



## [Musings on Necessary Evils and Construction Lawyers](#)



"Hi, my name is Chris, and I'm [a construction attorney](#)."

While this sounds like an AA (attorney's anonymous) introduction, this admission is not a step on the road to recovery (despite the recent discussions [slamming an attorney's role](#) in the construction world). This is in fact my introduction to those of you who are new to [Construction Law Musings](#) and a re-introduction to those that have been reading a while (thanks by the way). My introduction is in fact made with pride as one that takes his counseling and risk management roles (not to mention [my role as a mediator](#)) very seriously.

I firmly believe that lawyers have a place in helping contractors, subcontractors and even owners to run a construction project more smoothly. Call us necessary evils, but a good construction lawyer can and should help a construction professional [obtain a well drafted contract](#) or [well negotiated \(as opposed to litigated\)](#) resolution to a dispute. By properly counseling our construction clients before, during and after a project, our clients can save money and we don't even have to be visible in the process.

Even in the unfortunate event of a payment dispute, the assistance of an experienced construction lawyer may be the best medicine. Much like the dentist that is there to pull the painful tooth, hiring a lawyer in this situation is a painful proposition that will (if all goes well) lead to less pain in the future. I have found over the years that a lawyer's involvement in such a situation (overt or otherwise) can and should lead to a faster resolution of the dispute. Knowledge of the various changes in law (like the [recent change to the Virginia mechanic's lien law](#)) will help cut to the chase and, hopefully, get past the understandably high emotions to the business aspects of the problem.

So, yes, I'm proud to be a construction attorney here in Virginia. I may be a necessary evil, but I think that I, along with the other folks in the [Virginia construction bar](#), add value and can truly be a help to the Virginia construction industry.

*Please check out my [Construction Law Musings Blog](#) for more on Virginia construction law and other topics.*