



R. Lee Mann III

Partner

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Services

Construction & Infrastructure
Construction Litigation
Litigation

Industries

Construction & Infrastructure

Lee Mann is the leader of the Construction & Infrastructure Projects Team. The team has earned top national and state rankings from *Chambers USA* for the last 10 years, including two nationwide "Construction Law Team of the Year" awards. The team is ranked National Tier 1 by *U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms"* and earned top rankings – both National Tier 1 and Recommended Firm – from *Legal 500 US* (2015-2022).

Lee focuses his practice almost exclusively on construction and government contracting law, including mechanic's liens and bond claims. He has mediated, arbitrated, and litigated a wide variety of large and complex construction disputes for owners, contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers on public and private projects throughout the United States and internationally, including gas pipelines, hydroelectric facilities, road and bridge projects, pulp and paper projects, large dams, drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, hospitals, manufacturing facilities, commercial projects, condominiums, schools, casinos, military installations, and convention centers.

For instance, Lee has represented:

- An EPC contractor in the prosecution of claims in an ICC arbitration arising from a \$2 billion pulp project in South America;
- The contractor in the successful defense of lawsuits and the prosecution of counterclaims against the owners of large gas pipeline project in Louisiana, Texas, Illinois, and Indiana;
- The contractor in recovering \$40 million from the Corps of Engineers on the Seven Oaks Dam project in Southern California;
- The construction manager in successfully defending more than \$50 million in claims from contractors on the Phase IV Expansion of the Georgia World Congress Center;
- The owner in defeating more than \$40 million in claims on the \$3.5 billion Boston Harbor Project;
- The contractor in the successful defense of five lawsuits seeking more than \$40 million in damages arising from hospital projects in Florida, Georgia, and Texas;
- A hydroelectric supplier in litigation in the successful defense of lawsuits and arbitrations in

California, Arkansas, and Connecticut;

- Highway contractors in litigation against the Georgia Department of Transportation and Caltrans; and
- A heavy civil contractor in the defense of \$200 million in claims brought by a *qui tam* plaintiff under the False Claims Act.

Lee is especially familiar with mechanic's lien law and bond law, having prosecuted or defended more than 100 mechanic's lien and payment bond claims.

Lee was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Construction Law in 2023 and the ten years immediately preceding. He is listed in the 2022 and the five years immediately preceding editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in the area of Construction. Lee was also recognized in the 2010, 2012 and 2016-2022 editions of *Legal 500 US* for Construction. He has been listed repeatedly in *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* for Construction and is AV® rated by Martindale-Hubbell.*

Lee enjoys the outdoors. Like his two sons, brother, father, and step-father, Lee is an Eagle Scout. Lee was the Scoutmaster for 60 Boy Scouts in Troop 298 for six years and was the Cubmaster for almost 200 Cub Scouts in Pack 298 for five years. He now serves as the Troop Committee Chair for Troop 298 and the Pack Committee Chair for Pack 298.

Experience

Represented one of the world's largest suppliers of hydroelectric equipment and defended and asserted claims involving a hydroelectric project near San Diego, California. The dispute involved claims exceeding \$30 million among the owner, designer, equipment supplier, and contractor.

Represented the public owner on the largest construction project undertaken in the United States. We worked with the owner's team, including local counsel, since 2005 defending major contractor claims involving differing site conditions, impacts and inefficiencies associated with excavation work and other alleged delays and changes. In the same manner as FIDIC-format construction documents provide, all project disputes are presented to a disputes review board (DRB). Our extensive DRB experience preparing, evaluating, presenting and defending claims has been particularly beneficial to the public owner.

Represented a Florida construction company, specializing in contracting and construction management services, in defeating claims by *qui tam* plaintiff under the False Claims Act arising from the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam in Southern California. The district court for the District of Columbia granted our motion for summary judgment on the plaintiff's claims, and the court of appeals for the D.C. Circuit affirmed. No money was awarded to the plaintiff.

