



Principal  
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**Bar Admissions**  
District of Columbia  
Maryland

**Court Admissions**  
Court of Appeals of  
Maryland  
Court of Appeals of the  
District of Columbia

United States Court of  
Appeals for the District  
of Columbia Circuit

United States Court of  
Appeals for the  
Federal Circuit

United States Court of  
Appeals for the Fourth  
Circuit

United States District  
Court for the District  
of Columbia

United States District  
Court for the District  
of Maryland

**Education**  
George Washington  
University Law School

## JOSEPH C. KOVARS

### Experience

Joseph C. Kovars is the co-chair of Ober|Kaler's Construction Group. An experienced civil litigator, Joe concentrates his practice in construction and public contracts law. He represents contractors, subcontractors, sureties and owners in contract formation and construction disputes involving many types of construction projects, including hospitals, schools, telecom, process plants, power plants, multifamily housing projects, commercial buildings, highway and bridge construction and site development.

Joe's experience as first chair litigator in large and complex cases includes appearances before federal and state courts, trial and appellate levels, boards of contract appeals and the comptroller general.

He has extensive experience with contract interpretation disputes, delay and impact claims, contract terminations, bid protests, mechanics' liens, bond claims and injunctions. Joe has participated in approximately 60 arbitrations as an arbitrator and as an attorney.

Joe is the author of numerous articles and papers on construction law topics. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* construction category since 2003.

As chair of Ober|Kaler's Community Grant Program, Joe has helped award grants to non-profits that assist children at risk in the cities of Baltimore and Washington. To date, the program has awarded \$265,000 in grants. Joe has also organized volunteer efforts by the firm with several of these worthy charities.

### Professional Memberships

- American Bar Association
  - Forum on the Construction Industry
    - Chair, Division 9
    - Contributing Editor, *The Construction Lawyer*
    - Co-Chair, *Fundamentals of Construction Law Program* (5 sites)
  - Section on Public Contract Law
  - Litigation Section, Construction Cases Committee
- Certified by the American Arbitration Association as Construction Industry Arbitrator, Advanced Training
- District of Columbia Bar Association
  - Section on Government Contracts
- Maryland State Bar Association
  - Construction Law Committee
  - Public Contracts Law Committee
    - Past Co-chair
  - Past Member, Section Council, State and Local Government

(J.D., *with honors*, 1978)

- Government Contracts Office, Legal Assistant

Boston University  
(B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1975)

## Honoraries

- American Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Listed in *Maryland Super Lawyers*, Construction Litigation, 2007-2012
- Listed since 2003 in *The Best Lawyers in America*, Construction and Litigation Construction Categories (Woodward/White, Inc.)
- AV Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

## Professional Background

- Appointed, Task Force on State Procurement Efficiency
  - Chair, Disputes Resolution Committee
- Partner, Blum, Yumkas, Mailman, Gutman & Denick, P.A.
- Associate and Partner, Braude & Margulies
- Law Clerk, Honorable John P. Wiese, Judge, U.S. Court of Claims

## Publications & Presentations

- Presenter, "Changes and Differing Site Conditions" Construction Contracts Program, ABA Forum on the Construction Industry, 2011
- Co-author with Barbara R. Gadbois and John R. Heisse, "Turning a Battleship: Design-Build on Federal Construction Projects," *The Construction Lawyer*, 2011
- Co-author with Jay Bernstein, "When the Shoes Don't Fit: Defenses of the Principal that are Unavailable to the Surety," *The Construction Lawyer*, 2009
- Presenter, American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry, Winter Meeting, 2010 & Annual Meeting, 2008
- Co-author with Michael A. Schollaert, "Truth & Consequences: Withdrawn Bids and Legal Remedies," *The Construction Lawyer*, American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry, 2006
- Author, Chapter: "Maryland Construction Law," *State Public Construction Law Source Book*, CCH, 2002
- Author, "No Damages for Delay Clauses," *Construction Briefing Papers*, Federal Publications
- Author, "Recovering Extended Home Office Overhead Costs," *Construction Briefing Papers*, Federal Publications