Bridge and Litigation

Overview

Litigation Our lawyers handle a wide-range of civil and business litigation in the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany and in Canada.

Key Takeaways

Bridge litigation involves legal disputes arising from bridge construction, design, maintenance, or accidents, often addressing negligence, liability, and financial damages. Key Types of Bridge Litigation1. Accident and Collapse Cases: Bridge litigation frequently arises from accidents, such as structural failures or collisions.

A notable example is the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore, where the cargo ship Dali lost power and struck the bridge in March 2024, causing a section to fall and killing six workers. The ship's owners, Grace Ocean and Synergy Marine, faced multiple claims, including negligence and economic damages, and settled a civil lawsuit with the Department of Justice for nearly $102 million to cover cleanup costs, though this did not include reconstruction expenses. The litigation also involves determining whether shipowners can limit liability under the Limitation of Liability Act, a principle dating back to 1851.

2. Design and Construction Disputes: Litigation can also involve design-build projects where engineering errors or contract disputes occur. For instance, in Miami, HDR, an engineering subcontractor, settled for $12 million with the Archer Western-de Moya Group over claims of under-designing the Signature Bridge, resolving a lawsuit concerning negligence, gross negligence, and breach of contract.

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Similarly, Moore & Lee, P. C. secured a favorable settlement for a design and engineering firm in a high-stakes $800 million bridge project, clarifying legal issues such as limitation of liability provisions, statute of limitations, and the independent tort doctrine.

Common Legal Issues

Negligence and Gross Negligence: Parties may claim that bridge owners, operators, or contractors failed to meet safety or design standards. Liability Limitation: Laws like the Limitation of Liability Act can cap damages for shipowners or contractors, though courts may scrutinize these claims. Economic Loss and Damages: Litigation often involves claims for direct damages (repair costs, medical expenses) and indirect economic losses (business disruption, lost wages).

Contractual Disputes: Design-build projects may trigger lawsuits over incomplete designs, cost overruns, or miscommunication between contractors and engineers.

Litigation Process and Settlements

Bridge litigation typically involves depositions, document review, and phased trials. For example, the Key Bridge case is scheduled in phases, with the first phase determining liability limits and subsequent phases addressing settlements with affected parties. Settlements are common, as seen in both the Baltimore and Miami cases, often involving multi-million-dollar payouts to resolve claims without prolonged trials.

Implications

Bridge litigation highlights the importance of rigorous safety standards, clear contractual agreements, and risk management in infrastructure projects. Outcomes can set legal precedents affecting future bridge construction, design liability, and insurance coverage for large-scale infrastructure projects. In summary, bridge litigation encompasses a wide range of legal disputes, from catastrophic accidents to design and contractual conflicts, with settlements and court rulings shaping liability standards and industry practices.

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Article Content

Litigation

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US judge unfreezes funding for $16 billion New York City tunnel project

A New York federal judge on Friday unfroze funds withheld by U.S. President Donald Trump''s administration for a $16 billion project to overhaul critical rail infrastructure in New York and

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List of bridges and tunnels in New York City

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York State Department of Transportation and Amtrak have many others. Many of the city''s major bridges and

Brooklyn Bridge

Over the years, the bridge has been used for stunts and performances, as well as several crimes, attacks and vandalism. The Brooklyn Bridge is designated a National Historic Landmark, a New York

MTA Bridges and Tunnels

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Bridge Litigation UK Ltd., formerly known as Liam O''Donnell & Co, is a renowned law firm that specializes in Criminal Defence and Appeal Law. With the incorporation of JP Mowberry Ltd., the firm

Bridge Legal -

Bridge Legal delivers AI-driven technology and end-to-end workflow solutions designed to help you conquer complexity, maximize case values, and scale your firm with confidence.

Federal judge delays Key Bridge civil trial

A federal judge on Monday granted a motion to delay the start of a civil trial in the Key Bridge collapse.

Bridge Collapse Draws in Several Law Firms for

Two Am Law 100 firms and several plaintiff firms have entered appearances. Observers expect more lawyers to enter as litigation and

State sues 13 firms that worked on Washington Bridge,

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The state of Rhode Island filed a lawsuit against 13 firms that have performed design, construction, and inspection services on the Washington

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