Represented a pipeline contractor in a Texas state court in the defense of \$40 million in claims asserted by a pipeline owner and the assertion of a \$14.8 million counterclaim against the pipeline owner arising from the construction of a 31-mile pipeline project in Indiana and Illinois. During the course of this representation, we



obtained rulings that: the pipeline owner was guilty of spoliation of its project emails; the pipeline owner was guilty of spoliating the surplus pipe from the project; the pricing terms in the contract were unambiguous and applied regardless of the actual costs incurred by our client, which eliminated the owner's primary defense to \$2.8 million of the claims asserted by our client; excluding evidence of settlement offers made by our client, which the owner intended to use as admissions of liability; denying the owner's motion for summary judgment on our client's claim for interest under the Texas Prompt Pay Act; and prohibiting the owner's damages expert from opining that our client was responsible for the vast majority of the owner's claims. The pipeline owner and our client subsequently settled the claims between them. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

Represented the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) on the U.S. \$4 billion Boston Harbor Project, which involved over 100 separate design and construction contracts, and during the peak of construction was one of the largest public works projects in the United States. The treatment plant and associated facilities on Deer Island in Boston Harbor provide 61 communities and 2.5 million people with state-of-the-art wastewater treatment with a capacity of over 900 million gallons per day. Construction included new primary and secondary treatment plants, a new headworks, a sludge-to-fertilizer plant, a dedicated power plant, a 5-mile inter-island tunnel and a 9.5 mile effluent outfall tunnel. As a fully integrated member of MWRA's management team, worked directly with the MWRA's legal and technical staff on a day-to-day basis to avoid as many problems as possible and to resolve quickly and efficiently those problems that could not be avoided during the construction of a massive tunnel/wastewater project.

Represented a pipeline contractor in Texas state court against one of the largest pipeline owners in the United States arising out of a 135-mile pipeline crossing Louisiana. The pipeline owner claimed damages against our client in excess of \$45 million, plus attorneys' fees, costs, and interest. Our client asserted a counterclaim against the pipeline owner in excess of \$51 million, plus attorneys' fees, costs, and interest. We settled the dispute on terms that, at the owner's request, are confidential.

Represented one of the world's largest suppliers of hydroelectric equipment in the defense and prosecution of a claim involving a hydroelectric project in Minnesota.

Represented a pipeline contractor in Alabama federal court against two affiliated subcontractors. The subcontractors asserted over \$15 million in claims against our client. We moved to dismiss one of the subcontractors' claims on the grounds of improper forum. The court granted our motion, and the parties later settled the claims on favorable terms for our client. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

Represented an international construction company in claims against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers arising from the Seven Oaks Dam in Southern California. The Seven Oaks Dam was, at the time, the largest civil works project under construction by the Corps and is the largest earthen dam ever built in North America. The client



encountered differing site conditions and defective specifications during construction of the dam, and filed to recoup the extra costs it incurred. After we successfully tried several claims before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, the Corps agreed to mediate the client's largest claim which stemmed from the placement of 15 million cubic yards of material on the dam. The mediation was successful and the Corps ultimately agreed to resolve all of the outstanding claims on the dam, with a total recovery for the client in excess of \$40 million.

Education

University of Georgia School of Law J.D. (1995) *magna cum laude*, Managing Editor of *Georgia Law Review*, Order of the Coif, Woodruff Scholar

Georgia Institute of Technology Bachelor of Industrial Engineering (1985) *with highest honors*

Admissions

Georgia (1995)

Florida (1996)

Court Admissions

Supreme Court of Florida (1996)

Supreme Court of Georgia (1995)

U.S. Court of Federal Claims (1997)

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia (1997)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida (2008)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (1995)

U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Arkansas (2009)

Professional & Community Activities

Georgia Law Review, Managing Editor

Boy Scout Troop 298, Scoutmaster

Cub Scout Pack 298, past Pack Committee Chairman and past Cubmaster

Insights

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Garner 36 Rankings on the 2022 International Who's Who of Business Lawyers
October 24, 2022



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Kilpatrick Townsend Earns Top Recognitions in 2023 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 18, 2022

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Kilpatrick Townsend Receives Top Rankings in 2022 Legal 500 US

June 14, 2022

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Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Claim 80 Individual Rankings in 2022 Chambers USA

June 2, 2022

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Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Garner 37 Rankings on the 2021 International Who's Who of Business Lawyers

October 29, 2021