

**No Price  
Increase  
FOR 2024**

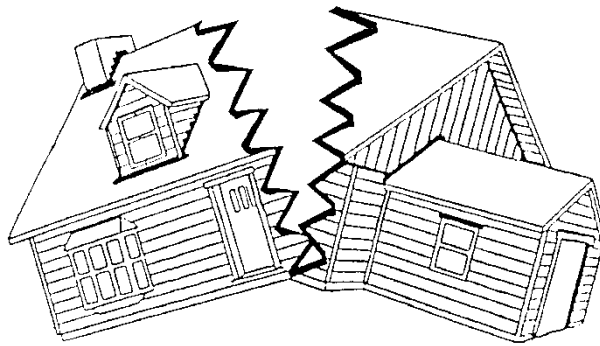


**One Extra Day  
FOR 2024**

**1993 - 2023**

**West Coast Casualty's**

**More CE  
credits for  
2024**



**NEW  
Ideas  
FOR 2024**

**More Award  
Presentations  
Pages 49 to 51**

## **Construction Defect Seminar**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> and 17, 2024  
The Disneyland Resort Hotel  
Anaheim, California**

**More  
Speakers and  
Diverse Topics**

# ***Seminar Invitation***

*The world's ONLY construction defect seminar built by  
you, about you and for you!!!*

***More days mean more sessions...which mean more opportunities for you  
to learn about the up-to-date issues of this community while  
simultaneously earning more continuing education credits at the same  
time.***

*Since 1993 . . .*

***America's Largest ... America's Favorite ... America's Best...***

***Construction Defect Event !!!***

# *Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar*



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As I sit here preparing this welcome letter, I say to myself, WOW, it is so hard to believe that this seminar is fast approaching its 30<sup>th</sup> year of bringing the construction defect community its Largest, Favorite and Best Construction Defect Event.

There remains no question that since 1993, the West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminar series has become the undeniable leader regarding education of the construction defect community.

Many have said why do we consider ourselves the undeniable leader regarding education of the construction defect community. The answer is simple, there remains no question that since 1993, the West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminar series has become the undeniable leader regarding education of the construction defect community because not only is this a get-together of some of the best minds of our community but because of our seminar and the ideas created here we have been successful in creating methods to positively change the way these cases are handled, the laws that surround them here in California and throughout the United States.

Many say our seminar has become an institution, a staple and a landmark for construction defect issues across the globe and the only reason we have achieved that status is because we concentrate our efforts on the most important people in this community, the attendees of our yearly events who step forward every year with their own thoughts and ideas to help reduce the costs and frustrations these cases bring.

I think that based on our knowledge, our experience and the many supporters who have come to help us over the years, we believe that in May 2024 we will go forward with a wonderful event at the ***"House Built By A Mouse"***

If you attended our 2022 and 2023 seminar events, you already know that in the construction defect community we have always been a social community despite our many differences and it is that need for social contact, under the best conditions available, we can go forward again in May 2024.

In the months ahead, we will be working with some of old partners and some new partners, developing ideas that will address our seminar for 2024 with new ideas and new technologies to ensure that this community stays on top of what is developing in the construction defect community. We have been hearing from those in the community regarding what they want to hear about in 2024.

As many of you already know we dedicate a lot of time to listening to those we serve at our seminars and we prepare our events with the ideas, suggestions and goals of the attendees in mind. Toward that end, we use our knowledge and experience to make positive changes for both our attendees and our speakers which started with our questionnaire process that took place in May 2023 and September 2023 which will culminate with the seminar itself.

**But like in past years**, we are always looking for hot topics of interest and topics on the emerging trends of this specialized area of claims and law which are important to you, your industry and/or the construction defect community at large.

With this Seminar Invitation, you will begin to see some of the changes we have implemented for our seminar in 2024. At the time of the printing of this invitation and in the weeks and months ahead, we will be looking at many new technological achievements and advances whose tools we will be using at our 2024 seminar, a number of them you will see here and some we continue to work on.

