



Frederic X. (Fritz) Shadley

Partner

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Cincinnati - 513.698.5014

Fritz brings more than 35 years of litigation experience and the knowledge of a degreed engineer to his much-honored practice representing parties in construction, environmental, product liability, and toxic tort litigation.

Recognized by Chambers USA as one of Ohio's leading commercial litigators and given Martindale-Hubbell's® highest ranking (AV Preeminent), Fritz is consistently acknowledged for his excellence in construction and product liability litigation. Since 2009, he has been named annually to *The Best Lawyers in America's* list of top lawyers in those fields, and was named *Best Lawyers* 2019 Construction Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Cincinnati. American Lawyer Media also named him a top-rated lawyer in construction law, for his representation of both plaintiffs and defendants across a wide range of construction-related disputes, including those involving claims of defective construction, defective design, fraud, and negligence.

Fritz has substantial experience in environmental litigation, toxic tort litigation, and the defense and prosecution of personal injury claims, including his work securing the largest known, single victim, personal injury settlement in the history of Kentucky or Ohio for a plaintiff who suffered burns from a spontaneous explosion of pool chemicals.

Outside the courtroom, Fritz is the proud father of five children and has trained for and participated in more than 20 triathlons.

Education

- University of Notre Dame (B.S., 1978)
 - Electrical Engineering
- University of Notre Dame Law School (J.D., 1981)

Bar Admissions

- Ohio
- Illinois
- Kentucky

Practices & Industries

- Construction Litigation
- Complex Business Litigation
- Product Liability
- Construction
- Construction Industry
- Toxic Tort and Environmental Litigation
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Catastrophic Loss
- Insurance Coverage Litigation

- Indiana
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Professional Affiliations

- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
- The Fellows of the American Bar Association
- Construction Lawyers Society of America (*Fellow*)

Firm Involvement

- Former Group Leader, Construction Litigation

Awards & Honors

- Ranked as one of Ohio's "Leaders in Their Field" in Construction (2019-2026) and General Commercial Litigation (2012-2016) by Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business
- Named to Top Lawyers, Litigation - Construction by *Cincinnati Magazine* (2026)
- Named to *BTI Client Service All-Stars* (2025)
- Named a "Litigation Star" in Ohio by *Benchmark Litigation* (2016-2026)
- Named to the Ohio Super Lawyers list (2004-2011; 2014-2023, 2025; 2026)
- Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation; Construction Law; Construction Litigation; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2009-2026)
- Named *Best Lawyers* Construction Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Cincinnati (2019)
- Designated *Best Lawyers* Litigation – Product Liability "Lawyer of the Year" in Cincinnati (2012)
- Named to the *National Law Journal's* Construction Trailblazers (2021)
- Ranked a Top 50 Cincinnati attorney in the Super Lawyers list (2021)
- AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated – Martindale-Hubbell
- Named a *Top Rated Lawyer in Construction Law* by American Lawyer Media (2012)
- One of 63 Leading Cincinnati Lawyers named by *Cincy Business* (2005)

