



CORPORATE DISPUTES EXPERT TESTIMONY PROFESSIONALS

We are known for our “teaching” — as opposed to “telling” — style of testimony. Rather than only providing a judge or jury with an opinion, we communicate the key facts and relevant theories in a clear and logical manner.

Our Expert Testimony professionals have industry-leading experience across all types of disputes. Our experts have provided testimony in deposition and at trial related to complex accounting, financial reporting and economic damages issues.

Our top testifying experts average over 30 years of litigation analysis experience, benefiting clients when considering the complex financial data, qualitative facts, supporting testimony, and damages-related case law. We have served as experts in federal courts, including the US Court of Federal Claims and the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, US Bankruptcy Court, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, before the International Trade Commission, domestic and international arbitration venues, among others.



CONTACT

Michelle J. Avery

Managing Director
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Ms. Avery provides expert witness testimony and leads major dispute resolution engagements, providing forensic accounting and expert witness services in high profile litigations. She is responsible for leading Ocean Tomo's Financial Expert services group.



MICHELLE J. AVERY, CPA, CFF

Managing Director

Ms. Avery, Managing Director in the Ocean Tomo Financial Expert business unit, has over two decades of experience leading major dispute resolution engagements with an emphasis of insurance and financial services. Ms. Avery provides forensic accounting and expert witness services in high-profile domestic and international civil litigation involving complex accounting issues, financial reporting evaluations, solvency analyses, and economic damage calculations. Many of her engagements have involved highly publicized accounting and financial reporting scandals, including allegations of financial statement misstatement, and auditor malpractice requiring evaluations of US generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and statutory accounting principles. She has testified in matters related to auditor malpractice as well as economic damages.

Ms. Avery is recent past member of the Financial Reporting Executive Committee (FinREC), the senior technical committee of the AICPA for financial reporting and she has served on the International Association of Insurance Receivers Board of Directors. Ms. Avery combines this industry leadership and technical knowledge with nearly 25 years of working on some of the largest and highest profile accounting dispute matters.



KENT E. BARRETT, CPA, CFF, CFE, CLU, CHFC, FLMI

Managing Director

Mr. Barrett, Managing Director, joined Ocean Tomo after serving several years as chief financial officer for a number of major insurance and investment companies and directing the internal audit function for American General Financial Group. Mr. Barrett leads major litigation engagements with complex financial considerations involving misstatement of financial statements, auditor conduct, revenue recognition, insurance and loan loss reserve adequacy, inadequate disclosures, internal control failures, sub-prime loan securitizations, adequacy of collateral and financial guarantees, asset misappropriations, and a variety of other disputes.

Mr. Barrett has testified regularly in deposition and at trial and has presented as an expert before arbitrators and the SEC. He also consults regularly on complex technical accounting issues and is particularly adept at constructing sophisticated financial models, identifying and communicating key underlying facts and trends, reviewing actuarial studies, performing reinsurance analyses, and evaluating auditor responsibilities and compliance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and conformity of financial statements with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Statutory Accounting Principles (SAP), and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)



EDWARD W. BUTTNER IV, CPA, CFF, CFE

Managing Director

Mr. Buttner is a Managing Director with Ocean Tomo. Prior to joining Ocean Tomo, he co-founded Buttner Hammock & Company, P.A., a Jacksonville, Florida based accounting firm with forensic accounting, litigation support, and audit practice groups, and served as president since 1992. Mr. Buttner began his career at Ernst and Young where he spent 16 years, the last four as Partner-in-charge of the Florida Insurance Practice.

Mr. Buttner has testified in federal, state and bankruptcy courts, arbitration hearings, and depositions on a variety of accounting, financial reporting, auditing, causation, and damages issues including, among others, revenue recognition, asset valuation, loss reserving, related party transactions, financial statement disclosure, and the application of generally accepted auditing standards. Mr. Buttner has testified in matters with damages in the hundreds of millions of dollars and brings 45 years of combined accounting, auditing, consulting, and expert testimony experience to his client engagements.



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JONATHAN COUCHMAN, CPA, CFF, ABV

Managing Director

Mr. Couchman, Managing Director in Ocean Tomo’s Financial Damages practice, has extensive experience providing consulting services related to every phase of the litigation process. He has testified in federal court on various accounting, economic, and financial issues in the context of damages and provided assistance to counsel in cross examining opposing expert witnesses. Mr. Couchman has prepared expert reports, performed complex financial modeling, and directed various aspects of the discovery process including cost audits. Mr. Couchman’s recent experience includes evaluation of economic damages resulting from an alleged breach of contract between multiple nuclear utilities and the United States Department of Energy, analysis of claimed lost profits related to alleged interference with the operation of a retail seafood market, evaluation of a claim regarding misrepresentation of a contract for operations and maintenance services at several U.S. Naval bases, and evaluation of alleged incremental cost damages related to inspections and repairs of offshore natural gas rigs.

