



Todd M. Heffner

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Areas of Practice

Construction Contract Drafting | Construction Dispute Resolution | Energy Law | Litigation/Trial Practice

Todd Heffner is a seasoned litigator focused on serving clients in the construction and energy industries. Todd serves as Counsel in the Construction Law Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Todd focuses his practice on construction law, with a specialization in litigating high-stakes construction claims and providing counsel during construction. He has handled a diverse array of projects, including chemical plants, power plants, airports, military bases, water treatment facilities, environmental projects, hospitals, rail projects, high-rises, and various other commercial and industrial endeavors.

Todd possesses significant expertise in renewable energy projects, having litigated disputes involving four solar and two wind projects. Additionally, he successfully advised on a construction dispute for a battery storage project, avoiding litigation.

Known for his doggedly pragmatic approach to litigation, Todd strives to help clients achieve their goals efficiently by eliminating unnecessary tasks. He regularly takes cases to trial, averaging at least one major trial or final arbitration hearing each year.

Todd also counsels clients in all phases of the construction process. This includes advising on project development, contract drafting and negotiation, and dispute avoidance and risk mitigation during construction.

Todd is currently serving a second term as president of the Georgia Tech Bar Association. While in his first term, he led a team of Georgia Tech alumni in revitalizing the organization following a several-year hiatus. He also regularly volunteers

with Camp Twin Lakes, which provides accessible camp programs for children and youth with special needs, including participating in its Spin for Kids fundraiser.

Todd received his law degree *magna cum laude* from Washington and Lee in 2013, where he also served on the Law Review, and his undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech in 2009.

Representative Experience

- Obtained a decisive seven-figure judgment following a two-week trial against a module manufacturer who supplied defective modules and refused to honor its warranty.
- Obtained a \$35.5 million arbitration award following a two-week, 22 witness evidentiary hearing against an engineer that specified and furnished defective equipment for three solar facilities, resulting in the production of significantly lower amounts of electricity than promised to the off-takers.
- Defeated a turbine supplier's seven-figure claim for additional costs on behalf of the project owner through a three-week arbitration hearing.
- Successfully defended a solar facility owner facing an eight-figure claim from its EPC contractor, resulting in the recovery of a seven-figure judgment based on successful counterclaims.
- Advised an international owner, as project counsel, on contract management, dispute resolution, and contract negotiations for the company's \$9.4 billion construction of an industrial complex.
- Assisted a joint venture in the resolution of a seven-figure delay and inefficiency claim against a subcontractor through successful mediation.
- Represented a global chemical manufacturer in the resolution of more than \$100 million in claims against the engineer of record on a \$2.5 billion project.
- Obtained an arbitration award for a global chemical manufacturer in a dispute with a supplier on a \$2.5 billion project.
- Helped an apartment-complex owner recover \$4 million due to damage from a neighboring construction site.
- Helped a disaster-relief contractor involved in a contract dispute obtain a \$3.5 million ruling in bankruptcy court.

Admissions

Georgia

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia

Supreme Court of Georgia

Court of Appeals of Georgia

Recognitions

Best Lawyers Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch: Commercial Litigation (2021-2025)

Best Lawyers Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch: Construction Law (2025)

Memberships

AGC of Georgia, Young Leadership Program

Georgia Tech Bar Association (president, 2019-2020; executive committee, 2020-2021; president, 2022-present)

The Sedona Conference, Working Group 1

Construction Owners Association of America, Emerging Professional

Atlanta Bar Association, Construction Law Section

Georgia Bar Association, Construction Law Section (treasurer, 2021-present), E-Discovery and the Use of Technology Section

Camp Twin Lakes, Spin for Kids Steering Committee

Previously active with The Ability Experience, a nonprofit devoted to empowering people with disabilities, as a participant in Journey of Hope, Gear Up Florida, and Build America

Presentations/Publications

- Moderator, "Data Center Construction, Unique Challenges, Unique Opportunities." Atlanta Bar Association, Construction Law Section, November 6th, 2024.
- Moderator, "Construction Arbitration from the Arbitrator's Perspective" State Bar of Georgia, Construction Law Section, June 25, 2024.
- Author, "[I Lived It: Litigator Provides His Perspective on Solar Warranty Claims](#)," *Solar Power World*, February 23, 2024.
- Moderator, "Joint Practical Arbitration Topics CLE," State Bar of Georgia, Construction Law and Dispute Resolution Sections, January 25, 2024.
- Author, "[Opinion: Stop Requiring Exhibit Lists!](#)," *The Dispute Resolver*, July 25, 2023.
- Moderator, "National Panel of Construction Mediators Q&A," Construction Law Section, State Bar of Georgia, May 17, 2023.
- Speaker, "[Annual eDiscovery Updates](#)," Troutman Pepper eMerge Webinar, April 12, 2023.
- Moderator, "Q&A with Georgia Tech Alums and Northern District of Georgia Judges," Georgia Tech Bar Association, February 21, 2023.
- Author, "[Twists and Turbines — A New York Case Highlights an Owner's Risk When Not Using Full-Wrap EPC Delivery](#)," *Construct Law*, November 22, 2022.

