

BOWIE & JENSEN LLC

Attorneys at Law



Matthew G. Hjortsberg

Managing Partner

hjortsberg@bowie-jensen.com

(410) 583-2400

PRACTICE AREAS

- Business Litigation
- Construction Law

EDUCATION

- University of Maryland School of Law, J.D. with honors; member, Maryland Law Review
- Hobart College, B.A.; Druid Society

ADMISSIONS

- Maryland
- District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, Maryland
- U. S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Matt has extensive experience handling construction and business disputes, and is the managing partner of Bowie & Jensen. Recognized by the Maryland State Bar Foundation for outstanding dedication and contribution to the legal profession, he regularly represents clients in arbitration, mediation, and litigation proceedings in state and federal courts.

His work in the area of commercial construction law focuses on representing contractors, subcontractors, and owners in complex disputes, including construction delay, impact, and defect claims. Matt also assists in resolving significant payment and mechanic's lien disputes. He has handled claims arising from a wide variety of construction projects, including energy infrastructure, manufacturing facilities, and federal, state and local government projects.

In addition to representing construction clients in state and federal courts, he also has experience with arbitration forums and administrative proceedings. Co-author of the firm's Maryland Construction Law blog, he serves on the executive committee of the construction law section of the state bar association, and is a regular speaker on construction law topics to contractors and construction law practitioners.

Matt's business litigation work centers on prosecuting and defending private companies and owners, officers and directors in Maryland courts, and through arbitration and mediation. Recent cases have involved breach of contract claims, partnership disputes, derivative actions, and trade secret matters. While he favors negotiated resolution in most circumstances involving business disputes, Matt has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict. He is an appointed mediator for the circuit court for Howard County, Maryland.

Regardless of the nature of the dispute, Matt brings the same core skills to each matter. An unusually quick study, Matt is able to rapidly grasp the underlying business issues and complexities, determine the best plan of action, and work efficiently on behalf of his clients. Matt is a natural public speaker, and prides himself on advocating successfully on behalf of his clients through clear and persuasive articulation of complex issues.

Matt has been consistently recognized for his legal acumen. In addition to being named a Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation, he has been repeatedly selected to the Maryland Top 100 Super Lawyers list.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Matt and his wife, a lymphoma survivor, have been longtime supporters of the Maryland chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Matt served as chapter president from 2010 to 2013, and is a frequent speaker and advocate on behalf of the organization. He has also served on the boards of the Babe Ruth Birthplace & Sports Legends Museums and the Maryland Law School Alumni Association.

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BOARD AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Maryland State Bar Association, construction law section

- Chair, 2016-2017
- Executive committee member, 2015-2016
- Chair, legislative & case law updates, 2015-2016

Fellow, Maryland Bar Foundation

Former president, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society – Maryland chapter (2010-2013)

- Corporate chair, Maryland Light the Night campaign

Member, Trial Law Institute

Member, Diversity Law Institute

Barrister, Oder of Optimus

RANKINGS AND AWARDS

Leadership in Law Award (The Daily Record, 2016)

Fellow, Construction Law Society of America (“CLSA”)

Best Lawyers

- Selected to the Best Lawyers in America® list in the field in Construction Law, Litigation-Construction and Mediation (2019-2022)
- Selected as Lawyer of the Year for Construction Law in Baltimore, 2022

Super Lawyers

- Selected to the Top 100 Maryland Attorneys Super Lawyers list, 2013-2021
- Selected to the Maryland Super Lawyers list, 2010-2021

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MEDIA

- **2019** Speaker, "Safety-Driven Defaults Terminations: Can a Technical Contract Argument Save a Reckless Subcontractor?" Construction Lawyers Society of America
- **May 2018** Author, "Maryland Legislature 2018 Summary for Contractors"
- **Ongoing** Co-author, Maryland Construction Law blog
- **2/24/14** Mentioned, "After a decade, time to change partners," The Daily Record.
- **4/1/12** Mentioned, "Law firms plan for change in leadership," The Daily Record.
- **7/25/11** Mentioned, "Bowie & Jensen names Hjortsberg as managing member," Baltimore Business Journal.
- **6/12/11** Mentioned, "MSBA sections laud award winners," The Daily Record.
- **6/27/10** Mentioned, "On the Move – Legal edition," The Daily Record.
- **6/20/10** Mentioned, "On the Move – Legal edition," The Daily Record.
- **2/11/10** Quoted, "After Storm, Contractors Turn to Contracts," The Daily Record.
- **2015** Speaker, "Construction Contracts, Mechanic's Liens, Bond Claims and False Claims Act," educational seminar for large electrical contractor client.
- **2013** Speaker, "Unforeseen Site Conditions on Construction Projects," Maryland State Bar Association Annual Meeting.
- **2012** Speaker, "Foundations of Construction Law for Bench and Bar," Maryland State Bar Association Annual Meeting.
- **2010-2013** Speaker, Maryland Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Journey of Hope benefit and other chapter events.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Matt has handled a wide range of significant construction and business litigation matters, including the following:

Construction Litigation

- Represented electrical subcontractor in delay, impact and acceleration claims on large federal government renovation project
- For major manufacturing company, handled a construction defect claim arising out of the expansion of a manufacturing facility
- Successfully defended a subcontractor in arbitration against contractor's bid withdrawal claims on a local government emergency management project
- Prevailed on a bid protest litigation for a general contractor on a local county building project
- Secured reversal on appeal of lower court order on behalf of private construction financing company and its owners
- Represented contractor in construction delay disputes related to energy infrastructure project
- Prevailed on a bid protest in an administrative proceeding for a general contractor on a public school project

Business Litigation

- Successfully defended a medical implant manufacturer in a breach of contract claim related to commissions arising from a series of complex business transactions
- Represented new entity in major multi-party litigation between various owners and affiliated companies in debt settlement industry
- Obtained a substantial settlement in connection with the misuse of a software vendor's confidential information by a large insurance carrier
- Represented real estate partner in dispute over capital contributions and ownership interests in several real estate entities
- Represented global manufacturer in dispute with contractor concerning commission entitlement on major projects in the Middle East: the matter began in a Minnesota federal court and concluded in federal court in Miami.