

Team Approach to Construction Defect Cases

The Naumann Law Firm, PC

One of Bill Naumann's first jobs out of law school was to draft coverage opinions analyzing the wording of insurance policies—what companies would cover or when an insurance company would defend an insured in a construction defect case.

That experience would define his career. After all, as Naumann puts it, "Understanding insurance coverage is critical in construction defect cases."

Naumann quickly became an expert in the area, and, more than 30 years later, is one of the leading California attorneys when it comes to construction defect litigation. He has authored over 100 articles and been honored with numerous awards for his work, including a San Diego Super Lawyer designation the past three years. His firm is rated AV preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. He has served as president of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and was a board member of the Consumer Attorneys of California (2000-04).

The Naumann Law Firm specializes in identifying issues that can be legally recognized defects in design or workmanship that reduce the value of a home, condominium or business. Naumann represents individual



"Our team approach is an integral part of our working philosophy. It enhances the firm's responsiveness and enables us to provide legal services of the highest caliber."

— Bill Naumann

homeowners and associations, contractors and builders in significant construction cases. He knows that a limited warranty doesn't mean the homeowner has no remedy against a builder, general contractor or subcontractors under several possible causes of action. He is skilled in the legal thicket involving bankruptcy of a builder and exhaustion of insurance.

The firm, with five attorneys and three experienced paralegals and support staff, also handles general civil and business litigation.

No Drama, Just Hard Work

After 15 years as a partner in two firms, Naumann established his own boutique firm in 2008 with a fresh perspective. He wanted less drama and more collaboration.

"The legal profession is stressful enough without adding office politics into the equation," Naumann says. "We do not allow screaming or yelling in the

firm. It is not productive."

Naumann believes the collaborative approach is the best way to handle the complexity of construction defect cases. Such litigation can involve dozens of homeowners, insurance companies and contractors. In those situations, Naumann has often found the best way to help clients achieve verdicts and settlements is to simply listen.

"Construction defect cases have a lot of moving parts. We do not 'turn and burn' cases," Naumann says. "You have to be able to listen to the opinions of opposing counsel. I do not believe you can reach a satisfactory settlement without a relationship of trust with opposing attorneys."