In May 2024 many will venture to Anaheim, California to hear our talented speakers' views and opinions on the controversial topics of construction defect claims and litigation. Many will come to keep abreast of current case law, current technologies, current and developing techniques in this field of specialty. Many will come to glimpse into the future of where construction defect claims and litigation will be going and what is emerging on the horizon. But most importantly to this community, many will come to meet their colleagues, other counsel, judges, mediators, the vendors as well as the other attendees and certainly old friends in the world's oldest and largest venue regarding the educational aspects of construction defect claims and litigation.

So whether you are a returning attendee who seeks to participate again based on your past experiences with us or someone who has never participated at our yearly event before but wish to do so in 2024, I urge you to review these materials and use the submission process discussed in this packet as your guide to being included in our 2024 seminar.

If you believe you have an idea or a process that benefits this community as a whole, I invite and urge you to consider participation in our ongoing seminar series. Please feel free to contact me at any time as I'll always look forward to hearing from you.

I'll look forward to seeing you in May "back at home" in Anaheim.

With best regards,

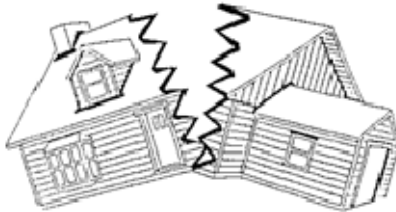
*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.*

*Dave Stern*

David Stern, RPA, President and Corporate Secretary  
[davestern@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:davestern@westcoastcasualty.com)

## *The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of*

*West Coast Casualty's*



**Construction Defect Seminar**



**The Topics and Speakers Committee of  
*West Coast Casualty's*  
2024 Construction Defect Seminar**



**Linda Tonkovich**

Gallagher Bassett  
Committee Chair



**Ross W. Feinberg, Esq.**  
Mediator – JAMS



**Glenn Barger, Esq.**  
Mediator, ADR Services



**Phyllis Modlin**  
Markel

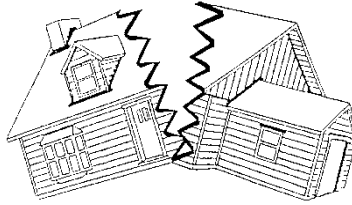


**Kenneth Kasdan, Esq.**  
Kasdan Turner  
Thomson Booth, LLP



**Bruce Wick**  
Director of Risk Management  
Housing Contractors of California

\* \* \*



**Construction Defect Seminar  
May 15, 16 and 17, 2024**

***“Yep . . . there’s an App for that now . . .  
and . . . maybe a whole lot more ”***

**Why is our new interactive app the most useful to our attendees?**

**Because it gives you everything you need but  
allows you to choose what you want . . . .**

Our Construction Defect Seminar Mobile App has been designed to enhance your overall seminar experience and once you are registered, it enables you to:

Easily access important event information, such as:

- o A complete schedule of events (breakouts, keynotes, meals, expo hours etc.)
- o Speaker information
- o Product information
- o Sponsor details
- o Interactive floor plans and Disneyland Hotel venue maps
- o **For registered attendees only:** access to session presentations
- Share your event experience with others by checking in to sessions, meeting areas, and sponsor booths.
- See what is most popular with your fellow attendees.
- Expand your professional network and have fun! The App provides an easy way to connect with fellow attendees, and sponsors during the event but only if you want too.
- Respond to general event surveys.
- Rate general sessions and speakers.
- Receive reminders of upcoming sessions.
- Get notifications with the latest news and updates.

Our Mobile App is available for iPhone/iPad, Android and HTML5 for Blackberry. Once you have downloaded the App and accessed it the first time, you will still have access to your event content, with or without a Wi-Fi or cellular internet connection.