Experience

Construction Cases

- Representing a Florida-based national engineering firm in defense of a \$70 million claim for an allegedly defective design of a roadway and retaining wall.
- Representing a Montana-based design/builder in defense of a \$14 million claim of defective design and installation of two utility substations.
- Representing a design/builder in \$2 million collapse of a retaining pond for a very large Kentucky warehouse project.
- Representing a large, Midwest developer in a number of pre-suit negotiations regarding allegedly deficient construction of several projects over \$30 million.
- Representing an architectural firm in a \$30 million claim for deficient construction of 42 townhomes.
- Representing an Ohio-based structural engineering firm in a \$5 million claim for defective design.
- Representing an architectural firm in a \$7 million lawsuit surrounding the allegedly defective design of a non-lethal security fence surrounding an Ohio prison.
- Representing an architectural firm in defense of a \$2 million claim for defective design of a thin brick facade design on a major university classroom building.
- Representing a design/builder of food processing facilities in construction projects throughout the United States, with projects ranging from \$2 million to \$10 million.
- Representing a large solar company in various large-scale solar installations across the United States, including claims of large-scale deficient installation allegedly causing tens of millions of dollars in damages.
- Representing a Cincinnati-based design/builder regarding a \$2.5 million delay and liquidated damage claim in Pittsburgh, PA project.
- Representing an inspection/construction company in \$2.5 million claim for allegedly deficient inspection/construction of smokestack used to discharge byproducts of a cement processing plant in Puerto Rico.
- Representing a condominium association in a \$2.0 million dispute with contractor regarding deficient construction of a 13-story condominium building.
- Representing the owner of a historic church and bell tower structure in response to city-administrative order to demolish the structure.
- Representing an engineering firm and an architectural firm in a \$1.9 million design and delay claim surrounding construction of a hospital.
- Represented an Ohio-based design/builder in Oklahoma litigation in defense of a \$10 million claim for deficient design and construction of an industrial processing facility in Oklahoma.
- Represented a Cincinnati-based architectural firm in a \$1 million claim for allegedly deficient HVAC design in tenant fit-out conversion of retail space.
- Represented a New York-based national engineering/architectural firm in litigation involving the adequacy of the design of "scour protection" around railway bridge piers in a river stream that was altered by the upstream removal of a dam. The railway bridge settled into the riverbed six inches, with alleged damages in excess of \$12 million.
- Represented a California-based design/builder of a dehumidification system for a marijuana "grow facility" in Denver, Colorado, with alleged damages of over \$3 million.
- Represented an oil and gas production company in a fatality caused by the allegedly deficient design and construction of a fracking facility, where the victim was burned alive.

- Represented an architectural firm in the failed construction of a mixed-use, 20-story structure, which allegedly caused over \$75 million in damages.
- Represented an architect and structural engineer in the \$30 million partial collapse of an existing, in-use, four-story, 100-year-old school building allegedly caused by negligent plans and designs of new, adjacent construction.
- Represented the owner of a 10-story, \$15 million hotel with defectively installed EIFS panel joints, which caused the Health Department to close the hotel for almost a year because of moisture and mold contamination.
- Represented a general contractor against allegations of defective construction of a \$4.2 million, eight-story, Florida home, whose construction allowed water and mold to so infiltrate the structure that it was no longer inhabitable. This matter was resolved in pre-suit mediation (that we initiated) involving the owner, the designer, and relevant subcontractors, with the general contractor recovering 90% of the cost to repair.
- Represented a civil engineering firm in a landslide case involving the damage/destruction of six homes.
- Represented a general contractor in claims of defective construction of a Florida hospital.
- Represented a national home builder in the fatal collapse of a 25-foot deep trench during construction.
- Represented a contractor in a \$6 million hotel rehab lawsuit.
- Represented an architectural firm in a \$6 million claim for unrepairable ice damage to the internal workings of 32 rooftop units in a geothermal HVAC design.
- Represented a major state university in a suit against a contractor for deficient construction, which caused damages in excess of \$5 million.
- Represented an architect and civil engineering firm in a design that allegedly breached the ADA.
- Represented an engineering company in the alleged negligent design of a glass manufacturing facility bag house, which caused over \$3 million in damages.
- Represented a structural engineer in a \$2.5 million claim for deficient design of 12-story hospital building.
- Represented building owners in a \$2.2 million claim against a general contractor for the defective construction of a \$4.2 million medical office building.
- Represented an architect in the allegedly defective construction of a \$2.2 million home by facilitating suit against the home builder and not the architect.
- Represented the nation's largest specialty concrete company in a \$2 million arbitration case involving the construction of a steel manufacturing plant in a southern state.
- Represented a greenhouse designer and builder against a \$2 million claim, which alleged that a negligent design caused five acres of greenhouses to collapse under snow load.
- Represented an engineering firm against a \$2 million claim for the allegedly defective design of a data center's cooling system.
- Represented an architect in a \$2 million acceleration and delay claim by a subcontractor on a signature design building in downtown Cincinnati.
- Represented a subcontractor in a \$2 million claim of defective window and wall installation.

