



C. Clay Olson

Partner

843-224-6676

clay@harperwhitwell.com

164 Market Street
Suite 139
Charleston, SC 29401

As a Partner with Harper Whitwell and managing attorney of the firm's Charleston, South Carolina office, Clay Olson brings 17 years of experience successfully defending construction defect claims, personal injury lawsuits, business litigation, and complex property claims. His primary focus centers on the insurance, construction, real estate, and lending industries by representing general contractors, subcontractors, architects, and product manufacturers.

Clay has litigated matters in both South Carolina state and Federal courts, the American Arbitration Association, and before regulatory agencies including the EEOC. He has successfully defended premises liability, bodily injury, employment practices, first party property and other liability lawsuits on behalf of insurance policyholders as approved defense counsel. Clay has considerable experience defending professional liability suits, errors and omissions, declaratory judgment actions and bad faith suits. Prior to joining Harper Whitwell, Clay served as General Counsel for a multi-million dollar conglomerate with holdings in the energy, fast food, real estate, and captive insurance industries.

He has worked for both national and regional law firms prior to joining Harper Whitwell.

EDUCATION

JD, University of South
Carolina School of Law, 1999

BA, Government, Wofford
College, 1996

BAR ADMISSIONS

South Carolina

COURT ADMISSIONS

United States District Court for
South Carolina

South Carolina Court of
Common Pleas

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Representation of a design professional in a suit seeking \$5M after Plaintiff was severely burned due to a propane-related explosion. Achieved dismissal at mediation without any settlement contribution from client.
- Representation of an insured framing contractor in a catastrophic industry case that alleged acts and/or omissions with regard to a partially constructed elevator shaft. Achieved dismissal without any contribution from client.
- Representation of a commercial general contractor in suit alleging construction defects, loss of use, and lost profits. Prevailed on dispositive motion to dismiss for failure to prosecute.
- Representation of general contractor and developer facing allegations of defective construction on a project built for a well-known actor. Plaintiff's damages, in excess of \$1M, were amended to over \$5M based on ongoing medical issues. Successful resolution for approximately 10 percent of Plaintiff's mediation demand.
- Representation of an architectural firm facing allegations of professional negligence. Obtained defense verdict at trial.
- Served as lead counsel in a class action representing 56 California residents in a suit against the construction lender that directed foreclosure actions. Successfully reduced \$12M in mortgage debt to \$80,000 and was able to recoup over \$500,000 in earnest money deposits.

PUBLISHED WORKS AND LECTURES

- CLM Continuing Education Seminar for insurance company and employees, Charlotte, NC, Speaker, "Additional Insured Provisions, Limitations of Liability and Related Contractual Provisions," 2011
- CLM Continuing Education Seminar for insurance professionals, Richmond, VA, Speaker, "Litigation Management Basics," 2009
- CLM Continuing Education Seminar for insurance company and employees, Columbia, SC, Speaker, "Evaluation of Damages," 2009

ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Clay is an active member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) and past CLM co-chair for South Carolina. He is also a member of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry and a past member of the Associated General Contractors of America. Clay is a certified mediator for the State of South Carolina.