


Hal E. Blanchard

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Hal Blanchard focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and arbitration. He has extensive experience litigating a wide range of construction-related matters, including design defects, contract scope disputes, delay, impact and acceleration claims, differing site conditions, defaults and bid protests, as well as advising on contract interpretation, suretyship, and other matters of importance to architects, engineers, owners and contractors.

Prior to joining Zetlin & De Chiara, Mr. Blanchard served as in-house counsel to MTA New York City Transit, where he was responsible for handling contract disputes arising out of the maintenance and rehabilitation of the New York City subway. He also represented the MTA in Article 78 proceedings along with federal and state court litigation involving breach of contract, property damage, ADA discrimination, and class actions filed on behalf of disgruntled subway riders. He was previously a commercial litigator at a large New York law firm.

Fluent in Mandarin with an interest in Chinese law and policy, Mr. Blanchard spent much of his early career working abroad as a foreign legal consultant to a Chinese law firm in Shanghai, an intern at the Hong Kong Department of Justice, and a linguist at National Taiwan University in Taipei. He has translated hundreds of legal, financial and technical documents from Chinese into English.

Mr. Blanchard has been published in the *Florida Journal of International Law*, the *Fordham International Law Journal* and the *Columbia East Asian Review* on issues relating to Chinese constitutionalism, the “one country, two systems” framework of Hong Kong’s Basic Law, and the legality of the war in Iraq. He has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch* list for Construction Law and Litigation – Construction in New York.

Education

Fordham University School of Law, J.D.

Columbia University, M.A.,

Columbia University, B.A., *magna cum laude*

Admissions

New York

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

New York

Languages

Mandarin

EXPERIENCE

Representative Matters

The following are select representative matters:

Infrastructure

Manhattan Transportation Center Telecommunications System Construction Dispute

We represented a construction manager with a design sub-consultant in a multi-million dollar dispute over the design and construction of a wireless communications system to service a major transportation center in Manhattan.

NEWS & EVENTS

News

The Best Lawyers in America 2026 Recognizes 13 Zetlin & De Chiara Attorneys
The Best Lawyers in America, 08.21.2025

The Best Lawyers in America 2025 Recognizes 15 Zetlin & De Chiara Attorneys
08.15.2024

The Best Lawyers in America 2024 Recognizes 16 Zetlin & De Chiara Attorneys
08.17.2023

Zetlin & De Chiara LLP Again Recognized in the Best Lawyers List
08.18.2022

Zetlin & De Chiara LLP Lawyers Highly Recognized by Best Lawyers®
Best Lawyers®, 08.19.2021

Hal Blanchard Joins Zetlin & De Chiara LLP

Publications

Constitutional Revisionism in the PRC: "Seeking Truth from Facts," 17 Fla. J. Int'l L. 365-403
2005

Vengeance and Empire: The Leftist Case for War in Iraq, 27 Fordham Int'l L.J. 2062-90
2004

Saving the Face of Hong Kong: China, Power and the Future of Asia, Columbia East Asian Rev.
1999