GOLDBERGSEGALLA



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PRACTICES

Workers' Compensation

Construction Litigation and Counsel

INDUSTRIES

Construction

Professional Employer Organizations (PEOs)

Asha V. Edwards

PARTNER

EXPERIENCE

Unique among workers' compensation attorneys, Asha V. Edwards focuses her practice on New York State workers' compensation claims involving construction worksite accidents, and regularly represents contractors overseeing complex commercial construction projects ranging from $1 million to $100 million. This in-depth experience with construction accident claims makes her particularly astute when assessing issues of compensability, medical and legal causation, and insurance fraud.

Asha handles each client's workers' compensation file from inception of the claim through resolution, developing a strategy for the most favorable and efficient outcome, taking and reviewing medical depositions, managing investigations, preparing pleadings, motions and briefs, drafting rebuttals and appeals, and negotiating settlements. She has achieved successful results for her clients before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board and New York appellate courts.

Asha is a member of the leadership teams of both the Workers' Compensation and the Construction Litigation and Counsel practice groups in New York. She also plays a significant role in Goldberg Segalla's unique Workers' Compensation and General Liability Joint Defense Program. This unmatched collaborative legal representation recognizes the links between the workers' compensation case and the general liability case – where the exact same accident, the same injured worker, the same doctors are involved – and keeps the lines of communication open between our workers' compensation and general liability attorneys, benefitting the client by driving down costs for both cases on the basis of indemnity payout and legal costs.

Advocating for her colleagues as well as her clients, Asha serves on the firm's Diversity Task Force, sits on the leadership team of the Goldberg Segalla Women's Initiative, and contributes her expertise to the Fraud Advisory Committee.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Fraud Investigations

Companies rely on workers' compensation to help safeguard both their business and their employees. Unfortunately, the opportunity for personal financial tempts a surprising number of people to con the system. With her focus on workers' compensation claims related to construction worksite accidents, Asha has become experienced at reviewing case facts, analyzing circumstances of alleged injuries, analyzing medical records and diagnostics, and rooting out insurance fraud.

- After allegedly suffering injuries in a construction site accident, a worker underwent multiple surgeries, claimed full disability, and began receiving compensation. Months later, the client informed Asha that the claimant may have misrepresented his disability and failed to disclose work activity. For over a year, surveillance was taken of the claimant working as a cab driver. We also obtained evidence showing he had changed his driver's license to a New York State Commercial license. In addition, a passenger with whom the claimant spoke confirmed that the claimant was hired as a cab driver. Asha presented a claim under Workers' Compensation Law 114-a. The administrative law judge found egregious conduct and fraud, handing down a permanent ban of indemnity benefits for the claimant.

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- During construction of an office building in New York City, a worker reported a crush injury to his left thumb. His initial workers' compensation claim was accepted solely for the left thumb crush injury. Later, the worker filed a claim alleging multiple injuries, and prima facie medical evidence was found for the right hip, right shoulder, neck, back, head, and post-concussive syndrome (PCS). The claimant also changed his report of how the injury happened, stating that he was struck by a metal beam and slammed into a wall, all while wearing a harness. Asha took the testimony of the claimant and doctors and, at a hearing, presented oral summations requesting disallowance of all the additional body parts. The Law Judge disallowed injuries to the neck, back, right shoulder, right hip, head, and PCS.
- A construction worker alleged an injury to multiple body parts after he fell while walking on the worksite. The employer disputed the compensability of the claim, pointing out that the worker initially told his foreman that his knee buckled while walking off-site during his lunch break. In addition, co-workers walking along with him at the time of the alleged accident did not see him fall. At trial, Asha presented testimony of three employer witnesses and cross-examined both the claimant and his physicians. The judge found that the employer was more credible, and that the worker did not suffer a work-related injury as claimed. The claimant appealed his case, and a Workers' Compensation Board Panel affirmed the disallowance.
- Suspecting a falsified accident claim, Asha pursued a finding of fraud due to misrepresentation of the mechanism of injury, failure to disclose prior back injuries, and surveillance showing the claimant exaggerating his symptoms to doctors. She completed depositions of six medical doctors, took testimony of seven investigators and the claimant, and prepared a memorandum of law seeking a finding of fraud. In a bench decision, the judge found the claimant had committed fraud and imposed a permanent ban on all indemnity benefits. The claimant appealed, and a Workers' Compensation Board Panel not only affirmed the judge's finding, but also added that the claimant's misrepresentation was egregious and imposed a mandatory penalty.

BACKGROUND

ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey
- New York

EDUCATION

- Hofstra University School of Law, 2010
  - Hofstra Intellectual Property Association: Networking and Alumni Executive Officer
- Bernard Baruch College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2006

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Professional Women in Construction

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

- "Building a Unified Defense: Coordinating Work Comp and General Liability Claims,"

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Asha V. Edwards
PARTNER

(Co-Presenter), 2026 Claims and Litigation Management Alliance Construction Conference, September 25, 2026

WEBINARS

- "Mitigating Workers' Compensation Risk After a Serious Construction Accident," GS Webinar Series, June 3, 2025
- "Uncovering Staged Accidents: Effective Defense Strategies in Construction," (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, December 18, 2024