

## Peckar & Abramson Forms International Construction Alliance

By **Justin Wise**

Law360 (January 6, 2021, 4:43 PM EST) -- New York-based construction law firm Peckar & Abramson is teaming up with firms in France and Germany in an effort to strengthen legal services offered to businesses involved in multinational infrastructure and construction projects.

The Leading Construction Lawyers International Alliance, launched on Tuesday, is a collaboration between Peckar & Abramson, German-based law firm Breyer Rechtsanwälte, French law firm Altana and PS Consulting, a consulting and dispute resolution firm also headquartered in France.

The alliance will include more than 130 professionals and technical consultants from the firms who will collaborate on best practices and strategies for legal services that the firms currently offer, the alliance said in a press release. The firms plan to work together to help clients bridge different civil and common law systems and other cultural nuances when launching international infrastructure and construction projects.



Steven M. Charney

Peckar & Abramson chairman Steven Charney, who co-led the effort to form the partnership, told Law360 on Wednesday that the alliance was born from the construction industry becoming a more international endeavor over the past two decades, with companies starting projects in countries whose legal systems they're unfamiliar with.

"The image that a construction company is locally based and functions locally simply isn't the nature of the beast anymore," Charney said. "This is true not just with respect to U.S. companies. It's true of many companies globally. And it's not just construction companies. It's companies involved in project finance, developments, specialty contracts. It's a wide range of players operating internationally."

Charney, whose firm is a legal adviser to some of the nation's top construction contractors, according to its website, said the four member firms had active working relationships prior to the formation of the alliance. He noted that their communications showed many similarities and differences between separate countries' practices, customs and legal systems.

"Through that engagement, we started to better see the value and benefit that could come from the alliance," Charney said, referring to how the firms could better serve clients in the construction and infrastructure sectors. He touted the partnership as something that could provide "the highest level of insight" to the industry.

Each member firm and their attorneys will continue to operate independently, the Leading Construction Lawyers International Alliance said in its statement. Charney noted that he is open to expanding the alliance to include more member firms in the coming years.

In addition to the collaboration, the alliance will also serve as an avenue offering insights and guidance on issues relating to the field of construction, transportation and infrastructure. That will include the organization's first event on Feb. 10, a forum covering design liability.

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.

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