



As Seen In ... *Forbes*, April 7, 2008

# Smith Pachter McWhorter PLC

## 'Deeply Respected' Expertise in Government Contracts and Construction Law



John Pachter

the firm's government contracts practice, is described by *Chambers* sources as a "consummate professional" who is "committed and thorough" with "deep knowledge." The Army recently appointed Pachter as an independent monitor to supervise ITT Corporation's activities under an administrative compliance agreement relating to violations of the International Traffic in Arms Regulation.

In addition to his active practice, Pachter has been a leader in the American Bar Association's Section of Public Contract Law. He chaired the section in 1991-92, and today is one of its two delegates to the ABA House of Delegates, the organization's governing body.

Smith Pachter McWhorter's government contract clients range from the largest defense companies to start-ups and individuals. The firm's work includes counseling and representation on a variety of subjects such as contract compliance and ethics, bid protests, defective pricing, cost issues, executive compensation, organizational conflicts of interest, performance issues

In the mid-1980s, the word on the street was that boutique law firms were a thing of the past – they could not survive among the rapidly growing large firms. The founders of Smith Pachter McWhorter PLC decided to go against the grain, and have never looked back. Today, according to *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, the firm is "deeply respected" for its expertise in government contracts and construction.

Veteran practitioner John Pachter, who founded

Val McWhorter

### Top-Ranked Construction Practice

Smith Pachter McWhorter's construction attorneys are consistently ranked tops nationally and have excelled in resolution of disputes involving complex infrastructure projects. According to *Chambers*, clients identified Val McWhorter as a "go-to construction lawyer" with a "wealth of experience" who "can be entrusted to handle really complex litigation." Mark Hanson and Brian Vella are frequently mentioned as rising stars. Practice Founder Richard Smith, a preeminent construction expert, devotes his practice to acting as mediator and arbitrator in the resolution of construction and contract disputes.

and terminations, along with claims, disputes and litigation. The firm represents clients before federal and state administrative agencies, the Government Accountability Office, boards of contract appeals, federal and state courts, and arbitration panels.

According to Pachter, "We have the capability to take on any assignment, large or small. The key is partner teamwork." In fact, his partners' credentials are stellar. Jonathon Shaffer is well known as an expert in bid protests. Richard Johnson and Stephen Knight are superbly skilled and versatile in a number of disciplines. In particular, they belong to a small and elite group of experts in the area of government contract costs. *Chambers* also reported that these government contract partners "each won significant praise from market sources for having 'in-depth expertise.'" Last year, the firm's government contract group added D. Joe Smith, another seasoned attorney who also has nine years of experience as CEO and in-house counsel with two biotechnology firms in the Research Triangle of North Carolina.



Front row (from left): Brian Vella, Stephen Knight  
Back row (from left): Mark Hanson, D. Joe Smith, Richard Johnson, Jonathan Shaffer



**Smith Pachter McWhorter PLC**  
8000 Towers Crescent Dr. • Suite 900 • Vienna, VA 22182

[www.smithpachter.com](http://www.smithpachter.com)