



# Thomas Palffy

## Shareholder

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### Education

Southwestern University School of Law, J.D.

University of Southern California, Bachelor of Arts

### Bars + Courts

California

United States District Court of California, Central

United States District Court of California, Southern

United States District Court of California, Northern

United States District Court of California, Eastern

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

United States Supreme Court

### Memberships

American Bar Association - Construction Industry, Litigation, and Law Practice Management Subsections

California Bar Association - Litigation and Real Property Law Subsections

Los Angeles County Bar Association

### Awards + Honors

AV Preeminent Rating 5.0 out of 5 - Martindale Hubbell

Selected as Super Lawyer 2007-2019



Mr. Palffy is a founding shareholder of the firm and a construction law specialist, who has been recognized as a “Super Lawyer” in California since 2007 for his success and expertise in the area of complex construction litigation.

For the past thirty years, Mr. Palffy has built his practice on his core belief that a lawyer’s primary function is to fully assess a client’s needs, and provide a prompt and cost effective solution to those needs. In Mr. Palffy’s words, “Lawyers serve their clients by solving their problems, and doing so as though the problem was their own. That means you want the problem to be solved as quickly as possible, for the least amount of money as possible, and as successfully as possible.”

Consistent with that philosophy, Mr. Palffy has represented numerous owners, contractors, geotechnical firms and other businesses in state and federal court actions, arbitrations, mediations and appellate proceedings in connection with construction disputes involving a broad spectrum of projects, in which the amounts in dispute have ranged in value from many thousands, to many millions of dollars, including disputes over one hundred million dollars.

Mr. Palffy has also negotiated and drafted numerous construction contracts, including contract documents for complex, multi-phase hospital projects, all with a view towards managing the client’s legal risks and minimizing the potential for expensive and protracted disputes by anticipating issues that are likely to lead to such disputes, and addressing them in the contract documents.

In addition to being admitted to practice in California, Mr. Palffy has handled construction disputes in many other states including Alaska, Missouri, Nevada and Washington.

### Areas of Expertise

Mr. Palffy’s expertise in construction law arises from his depth of experience with a wide variety of private and public construction projects involving apartments, canals, condominiums, custom homes, entertainment facilities, golf clubhouses, grading projects, healthcare centers and hospitals, hotels, industrial facilities, mixed-use facilities, multi-family dwellings, parking structures, resorts, restaurants, shopping centers and toll roads, among others. In the context of such projects, Mr. Palffy has successfully handled and resolved a multitude of claims involving mechanic’s liens, stop notices, payment and performance bonds, delay, disruption and acceleration, concealed conditions, construction defects, design

deficiencies, design professional negligence, abandonment, termination for default and/or convenience, bid disputes, false claims, as well as insurance coverage and surety disputes.

## **Representative Work**

- Counsel to an owner in connection with the resolution of a multi-party construction defect matter arising out of a multi-million dollar residential project involving the design consultants, the general contractor, the subcontractors and suppliers, and their respective insurance carriers;
- Counsel to a public entity in connection with the resolution of a prevailing wage dispute arising out of the construction of a large multi-million dollar hotel project;
- Counsel to major Southern California hospitals in connection with the resolution of multi-million dollar claims arising out of the construction of their new care facilities;
- Counsel to a large general contracting firm in connection with the resolution of its multi-million dollar claims arising out of the construction of a canal project in California and Arizona;
- Counsel to another general contracting firm in connection with the resolution of a multi-million dollar complex construction dispute predicated on delay, disruption, acceleration, design deficiency and construction defect claims involving the owner, its design consultants, the general contractor, numerous subcontractors and their respective insurance carriers;
- Counsel to a nation-wide entertainment chain in connection with the resolution of its claims against a general contractor and its plumbing subcontractor for construction deficiencies at the company's entertainment facility;
- Counsel to a geotechnical engineering firm in connection with the resolution of various professional negligence claims.

## **Reported Appellate Decisions**

- Budavari v. Barry (1986) 176 Cal. App. 3d 849
- Henry v. Amrol, Inc. (1990) 222 Cal. App. 3d Supp. 1
- Great Western Bank v. Converse Consultants (1997) 58 Cal. App. 4th 609

## **News + Publications**

- Guirguis Added to Hunt Ortmann Super Lawyers in 2015
- 2013 Super Lawyers Announced! Hunt Ortmann Holds Ground
- 2012 Pasadena Top Attorneys Announced!
- 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
- Investing in Our Water Future: A Focus on CA – Hunt Ortmann Sponsors 3rd Annual Event
- Hunt Ortmann Continues to Support Pasadena Community in 2011
- 2011 "Super Lawyers"- Hunt Ortmann Leads Construction Category for the Second Straight Year!
- 2010 "SuperLawyers" – Hunt Ortmann Tops Construction Category
- Seven (7) Hunt Ortmann attorneys named as 2008 "SuperLawyers" by Law and Politics

## **Speaking Engagements + Seminars**

"Managing Risk by Using or Avoiding Certain Contract Terms"