

Photo of John Conrad

### Practice Areas

- Construction Law

### Industry Sectors

- Real Estate & Construction

### Education

- Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, J.D., 2009
- Purdue University, B.S., 1986

### Bar Admissions

- California

### Affiliations

Certified Cost Engineer with the American Society of Cost Engineers, International

Association of General Contractors, Legal Committee Member

Construction Management Association of America

### Awards & Honors

- *Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch: Construction Law (2023-2025), Litigation - Construction (2023-2025)*

# John Conrad

## Of Counsel

## Los Angeles

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John's focus is on construction litigation, having been involved with all phases of construction and litigation for more than 30 years. He regularly handles claim evaluations, construction defect analysis, discovery processes, depositions, pretrial motions, jury instructions, mediations, and litigation proceedings including arbitrations, bench trials, and jury trials.

With a civil engineering background, John worked for more than a decade as a project manager, design manager, and project executive for a design/build contracting company involved in lightweight building enclosure systems and specialty structures, such as airports, courthouses, university buildings, commercial buildings, and specialty structures. His responsibilities included contract negotiation, design development, constructability reviews, construction planning and oversight, risk analysis, budget development, change order negotiation, and coordination between teams and outside counsel. With this extensive background, John's dual experience in construction and litigation allows him to efficiently evaluate claims and disputes, offering clients a thorough understanding of their legal positions and the construction process.

Before joining Cozen O'Connor, John was a senior attorney with the construction group of an Am Law 100 firm. There, he helped clients resolve millions of dollars in claims through settlement. He also second-chaired a trial involving a \$700M highway widening project, defending against major technical claims, and obtaining dismissal of all claims he was involved in.

John earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Purdue University and his law degree from Loyola Law School.

John brings over 30 years of comprehensive experience in engineering design, construction project management, and construction litigation. His focus is on construction litigation, where he handles various aspects such as client meetings, claim evaluations, construction defect analysis, discovery processes, depositions, pretrial motions, jury instructions, mediations, and litigation proceedings including arbitrations, bench trials, and jury trials.

## Experience

Represented a steel fabricator/installer for a six-story, four-block train and bus transit center construction project (the Transbay Transit Center), in connection with affirmative and defensive claims in the millions that were resolved via settlement.

Represented a steel fabricator/installer seeking recovery of millions in unpaid work after the owner ceased work on the Oceanwide Center in San Francisco. All claims were resolved via settlement.

Represented an engineer regarding unpaid work and claims for added costs on a superfund cleanup site (Torrence Remediation Project). All claims were resolved via settlement.

Represented a steel fabricator/installer seeking millions in unpaid work on the Lucas Museum of Narrative Arts in Los Angeles. All claims were resolved via settlement.

Represented a steel fabricator and erector seeking millions in unpaid work on the Los Angeles Rams

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Stadium. All claims were resolved via settlement.

Served on the trial team in a 12-week jury trial centered on the SR91 Corridor Improvement Project, a design/build 16-mile highway widening project (>\$700million) that included more than 30 bridges and 45 retaining walls. Second chaired major technical claim defenses (including alleged underallocation of rebar in bridges, design of bridge foundations, underallocation of retaining walls, and alignment revisions), managed all experts for these issues, and handled more than 15 depositions. Secured dismissal of each of these claims, and 98 percent of overall claims asserted in the case.

Second chaired a four-week jury trial centered on the construction of sewer lift station (Ranger Lift Station No. 16), representing a municipality defending against \$700,000 in claims for delays and increased costs. Handled all pre-trial preparation of documents, witnesses, and experts to show that the contractor was responsible for the delays and added costs and secured a complete victory for the client, including an award of attorneys' fees.

Second chaired a three-week jury trial involving the Los Angeles Unified School District's construction of 30 kitchen remodel projects, representing a contractor defending against \$5 million claims to rescind contracts to reduce the value of signed agreements. Handled the testimony and cross-examination of percipient and expert witnesses for trial, and secured a victory for the client.

Recovered 85 percent of all claims on behalf of a general contractor in a five-day arbitration involving a dispute with a steel subcontractor seeking costs for delays and defects in connection with the construction of seven buildings for the Marines at Camp Pendleton (a \$50 million project). Served as second chair, responsible for preparation of claims, documents, and witnesses.

Represented a general contractor against a subcontractor in connection with claims for delay costs and additional false claims allegations involving the construction of a higher education building for a college (Exotic Animal Training and Management Facility, Moorpark, Cal.). Second chaired the two-day bench trial, resulting in dismissal of the opposing party's claims. Also assisted in separate litigation to dismiss False Claims Act allegations against our client.

Represented a landscape contractor involved in Apple Campus 2, a 175-acre landscaping project in Cupertino, Cal., against claims involving multiple layers of contractors and the owner. Resolved the matter via settlement to the satisfaction of the client and Apple.

Assisted in evaluating events and claims resulting in a \$54 million award on behalf of the client in connection with the Foxborough Cogeneration Facility in Victorville, Cal.

Handled claims analysis, written discovery, and depositions, and acted as second chair leading up to trial, in connection with the Warner Avenue Gravity Sewer Project, City of Huntington Beach. The case settled on the eve of trial for a value that was acceptable to our client.

Handled claims analysis, written discovery, and depositions, and acted as second chair leading up to trial, in connection with the Newland Street Widening Project. The case settled on the eve of trial for a value that was acceptable to our client.