STITES & HARBISON PLLC



David B. Ratterman

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David Ratterman is a Senior Member and consultant to the firm's Construction Service Group on matters involving the fabricated structural steel industry in the United States and internationally. His immersion in the construction industry began as a water boy on construction sites at age 10 and evolved through a series of engineering and construction positions with the U.S. Navy, government and private industry.

David has been an officer or advisor to 12 industry trade organizations and professional societies involved in the international fabricated structural steel industry. From 1989 to 2019, he served as Secretary and General Counsel of the American Institute of Steel Construction and as counsel to its National Steel Bridge Alliance.

David has been lead trial counsel for numerous structural steel fabricators and other contractors, design professionals, material suppliers and construction owners involved in complex matters in litigation, arbitration and construction mediation. Formally trained as a construction arbitrator and mediator and listed on several national construction neutral panels, he has participated as an ADR neutral or advocate in resolution of construction disputes totaling in excess of a billion dollars.

David was also an advisor to FEMA Task Forces that investigated structural damage caused by the 1994 Northridge, California earthquake and the September 11, 2001 collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

David is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is a Fellow and former Governor of the American College of Construction Lawyers, and in 2014 was presented the college's Past Presidents' Award for exemplary service to the College over a period spanning nearly the entire 25-year history of the College's existence. He was the Founder and first Chair of the Kentucky Bar Association Section on Construction and Public Contract Law. In March 2012, The American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) named a college scholarship program after Mr. Ratterman, the "David B. Ratterman Fast Start AISC Scholarship." The scholarship program currently provides financial assistance to 10 college age children of the steel industry's blue- and white-collar families each year. In March 2019, AISC awarded David the Lifetime Achievement Award honoring those who have provided outstanding service to AISC

and the structural steel design/construction/academic community. He is a past President of the UK Alumni Association. In 2012, he received the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the University of Kentucky (UK) Alumni Association, in 2016 he was inducted into the UK College of Engineering Hall of Distinguished Alumni, in 2018 was awarded the Department of Civil Engineering's Construction Management Founders Society (CMFS) Lifetime Achievement Award; and in September 2024, he was inducted into the 2025 Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

A prolific author and speaker on a wide variety of construction law topics, David has presented or published in excess of 50 research papers, technical papers and articles. He has participated in or moderated numerous panel discussions on construction law topics at a wide variety of domestic and international academic symposia.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Fabricated Structural Steel
- Arbitration, Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Corporate General Services
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Trade Association Law
- Charitable & Non-Profit Organizations
- Construction
- Drafting, Reviewing & Negotiating Construction Contracts
- Natural Resources & Environmental Surety Law
- Sustainability & Emerging Technology
- Manufacturing
- Federal, State & Local Public Construction and Procurement

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit

- U.S. District Court for Nebraska
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- People on the Move in Louisville: David B. Ratterman
  by Editor, *Business First of Louisville*, October 7, 2025
- UK Alumni Association inducts David B. Ratterman into the 2025 Hall of Distinguished Alumni
  by Editor, *The Lane Report*, October 7, 2025
- Courage, Character, Curiosity, Hard Work
  Structural Engineers Association of Kentucky, May 13, 2022
- Monumentality in the Engineering Profession
  UofL Speed Scientific School and UK graduate class, September 2021
- Henry Clay, a Statesman for the 21st Century
  Speaker, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Ky., February 18, 2021
- Design Input, Design Assist, and Delegated Design: The AIA/AISC White Paper
  Speaker, Gray Architects and Engineers, P.S.C. , Lexington, Ky., November 12, 2020
- Legal Issues in Global Manufacturing
  University of Kentucky Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing, November 10, 2020
- Monumentality and the Engineering Standard of Care
  Speaker, Greyling Insurance Conference of Invited Attorneys, Atlanta, Ga., November 5, 2020
- The Design, Construction, Destruction, Re-Design, and Re-construction of the World Trade Center Towers
  Speed Scientific School, September 8, 2020
- The Design, Construction, Destruction, Re-Design, and Re-construction of the World Trade Center Towers
  Bellarmine University, August 28, 2020