**So bring your own device and you’ll find plenty of charging  
stations, compliments of your host**



## **SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

**Early Seminar Registration 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Disney Convention Center – La Strada Entry**

***1:00 PM - 2:00 PM***

**Across the country – how regions differ and why does it matter?**

Brian Kahn, Esq., Hon. Sue Kurita, Ken Bloom, Esq. and Kelly Gorman

***2:00 PM - 3:00 PM***

**Building a Strong Case: Construction Technology in Litigation**

Victoria N. Godwin-Reese, Esq., Donna Friis, and Marcus Spiegelberg

***3:00 PM – 3:30 PM***

***Afternoon Break***

**Soda Break Sponsored by**



**[www.jamsadr.com](http://www.jamsadr.com)**

***3:30 PM – 4:30 PM***

**A Lawyer Looks at 30 (Years of Civility)**

Rick Seely, Esq., Hon William Bedsworth, Erika Sandler, Esq.,  
Melanie Smith, Esq., and Robert Freidenberg, Esq.

***4:30 PM - 5:30 PM***

**DEI Initiatives for Small to Mid-Size Companies**

Courtney A. Winzeler, Esq., Sheila Totorp, Esq.,  
Carla Braunstein, Esq. and Colleen Dougherty

## **SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**Registration and Breakfast - 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM**

**Disney Convention Center – La Strada Entry and Exhibit Hall**

**Breakfast Sponsored by**



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**8:20 AM – 8:30 AM**

***Welcome Remarks***

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

**Recent Important Decisions from California,  
Arizona, and Nevada Courts**

**Chelsea L. Zwart, Esq., Maria Quintero, Esq. and Jay Sever, Esq.**

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**Litigating in the Western States**

**Holly Davies, Esq. Hon. Layne H. Melzer, Hon. James (Jim) Rogers,  
Hon. Christopher Whitten, Hon. Sue Kurita, and Hon. Justice Michael Cherry**

**10:30 AM – 10:45 AM**

***Morning Break***

**Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall**

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**

**We've Come a Long Way Baby! Evolution of Analytics & Technologies  
in CD Claims and Litigation**

**Lisa M. Cappelluti, Esq., Phyllis Modlin, Esq., Karen Rice,  
Jennifer Kalvestran, Esq., and Brenda Radmacher, Esq.**

**11:45 AM – 12:30 PM**

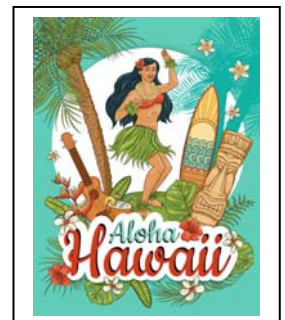
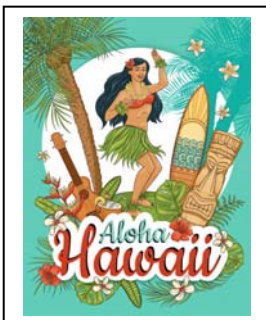
***The “Ollie”, “Legends” and The Ceremony of Ceremonies  
For the Construction Defect Community Awards Presentation  
DETAILS on PAGE 49 and 51***

**12:30 PM - 2:00 PM**

***Lunch – Adventure Lawn***

**Hawaiian based theme lunch**

**(Seminar Registration Will be Closed During Lunch)**



## **SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

***2:00 PM - 3:00 PM***

### **Construction Mediation for Insurance Professionals**

Stacy La Scala, Esq., Athena Bozek, Robin Kahn, Emma Tortorici,  
Keith Koeller, Esq. and Richard Buck, Esq.

***3:00 PM – 4:00 PM***

**Who is in and who is out? How to handle risk management across multiple  
forums, including arbitration.**

Elaine Fresch, Esq., Brian Kahn, Esq., Glenn Barger, Esq.,  
Raymond Weisse, and Wendy Lau, Esq.

***4:00 PM – 4:30 PM***

***Afternoon Break***

**Soda Break Sponsored by**



**[www.jamsadr.com](http://www.jamsadr.com)**

***4:30 PM - 5:30 PM***

**Watermill Revisited:**

**The Construction Defect Trial of the Century 10 years later**

Aaron Booth, Esq. Hon. Wendy Wilcox, Jury foreperson Rosie Rodriguez,  
Ron Arrache, Paul Bogseth, and J. Bennett Friedman, Esq.