- Moderator, "[Construction Law Section Q&A with National Panel of Construction Arbitrators](#)," State Bar of Georgia, September 27, 2022.
- Co-author, "[Will My Law Firm Succeed in the Long Term?](#)," *Daily Report*, September 6, 2022.
- Panelist, "eMerge Webinar: Annual eDiscovery Updates," Troutman Pepper eMerge Webinar, March 1, 2022.
- Contributing Author, "[The Sedona Conference Commentary on the Effective Use of Federal Rule of Evidence 502\(d\) Orders](#)," *The Sedona Conference Journal*, Volume 23, August 2021.
- Speaker, "[Webinar on The Sedona Conference Commentary on the Effective Use of Federal Rule of Evidence 502\(d\) Orders, Public Comment Version](#)," The Sedona Conference, July 14, 2021.
- Author, "[TikTok & Ephemeral Messaging & Links to Documents—Oh My!](#)," *Daily Report*, March 9, 2021.
- Contributing Author, "Southeast Region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia," *Construction Law Update*, Wolters Kluwer, 2021.
- Author, "Warranties v. the Georgia Statute of Repose – Legislature Declares Winner," *Atlanta Bar Association Construction Section Newsletter*, Fall 2020.
- Author, "[Considerations for Performing Work in a New State](#)," *Associated General Contractors of America Law in Brief Newsletter*, October 6, 2020.
- Contributing Author, "Southeast Region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia," *Construction Law Update*, Wolters Kluwer, 2020.
- Author, "[Invest in Training to Make Document Review Efficient](#)," *Daily Report*, August 31, 2020.
- Author, "[The Case for a Comprehensive Information Governance Policy](#)," *Daily Report*, June 17, 2020.
- Author, "[Deja Vu in Discovery: Didn't I Just Review That?](#)," *The Daily Report*, April 7, 2020.
- Author, "[Filters, Curse Words, and 'Lessons Learned:' Tips on Discovery Searches](#)," *Daily Report*, February 25, 2020.
- Author, "[How Not to Handle Potential Spoliation of Evidence: A Case Study](#)," *Daily Report*, January 30, 2020.
- Author, "[Behind the Magic of Technology-Assisted Review, Part 1](#)," *Daily Report*, January 2, 2020.
- Author, "[Use These Best Practices With Technology-Assisted Review](#)," *Daily Report*, January 2, 2020.
- Contributing Author, *Common Sense Construction Law*, Wiley, 6th Edition, 2019.
- Author, "[Discovery of Mobile Data Doesn't Have to be Complicated or Scary](#)," *Daily Report*, October 14, 2019.
- Author, "[Demystifying Social Media Discovery](#)," *Daily Report*, August 30, 2019.
- Author, "[Plans and Specs Gone Wrong, and How to Deal With It](#)," *ConsensusDocs*, August 14, 2019.
- Author, "[How to Avoid Big eDiscovery Costs in 'Small' Cases](#)," *Daily Report*, July 25, 2019.
- Author, "[Yes, Virginia, There Is a Way to Reduce the Pain of Privilege Logs](#)," *Daily Report*, May 28, 2019.
- Author, "[Avoiding Privilege Waiver Is Easier Than You Might Think](#)," *Daily Report*, April 4, 2019.
- Author, "Can't Get a Written Change Order? Document, Document, Document," *Common Sense Contract Law*, August 20, 2018.
- Author, "Surety Post Completion Liability," *Common Sense Contract Law*, July 18, 2017.

- Author, "[Special Considerations for Subcontractors and Suppliers on P3 Projects](#)," *Common Sense Contract Law*, November 17, 2015.
- Contributing Author, *Common Sense Construction Law*, Wiley, 5th Edition, 2015.
- Author, "[Bidding and Performing Public Works Contracts in Other States](#)," *Common Sense Contract Law*, December 10, 2014.