- Monumentality in the Engineering Profession: The Design, Destruction and Redesign of the World Trade Center
  University of Kentucky College of Engineering, June 26, 2020
- 'Design Assist' Contract Provisions in the Fabricated Structural Steel Industry in the United States
  Panel Discussion, Virtual North American Steel Construction Conference, April 21, 2020
- River Crossings: How an Obscure Island in the Upper Mississippi River Became a Turning Point in American History
  Annual Meeting of the American College of Construction Lawyers, February 21, 2020
- Pre-Bid Due Diligence
  ,*with Steven M. Henderson* *Modern Steel Construction*, American Institute of Steel Construction, March 2019
- Every superhero has an origin story
  by Scott Melnick, Editor, *Modern Steel Construction*, January 2019
- Material Price Escalation Clauses and Effects of Recent Steel Tariffs
  2018 Construction Law Institute, UK/CLE, Lexington, KY, October 25, 2018
- The steel tariff. What does it mean to the construction industry and to individual steel fabricators?
  ,*with Steven M. Henderson and Gregory P. Parsons* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, June 13, 2018
- High court enforces “pay-if-paid” clause protecting CM; but allows fabricator and erector to recover extras directly from owner
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, December 18, 2017
- Architects Webinar - The Role and Value of the AISC Code of Standard Practice
  Steel Day - American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), September 15, 2017
- Codification of Trade Custom and Usage as a Viable Supplement to Construction Contracts
  Thompson Reuters, *Journal of the ACCL*, Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter 2017
- The Importance of Front End Alignment: What You Need to Know about Bid Documents, Construction Contracts and Contract Formation
  NASCC: The Steel Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 23, 2017
- We Need Construction Lawyers, Guns and Money: What You Need to Know about Defending and Prosecuting Claims Before You Get Into a Dispute
  NASCC: The Steel Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 23, 2017
- 'Bet the Company' Contract Clauses and How to Avoid Them
  Modern Steel Construction, March 2017
- Specific Instructions to the Contrary
  co-author with Charles J. Carter, Ph.D. and Michael A. West, *Modern Steel Construction*, American Institute of Steel Construction, February 2017
- Steel Code of Standard Practice Becomes American National Standard

by Nadine M. Post, *Engineering News-Record (ENR)*, April 27, 2016

- The Role of Engineers in Society
  Civil Engineering Seminar, U of L, J.B. Speed School of Engineering, September 11, 2015
- Fabricator/Erector Right to Pay for Extra Work Delayed by Legal Morass - How to Prevent This From Happening to You
  2015 VCSSFA Annual Meeting, Charleston, S.C., April 24, 2015
- Legal Challenges to Global Manufacturing
  University of Kentucky, Department of Mechanical Engineering, William Maxwell Reed Seminar Series, September 25, 2014
- Sustainability, Society, and the Law as Applied to the Built Environment
  Measurement Science for Sustainable Construction and Manufacturing Conference, Washington, DC, June 12-13, 2014
- Domestic and Local Preference in Selection of Construction Contractors and Material
  American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry 2013 Annual Meeting, Dana Point, CA, April 26, 2013
- What Employers Should Know about Welding Fumes
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 30, 2013
- Building Information Modeling
  Stites & Harbison, PLLC, November 2012
- Collapse of the World Trade Center Brings Modifications to High Rise Building and Fire Codes
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, September 12, 2011
- Federal Dollars for Women-Owned Small Businesses
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, April 1, 2011
- Preparing Your Company for Life after Recovery
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, October 7, 2010
- Sustainability & Steel: New Laws & Green Codes that Give Steel an Edge
  Steel Day Free Webinar, Stites & Harbison, PLLC, September 24, 2010
- Could You Be Held Responsible for Consequential Damages?
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 23, 2007

MEMBERSHIPS

- American College of Construction Lawyers
- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation,

    - Fellow

- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association
- Downtown Louisville Rotary Club
- Society of Construction Law, United Kingdom,
    - Member since 2008
- American Institute of Steel Construction,
    - Secretary and General Counsel (1989-2019)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Thomas D. Clark Foundation, Board of Directors and Secretary (2000-present)
- Downtown Louisville Rotary Club, Member and "Service Above Self" Award recipient
- University of Kentucky, National Alumni Association, President (2016-17)

EDUCATION

- University of Louisville M.B.A., Business Administration, 1980
- University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law J.D., 1975
- University of Kentucky Graduate Studies in Business Administration, 1970
- University of Kentucky B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1968

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*® Construction Law and Litigation - Construction (2003-27)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® Louisville Area Lawyer of the Year in Litigation - Construction (2013, 2019, 2021, 2024)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® Louisville Area Lawyer of the Year in Construction Law (2011, 2015, 2020, 2024)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2007-23)

- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® Top 50 Lawyers in the state (2007-08)
- *Chambers USA, "America's Leading Lawyers in Business,"* Corporate/M&A: Construction (2010-18)
- Lifetime Achievement Award, American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), 2019
- *Who's Who in American Law*
- *Who's Who Legal*, Construction (2015)
- University of Kentucky (UK), 2025 Hall of Distinguished Alumni
- University of Kentucky (UK) Alumni Association, Distinguished Service Award (2012)
- University of Kentucky College of Engineering, Hall of Distinguished Alumni (2016)
- University of Kentucky Department of Civil Engineering's Construction Management Founders Society (CMFS) Lifetime Achievement Award (2018)
- Service Above Self awarded by The Rotary Club of Louisville (2013)
- American College of Construction Attorneys, Past Presidents' Award (2014)
- *Louisville Magazine* Top Lawyer (2014, 2016)