

People



John M. Neary

Co-Chair, Construction Practice

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John Neary is Co-chair of Akerman's Construction practice. He represents owners, developers, contractors, subcontractors, and design professionals in civil litigation matters, focusing on, among other things, critical infrastructure projects, renewable and conventional power generation facilities, energy storage systems, multi-family, as well as data centers and digital infrastructure. John also provides guidance on contract formation and administration on various project delivery systems for public and private construction contracts. In the energy sector, John routinely advises key project stakeholders in the negotiation of EPC, operation and maintenance, fuel supply, PPA and interconnection agreements.

In addition, John represents a wide variety of government contractors, including engineering, construction, defense, information technology, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical companies, with a focus on state and federal contract counseling and compliance. He also assists clients with due diligence and other activities related to the acquisition of government contracting concerns, and with the drafting and negotiation of teaming agreements, subcontracts, and licensing agreements. John's government contracts litigation experience includes claims litigation in federal courts and before boards of contract appeals, and bid protests before various state and federal tribunals.

Prior to joining Akerman, John was a field engineer for Kiewit on the replacement of the eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and also worked as an engineer for Babcock & Wilcox, providing technical support to home and field office operations on power generation and environmental air quality control systems.

Notable Work

Al-Udeid Air Base: Represented EPC contractor in connection with over \$30 million in claims against USACE before the U.S. Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

Areas of Experience

Construction
Construction Litigation and Dispute Resolution
Real Estate
Energy and Infrastructure
Government Contracts
Power Generation, Petrochemical, and Process Construction
Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure
Renewable Energy and Electric Power
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
Telecommunications, Fiber, and Wireless Facilities Infrastructure
Project Finance and Development

Education

J.D., George Washington University Law School, 2013, with Honors; Thurgood Marshall Scholar
M.S., University of Akron, Civil Engineering, 2012
B.S., Purdue University, Civil Engineering, 2005

Admissions

Bars

Virginia
District of Columbia

Courts

U.S. Court of Federal Claims
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
U.S. District Court, Western District of Virginia
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

Related Content

Proactive Contract Strategies Help Mitigate Construction Risks Amid Ongoing Tariff Pressures
July 07, 2025

Capitol Power Plant: Represented the AOC in successfully defending against claims brought by the EPC contractor before the Government Accountability Office Contract Appeals Board.

Construction Contractor Litigation: Represented construction contractor in litigation with developer relating to damaged natural gas turbine on U.S. Food and Drug Administration project.

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse: Represented the contractor in connection with various claims totaling over \$25 million concerning renovation of the courthouse against the GSA before the U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.

Prairie State Energy Campus: Represented prior co-owner of 1,600 MW coal-fired electrical power station in a dispute with the EPC contractor. Utilized prior experience as an engineer concerning issues related to the spiral wound ultra-super critical boiler.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA): Counsel for construction phase disputes involving multiple projects, including Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

Bronx-Whitestone Bridge: Represented foreign-based steel fabricator against prime contractor in connection with the bridge in New York City.

Capitol Visitors' Center: Represented the architect of the U.S. Capitol against claims and allegations of delay, inefficiency, and defective design in the construction of the \$200 million-plus Phase 2 of the Capitol Visitors' Center to include analyzing multimillion-dollar claims from contractors and subcontractors and providing legal, contractual, and factual defenses.

Austin United States Courthouse: Represented the architect that designed the courthouse in claims against the GSA before the U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.

Published Work and Lectures

- *Law360*, Co-Author, "How New SBA Rule May Affect Small Government Contractors," February 14, 2025
- *Virginia State Bar 43rd Annual Construction Law and Public Contracts Seminar*, Speaker, "Labor Shortage and Retention of Skilled Trades," November 4, 2022
- *Virginia Lawyer*, Co-Author, "Going Off the Rails with the Purple Line: Lessons in Project Delivery and Risk Management," April 2021
- *Virginia Construction Law Deskbook*, "Chapter 5: Project Delivery Systems," Author, 2019

Related Professional Experience

- Kiewit Pacific Company (n/k/a Kiewit Infrastructure West Company)
- The Babcock & Wilcox Company (n/k/a Babcock & Wilcox Enterprises, Inc.)

Affiliations

- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law
- American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry

Akerman Earns Top Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA Guide*
June 09, 2025

Akerman Named a *Construction Executive* Top 10 Construction Law Firm
June 04, 2025

- Board of Contract Appeals Bar Association
- Construction Lawyers Society of America (CLSA), Fellow

Honors and Distinctions

- *Chambers USA*, 2025, Ranked in Washington, D.C., for Construction
- *Best Lawyers*, 2021-2025, Listed in District of Columbia for Construction Law as “One to Watch”
- *The Legal 500*, 2022, Recommended for Real Estate – Construction