

Construction Group Of The Year: Greenberg Traurig

By Nathan Hale

Law360 (February 4, 2026, 4:03 PM EST) -- Delivering major litigation wins coast-to-coast while negotiating more than \$2.5 billion in construction contracts, Greenberg Traurig LLP earned a selection as one of the 2025 Law360 Construction Groups of the Year.

While the firm has long been known for its prowess in real estate, especially in its hometown of Miami, national construction practice co-chair Michael Thomas said he and his team are "proud of the fact how we've been able to take a sort of niche practice and make it now an 80-lawyers-across-20-offices national force to be reckoned with."

In addition to highlighting the practice's versatility handling litigation and transactional work, Thomas, who is based in Miami, and Las Vegas- and San Francisco-based shareholder Michael Hogue emphasized the group's commitment to working on cutting-edge, market-setting matters and projects. They said close integration with the firm's other practices, especially their real estate colleagues, leads to constant refinements that help them deliver exceptional results that keep clients coming back.

"What our clients love is to be able to come to Greenberg Traurig and basically get everything handled A to Z," Thomas said. "They come in very early on for the land use [work], creating the entities, purchasing the property, getting their approvals. Mike and I come in and handle basically what is still just a dream and help that get built, stay with that building while it's being developed and then afterwards."

Clients, Thomas said, realize the benefits of this comprehensive approach through savings on attorney fees, greater efficiencies and better strategies.

Greenberg Traurig attorneys drew upon the firm's extensive experience in high-stakes construction defect cases to obtain a highly favorable outcome in June for nine affiliates of developer Swire Properties pursuing claims against contractors over Brickell City Centre — a high-end, mixed-use development spanning nine acres in the heart of Miami's Brickell District.

With a trial date looming after four years of litigation, the firm obtained a confidential settlement that it described as possibly the largest recovery in any construction defect case in Florida's history.

While Thomas was cautious about drawing ties to that outcome, within weeks of the settlement, the



firm's construction and real estate teams represented Swire in its sale of a majority stake of the retail mall and parking components of the property to Simon for \$512 million.

"I do think it shows the strength of our bench, being able to handle basically both of these things concurrently — this massive litigation, the largest one ever in Florida, and also one of the largest transactions that's happened in the last several years in South Florida, frankly, maybe even in Florida," Thomas said.

Playing defense in another Miami-based case that the firm said it expects to have significant implications for developer liability in construction defect lawsuits in Florida, Greenberg Traurig's construction group won a complete dismissal of claims seeking more than \$50 million in damages against a joint venture between prominent Miami-based developers Related Group and Terra Group.

The court dismissed all the claims from a master association responsible for the common areas and shared components of the Park Grove Waterfront Residences, finding that because the association was not set up to be governed by Florida's Condominium Act, statutory condominium warranties did not apply.

"I think it's something that a lot of developers are going to be watching to see how that comes out, because it may dictate how they create their projects and organize things," Thomas said of the ruling, which is pending appeal. He noted that Greenberg Traurig's litigators benefited from the firm's leading team on condo structuring, led by shareholder Gary A. Saul.

Across the country, the construction group won a notable ruling at trial by a California state judge who found lender L.A. Downtown Investment's more than \$200 million lien had priority over more than \$215 million in construction liens claimed by contractors Lendlease and Webcor against Oceanwide Plaza, a stalled, graffiti-covered condo project known as "Graffiti Towers" that had a projected value of \$2.1 billion upon completion.

Meanwhile, the group's members were also busy drafting and negotiating more than \$2.5 billion in construction contracts for condominium projects across South Florida. This included five projects being developed by Miami's Related Group and Dezer Properties' Bentley Residences.

Outside of South Florida, the firm negotiated construction contracts for the Redtail Ridge life sciences campus in Colorado, a new downtown facility for the Las Vegas Museum of Art, a training center for Bay FC of the National Women's Soccer League in San Francisco and the Kali Hotel in Hollywood Park in Inglewood, California.

Thomas and Hogue said that after a very busy 2025, this year is already shaping up to be just as busy. The delivery of projects started just before or during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, when contractors faced rising costs, could open the door to more construction defect litigation, Thomas suggested. The construction practice also is looking to continue its growth geographically, particularly in Europe and the Middle East, and in cutting-edge sectors. Greenberg Traurig's digital infrastructure group "really blossomed" in 2025 with the growth in data center development, Hogue noted.

"[With] that integration, a cross-disciplinary practice ... we have this ability to create new subgroups and be consistently up to date with where the industry is going, where developers are focused and the emerging technology to take ideas and turn them into actual physical construction projects in the

world," Hogue said. "I do think that's very important to our future growth and to sustaining this practice and giving it that unique specialty, top-of-class stuff that you don't necessarily have if you just wait in the wings for a dispute to break out about a lien fight or whatever."

--Editing by Rich Mills.

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