

Eric J. Conn

Chair, OSHA & Workplace Safety Practice

Co-Founder & Managing Partner

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"Eric is the first name I would think of for OSHA."

Eric J. Conn is a founding partner of Conn Maciel Carey and Chair of the firm's national [OSHA & Workplace Safety Practice](#). His practice focuses exclusively on issues involving occupational safety and health law. Before launching his own OSHA Practice, Eric practiced for more than a decade alongside the former first General Counsel of the OSH Review Commission.

Eric is extremely proud to preside over Conn Maciel Carey LLP's national OSHA Practice, which has been recognized as [one of only two "Band 1" Rated OSHA Law Firms by Chambers USA](#) every year since 2022 (the first year that Chambers ranked the OSHA Law category) and as the OSHA Law Firm of the Year by Corporate INTL in 2025. Eric is also individually recognized by Chambers USA as one of only six "Band 1" rated OSHA law practitioners nationwide. Additionally, he has been named a "Super Lawyer" by Washington, DC Super Lawyers every year since 2015. He has also been selected for inclusion in the Washington Post's Top-Rated Lawyers list in Washington, DC.

Eric is a prolific writer on all OSHA-related topics. He is the curator of Conn Maciel Carey LLP's award-winning [OSHA Defense Report](#) blog and previously edited a popular OSHA law blog at another firm. He has also authored multiple chapters in OSHA treatises.

Eric is also a popular speaker on OSHA and related legal issues, including as the producer of Conn Maciel Carey's annual [OSHA Webinar Series](#), and regularly keynotes at trade groups and industry conferences. He is often quoted as a leader in the field in trade publications.

Eric created and curates the [OSHA Defense Report Group](#) on LinkedIn, and can be found on "X" as [@OSHA_Guy](#).

Key Services

- Advising and representing clients about inspections, investigations and enforcement actions involving the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and state and local regulators.
- Managing the full range of litigation against OSHA, including appeals of citations, negotiations of settlements geared to minimize the impact of enforcement actions on wrongful death and personal injury civil cases, and trials before the OSH Review Commission.
- Representing employers during U.S. Attorney criminal investigations and prosecutions of alleged OSH Act criminal violations.
- Advising employers' other attorneys in civil cases stemming from workplace accidents about the overlapping OSHA regulatory issues.
- Counseling clients through catastrophic industrial, construction, and manufacturing workplace accidents, including explosions and chemical releases, covered by OSHA's Process Safety Management Standard.
- Developing and auditing safety programs and policies.
- Providing workplace safety training and compliance counseling for employers.

Outside the Office

Eric lives in the Washington, DC area with his wife and three young children, whom he loves to coach in baseball and basketball.

Recognition & Awards

- "Band 1" Ranked Attorney in Occupational Safety and Health, Chambers USA – Nationwide (2022 – Present)
- "2025 Health and Safety Law Firm in Washington, DC," Corporate INTL (2025)
- "Super Lawyer," Washington, DC Super Lawyers (2015 – Present)
- "Rising Star," Washington, DC Super Lawyers (2013-2014)

Speaking Engagements

Eric regularly speaks to audiences about a broad range of workplace safety issues. Recent invitations have included the following organizations and events:

- Safety Connect Virtual Safety Conference & Expo
- Process Safety and Reliability Group's PSM Forum
- Small Business Administration OSHA/MSHA Safety Roundtable

- Corporate Environmental Enforcement Council (CEEC) Meetings
- American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers' (AFPM) National Occupational and Process Safety Conference
- National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Annual Conference
- Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) Monthly Safety Committee and Annual Conference
- National Grocers Association (NGA) Government Relations Committee
- Countless other trade association conferences and safety committee meetings

Eric also frequently presents on a variety of topics for the firm's [OSHA Webinar Series](#).

Publications

- CMC's [OSHA Defense Report Blog](#)
- "OSHA Inspections" in the Occupational Safety and Health Law Handbook, 2nd ed. (Gov't. Institutes, 2008)
- "Defending Against the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Increasingly Severe Enforcement Practices," *Complying with the Occupational Safety and Health Act: Leading Lawyers* (Aspatore, Inside the Minds, 2012).

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Occupational Safety and Health Law Committee

Education

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, *with honors*, 2000
 - Virginia Law Review
 - Pro se clerk at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- B.A., University of Virginia, 1997

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit