



JASON M. ADAMS

Partner, AAA Mediator/Arbitrator

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jason Adams is an equity partner and the resident partner of the firm's Westlake Village office. Jason's practice focuses on the areas of Construction Law, Insurance Law and Risk Management and Business and Civil Litigation. Jason is also a licensed property & casualty insurance broker and certified Construction Risk & Insurance Specialist (CRIS).



Jason started in the construction industry as a laborer and now represents ENR top 100 contractors, developers, subcontractors, designers and other construction professionals at all stages of the construction process. Typical issues include contract drafting and negotiation, procurement and evaluation of insurance programs, construction administration, project closeout, delays, insurance claims and disputes and litigation through trial or arbitration. Jason also represents businesses in all aspects of complex litigation from inception through trial.

As a licensed insurance broker and CRIS who has placed countless residential and commercial OCIPs, CCIPs and other complex insurance programs throughout the country, Adams provides strategic counsel to clients regarding construction risk management. Jason's real world knowledge regarding construction insurance markets, carriers, forms, endorsements and available coverage allow for unparalleled insight regarding contractual risk transfer and the procurement of general liability, property (builder's risk) and other insurance programs.

Jason is a published author and sought-after speaker at seminars across the country regarding high level construction, risk management and insurance topics. Jason contributes to treatises for construction industry professionals and other lawyers including publications by, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business (California Construction Law), and the California Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) (California Construction Contracts, Defects and Litigation). Jason is also a frequent speaker and educator on construction law for organizations including the ABA, Beverly Hills Bar Association and California Association of Community Managers, and was a featured speaker at both the February 2021 and September 2021 ABA Forum on Construction Law meetings.

For his achievements, Jason has been named to the "Rising Star" and "Super Lawyers" lists by Los Angeles Magazine and Super Lawyers® (Thomson/Reuters) for over a decade, a distinction conferred upon less than 5% of all California attorneys. Jason was also named to the "Top 40 Under 40" and "Top 100" lists by The National Trial Lawyers and is an Invitee of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Jason serves as a neutral and obtained his mediation certification from the American Institute of Mediation. He is a mediator and arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association and has mediated countless cases for several organizations including the Santa Monica Superior Court (Court Appointed Mediator/Settlement Officer); Los Angeles Superior Court (Mandatory Settlement Conference Settlement Officer); Department of Consumer and Business Affairs/Los Angeles Superior Court (Court appointed mediator in Small Claims, Limited Jurisdiction and Unlawful Detainer departments. Often successfully mediated several matters in one day); and Community Associations Institute (CAI) (Mediator on CAI's mediation panel).

Finally, Jason represents homeowner's associations (HOAs) as general counsel, handling all aspects of association needs including day-to-day management, governing document drafting/enforcement, formation/negotiation, collections, dispute resolution litigation and appeal. Adams is a longtime member of the Community Associations Institute ("CAI"), has served on the CAI Publication Committee and currently sits on the CAI mediation panel.

In his spare time, Jason enjoys mountain/road biking, beach volleyball, surfing, traveling and Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Adams has surfed in seven countries, completed the Los Angeles Marathon, Ironman 70.3, Malibu Triathlon, Spartan Race, Tough Mudder, and summited Mt. Kilimanjaro. Adams resides in Westlake Village with his wife and two children where he served as the "Federation Navigator" of the children's YMCA Adventure Guide program.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- ▶ Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
- ▶ Provisors – Westlake Village 3
- ▶ Southern California Contractors Association – Legal Committee
- ▶ Community Associations Institute (CAI);
- ▶ California Legislative Action Committee (CLAC);
- ▶ Department of Consumer & Business Affairs – Court Mediator (Los Angeles Superior Court)
- ▶ Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) – Mandatory Settlement Conference Settlement Officer
- ▶ Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles;

PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Civil Litigation
- ▶ Common Interest Community Law
- ▶ Construction Law
- ▶ Insurance Law & Risk Management
- ▶ Appellate Law

EDUCATION

- ▶ Pepperdine University School of Law (J.D.), Malibu, CA, 2001
- ▶ University of San Diego School of Law, Institute of International Comparative Law San Diego, CA
- ▶ University of Barcelona / Oxford University, Summer 1999
- ▶ Central Michigan University, Bachelor of Science (*Cum Laude*), Mt. Pleasant, MI 1998

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

- ▶ American Arbitration Association, Mediator and Arbitrator
- ▶ Property & Casualty Broker/Agent – California
- ▶ Construction Risk and Insurance Specialist (CRIS)
- ▶ American Institute of Mediation – Mediation Certification for Commercial and Litigated Cases

BAR ADMISSIONS

- ▶ California Bar 217067
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Central District,
- ▶ State of Tennessee (Inactive)

- ▶ American Trial Lawyers Association;
- ▶ Consumer Attorneys of California;
- ▶ Ventura County Bar Association;
- ▶ Calabasas Chamber of Commerce;
- ▶ South Coast Homeowners Association;
- ▶ South Coast Mediation Association;
- ▶ Encino Lawyers Association
- ▶ Association of Surfing Lawyers (founding member)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- ▶ Beverly Hills Bar Association – CLE Presentation – Homeowner-Contractor Disputes and the Right to Repair Act, October 2021
- ▶ ABA Forum On Construction Law, Regional Program – Construction Insurance, September 2021
- ▶ The Seminar Group – Wrap Insurance: Faculty presenter for certified continuing education seminar given to attorneys, contractors and insurance professionals regarding wrap-up insurance policies and broker issues.
- ▶ CACM Southern California Law Seminar, *Protecting the HOA from Liability*, March 2021
- ▶ ABA Forum On Construction Law, Construction Insurance, February 2021
- ▶ West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminar, The Impact of Builders Risk Coverage on Construction Defect Claims, May 2020
- ▶ CACM Southern California Seminar and Expo, Moving Out, March 2020
- ▶ Advanced Topics in Additional Insured Risk Transfer
- ▶ Emerging Issues in Insurance Coverage and Risk Transfer
- ▶ Summit: Construction Defect Roundtable
- ▶ Construction Practice Group Seminar
- ▶ Construction Insurance University
- ▶ Lecture – Ethics In Legal Advertising

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ (Co-Author) California Construction Law, 18th Ed. Supplement (Wolters Kluwer Law and Business 2022), Chapter 8, "Liability In the Construction Industry," (2022)
- ▶ J. Adams (Co-Author and Update Author), Chapter 7, "Arbitration", *California Construction Contracts, Defects and Litigation*, Continuing Education of the Bar (Cal. CEB 2020)
- ▶ (Author)
[Risk Management and contract negotiations – are you in breach of the contract as soon as you sign it?](#)
Financier Worldwide (March 2020)
- ▶ (Co-Author) California Construction Law, 18th Ed. Supplement (Wolters Kluwer Law and Business 2020), Chapter 14, "Alternative Dispute Resolution," (2019)
- ▶ (Co-Author)
[Ruling Closes the Loop on Restrictive Additional Insured Endorsement – Reasonable Expectations of Insured Builder Prevails Over Intent of Insurer](#)
Construction Defect Journal, August (2019)
- ▶ (Author) [Stormy Skies Ahead? Important News Regarding a Hard Construction Insurance Market](#)
General Counsel News, August (2019)
- ▶ (Author) [The Art of Leading A Successful Board Meeting \(PDF\)](#) Channels of Communication (CAI) Second Quarter, (2019)
- ▶ (Author) [Sinking Buildings on the Rise? \(PDF\)](#) Construction Defect Journal, July (2019)
- ▶ (Author) [Owners' Insurance Barred in Reimbursement Action Against Tenant Construction Defect Journal](#), April (2019)
- ▶ (Author) [Evidence at trial: Mistakes I made so you don't have to.](#) Advocate Magazine
- ▶ (Author) Toxic Mold Ventura County Star
- ▶ (Author) New Construction Law Effects Every Homeowner Ventura County Star
- ▶ (Author) Judge Ross... You're Fired Citations, Ventura County Bar Association Magazine
- ▶ (Co-Author) What is Disability Discrimination? Ventura County Star
- ▶ (Co-Author) What if Your Insurance Company Denies Your Claim? Ventura County Star
- ▶ (Co-Author) What is Insurance Bad Faith and How Does it Affect You? Ventura County Star
- ▶ (Co-Author) Fire Victims Beware Ventura County Star
- ▶ (Co-Author) Insurance Policyholders Beware Ventura County Star

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- ▶ Secured a jury verdict against the nation's largest health insurance company for wrongful denial of a liver transplant.
- ▶ Secured a judgment in a Federal Court trial on behalf of Archer Daniels Midland, one of the world's largest agricultural processors

HONORS AND AWARDS

- ▶ Los Angeles Business Journal's 2020 Leaders in the Law Award
- ▶ Top 100 – The National Trial Lawyers Association
- ▶ Southern California *Super Lawyer* – *Rising Star* in the area of construction defect litigation (9x)
- ▶ Top 40 Under 40 – The National Trial Lawyers Association
- ▶ Invitee of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum

PUBLISHED OPINIONS

- ▶ *Oak Springs Villas Homeowners Association v. Advanced Truss Systems, Inc.* (2012) 206 Cal.App. 4th 1304