Mr. Couchman serves on the AICPA’s Economic Damages Advisory Panel, a think-tank created to provide high-level thought leadership around current damages-related issues impacting the profession. Prior to joining Ocean Tomo, Mr. Couchman worked at Arthur Andersen in its consulting practice in Washington, DC.



LARRY JOHNSON, CPA

Founder, Veris Consulting

Mr. Johnson is the founder of Veris Consulting. Prior to founding Veris in 2000, Mr. Johnson co-founded the public accounting firm of Johnson Lambert & Co. where he served as Managing Partner through 2005. Mr. Johnson was also a former partner at Ernst & Young where he directed its Washington, DC audit practice and its Mid-Atlantic Region insurance practice.

Mr. Johnson has testified in over 150 matters in federal and state courts, arbitration hearings, and depositions on a variety of accounting, financial reporting, auditing, causation, and damages issues including, among others, revenue recognition, asset valuation, loss reserving, related party transactions, financial statement disclosure, and the application of generally accepted auditing standards. He has participated in numerous professional standard-setting bodies, including the Accounting Standards Executive Committee (AcSEC) of the AICPA, the highest authority in the AICPA over industry-specific accounting and reporting matters. Mr. Johnson has also served as a member of the AICPA Insurance Companies Committee and its task forces including chairing the AICPA’s task force on reinsurance accounting and served on both its Relations with Actuaries Committee and its Financial Services Experts Panel. Mr. Johnson’s leadership on committees that have been the source of authoritative guidance on many major accounting and financial reporting issues and his extensive accounting and insurance experience make him a highly sought-after expert.



KEVIN TULLIER, CPA, CFE, CFF

Managing Director

Mr. Tullier, Managing Director of Ocean Tomo, has more than 25 years of accounting and finance experience for public and non-public entities and almost two decades of experience performing forensic accounting and litigation support services, including expert testimony. His cases involve financial statement misstatements, auditing malpractice, insurance insolvencies, and financial damages, among other issues. Mr. Tullier has provided testimony regarding a calculation of lost wages; performed an investigation of employee theft and collusion involving tens of millions of dollars; and assisted counsel for both state insurance departments and the SEC in the assessment of potential financial statement misstatements resulting from the misapplication of GAAP and/or Statutory Accounting Principles, the assessment of auditor compliance with GAAS, and the calculation of economic damages therefrom, including one matter with potential losses in the billions of dollars.

Mr. Tullier serves as Treasurer and Board Member of the International Association of Insurance Receivers. He joined Ocean Tomo after several years in finance and accounting with an international publicly-held company and an insurance company in run-off. Mr. Tullier was also an auditor with the Big 6 firm Coopers & Lybrand.



CONTACT

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Ms. Keelan’s efforts at Ocean Tomo are concentrated in the practice of business development, sales relationship growth and maintenance within the Financial Expert group and valuation practices. In working with the firms Managing Directors and C-level team, she successfully develops firm-wide and practice specific key account strategies, and establishes and nurtures long term client relationships. Through speaking engagements and conference participation, Ms. Keelan creates and solidifies an industry presence.



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About Ocean Tomo

Established in 2003, Ocean Tomo provides Financial Expert, Management Consulting, and Advisory services related to intellectual property (IP) and other intangible assets; corporate accounting investigations; regulatory and reporting obligations; solvency and restructuring; and contractual or competition disputes.

Practice offerings address economic damage calculations and testimony; accounting investigations and financial forensics; technology and intangible asset valuation; strategy and risk management consulting; mergers and acquisitions; debt and equity private placement; and IP brokerage.

Subsidiaries of Ocean Tomo include Ocean Tomo Investments Group, LLC, a registered broker dealer. Ocean Tomo is a part of J.S. Held. With more than 100 offices globally, J.S. Held assists clients – corporations, insurers, law firms, governments, and institutional investors – on complex technical, scientific, and financial matters across all assets and value at risk.

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About J.S. Held

J.S. Held is a specialized global consulting firm whose professionals serve as trusted, expert advisors to organizations facing high-stakes events that demand urgent attention, exceptional knowledge, staunch integrity, and clear-cut analysis and advice. The firm provides a comprehensive suite of technical, scientific, financial, and technology advisory services that enable clients across the spectrum of industries to navigate complex, contentious, and often catastrophic situations with precise analysis, reliable insights, and confidence.

In 2022, Ocean Tomo joined J.S. Held, continuing the strategic growth of the firm. Leveraging the J.S. Held team of more than 1,500 professionals around the world, our clients will now have access to J.S. Held's suite of specialized services, including:

- Construction Advisory Services
- Corporate Finance
- Economic Damages and Valuation Services
- Environmental, Health, and Safety Services
- Equipment Consulting
- Forensic Accounting
- Forensic Architecture and Engineering
- Global Investigations
- Property and Infrastructure Damage Consulting
- Surety Services

Headquartered in New York, J.S. Held has offices across the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East.

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