



Robert W. Stetson

Partner

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Overview

Bob Stetson combines legal acuity and intelligence with hard work, preparation, and dedication to individual client objectives to deliver cutting-edge advocacy inside and outside of the courtroom. A quintessential first chair litigator and trial counsellor, Bob has succeeded against some of the most formidable opponents in the country in matters that range from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions of dollar in value.

A graduate of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Bob is passionate about trial work and believes in providing superior legal strategy on attack or defense. He is fearless in his approach to problem solving and in dealing with even the most difficult people and complex issues. In fact, if a matter proceeds beyond trial to an appeal, Bob also serves as appellate counsel due to his dexterity and erudition in this specialized area of practice.

Bob's clients range from real estate developers, general contractors, and business owners to residential property owners. Clients consider him the "go-to guy" because he's "thorough," "poised" and "comes up with a clear plan of attack." A persuasive and successful trial advocate, Bob captures the respect of judges and juries through compelling written and oral advocacy grounded in fact. Notably and following a hotly contested motion hearing in a complex construction dispute before an experienced judge - himself a former commercial litigator - the judge commented that Bob's performance was the "best" he'd ever seen, paving the way for a favorable settlement for his client, a successful developer and contractor.

Bob has delivered favorable results for his clients in all phases of litigation. By talking candidly about the opportunities and risks of litigation, trial and appeal, clients appreciate Bob's confidence in their case and in them. Following a two-week trial, he obtained a favorable verdict on all significant claims defending a corporate veil-piercing case against a medical provider and its affiliates - a case featured in the litigation issue of Best Lawyers. He also delivered a multi-million-dollar jury verdict in a real estate and construction dispute involving breach of warranty, bad faith, and punitive damage claims. Moreover and following a week-long trial involving real estate, he defeated a laundry list of claims for fraud, undue influence, and breach of contract relating to real estate and delivered a verdict which resulted in payment to his clients in excess of a half-million dollars.

In addition to his litigation prowess, Bob represents clients in the preparation of construction contracts of all sizes throughout the United States. In fact, one of his clients, the president of a major commercial construction company, commented that "Knowing Bob is by our side has allowed us to make decisions and grow as a company and go in directions we might not have if we didn't have that support."

A charismatic speaker and educator, Bob is a sought after speaker on issues of real estate and construction in Massachusetts and throughout the United States. He is also the host of Legal Judg(e)ments, a podcast that tackles litigation and trial strategy by analyzing and talking about real legal cases.

Memberships & Activities

Professional Highlights

- "Introducing the Seventh Decennial Revisions to the American Institute of Architects' Construction Contract Documents" Bernkopf Goodman LLP Seminar

PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Construction and Surety
- Fiduciary Practice Group
- Workouts and Restructurings

Credentials

Education

- Suffolk University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2007
- Trinity College, 2004

Bar Admission

- Massachusetts
- New York
- Florida

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court, 2007-2008

- Recognized by *Super Lawyers* as a “*Rising Star*” every year since 2014
- National Institute of Trial Advocacy
- Served as assistant editor of the first edition of the Massachusetts Guide to Evidence — an invaluable resource to the Massachusetts legal world — relied upon by judges and lawyers alike

Associations

Construction Lawyers Society of America

Community Involvement

Town of Easton Planning and Zoning Board

News

- Understanding and Negotiating Builders’ Limited Warranties
- Small Claim or Bet the Company?
- Originalism at Work
- Stetson Quoted About 93A Violation
- Eleven Bernkopf Attorneys Recognized on 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers® Lists
- Bernkopf’s Bob Stetson Quoted in Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly about Important Attorneys’ Fees Case
- Three Bernkopf Attorneys Recognized as Rising Stars
- Four Bernkopf Goodman Attorneys Chosen as Rising Stars

Podcasts

- PODCASTS - December 12, 2022 - A Legacy of St. Nick
- PODCASTS - November 28, 2022 - Unintended Consequences
- PODCASTS - November 14, 2022 - On Depp and Dignity
- PODCASTS - October 31, 2022 - FORE!
- PODCASTS - October 17, 2022 - Flags and Our Forefathers
- PODCASTS - March 15, 2022 - Ride Sharing Down the Path Paved by Court Reform
- PODCASTS - March 1, 2022 - Who Decides?
- PODCASTS - February 15, 2022 - From the State of Nature to Municipal Zoning Law
- PODCASTS - March 15, 2022 - Justice and Charity
- PODCASTS - December 15, 2021 - No Good Deed Goes Unpunished
- PODCASTS - January 15, 2022 - Lessons From The Great Molasses Flood Of 1919
- PODCASTS - February 1, 2022 - Caveat Emptor Roars Back To Life
- PODCASTS - December 1, 2021 - Free Speech Clashes with Child Welfare
- PODCASTS - November 15, 2021 - Shock Jock Takes on Local Politician
- PODCASTS - November 1, 2021 - A Cain and Abel Story
- PODCASTS - October 15, 2021 - The Pandemic Comes to Court
- PODCASTS - October 14, 2021 - New Bernkopf Podcast, Legal Judg(e)ments, Hosted by Bob Stetson