***5:30 PM – 7:00 PM***

***Cocktail Reception***

**Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall**

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## **SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

Registration and Breakfast - 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall

**Breakfast Sponsored by**



[www.B2RConsultingGroup.com](http://www.B2RConsultingGroup.com)

### **Grand Ballroom**

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

AI: Why Artificial Intelligence, and Not  
Additional Insured is the AI of the Future

Alex M. Chazen, Esq.

Vadim Veksler, Esq. Esq.

Ian R. Feldman, Esq.

Dylan D. Grimes, Esq.,

### **South Ballroom**

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

What if your insured/client  
just needs a better agent?

Rebecca Appelbaum, Esq.

Scott Rembold, Esq.

Lee Wright,

Juanita Gadsden

Mark Boyle, Esq.

Jannea Rogers, Esq.

### **Grand Ballroom**

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

Navigating Downstream Waters:  
Effective Additional Insured and  
Contractual Risk Transfer Strategies

Cheryl Kozdrey, Esq.

Cynthia Garcia

Trevor Resurreccion, Esq.

Cameron Kalunian, Esq.

### **South Ballroom**

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

Project Completion; Protecting  
Your Tail [Coverage]

Sharon Huerta, Esq.

David Blau, Esq.

Adam Gabler

David McPherson, Esq.

**10:30 AM – 11:00 AM - Morning Break**

Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

### Grand Ballroom

*11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

Teamwork and Cooperation – Getting the Best Result for the Insurer, Insured & the Claimant

Joseph R. Miele, Jr., Esq.  
Mark Boyle, Esq.  
Paul Amirata, Esq.  
Daniel Amirata, Esq.  
Jason Gunther, Esq.

### South Ballroom

*11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

Stop Nuclear Verdicts, Collaborate, and Listen: How To Partner Creatively to Address Changing Juror Attitudes

Rick Somes, Esq.  
Donald Zeman  
Armen Abgaryan  
Vicky Karpinski

### Grand Ballroom

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

Strategies and Pitfalls for Defending the Joint Personal Injury / Construction Defect Claim

John Gregory, Esq.  
Rick Righi, Esq.  
Elizabeth Skane, Esq.,  
Tom Gesner  
Rob Weingarten, Esq.

### South Ballroom

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

Honey, I Shrunk the Statute of Limitations

Jason Feld, Esq.  
Toby Donoway  
Benjamin Dowers, Esq.  
Linda Pretzel  
Daniel Crespo, Esq.

***Save Time !! Register On-Line !! Click Here:***

**Register Online:**

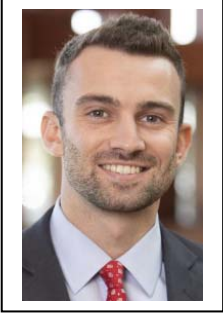
<https://westcoastcasualty.regfox.com/west-coast-casualtys-construction-defect-seminar-2024>

**or**

**Register By Check:** Make Check payable to  
*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc and send it to the address on the last  
page of this invitation*

***BUT be sure to include the full name and email address of the  
attendee when mailing in the registration***

## *Seminar Speakers*



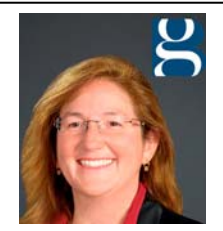
**Daniel J. Amirata, Esq.**  
**Moyer Law Group, St. Petersburg, FL**

Daniel J. Amirata is an attorney with Moyer Law Group in St. Petersburg, FL. He specializes in construction law concentrating in the representation of developers, general contractors, and subcontractors for both residential housing and commercial structures throughout the state of Florida. Mr. Amirata grew up in Montclair, New Jersey, where he attended Montclair Kimberley Academy. After high school, he graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, then went on to receive his Juris Doctor from Stetson College of Law. During law school, he served as an Executive Articles Editor for Stetson Law's Journal of Advocacy.



