

# Joseph Watson

## PARTNER



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A member of the firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution team, Joe Watson's commercial litigation practice is focused on construction-related issues for a broad range of clients. In his construction practice, Joe assists clients in resolving commercial construction disputes in the most cost-effective way possible, whether in the courtroom or through alternative dispute resolution.

By working closely with his clients and learning the issues that are most important and valuable to them, Joe is able to efficiently and pragmatically resolve disputes, so clients can focus on their day-to-day operations.

In his construction practice, Joe represents commercial real estate owners, developers and contractors in disputes related to construction defects and delays, payment disputes and construction lien issues.

Joe has made numerous continuing legal education [presentations](#) regarding Tennessee's construction lien statute, and he regularly defends and prosecutes lien claims, not only in Tennessee but also in disputes throughout the country.

Prior to joining Waller, Joe served as Law Clerk to the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, the honorable Gary R. Wade.

## EXPERIENCE

- **Developer sues environmental professional in case of negligence claims**

Represented a developer in suing an environmental professional on the basis of professional negligence and breach of contract claims related to disturbed wetlands during a residential construction project. Obtained a six-figure settlement following mediation and without dispositive motion practice.

- **National restaurant chain involved in payment and lien claims**

Defended payment and lien claims brought by general contractors for several Southeastern locations of a national restaurant chain.

- **Skyscraper owner defends against construction damage claims brought by neighboring**

**building**

Successfully represented a skyscraper owner who was named in a construction defects claim by filing an indemnity action against the general contractor and subcontractors of the project, after which the contractors' insurers agreed to fully defend and indemnify the skyscraper owner.

- **Contractor/developer prevails in arbitration following dispute with electrical subcontractor**

Represented a high-profile real estate developer in a costly dispute against an electrical subcontractor. The matter was settled following arbitration.

- **Investment fund fights to obtain returns for investors**

Assisted an investment fund in obtaining a return for its investor as part of an interpleader action.

- **General contractor defends payment claims related to Nashville hotel project**

Defended an ENR 250 general contractor in state court and AAA arbitration proceedings against payment claims brought by a glazing subcontractor in connection with a high-end, 450-room hotel project in downtown Nashville, Tennessee. The case ended successfully via mediation.

- **Healthcare owner defends against payment claims on project**

Defended a Fortune 500 healthcare owner against payment claims and construction lien asserted by a project's general contractor after the healthcare owner had delay, defective work and excessive costs claims related to the project. The claims were resolved favorably through mediation and the project was completed.

- **Custom homebuilder sues for unauthorized copying and use of blueprints**

Represented a custom homebuilder in intellectual property claims against a competing homebuilder related to the unauthorized copying and use of the homebuilder's registered floorplans and blueprints for its custom home designs. Settled the matter favorably.

- **Insured seeks and obtains coverage for large-loss auto accident after insurer denied coverage**

Represented an insured individual in a 7-figure claim against an auto insurance carrier after the insurance company completely denied coverage following an automobile accident.

- **Regions Bank prevails on claims of fraud brought by mega-church**

Defended Regions Bank in a financial litigation suit brought by First Assembly of God of Griffin Georgia, who alleged that the bank misrepresented terms on a commercial loan. After an evidentiary hearing on the merits, the arbitration panel ruled in favor of Regions, holding that the bank owed the mega-church nothing.

- **Hotel owner sues design professionals in defect claim**

Represented a hotel owner in suing numerous design professionals after negligent design caused severe cracking in the hotel's subsurface garage, allowing significant water intrusion which resulted in the deterioration of the structural steel in the garage. Achieved a favorable settlement for the hotel owner.

- **Jefferson County defaults on approximately \$3.2 billion in pledged revenue bonds**

Represented an appointed Indenture Trustee in connection with litigation that arose from Jefferson

County, Alabama defaulting on approximately \$3.2 billion in pledged revenue bonds.

## EDUCATION

- B.A., *summa cum laude*, Furman University, 2007
  - Phi Beta Kappa
  - Rhodes Scholarship candidate
  - Varsity Football, Wide Receiver
  - Southern Conference Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient
- J.D., *summa cum laude, with honors*, University of Tennessee College of Law, 2011
  - Order of the Coif
  - Executive Editor of *Transactions, Tennessee Journal of Business Law*
  - Articles Editor of *Tennessee Law Review*

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- Tennessee

## PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Member, Nashville Bar Association
- Member, Harry Phillips American Inn of Court