor. Prior to joining Brasfield & Gorrie, she was in private practice in Orlando, Florida, with Greenberg Traurig, P.A., Holland & Knight, LLP, and McDonough, O'Neal & O'Dell. She is board certified in construction law by the Florida Bar. Ms. O'Neal-Coble is a former Chair of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry, and former Chair of Division One of the Forum. She is a Fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers and served on the Board of Governors. She has spoken to many legal and construction organizations and has written numerous articles for trade and professional journals as well as contributing chapters to several books on construction topics. Ms. O'Neal-Coble received her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Florida.

Douglas S. Oles

Douglas S. Oles is a partner in the Seattle/Anchorage firm of Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker LLP. He is also a member of Global Engineering & Construction panel of arbitrators/mediators with JAMS. Over the decades of his practice, he has assisted construction industry clients with negotiating contracts and litigating issues on many complex projects. He has served as editor of *The Construction Lawyer* and as national Chair of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry. He is also a Fellow and Board member of the American College of Construction Lawyers. Mr. Oles has written many articles and spoken on construction law issues at conferences across the United States and in Europe and Asia. Mr. Oles received his A.B. from Stanford University (Phi Beta Kappa) and his J.D. (with honors) from the University of Washington, where he served as executive editor of the law review.

Charles M. Sink

Charles M. Sink specializes in construction law, arbitration, and commercial litigation. For 35 years, he has advised public and private entities in all aspects of contract negotiations and project documentation, has handled dozens of construction arbitrations, and has litigated in state and federal courts. He also has worked for many years resolving insurance or surety claims arising from construction projects. Mr. Sink has negotiated and resolved hundreds of construction delay claims, defective workmanship and design issues, project management disputes, warranty grievances, lien problems, and related construction claims. He also specializes in alternative dispute resolution. He has taught, lectured, and written on construction law and arbitration methods and strategies. He is a Fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers and has been a longtime member of the ABA Forum on Construction, a former Editor of its quarterly, *The Construction Lawyer*, and coauthor of the following Forum books: *The 2007 A201 Deskbook* (ABA, 2008); *False Claims in Construction Contracts: Federal,*

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Bradley Smith

Bradley Smith is a member of the firm of Hand Arendall LLC, practicing in its Fairhope, Alabama, office. In his practice, he has assisted construction industry clients in the prosecution and defense of construction defect and design claims, lien enforcement suits, and related construction claims. He received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina and his J.D. from the University of Tennessee.

Mike Switzer

Mike Switzer is a founding partner of the West Palm Beach office of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP. Mr. Switzer focuses his practice on construction defect and construction product defect litigation, and handles a wide range of legal matters in federal and state courts in Florida and throughout the country. He defends construction clients ranging from general contractors and developers to subcontractors, and lumberyard owners and other supplier-level entities in product matters. Mr. Switzer also handles construction site accident disputes involving property damage as well as personal injury to employees and third parties. He was awarded both a bachelor's degree in International Business Economics and a juris doctor from the University of Florida.

Jeffrey A. Sykes

Jeffrey A. Sykes has exclusively practiced construction law for over 30 years, representing owners, designers, construction managers, EPC contractors, and large general contractors on both public and private projects. He is both a transactional lawyer and a litigator and has been involved in projects, litigation, and arbitration throughout the country. Projects have involved power plants (nuclear, coal, gas, biomass, and renewable), process plants, wastewater and water treatment plants, manufacturing facilities, high rise, telecommunication, and all manner of public and special purpose projects. He is ranked as a leading California construction lawyer by *Chambers USA*, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Construction). Mr. Sykes received his B.A. from Kent State University summa cum laude and his J.D. from The Ohio State University College of Law cum laude.