



Richard Mah

Shareholder

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Practice Areas

Collection Actions
Business & Commercial Law
Disputes & Litigation, Commercial
Construction Consulting
Construction Contracts & Bid Documents
Disputes & Litigation, Construction
Public Entity / Government Contracts & Projects
Real Estate Law

Education

University of West Los Angeles, J.D.
University of California, Irvine, B.A.

Bars + Courts

California
United States District Court of California, Central
United States Court of Federal Claims

Awards + Honors

Selected as Super Lawyer 2008 – 2019
Los Angeles County Bar, Construction Law Subsection Chair (2008-2010)
Pasadena Top Attorney sponsored by *Pasadena Magazine* 2011 – 2014



Richard Mah is a principal with the Firm and possesses extensive jury trial, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution experience in construction and engineering matters. Admitted to the California Bar in 1990, Mr. Mah has successfully brought to jury verdict numerous matters in the Los Angeles Superior Court and the United States District Court, Central District, and has conducted countless arbitrations and mediations. Since the early 1990's Mr. Mah's legal career has been devoted to construction and business law related issues.

Prior to joining Hunt Ortmann, Mr. Mah served as a Deputy City Attorney in the Airport Division of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, and was general counsel to the Los Angeles World Airports on all of its construction matters.

Since joining Hunt Ortmann in 1999, Mr. Mah has represented several public agencies such as the City of Los Angeles Public Works Department, the Port of Los Angeles, and the City of Oxnard in complex construction litigation. Mr. Mah has represented the Los Angeles World Airports on construction transactions and litigation, including projects arising out of the LAX multi-billion dollar master plan. In addition to his public entity clients, Mr. Mah also represents several private industry clients, including developers, general contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers.

Mr. Mah has served as a consultant on several CEB government practice guides, has authored several chapters on project delivery methods and public bidding, and has lectured frequently in public works programs and seminars sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bar Construction Subsection, CMAA, APWA, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and Lorman Education Services, among others.

Mr. Mah is a past chair of the Construction Law Subsection of the Los Angeles County Bar's Real Property Section, and currently serves on the "Greenbook" Committee for Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction.

Representative Experience

- Successfully represented a public agency in a \$19 million extra work and delay claim, with claims of prompt payment violations. Following extensive discovery (over 60 depositions) and as a result of successful pretrial motions, the case was settled for approximately \$1.4 million and release of retention.
- Represented a public entity against the contractor's \$5.9 million extra work and extended overhead claims arising out of a pipeline project. Case was settled favorably on behalf of the client.

Representative Experience – Cont'd

- Defended public entity against \$31 million construction delay, impact and extra work claims involving the construction of a 6 story administration building and wastewater treatment plant. The public entity asserted allegations of bid collusion and false claims. The case resolved with a dismissal of the entire claim and only a partial release of retainage
- Prosecuted a \$12 million delay and disruption claim on behalf of a trade contractor for a high rise building resulting in a substantial mediated settlement.
- Prosecuted several complex professional negligence matters involving engineer's and architect's liability, resulting in substantial recoveries on behalf of public entities.
- Defended public entity against general contractor's \$14 million delay, disruption and differing site condition claims involving microtunneling project utilizing freeze technology. The agency brought a false claims counterclaim, which resulted in a dismissal of the general contractor's claim and only partial release of retention.
- Defended public entity against general contractor's \$11 million delay, disruption and differing site condition claims involving microtunneling project. The claim was successfully resolved in mediation with an 85% reduction of the contractor's claim.
- Defended public entity against general contractor's \$8 million wrongful default and termination claim on the construction of a community center. Prosecuted the public entity's cross-complaint and recovered \$3 million with no payment to the contractor.
- Prosecuted \$2.8 million claim on behalf of general contractor on a project involving utility installations, with a substantial recovery after mediation.
- Defended public entity against a general contractor's \$6 million wrongful default and termination claim. Case was resolved with release of retention and dismissal of the contractor's claim.
- Obtained an Order on a writ of mandate on behalf of a subcontractor challenging a school district's improper use of "or equal" provisions.
- Successfully handled numerous bid challenges for both general contractors and public owners, including the successful reversal of a public agency's initial decision regarding award on a \$150 million project.
- Drafted specifications and contract documents for competitive sealed proposals for public entity on the largest public works project at that time in Southern California — awarded at \$695 million.
- Drafted design-build and CM at Risk contract documents for several public works projects.
- Drafted specifications for multiple public agencies on design-bid-build projects.
- Successful resolution of multiple construction defect claims.
- Represented OSHPD inspectors in a \$10 million dispute involving the construction of a hospital.

Speaking Engagements + Seminars

- Contract Award & Management Training Academy
- Metro Contractor Development & Bonding Program
- Avoiding the Traps of Construction Contracts – 5 Things You Need to Know
- Avoiding the Traps of Construction Contracts
- Public Contract Law & Review Workshop
- Public Contracts and Procurement Regulations- Bakersfield, CA
- Los Angeles County Bar Association Presents Bid Protests Live
- Public Construction Law and Claims Avoidance Strategies
- Low Bids & A Down Economy – What's an Owner to Do ?
- How to Win the Battle of the Construction Experts
- Public Contracts & Procurement Regulations in California

News + Publications

- Hunt Ortmann Prevails In California Court Of Appeal
- Avoiding the Traps of Construction- Mah, Flores, & Lozano Team Up at Cal Con 2015
- Hunt Ortmann's General Contractor Client Prevails In Arbitration
- Guirguis Added to Hunt Ortmann Super Lawyers in 2015
- Hunt Ortmann Prevails in Glendale Superior Court
- Hunt Ortmann Prevails in San Francisco
- 2013 Super Lawyers Announced! Hunt Ortmann Holds Ground
- 2012 Pasadena Top Attorneys Announced!
- Ortmann, Mah and Guirguis Present at APWA Congress
- 2012 "Super Lawyers" Released- Hunt Ortmann Continues to Dominate Construction Category for Third Straight Year!
- Hunt Ortmann is Honored with 2011 Pasadena Top Attorney Selection
- Mah Quoted in Ventura County Star
- Hunt Ortmann Continues to Support Pasadena Community in 2011
- 2011 "Super Lawyers"- Hunt Ortmann Leads Construction Category for the Second Straight Year!
- Hunt Ortmann client prevails against restaurant owner
- 2010 "SuperLawyers" – Hunt Ortmann Tops Construction Category
- Hunt Ortmann assists LAX in \$1 Billion in Upgrades
- Richard Mah elected Chairman of the Los Angeles County Bar Construction Law subsection
- Richard Mah elected Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles County Bar Construction Law subsection
- Seven (7) Hunt Ortmann attorneys named as 2008 "SuperLawyers" by Law and Politics
- Pasadena construction litigation boutique changes name and re-brands as Hunt Ortmann
- Stop, Look, and... READ! Don't Sign That Subcontract Just Yet