

David J. Pfeffer

Chair of Construction Practice

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David J. Pfeffer is a partner, chair of Tarter Krinsky & Drogin's Construction Practice, and a member of the Firm's Executive Committee. Mr. Pfeffer serves as a business partner to his clients – including real estate owners and developers, educational institutions, high-net-worth individuals, healthcare organizations, and cultural centers – and advises on all aspects of their construction, development, real estate, and business needs. His work has helped reshape skylines through some of the most significant construction and development projects in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Long Island City.

Mr. Pfeffer leverages his keen insight into the business climate to provide clients with sophisticated guidance in order to mitigate risks and manage their complex issues. Combining his understanding of business-focused solutions with a legal perspective, Mr. Pfeffer focuses his practice on project delivery strategies and the preparation and negotiation of design, construction, and related contracts for private and public real estate development projects. He handles matters such as contract preparation, development, continuing operation, leasing and dispute resolution, and also maintains an active practice in business negotiation.

David is a frequent speaker, published author, and quoted source who has been featured in *Law360*, *The Real Deal*, *Crain's New York Business*, *The New York Post*, and *Real Estate Weekly*, among others. He has been ranked in Chambers as a leading construction lawyer in New York (2006–2025), notably elevated to Band 1 in 2025, and recognized as a 2022 Construction Law Trailblazer by *National Law Journal* and a 2020 New York Trailblazer by the *New York Law Journal*. Mr. Pfeffer has also served on various boards including John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Education

- CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice (B.A., *cum laude*)
- Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University (J.D.)
 - with honors
 - Associate Editor, Hofstra Law Review

Related Services

- Construction
- General Counsel Services
- Construction Disputes & Resolution
- Adjacent Access
- Commercial Real Estate Finance
- Real Estate Litigation
- Hospitality
- Cooperatives & Condominiums
- Private Client & Family Offices

Bar Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Professional Affiliations

- Board Member, John Jay College of Criminal Justice Aux Corporation

Awards & Honors

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2023 - 2026
- *Chambers and Partners USA*, Leading Construction Lawyer in New York, 2006–2026
- *New York Super Lawyers*, Construction Litigation, 2016-2025
- *New York Law Journal*, Trailblazers, 2020
- *National Law Journal*, Construction Law Trailblazer, 2022

Community Involvement

- Past Board Member and Chair of Legal Committee at Pine Hollow Country Club

Representative Experience

- Represents a Buddhist organization in the construction of new cultural centers in New York City as part of the client's national expansion efforts. This work includes assisting in the purchase of the property and negotiating neighbor access agreements; drafting and negotiating all construction and design agreements; providing general counseling throughout construction; and conducting settlement discussions with one of the space's landlords over material breach of the lease.
- Represents a charter school in the ground-up construction of new schools throughout New York City, including managing neighboring access for the projects.
- Represented owner of a luxury Manhattan hotel in a case of first impression concerning licensing fees and compensation for hotels affected by construction occurring on neighboring properties. The case awarded monthly license fees and economic damages to the hotel owner, resulting in a precedent-setting decision by the Supreme Court of the State of New York.
- Represents an exclusive landmark building in Manhattan adjacent to the site of a proposed 780-foot-high skyscraper under development. The team has engaged in detailed negotiations with the developer to secure a favorable licensing agreement to protect the client's building during demolition.
- Represents a real estate investment group in the negotiation of construction, design, and consulting agreements for two multi-million projects.
- Represents an importer of French jeans on its real estate and construction matters. This includes the handling of licensing agreements for one of its properties that sits adjacent to a neighboring development project.
- Represents a client on its development matters, including the development of a 95-

unit Marriott-brand luxury St. Regis residences in Rye, New York.

Articles

- The Conundrum With Short-Term Rentals in NYC
- Deregulation of Rent-Stabilized Units: Protecting your real estate asset following the ruling in Roberts v. Tishman Speyer
- The Construction Contract: Lump Sum v. Cost Plus
- Foreign Investments Help Fund Commercial Development, Fall 2010

Insights

June 18, 2026

AI-Assisted Design Review in Construction: Rethinking Professional Responsibility and Risk Allocation

May 21, 2026

ICE Raids on Construction Sites: What Contractors Need to Know

March 24, 2026

Addressing Damages for Delay Contractually

December 26, 2025

The New RPAPL 881 is Officially Here: NY Governor Signs Amendment with Significant Changes to Adjoining Property Access Framework

December 3, 2025

A Primer on Construction-Related Insurance Products

November 7, 2025

Preparing for New York's Jan. 1 All-Electric Buildings Act: What Developers and Contractors Need to Know

June 24, 2022

Cost Increases Up the Ante for the Construction Industry – Is a Price Escalation Clause Your Best Bet?

May 9, 2022

JD Supra Recognizes Tarter Krinsky & Drogin, Attorneys in 2022 Readers' Choice Awards

September 30, 2021

David Pfeffer Authors Article on Legal Issues of Construction Collapses

July 20, 2021

Law Brief®: David Pfeffer and Richard Schoenstein Discuss the Legal Implications of Infrastructure Collapses

May 3, 2021

Law Brief®: David Pfeffer and Richard Schoenstein Discuss the Future of Offices

February 9, 2021

Key Takeaways From Anchin's Future of Office Design Webinar

November 9, 2020

David Pfeffer and Sean Scuderi's Co-Authored Article "Pre-Construction Services: To Lien or not to Lien" Featured in the Mann Report

May 28, 2020

Project Restart: Strategy For Remobilizing Construction

February 6, 2017

David Pfeffer Authors Law360 Article on What NYC Landlords and Tenants Need to Know About Short-Term Apartment Rental Services

March 18, 2016

David Pfeffer and John Walsh Author Article on Modular Building for Construction Today

February 9, 2015

New York Post Quotes David Pfeffer on Condo Residents' Noise Claims Against Gyms

December 13, 2013

Good Agreements Make Good Neighbors: Preparing A Fair Temporary License Agreement to Avoid Court Ordered Access

December 13, 2013

BIM: Building Information Modeling and Construction Projects

October 25, 2013

Firm Represents The Masters School in Bond Offering and Construction Matters

May 16, 2011

Firm Represents Cayuga Capital Management in \$27 Million Sale

December 1, 2010

Deregulation of Rent-Stabilized Units

October 1, 2010

New York Construction Quotes David Pfeffer on Mergers and Acquisitions

September 16, 2010

David Pfeffer and Andrew Koerner Coauthor Real Estate Weekly Article

September 1, 2010

Foreign Investments Help Fund Commercial Development

July 1, 2009

Avoiding and Documenting Construction Claims

August 11, 2001

Sunrise Day Camp Honors David Pfeffer