



## ALLEN L. RUTZ

Partner [Columbus Office](#)

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Allen is a partner in the Columbus office practicing in construction law, architect/engineer professional liability, products liability, and he leads the firm's drone and autonomous vehicle working group.

Allen is a professional engineer and former research project manager and draws upon that training and experience in managing legal disputes and counseling companies in matters involving scientific or technical substance. He also counsels companies and individuals facing investigations and ethics charges by State licensing boards such as the Ohio Engineers and Surveyors Board.

Allen has broad experience in construction claims and dispute resolution, including AAA arbitrations; American Institute of Architects (AIA), Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC), and Design Build Institute of America (DBIA) contract documents; and fire cause and origin (C&O) claims, including managing the work of experts.

He has specialized knowledge in the areas of industrial and mechanical equipment; mechanical engineering; and gas appliances and venting.

### Career highlights include:

- Arguing before the Ohio Supreme Court and numerous lower appellate courts.
- Operating as national coordinating counsel of construction claims for firm clients, including manufacturers and a major retail chain
- Obtaining dismissal of all ethics charges against an engineering company and one of its principals after an administrative hearing
- Defending and prosecuting construction disputes involving infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, railroads, water, waste water, oil and gas pipelines, fiber optics) and commercial buildings (schools, hospitals, hotels and industrial facilities)
- Defending products liability actions involving fires and explosions in electrical and mechanical equipment, furnaces and silos
- Inventing U.S. Patent Nos. 5,941,230 (principal) and 6,112,741

Allen is a frequent lecturer on engineering and autonomous vehicle ethics, construction law, and architect/engineer liability, and was an Adjunct Professor at Capital University Law School where he team-taught products liability with Professor Stanton G. Darling II.

Allen received his J.D. *summa cum laude* from Capital University Law School where he was a member of the Order of the Curia, the Order of the Barrister, the National Moot Court team, and the *Capital University Law Review*. He received his M.S. from The Ohio State University, publishing his thesis on applying artificial intelligence methods to energy conservation. He received his B.S. *magna cum laude* from the University of Cincinnati where he was Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma.

### PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation

### INDUSTRIES

Building, Construction, and Design Services

Manufacturing

### EDUCATION

Capital University Law School, J.D., 1998, *summa cum laude*  
*Capital University Law Review*, 1996-1997

The Ohio State University, M.S., 1989

University of Cincinnati, B.S., 1984, *magna cum laude*

### BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Ohio

District of Columbia (inactive)

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

*Admitted to practice law only in the states listed above.*

VORYS

## ALLEN L. RUTZ

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Allen externed for the Honorable Alan E. Norris, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Prior to joining Vorys, Allen managed engineering research projects for the natural gas distribution and end use industries, including program design, relationship management, supervision of staff and subcontractors, and interactions with government and regulatory bodies including Consumer Product Safety Commission. He has authored numerous technical publications related to energy conservation, gas appliance venting, and test procedures, and has contributed to the ASHRAE HVAC Systems and Equipment Handbook and NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code Handbook.

### Insights

"*Client Alert: Ohio Supreme Court Upholds State Prohibition on Local Residency Requirements in Ohio Public Construction Projects*," September 26, 2019

"CGL Insurance Coverage for Defective Work of Subcontractors," August 10, 2016

"After the Meter: Energy Products Liability in a Deregulated Environment," *Capital University Law Review* (Vol. 26 No. 2), January 6, 1997

### Professional and Community Activities

Ohio State Bar Association, Construction Law Committee, Chair, 2014-2016

American Bar Association, Forum on the Construction Industry, Construction Litigation Committee

Columbus Bar Association, Construction Law Committee, Common Pleas Court Committee

Builder's Exchange of Central Ohio, Law and Finance Group

Capital University Law School Board of Counselors

Heritage Rail Trail Coalition, Chair

### Honors and Awards

*The Best Lawyers in America*, Construction Law, 2013-2020

*Columbus CEO*, Top Lawyers in Columbus, 2010-2018

American College of Trial Lawyers Medal for Excellence in Advocacy, 1997

Martindale-Hubbell AV Peer Review Rated

## ALLEN L. RUTZ

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### Events

Ohio Concrete Fall Engineering Seminar

Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference

OSBA Ohio Insurance and Negligence Law Conference

Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference

Energy & Mineral Law Foundation's Special Institute on Petrochemicals

2017 Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference

All-Ohio Legal Forum

Ohio Engineering Law and Ethics

2014 Fall CPD Conference

Representing Architects and Engineers in Construction Liability Cases

Construction Law Forum