

## James Freire

Partner

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Jim's practice is primarily focused on professional liability matters. He represents and defends clients in construction defect litigation and construction work site injury claims, and supervises and conducts litigation in New York state and Federal courts. His clients include major construction companies, contractors and building owners involved in new construction and renovation projects. Current matters also include general construction defect litigation, the defense of Labor Law claims, construction contract disputes, personal injury matters and property damage actions. Jim also has extensive experience in personal injury litigation, including premises liability, negligent security and products liability.

Jim started his career in the New York County District Attorney's office. Between 1983 and 1993 he investigated and prosecuted misdemeanors and felonies, presented cases to the Grand Jury and conducted Grand Jury investigations. Responsible for the investigation and successful prosecution of corrupt police officers who were engaged in narcotics trafficking and armed robbery. He conducted hearings to extend the detention of individuals found not responsible of crimes by reason of mental disease or defect and conducted numerous hearings related to extraditions and the assertions of the insanity defense. Finally he as a member of the homicide group and successfully conducted numerous jury and bench trials.

### **Notable Representations**

Jim acted as lead counsel for two Fortune 500 companies in a confidential mediation which involved 297 days of construction delays. The issues in that matter involved complex geotechnical issues and claims of differing site conditions. He represented the prime contractor in the Worth Street crane collapse in Manhattan. Jim was lead counsel in representing construction managers in construction defect litigation that involved multi-million dollar claims and claims against dozens of subcontractors to obtain contractual indemnification and additional insured coverage.

Jim was responsible for leading several aspects of the defense of Globe Aviation Security Corporation, a major aviation security firm, in litigation arising from the attack on the World Trade Center. He supervised and coordinated projects related to the defense, including gathering, reviewing and the production of documents in three states as well as the debriefing of witnesses in several states. He coordinated the creation and operation of a secure computer system designed and built to preserve and code records, deposed non-party witnesses, represented the client in meetings among defense counsel and represented Globe in negotiations with the United States Attorney's Office. He coordinated defense strategies which led to the dismissal of a major portion of property damage claims made by the property damage and subrogation plaintiffs.

Jim represented the Staten Island Mall as lead counsel for several years in premises liability actions and represented Textron Aerospace Fasteners and Textron, Inc. in a major helicopter crash which involved wrongful death claims and private plane accidents which involved alleged engine failures and serious physical injuries.

Jim led the defense of the Breezy Point Cooperative in matters which involved diving accidents which rendered the plaintiffs quadriplegics.

### **Practice Areas**

Complex Litigation, Construction, Insurance & Reinsurance, Professional Liability, Toxic and Mass Tort

### **Admissions**

- State of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

### **Education**

- Temple University School of Law (J.D., graduated in the top 10%, 1983)
- State University of New York at Albany (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1979)