



Zetlin & De Chiara LLP Recognized as a Leading Firm in Construction Law by *The Legal 500 United States 2025*

The Legal 500 US 2025
06.16.2025

The 2025 edition of *The Legal 500 United States* once again ranked Zetlin & De Chiara LLP as a leading firm for Construction Law, including Construction Litigation. The 2025 guide recognized partners Michael K. De Chiara, Raymond T. Mellon, Jaimee L Nardiello, Carol J. Patterson, Roy H. Schwartz, Michael J. Vardaro, and Michael S. Zetlin. In addition to the firm ranking, Michael K. De Chiara and Michael J. Vardaro were individually ranked as Leading Lawyers in the practice area, and Michael S. Zetlin was included in this year's Hall of Fame.

The Legal 500 United States guide reports “[o]wing to its ‘deep expertise’ and ‘unwavering commitment to clients’, Zetlin & De Chiara LLP is a port of call for architects, engineers, owners, developers, and construction managers. A client testimonial from the 2025 guide highlights “[f]rom straightforward contract law to complex litigation—both as a defendant and a plaintiff—the level of service and expertise has always been exceptional. The quality of their work is truly top-notch.” Another client praises the firm’s attorneys, “[t]he individuals truly stand out because of their deep expertise, unwavering commitment to clients, and ability to handle even the most complex legal

challenges with a personalized approach.”

The guide’s 2025 editorial recognized several firm partners. “Michael Vardaro, who leads the New York-based practice, is noted for his ‘valuable insight and ability’ in construction litigation, arbitration and mediation. Firm co-founders and construction veterans, Michael Zetlin and Michael De Chiara, represent some of the country’s leading engineering and architectural firms. Raymond Mellon boasts a similar client base which turns to him for litigation and business negotiation assistance. Carol Patterson advises leading architects in complex contractual matters with owners and developers. Roy Schwartz defends land surveyors, architects, and engineers in professional malpractice claims. Jaimee Nardiello has acted as counsel in high-profile construction matters, such as the highly publicized collapse of the Champlain Towers South building.”