

# Nationally Renowned Construction Law Practice Joins Cozen O'Connor

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

PHILADELPHIA, April 25, 2017 — Cozen O'Connor is pleased to announce that a nationally ranked Construction Law Practice has joined the firm. Four lawyers from Pepper Hamilton have joined Cozen O'Connor to spearhead the Construction Law Group. For more than three decades, these lawyers have successfully handled some of the largest and most complex construction litigation matters throughout the United States and abroad. Regionally included among their clients are Toll Brothers, Inc., Allan Myers and The DePaul Group; nationally, they represent Pepper Construction Company, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and Silverstein Properties, Inc. and several other national developers.

The four lawyers joining Cozen O'Connor's Construction Law Group include Bruce W. Ficken, who will serve as chair of the Construction Law Group, Raymond L. DeLuca who will serve as vice chair of the group, James M. Kwartnik, Jr., and Jeffery R. Mullen. Ficken, DeLuca, and Kwartnik are joining the firm as members, Mullen will be joining as an associate, and all will be resident in Cozen O'Connor's Philadelphia office.

"Adding this nationally prominent group of construction lawyers to our firm is a huge win for our construction clients," said Michael J. Heller, Cozen O'Connor's president and chief executive officer. "Cozen O'Connor has been representing major players in the construction industry for decades and adding Bruce, Ray, Jim, and Jeff makes our firm's expertise and success in the construction industry unparalleled. Cozen O'Connor is honored to welcome such a renowned and respected group of attorneys."

For years, Ficken has had a national reputation for successfully trying complex construction cases, having tried more than 60 major cases, domestically and in international arbitrations. He was recently named by *Best Lawyers* as 2017 Philadelphia Lawyer of The Year in Construction. He is one of only a few construction litigators ever to be invited to be a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He co-chairs the Construction Superconference and is ranked Band 1 nationally by *Chambers USA*.

DeLuca, also *Chambers* rated, has 20 years of experience as a construction lawyer representing owners, contractors, and design professionals in all phases of the construction and dispute resolution process. DeLuca has tried numerous cases in that state and federal courts, and in arbitrations, and has drafted and negotiated contracts for major national and international construction projects. Prior to becoming a respected construction litigator, DeLuca was a design professional, which allowed him to acquire an intimate knowledge of the design and construction process and gives him a unique perspective in this area of law. DeLuca is listed in *Best Lawyers* and the *Legal 500* and is a frequent lecturer on construction law topics.

Kwartnik began his career in the construction industry working for a construction management firm and a specialty subcontractor, where he performed both accounting and management functions. Utilizing this experience, Kwartnik has focused his legal practice on counseling and representing owners, construction managers, general contractors, developers, and subcontractors in all phases of construction projects, both public and private, and through the dispute resolution process. As part of his practice, Kwartnik works closely with clients through the contract negotiation and drafting process. He has worked with clients on projects ranging from commercial and residential renovations to massive infrastructure improvements.

Mullen also came to the practice of law with a background in the construction industry, having worked

## Related Practice Areas

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law

## Industry Sectors

- Real Estate & Construction

for a regional contractor as a project manager, where he oversaw various residential, commercial, and public projects. Building upon that experience, he has exclusively practiced construction law since 2013. During that time, he has counseled owners, contractors, and design professionals in all phases of their construction projects, and he has represented them through the dispute resolution process. Mullen has experience representing clients in disputes arising from a variety of construction projects, including power plants, mass transit systems, highways, pipelines, dams, and commercial and residential buildings.

“We are thrilled to be joining this superb firm that I have known for years,” said Ficken. “This is a reunion of sorts for me. I have had close friends here for decades. Fred Jacoby, Vice Chair at Cozen O’Connor, and I grew up in the construction law business together but at different firms. We worked extensively together in the tragic Tropicana Collapse litigation. I am excited to collaborate with him again. It’s a great new home for our group.”

The attorneys in the Construction Law Group will work in conjunction with the nationwide network of Cozen O’Connor attorneys who have been recognized for their service to our clients in the construction industry.

### **About Cozen O’Connor**

Established in 1970 and ranked among the top 100 law firms in America, Cozen O’Connor has more than 750 attorneys who help clients manage risk and make better business decisions. The firm counsels clients on their most sophisticated legal matters in all areas of the law, including litigation, corporate and regulatory law. Representing a broad array of leading global corporations and middle market companies, Cozen O’Connor services its clients’ needs through 26 offices across two continents.

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