

## Ramish in Westlaw Today: Contractors Can't Immediately Appeal Denial of Yearsley Defense, SCOTUS Says

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In a recent article for *Westlaw Today*, Haynes Boone Partner [Daniel Ramish](#) comments on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that a government contractor cannot immediately appeal a trial court's denial of its derivative sovereign immunity defense.

Read Ramish's comment below.

*"Government contractors perform high-risk work on the federal government's behalf and rely on the 'government contractor defense' to shield them from third-party tort liability when acting within their authority as the government's agent. In *Geo Group*, the Supreme Court limited this protection, holding it operates as a 'merits defense rather than an immunity from suit. As a result, contractors may be forced to incur substantial litigation costs defending third-party claims even if they are ultimately not liable. This increases costs for all parties and the taxpayer. It also puts contractors at intolerable risk merely for following government direction."*

Read the full *Westlaw Today* article [here](#).