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Justin Stoger is a highly effective litigator, negotiator, and business advisor whose practice focuses on all aspects of construction law, plus business and commercial litigation, and liability defense. He primarily works with owners, presidents, executive management, project managers, superintendents, and foremen of general contracting and subcontracting firms. The balance of Justin's focus is on commercial litigation and dispute resolution for business owners. He handles all aspects of litigation – from commencement through trial, appeal, and post-judgment enforcement – for large and small contractors alike.

#### **CLAIMS AND DISPUTES**

Justin's detailed knowledge of construction is indispensable and puts him on the fast track to tackle a broad range of legal and operational disputes. Practical yet open minded to outside-the-box solutions, Justin's aggressive approach is steadily aimed at maximizing monetary recoveries as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. "Bringing swift resolution to client issues – not costly, time-intensive litigation – is what gets my clients back to doing what they do best . . . construction."

#### **BUSINESS AND REAL ESTATE DISPUTES AND LITIGATION**

Justin works with owners, buyers, sellers, and their related business partners in matters ranging from disputes over goods and services to defective materials claims. Again, Justin's ability to identify critical fact patterns, combined with his understanding of the business environments in which his clients operate, helps to shape recommended legal strategies. The benefits of Justin's expertise are threefold: Problems are resolved expeditiously. Clients get paid. And focus is returned to the client's core business.

#### **PRACTICES**

- Construction Law
  - *Claims & Disputes*
  - *Local Agency, Municipal & State Contracts*
  - *Federal Procurement & Claims*
  - *Project Counsel*
  - *Prime Contracts & Subcontracts*
  - *Collections*
  - *Insurance Defense*
- Business & Commercial Litigation

#### **ADMISSIONS**

- California: State Courts
- U.S. District Courts of California: Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern
- New York: State Courts
- U.S. District Courts of New York: Eastern, Southern

Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP  
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## LOCAL AGENCY, MUNICIPAL, AND STATE CONTRACTS

General contractors and subcontractors of public works face many challenges to their productivity and profitability goals. Among these include losing out on project bids, delays caused by design problems, and, most painfully, not getting paid. Justin is well-versed in the Public Contract Code and the process for submitting claims. His background with public agencies and how they work is invaluable. It all adds up to Justin Stoger being a name to remember when your public works construction problems demand a smart, aggressive legal partner and business advisor.

## COLLECTIONS AND MECHANICS LIENS

Most general contractors and subcontractors of private works understand all too well the frustration that comes from performing the work and then not being paid. Sadly, this business-breaking predicament has left more than a few good construction firms in ruins. It is also why Justin's deep knowledge of mechanics' lien law and stop payment notice rights is worth remembering. It empowers Justin to secure clients' rights or attach the owners' construction funds. The sooner we can lien a project, or take other steps to secure your rights, the greater our leverage to obtain the compensation you deserve.

## CONTRACT DRAFTING AND REVIEW

For many construction firms, the cost of quality legal advice on contract drafting can be prohibitive. Fortunately, years of contract drafting and negotiating experience enables Justin to quickly identify areas of risk, accelerate the review process, draft protective language, and minimize expense. As all Finch, Thornton & Baird attorneys know well, the ability to foresee the rigor of litigation provides the perfect perspective for drafting and negotiating contract terms.

## EDUCATION

- University of Miami (Florida) School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*
  - *Law Review*
  - *Dean's Certificate of Achievement Award for Labor Law*
- Boston University, B.A., Sociology, *cum laude*
  - *Varsity Football and Varsity Crew*

## MEMBERSHIPS

- State Bar of California
- State Bar of New York

## COMMUNITY

- Volunteer coach
  - *Rancho Bernardo Little League*
  - *Rancho Penasquitos Little League*

## EXPERIENCE

- Public and private works construction litigation
- Public works of improvement and government contracts, including projects with local public agencies, cities, counties, state agencies, and federal government
- Coordination with schedule, design, accounting, and subject matter experts on construction claims
- Delay, inefficiency, and extra work claims
- Differing site conditions
- Mechanic's liens and lien foreclosures
- Stop payment notices
- Payment bond claims
- Performance bond claims
- Contract defaults
- Liability defense
- Insurance defense
- Breach of contract
- Surety obligations
- Requests for equitable adjustments (REAs)
- Contract Disputes Act claims
- Counsel on specialized delivery methods, including lease-leaseback and construction management at-risk projects
- Local, state, and federal bid protests and enforcement
- General business and commercial litigation
- Debt collection and defense