



Orenstein, Scott S.

Position: Partner

Co-Chair: Construction

Contact

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Location

Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Practice Areas

- [Business Law](#)
- [Construction Law](#)
- [General Litigation](#)
- [Municipal and Government](#)
- [Professional Liability](#)

Admissions

New York, Connecticut, U.S. District for the District of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Massachusetts, North Carolina, U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, U.S. Federal Court of Claims



Biography

Scott has substantial experience handling complex construction claims in mediation, arbitration, and litigation. In his practice, Scott relies upon his extensive experience in the construction industry. Scott earned a civil engineering degree in 1990 and became a licensed Professional Engineer in 1994. For over 10 years prior to becoming an attorney, Scott worked as a project manager and estimator for a general contractor. Scott's construction industry experience includes construction layout, estimating, contract review, quantity take-offs, change order negotiations, buy-out, subcontract negotiations, shop drawings/submittals including delegated design items, and claims handling.

A frequent author and speaker on issues relating to construction industry, Scott is an authority on various topics such as mechanic's liens, bond claims, changed conditions, extra work, lost productivity, acceleration, delay, scheduling issues, and important changes in the law. Scott is also the Editor of the Connecticut Construction Law Blog. As such, Scott's relationship with his clients involves not only assisting them with dispute resolution, but also making every effort to keep them apprised of important decisions, new laws and regulations, emerging trends, and other developments that might affect their businesses.

Scott's primary goal is achieving the best result for his client. That approach often leads to the use of alternative dispute resolution techniques, such as mediation and/or arbitration. No business benefits by protracted litigation. For that reason, Scott always works to help his clients achieve the fastest, most economical resolution of any dispute. Of course, sometimes litigation is necessary. If that ends up being your situation, you need an experienced advocate with a proven track record. Scott's accomplishments include prevailing on everything from routine mechanic's lien foreclosures to complex lost productivity claims and everything in between. He has even prevailed in separate cases by arguing the opposite side of the same issue. Scott can handle any dispute no matter how large or complex. He's familiar with all aspects of public and private construction, including commercial building, heavy highway, utilities, infrastructure, site development, and residential.

After growing up in Massachusetts, Scott moved to Connecticut in 1990 to start his professional career. His practice now serves the three southern New England states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Scott has been married over 20 years and has two daughters. In his downtime, he enjoys hiking and reading. He also serves his community by serving as chairman for his local standing building committee for 14 years.



Education

- Quinnipiac University School of Law, Juris Doctor Cum Laude 2001
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering 1990
- Department of Labor OSHA 10-Hour Construction Training
- Certified Dispute Arbitrator, American Dispute Resolution Center
- Licensed Professional Engineer, State of Connecticut

Honors

- Best Lawyers in America, 2026-2027, Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating: AV Preeminent
- *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars 2011 (Construction Litigation, Land Use/Zoning)
- Guilford Public Schools Friend of Education Award 2015
- *View peer-review methodologies at [superlawyers.com](https://www.superlawyers.com) and [martindale.com](https://www.martindale.com).*

Professional Leadership

- Member, CSA-AGC-CMAA Joint Committee
- Executive Committee Member, Connecticut Bar Association, Construction Law Section
- Rhode Island Bar Association
- Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) — Connecticut Chapter
- Associated General Contractors of Connecticut



Representative Matters

- Successfully defended a \$21 million lost productivity claim.
- Obtained a million dollar settlement of a claim arising out of defective plans and specifications.
- Obtained a \$1.2 million settlement for a delay claim on a public works construction project.
- Obtained a \$300,000 arbitration award in favor of a general contractor that had its million dollar contract for a commercial building project wrongfully terminated while simultaneously defeating the owner's \$750,000 counterclaim for defective workmanship and the failure to pay subcontractors.
- Obtained a trial court judgment in favor of a subcontractor that was not paid for its work after the general contractor claimed that the subcontractor's work was defective. After a 10 day trial, the trial court awarded the subcontractor its contract balance, attorneys' fees and costs and found in the subcontractor's favor on the general contractor's \$1 million counterclaim for defective work.
- Obtained a \$225,000 settlement of contractor's claim for delay damages and lost productivity on a public works construction project.

Community

- Former Chairman, Town of Guilford Standing Building Committee (2006-2020)
- Former Member, Town of Guilford High School Building Committee (2011-2015)



Presentations

- Speaker, “Fundamentals Of Construction Contracts & Litigation,” New York State Bar Association, June 23, 2021
- Presenter, “OSHA Rapid Response,” Connecticut Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Plainville, CT, June 21, 2018
- Presenter, “Construction Law,” Foxmoor Continuing Education, November 6, 2014
- Presenter, “Legal Issues for Professional Engineers,” HalfMoon LLC CLE, January 27, 2012
- Presenter, “Introduction to Mechanic’s Lien Law,” Connecticut Bar Association CLE, February 2010
- Presenter, “Connecticut Construction Law: What Do You Do When...?”, National Business Institute CLE, January 13-14, 2005