



W. Ryan Snow

Ryan handles high-stakes litigation with a focus on complex business disputes, construction law, and maritime law. He was the 2024 President of the Virginia Bar Association and Managing Partner of CWM from 2012 to 2020. In 2022, Inside Business named him one of four “People to Watch” in its annual Power List edition. In 2024, he was included in the “Virginia 500 Power List” by Virginia Business magazine.

Ryan’s experience includes business conspiracies, technology disputes, government contracts, construction cases, maritime cases, railroad cases, arbitration claims, and others. He successfully argued one of the seminal financial tracing cases in the Virginia Supreme Court and was co-counsel in one of the largest patent cases tried to jury verdict in Norfolk federal court.

Ryan is listed in Best Lawyers in America® and has been selected a Virginia Business Legal Elite in four categories. He is a past Chair of the Construction & Public Contracts Law Section of the VBA, a member of the IP Section of the Virginia State Bar, and a former President of the l’Anson-Hoffman American Inn of Court. In 2022, 2023, and 2025, he was named “Lawyer of the Year - Construction” for his area by Best Lawyers in America®.

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Practice Areas

Business Disputes
Practice Group Chair

Construction Law
Practice Group Chair

Government Contracting
Practice Group Chair

Admiralty & Maritime Law

Intellectual Property

Litigation

Local Counsel Representation

Marine Construction Law

Railroad & Transit Law

Businesses & Industries

Business Owners

Developers, Project Owners

Equipment & Material Suppliers

Financial Institutions

Heavy Construction Companies

Intellectual Property Owners

Marine Construction Companies

Railroads, Shipping Companies

Technology Companies

Honors & Awards

Phi Beta Kappa

AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating
by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell

Best Lawyers in America®, Admiralty
& Maritime Law; Construction Law;
Commercial Litigation; Construction
Litigation

Best Lawyers in America®, *Lawyer of
the Year Construction Law (2022-
2023, 2025)*

Virginia Business Legal Elite®
Construction Law; Civil Litigation;
Young Lawyer Under 40, 2012-2013;
Alternative Dispute Resolution

Virginia Super Lawyers, Business
Litigation; *Top 100*, 2014

Education

Washington & Lee University,
J.D., 2001

Franklin & Marshall College,
B.A., magna cum laude, 1998

Bar Admissions

Virginia

Court Admissions

Virginia Supreme Court

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals,
Federal Circuit

United States Court of Appeals,
4th Circuit

United States Court of Appeals,
11th Circuit

United States District Court,
Eastern and Western Districts
of Virginia

United States Bankruptcy
Court, Eastern and Western
Districts of Virginia

Memberships

Virginia Bar Association
(President, 2024; Board of
Governors, 2020-2023; Chair,
Construction & Public Contracts
Law Section, 2011)

Virginia State Bar (Construction
Law and Intellectual Property Law
Sections)

Federal Bar Association

Old Dominion Bar Association

Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar
Association

Hampton Roads Utility & Heavy
Contractors Association (HRUHCA)

Associated General Contractors of
Virginia (AGC)

Community Involvement

l’Anson-Hoffman American Inn of
Court (President, 2019-2020)

Norfolk Botanical Garden (Chairman,
2017-2020; Board of Trustees, 2012-
2020)

Norfolk Botanical Garden Foundation
(Board of Directors, 2013-2020,
2023-2024)

NPBA Middle School Mock Trial
Program (Instructor, 2006-2015)

The Civil Rights Law Institute (Board,
2024)

Representative Experience

- Represents businesses in complex contract cases, business conspiracy cases, business interference cases, intellectual property cases, technology disputes, commercial lease disputes, antitrust actions, declaratory judgment actions, injunctions, mediations, arbitrations, and others.
- Represents construction clients, owners, and sureties in contract negotiations, teaming agreements, installation and design defects, mechanic's liens, payment and performance bond claims, change order disputes, differing site condition claims, indemnity actions, and others.
- Represents government contractors in contract drafting, business structures, teaming agreements, protests, change orders, equitable adjustments, litigation, appeals, cybersecurity, and others.
- Represents maritime clients and railroad interests in marine construction cases, cargo cases, limitation actions, vessel arrests, MARPOL investigations, riparian rights disputes, property disputes, preemption cases, FELA cases, ICCTA challenges, and others.

Articles and Presentations

- W. Snow, D Hartnett, "Traps for the Unwary: Limit Contract Risk and Protecting Your Right to Payment", HRUHCA (September 2019)
- "Hackers and Why They Hack – and Why You Need to Know", For the Defense, Defense Research Institute (October 2018)
- Presenter, "Making Sure You Get Paid: Legal Remedies for Problem Projects", Hampton Roads Utility & Heavy Contractors Association (July 2015)
- W. Snow, "Successfully Managing Government Contract Disputes: Key Considerations," Litigation Strategies for Government Contracts, Aspatore Books (November 2012)
- Co-Editor, "Law of Damages in Virginia", Virginia CLE (January 2012)
- Presenter, "Liability for Construction Defects and Failures", Half Moon Seminars (February 2012)
- Moderator/Presenter, "Intellectual Property Issues in Construction Law", Virginia Bar Association (January 2012)
- Moderator/Presenter, "Legislative Update", Virginia Bar Association (July 2011)
- Moderator/Presenter, "Business Litigation", Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association (September 2007)
- Moderator/Presenter, "Trial Advocacy", Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association (October 2005)
- Moderator/Presenter, "Deposition Tactics", Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association (April 2004)
- D. Schultz , W. Snow , "Injunction Practice In Virginia State and Federal Courts" (April 2003)
- D. Schultz , W. Snow , "Recent Developments in Admissibility of Expert Witness Testimony" (February 2002)