



ftblaw.com

e jbaird@ftblaw.com
p 858-737-3100 Ext. 3036
f 858-737-3101

Sarah Faller
Senior Legal Secretary

e sfaller@ftblaw.com
p 858-737-3100 Ext. 3074

For nearly three decades, Jeff Baird has built a career defined by a singular, relentless focus on providing exceptional legal representation to clients in the construction industry. He is not a generalist who dabbles in construction matters. He is a dedicated construction litigator whose professional life is devoted to mastering the legal, commercial, and operational complexities of construction projects. This depth of focus allows Jeff to understand his clients not merely as litigants, but as businesses with schedules to meet, margins to protect, and reputations to defend.

Jeff has extensive experience with the way construction companies actually operate, from the field-level realities of performance and scheduling to the executive-level concerns of cash flow, risk allocation, and cost containment. He understands industry practices, the pressures of the bid environment, and the financial consequences that flow from every default, change order, and payment dispute. Jeff's fluency in the language and economics of construction makes him a formidable advocate and a trusted counselor, equally effective whether he is dismantling an opponent's claim or guiding a client through a high-stakes project decision in real time.

While Jeff is a seasoned and aggressive litigator who is fully prepared to take any matter to trial, arbitration, or appeal, his governing philosophy is to resolve claims early, decisively, and efficiently. He specializes in early claim resolution designed to mitigate legal cost and preserve client capital, recognizing that the most powerful outcome is often the one achieved before a dispute consumes a project's profitability. To that end, Jeff routinely counsels construction clients on course-of-construction issues as they arise

PRACTICES

- Construction Law
 - Claims & Disputes
 - Local Agency, Municipal & State Contracts
 - Federal Procurement & Claims
 - Project Counsel
 - Prime Contracts & Subcontracts
 - Labor & Employment
 - Collections
- Business & Commercial Transactions

ADMISSIONS

- California: State Courts
- Colorado: State Courts
- U.S. District Courts of California: Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP
4747 Executive Drive, Suite 700
San Diego, CA 92121

during active projects, intervening before problems harden into claims, lawsuits, or losses. This forward-looking, risk-avoidance approach has made him a uniquely valuable partner to contractors, subcontractors, owners, and sureties who demand both legal sophistication and commercial pragmatism.

Jeff has appeared in the mediation of hundreds of construction claims and lawsuits, and litigated disputes across the full spectrum of public and private works. He is also a recognized thought leader who has authored articles and presented on a wide range of construction topics, sharing his command of the law with peers and clients alike.

Jeff also serves as a mediator for construction matters focused on California Civil Code Section 8850 mediations.

EXPERIENCE

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AND PROJECT COUNSEL

- Construction contract review across the full range of project agreements, including public works prime contracts, public works subcontracts, private works prime contracts, private works subcontracts, and federal project subcontracts with attention to FAR compliance.
- Public procurement compliance.
- Design-Build Agreements.
- Design Services Agreements, lease-leaseback projects, and construction management at-risk (CMAR) projects.

BID PROTEST

CLAIMS AND LITIGATION

- Delay claims, disruption claims, lost productivity claims, and inefficiency claims.
- Public Contract Code Section 9204, Public Contract Code 20104, Government Code, and Civil Code Section 8850 Claims.
- Subcontractor disputes, subcontractor substitutions, and prompt payment enforcement.

- Mechanic's liens, stop payment notices, payment bond claims, and performance bond claims.
- Termination for convenience.
- Surety obligations.
- Indemnity and insurance issues in construction.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

- Requests for Equitable Adjustments (REAs).
- Contract Disputes Act claims on federal projects.
- Project counsel.
- Subcontractor disputes and subcontract compliance.
- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) compliance.
- Miller Act claims.

MEDIATIONS

- Mediation of construction claims and lawsuits.
- Civil Code 8850 and Public Contract Code 9204 mediations.

EDUCATION

- University of San Diego School of Law, J.D.
- University of California at Santa Barbara, B.A., History

MEMBERSHIPS

- State Bar of California
- Practice before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals

RECOGNITION

- San Diego Super Lawyer for Construction Litigation by *San Diego Super Lawyers Magazine* in 2013–2018, and 2022
- 2016 Best of the Bar by *San Diego Business Journal*
- Top 10 San Diego Construction and Real Estate Law Attorney by *San Diego Daily Transcript* 2008, 2011, 2012, and 2013

LEADERSHIP

Mr. Baird is an accomplished public speaker and regularly addresses the construction community on a range of training and educational topics, including:

PERFORMANCE & CLOSEOUT: PROJECT MANAGEMENT MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

CONTRACTS: PROJECT MANAGEMENT MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

HOW TO PROVE AND RECOVER YOUR LOSSES – CHANGE ORDERS AND CLAIMS – COSTING AND MANAGEMENT

CONTRACT/SUBCONTRACT REVIEW STRATEGIES

CONTRACT NEGOTIATION BEST PRACTICES

LATEST TRENDS FOR RECOVERY OF LOST PRODUCTIVITY AND DELAY CLAIMS

INDEMNITY AND DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS: THE IMPACT OF SB474

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE: ALTERNATIVES TO HARD BID CONSTRUCTION IN CALIFORNIA

CA CIVIL CODE SECTION 8850