

**BOUTIQUE LAW FIRMS**



Ernstrom & Dreste attorneys (L) to (R) Cavan Boyle, Martha Connolly, Brian Streicher and John Dreste.

## Construction and Surety Law Ernstrom & Dreste, LLP

Ernstrom & Dreste, LLP is a nationally recognized and award-winning firm with a practice focused on Construction Law, Surety Law, and Complex Commercial Litigation.

Founded over 30 years ago, the firm's team of accomplished professionals keenly understands the nature of the construction and surety industries and the forces that shape them. With nine lawyers and over 150 years of combined industry-specific legal experience, the attorneys are knowledgeable, passionate, and, most importantly, achieve results. They create lasting relationships with clients large and small, serving as guides and partners throughout the legal process.

"By focusing on these specific areas of practice, we provide our clients with as much expertise, if not even greater skill and acumen, than most construction and surety practice groups at big law firms," says founding partner John Dreste.

Ernstrom & Dreste's smaller size offers the ideal balance of flexibility and structure that is especially client centered. The firm is not bogged down by a hierarchical or rigid management structure, relying more on collaborative, consensus-driven decision-making, and an informal and collegial office environment. This, along with its industry knowledge, enhances the firm's understanding of its clients' motives and desired outcomes, staying focused on delivering timely, informed and proactive legal services to the benefit of its clients.

"Construction risk management is the very heart of our practice," says Dreste, "and our attorneys are accomplished, experienced risk managers. With the goal of addressing potential dangers on the front end to avoid disputes down the road, every matter our clients bring to us receives the attention needed to achieve the best possible result."

Ernstrom & Dreste attorneys counsel and represent clients in all areas of construction law, including contractor risk management programs; analysis and preparation of all construction-related contracts; prevailing wage, project labor agreements, Wage Theft Act, Prompt Payment Act and other labor law compliance and resolution matters; bid, payment and performance bonds; bid mistakes and disputes; all types of construction disputes and resolution including claims, change orders, mechanic's lien rights, default and termination; master subcontract agreements; client staff training; and construction defects/defense.

As a law firm proficient in both construction and surety law, the firm's lawyers are embedded in each industry. Their robust membership and active participation in industry organizations means that the attorneys are well-versed and current on matters important to their clients. More importantly, Ernstrom & Dreste attorneys leverage insights from one legal discipline to inform their work in others.

The firm's direct representation of surety companies is bolstered by its extensive experience with contract and commercial surety bonds and by its broad expertise in construction law. As managing partner Todd Braggins points out, "The key to our success is using our knowledge and experience in the construction industry to effectively assess and mitigate risk and loss for our surety clients."

The firm represents clients in all types of surety matters related to construction contract surety bonds including analysis and management of surety risks; performance bond default and investigation including completion, tender and take over agreements; subcontractor bond claims and litigation; indemnity, subrogation, salvage, and enforcement of collateral obligations; litigation and post litigation recovery; and co-surety obligations.

In the last decade, Ernstrom & Dreste's expertise and leadership in the complex areas of construction and surety litigation has led to accomplishments in other complex commercial litigation, as well. Partner Brian Streicher observes, "When clients approach us with other types of complex commercial disputes, we take the cases with skill and competence because we've dealt with the applicable law before, and we're successful navigating complex, multi-party, multi-faceted matters."

Ernstrom & Dreste, LLP is understandably proud of its decades of success as a niche law firm. The next generation of attorneys, led by Brian Streicher, ensures that it will continue serving clients with the highest integrity, comprehensive industry experience and unparalleled professional skills for years to come.

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Founding Partner John Dreste



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