

James F. Lee Jr., Esq.

Member, Emeritus at Lee/Shoemaker PLLC

For four decades prior to his retirement in January 2024, James F. Lee, Jr. represented over 700 design firms throughout Maryland, DC, Virginia and other states regarding business and professional liability matters. He advised and defended architects on virtually every kind of project from small residential projects to embassy level homes, mixed use, multi-family, healthcare, senior living, K-12 and higher education, community facilities, and many others. His clients included top ENR 500 firms as well as sole practitioners and start-up firms.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jim enthusiastically supported the education of the architectural community on legal issues. As an early affiliate member of AIA/Potomac Valley, Jim regularly contributed articles and presented seminars to members on such issues as contracts, employment law, succession planning, copyright and construction administration. In 1994, he began presenting an Annual Case Review of Legal Decisions Affecting Architects and Engineers, surveying recent legal decisions both locally and from across the nation affecting architects and providing practical advice to design professionals on how to improve their risk management and operations. Thousands of HSW hours provided by the Annual Case Review pro bono are emblematic of the service he provided to the architecture profession.

Jim began his legal career as an Army JAG lawyer, but ultimately translated the courtroom skills developed during his service to the representation of architects and other design professionals. With dozens of trials and arbitrations under his belt, Jim brought his experience from the courtroom to the boardroom when counseling clients on transactional matters. Towards the end of his career, Jim focused his practice to helping his clients – many of whom he had counseled for decades – identify strategies for retiring themselves, through both internal and external succession strategies. He continued to provide strategic litigation advice in high-risk matters. He also provided invaluable mentorship to lawyers at his firm, who carry on his legacy of service to the architectural community.