

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Alert

NEWS FOR THE CLIENTS AND FRIENDS OF BASS, BERRY & SIMS PLC

Mandatory Transition to 2007 AIA Contract Documents Set for May 31, 2009

March 5, 2009

The widely used construction industry contracts and forms produced by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) underwent major revisions with the release of the 2007 contract documents. The documents are revised approximately once every 10 years, and the 2007 revisions contain some important changes, including changes to AIA Document A201-General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, and a new AIA Document B101-Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect. Effective May 31, 2009, AIA's proprietary software program will no longer allow users to modify or create forms using the 1997 contract documents. Users need to prepare for the transition now.

All owners, contractors and design professionals should have a set of construction contract documents that are modified to suit their particular needs. Such documents promote efficiency in the contracting and negotiating process and provide greater control over the allocation of risk. To realize the full benefit of such documents, they need to be developed prior to bidding or commencing negotiations on a project.

The current economic slowdown and the impending transition to the 2007 documents make this a good time to reevaluate and customize your construction and design contracts for future use. If we can assist your company, please contact any of the attorneys in our Construction Group listed on the following page.

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