- Represented an Ohio architectural firm and its sub-consulting structural engineer, regarding allegedly defective structural engineering design “discovered” by the owner’s consultant during the construction of a \$40 million high school. The claim exceeded \$1.5 million.
- Represented a civil engineer against allegations of negligently causing two landslides and over \$1 million in damages.
- Obtained summary judgment for the nation’s largest specialty concrete company in a multimillion-dollar Fair Housing Act case, succeeding on appeal in the 6th Circuit.
- Secured summary judgment for an architectural firm against allegations of defective design of an outdoor athletic facility.
- Represented an architectural firm in the alleged negligent design of a five-story parking structure.
- Secured summary judgment for an architect in a negligent design of school building claim, which allegedly allowed pervasive water intrusion and mold contamination.
- Represented a number of sureties in bond claim litigation in numerous actions across Ohio.

Product Liability Cases

- Represented a train car manufacturer in a benzene leak, which caused over \$60 million in property damage and lost profits of \$8 million due to the closing of an adjacent loading terminal.
- Represented a Fortune 50, national defense contractor as the plaintiff in a \$49 million claim of defective design/construction of mobile communications shelters sold to a foreign government for military use.
- Represented two national flavoring companies in over 30 lawsuits that relate to claims of lung damage allegedly caused by the presence of the chemical diacetyl in food flavorings provided by the defendant companies.
- Represented a product manufacturer in a \$12 million, 5-acre warehouse fire allegedly caused by the client’s product.
- Represented an international product manufacturer against a claim that defective electrical equipment caused fire and more than \$1 million of damage and down-time in a steel manufacturing facility.
- Representing a company who purchased allegedly defective “roof” fabric for installation in over 100 acres of greenhouse agricultural facilities.
- Represented a truck manufacturer in a \$3 million explosion case.
- Sued a Finland-based manufacturer of a large, industrial sheet metal, automated handling and cutting machine for defective design and fraud, generating a settlement in excess of the \$1 million original cost of the machine after five years of use.
- Represented a contractor in two separate suits involving fatalities caused by exploding tractor wheel assemblies. Secured summary judgment in one case that was affirmed on appeal.

Catastrophic Loss Cases

- Represented a burn victim against a national big-box store and 29 other defendants for burn injuries over 70% of her body caused by an explosion of pool chemicals that leaked from their containers during her car trip home from the store. This resulted in the

largest known, single victim, personal injury settlement in the history of Kentucky or Ohio.

- Represented an employer in a fatality caused by an employee being crushed under a 50,000-pound steel coil that fell from an overhead crane.
- Represented a waste broker in a zirconium-related explosion at an incinerator, which killed one and burned another.
- Represented a Japanese company in an employee-caused trucking accident that left the plaintiff with serious, permanent brain damage and alleged damages over \$10 million.

Fire Cases and Miscellaneous Cases

- Represented three alleged “generators” in a \$15 million CERCLA cleanup case that focuses on the intent to recycle and not to dispose of certain electronic waste streams.
- Representing a manufacturer in a class action brought by all residents of an Ohio city for alleged pollution of their drinking water.
- Represented a contractor against alleged environmental spills during a subterranean horizontal drilling project.
- Represented one of two competing businesses as a plaintiff in a \$20 million claim for violation of antitrust statutes.
- Represented a national engineering firm in a multimillion dollar dispute over the private equity purchase of a significant portion of the firm.
- Represented a Fortune 50 manufacturer against allegations of defective electrical switch gear causing a major fire in downtown office building, by proving the fire was caused by the installer of the equipment and not by our client, the manufacturer.
- Settled favorably during trial on behalf of the plaintiff, a major U.S. automobile manufacturer, a multimillion dollar suit for damages caused by fire on its production line.
- Represented a fireworks store owner in a 10-fatality fire caused by a mentally challenged 14-year-old who intentionally lit a firework in the store, with allegations the store owner had intentionally turned off a leaking fire sprinkler system.
- Represented a motor home manufacturer against claims of defective construction, which caused a fire and the deaths of two children.
- Represented a contractor in a case against a negligent insurance broker in a loss exceeding \$50 million.
- Represented a private equity plaintiff in a \$30 million claim against an investor.
- Represented an environmental consultant in an \$11 million negligence lawsuit.
- Represented buyers of an \$8 million hotel against the seller for fraud in the disclosure of the condition of the building.
- Represented investors in a \$4 million fraud and theft claim against co-investors.
- Represented a company in a \$3 million claim of trade secret theft.
- Secured an arbitration award of over \$500,000 against a client's past employees who stole its trade secrets.
- Secured summary judgment for an internet marketing company, which was alleged to have violated The Ohio Consumer Sales Protection Act by its email marketing.
- Represented a California company in the defense of patent infringement lawsuits in

federal court. Personal jurisdiction was challenged, and the matters settled while that issue was under consideration.

