



Virginia K. Trunkes

Partner

vtrunkes@rc.com

New York — 212.451.2986

Virginia K. Trunkes has a real-world understanding of large-scale complex construction projects, and strives to bridge the gap between legal risks and business realities. She understands the challenges, risks, and opportunities that face project owners and developers, construction managers at risk, general contractors, design-builders, large subcontractors, and material vendors as they improve the built environment in both public and private projects. She uses her blend of legal and industry knowledge formed by an earlier career focused on commercial and appellate litigation, then as lead partner in construction-related transactions and disputes, and most recently in-house with a national heavy civil construction and public infrastructure company.

Virginia has a proven track record of handling complex construction contracts such as GMP and Cost-Plus agreements, claims, negotiations, and dispute resolution in New York State and Federal courts, and for clients in the commercial/retail, energy, health care, hospitality, education, and industrial sectors. She is often called on to provide strategic legal guidance to companies' executive management and project teams on navigating obstacles to the progression of the work and their impact on the parties' legal positions. Examples include obstructed site access, differing site conditions, last-minute scope changes, and out-of-sequence work directives.

Coupled with her collaborative and project-oriented spirit, Virginia's goal is to bring parties together to arrive at practical solutions while still protecting their interests. She helps owners and contractors avoid disputes whenever she can; and if she cannot, she represents the interests and contractors in the ensuing dispute resolution. Virginia has advocated for her clients on issues such as contractual and fiduciary breaches, delay and lost productivity claims, licenses, the right to access, boundaries (trespass and encroachment), Zoning Lot Development Agreements, surety bond claims, construction and design defects, and interpretation of and compliance with administrative regulations. Her experience in collaborating with forensic design professionals for troubled projects has given her an in-depth understanding of the requirements of the city Department of Buildings, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and other regulatory agencies for construction in specific environments.

Virginia is an active member of the American Bar Association's Forum on Construction Law, and former Chair of the New York City Bar Association's Construction Law Committee. She volunteers with organizations such as the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA), of which she is a Past President. She has published articles in numerous bar journals and newsletters, examining legal topics *du jour* and exploring their potential reach, and operates the blog steelglasscity.com, devoted to urban iconic structures and their historical connection to a legal issue involving their development, construction, or post-occupancy status.

Services

- Construction Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Contract Procurement + Project Delivery

- Health Care + Pharmaceutical
- Infrastructure
- Access License Agreements

Industries

- Construction

Education

- Brooklyn Law School (Juris Doctor)
- State University of New York at Buffalo (Bachelors, *magna cum laude*)
 - B.A., Psychology
 - Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions

- State of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Recognitions

Selected by the *New York Real Estate Journal* to be featured in the publication's 2026 "Women in Construction" spotlight

Selected to the New York *Super Lawyers* list from 2016 to 2023

Selected by the *New York Real Estate Journal* to be featured in the publication's 2020 "Ones to Watch" spotlight

Selected by the *New York Real Estate Journal* to be featured in the publication's 2019 "Women in Real Estate" spotlight

Leadership + Memberships

American Bar Association

Forum on the Construction Industry

New York City Bar Association

Committee on Construction Law, Past Chair

Committee on State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction (2010 - 2013)

Committee on Real Property Law (2008 - 2010)

JALBCA (Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert)

Member, Board of Directors

President, 2022-24

Westchester Women's Bar Association

Co-Chair, Corporate & Commercial Committee

Thomson Reuters' Practical Law's "Construction Laws and Customs State Q&A" for New York

Editor (2022 - present)

New York State Bar Association

Commercial and Federal Litigation Section (2013 - 2017)