

Peter S. Read

Co-Chair, New York Construction and Labor Law Practice

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Peter is the co-chair of the New York Labor Law Construction Practice. He has spent his career defending owners and contractors in construction accident cases involving the New York Labor Law and Industrial Code and indemnification and insurance claims.

With more than 20 years of litigation and trial experience, Peter has defended property owners, managers and security companies in premises liability cases involving catastrophic personal injuries, property damage and business loss. Additionally, he is experienced in the defense of cases involving wrongful death, product liability, lead-based paint exposure and appellate practice in all areas. Pete also handles litigation in cases involving elevators, escalators, moving walkways, electronic doorways, cranes and lifts.

Peter has extensive experience handling fire cases, defending property owners, public utilities, all manner of product liability defendants and construction contractors in cases involving catastrophic injuries and death allegedly as a result of products such as tools and equipment, household appliances, defective auto batteries and gas explosions leading to commercial and residential fires.

Peter has tried many cases throughout New York City as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and Dutchess Counties with a remarkable rate of success including a number of defense verdicts.

Education

- Brooklyn Law School (J.D., 1993)
- Loyola University Maryland (B.A., 1990)

Admissions

- New York, 1994

Practices

- New York Construction & Labor Law
- Construction Injury Litigation
- Product Liability
- General Liability
- Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation
- Catastrophic Claims Litigation
- Fraud/Special Investigation

- U.S. District Court Southern District of New York, 2007

Associations & Memberships

- New York County Trial Lawyers Association
- New York State Bar Association

Representative Cases & Matters

Obtained summary judgment dismissing all third-party claims against a local specialty contractor in a Brooklyn construction accident matter. The Court rejected claims for contractual indemnification and failure to procure insurance, finding that an unsigned work proposal and estimate did not constitute an enforceable contract and contained no indemnification or insurance procurement obligations. The Court also dismissed contribution claims after finding that the contractor neither owned the property nor supervised, controlled, or performed any work at the project site, having fully subcontracted the scope of work to another entity.

Defense verdict for a private security company in an action for negligent security at a NYC homeless shelter.

Defense verdict for a major gas distribution company in a case involving severe personal injuries allegedly caused by condition of utility construction site.

Defense verdict on grounds of permissive use for a gas pipeline company in a case involving catastrophic injuries sustained by ATV driver over pipeline right of way.

Defense verdict for New York City marshal in a case for extensive property conversion.

Defense verdict for a national soccer camp company in an auto case involving question of scope of employment.

Obtained summary judgment, affirmed on appeal, for security company in a case involving claims for severe personal injuries from gun shots on grounds of standard and duty of care owed to plaintiff.

Obtained summary judgment, affirmed on appeal, for gas distribution company on grounds of proximate cause in case involving a house explosion and severe burn injuries.

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *New York State Labor Law Primer*, Marshall Dennehey Client Presentation, July 29, 2025
- A.M. Best Podcast: Defending Construction Claims Under the New York Labor Law Statutes, December 2018

Published Works

- "The Laborious Task of Litigating NY State Labor Law Claims: A Pre-Trial Defense Perspective," *New York Law Journal*, Litigation Supplement, November 13, 2017

Results

Summary Judgment for Plumbing Contractor in Construction Defect Case

We obtained dismissal of the plaintiff's complaint and all cross claims against our client, a commercial plumbing contractor, on a motion for summary judgment in a construction defect case. The case involved claims by a homeowners association for property damage and replacement costs allegedly in excess of \$6 million as a result of construction defects in the design and installation of plumbing, water collection, drainage, grading, and other water runoff and drainage systems. In addition to our client, the named defendants were the project architects, the general contractor, various plumbing, electric, concrete and grading trades, and the water and electric utilities, all of whom asserted cross claims. We were granted summary judgment on grounds that the plaintiff's breach of contract claim failed due to lack of privity and proof that the plaintiff was not a third-party beneficiary of our subcontract. All claims and cross claims for negligent installation/breach of warranty were dismissed upon proof that our client's work was performed in accord with project specs and in accord with the applicable building code, and that none of its work contributed to any drainage issues or resulting property damage.

Thought Leadership

January 29, 2021

On The Pulse... New York Construction and Labor Law Practice Group. Knowing the Industry From the Inside Out