- Represented an Ohio sound recording company in local and California-based litigation involving copyright and trademark disputes.
- Represented a manufacturer suing a competitor for copyright infringement.
- Represented a debt collector in a federal class action suit alleging violation of The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and obtained dismissal of all claims on legal grounds.
- Represented a Cincinnati-based design/builder in a \$2.0 million claim for allegedly deficient installation of concrete floor in a new, very large warehouse.
- Represented a Cincinnati-based engineering, procurement, and construction contractor in Oklahoma litigation against a \$10 million claim for deficient design and deficient construction regarding the installation of an industrial / chemical processing line of equipment.

News & Media

June 4, 2026

UB Greensfelder Earns Top Rankings in Chambers USA 2026 Edition

January 12, 2026

Cincinnati Magazine Names 12 UB Greensfelder Partners to Its 2026 Top Lawyers List

October 30, 2025

UB Greensfelder and Attorneys Receive Honors in Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio in 2026 Edition of Benchmark Litigation Guide

August 22, 2025

UBG Partners Dawn Johnson and Fritz Shadley Recognized as 2025 BTI Client Service All-Stars

August 21, 2025

UB Greensfelder Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2026 List

June 5, 2025

UB Greensfelder Expands Chambers USA Rankings with 13 Practices and 24 Attorneys Recognized in the 2025 Edition

December 17, 2024

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes 57 UB Greensfelder Attorneys in 2025

October 9, 2024

UB Greensfelder and Attorneys Receive Honors in Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio in 2025 Edition of Benchmark Litigation Guide

August 15, 2024

UB Greensfelder Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2025 List

June 6, 2024

Nine UB Greensfelder Practices and 22 Attorneys Recognized by Chambers USA

2024

December 29, 2023

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes 50 Ulmer Attorneys in 2024 Lists

October 12, 2023

Benchmark Litigation Honors Ulmer Litigation and Employment Partners in 2024 Reports

August 17, 2023

Ulmer Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2024 Report

June 7, 2023

Chambers USA 2023 Report Gives Ulmer Top Marks

January 6, 2023

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes 69 Ulmer Attorneys in 2023 Lists

October 5, 2022

Benchmark Litigation Honors Several Ulmer Partners in 2023 Reports

August 18, 2022

Ulmer Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2023 Report

June 2, 2022

Ulmer Earns Top Marks in Chambers USA 2022 Report

January 4, 2022

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes Ulmer Attorneys in 2022 Lists

October 5, 2021

Benchmark Litigation Honors Several Ulmer Partners in Latest Reports

October 1, 2021

Ulmer Partner Frederic X. Shadley Named National Law Journal Construction Trailblazer

May 20, 2021

Ulmer & Berne Honored in Chambers USA 2021 Edition

Publications & Presentations

PUBLICATIONS

- "Statutes of Repose: What Every Contractor Needs to Know," Co-Author, Construction Executive (February 2020)
- "Five Points to Consider When Leasing Construction Equipment," *ACC Lexology* (June 2012)

PRESENTATIONS

- "Professional Liability Risk Management Strategies," Ulmer/Oswald Companies Seminar (May 2019)
- "2018 Ohio Law Update," Insurance Adjuster Meeting (February 2018)

- “2017 Legal Updates & the Known Unknowns,” Ohio Valley ABC Seminar (March 2017)
- “Understanding the General Conditions of a Construction Contract,” Cincinnati Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Education Summit 2015 (November 2015)
- “How to Win a Deposition,” Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., ABC Legal Day (June 2015)
- “Keeping Your HR Managers Out of Court, and What to Do When They Get There,” The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) (November 2014)