**Paul Amirata, Esq., Senior Vice President, Claims**  
**Enstar (US) Inc., St. Petersburg, FL**

Paul Amirata, Esq. has over twenty five years of experience in complex insurance coverage matters with particular expertise in construction defect claims and litigation. His current position is Senior Vice President, CGL Claims at Cranmore, a subsidiary of Enstar Group, a company that acquires and manages insurance and reinsurance companies in run-off and provides management, consulting and other services to the global insurance and reinsurance industry. In this position, Mr. Amirata is responsible for overseeing all of Enstar's construction defect claims handled by Enstar's Third Party Administrators, a portfolio consisting of over 2,000 claim groups. Mr. Amirata has been quoted in The Wall Street Journal and has made appearances on the Bloomberg Television network on various construction related issues. Paul received his Juris Doctorate degree from Hofstra Law School and was admitted to practice law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in 1990.



**Rebecca C. Appelbaum, Esq., Managing Partner**  
**Gartner + Bloom, PC, Tampa, FL**

Rebecca primarily practices in the area of third party liability coverage including construction defect professional liability, and commercial auto. Rebecca also handles extra-contractual and appellate matters. Rebecca received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 1995 from Syracuse University. In 1997, she received her Master of Arts degree in Advertising from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and her Juris Doctorate in 1998 from the Syracuse University College of Law. Rebecca has written and co-authored several articles about liability coverage for New Appleman on Insurance, Mealey's Bad Faith Reporter and the International Risk Management Institute. In addition, she contributed chapters to Defense Research Institute publications. Rebecca frequently speaks at insurance industry events including those organized by the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, West Coast Casualty and Perrin Conferences.



**Ronald Arrache, Owner and Principal**  
**Ronald Arrache Construction Company, Lancaster, CA**

Ronald Arrache is the owner and principal of RonaldArrache Construction Company, the seller and builderwhodevelopedand sold the high end custom luxury home at issue in the case of Watermill Flying Point Trust v. RonaldArrache Construction Company. He has been actively involved in building homes for over 45 years. Born and raised in Lancaster, California, Ron developed residential subdivisions in the Antelope Valley and built and completed over 300 semi-custom homes therefrom 1982 to 2004. Beginning in 2001to the present, Ron has builtand remodeledcustom spec homes in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. He lives in Newport Beach with his wife Nancy, a real estate agent and also a defendant in the Watermillcase. Ron obtained both his Bachelor of Science degree and MBA in Finance from USC.

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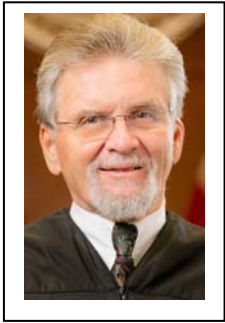
[www.cgdlaw.com](http://www.cgdlaw.com)

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Glenn T. Barger, Esq., Mediator**  
**ADR Services, Inc., Los Angeles, CA**

Glenn is a full-time mediator at ADR Services, Inc. where he now helps counsel, and their clients reach resolution of the same type of cases he handled as an attorney for almost 30 years. After graduating from U.C. Davis and Pepperdine School of Law, he joined a respected law firm where he ultimately became a name partner. As an attorney he regularly handled Construction, Professional Liability, including Legal Malpractice and Design Professionals, Bodily Injury, Product Liability, Real Estate, Environmental, Toxic and Hazardous Substance Litigation, Commercial/Business disputes, Habitability, Transportation and Employment matters, including Complex, Multi-Party Litigation. He served as President of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel in 2016. He also helped organize the original Mandatory Settlement Conference program in the Los Angeles Superior Court which utilized a plaintiff and defense attorney to conduct settlement conferences and started the Annual Joint Litigation Conference with leaders from CAALA and ABOTA. He has had many articles published in various legal journals and continues to be a featured speaker on a broad range of legal topics at seminars across the country. He has trial, arbitration and mediation experience as a practicing lawyer and has the distinction of achieving the highest rating of “av” by the prestigious national lawyer rating organization Martindale-Hubbell and throughout his career he has been regularly recognized as one of the best lawyers in his practice areas. He now utilizes his experience, including knowledge of insurance issues, to help bring parties together to resolution by discussing legal, factual, procedural and practical issues of each particular matter he mediates.



**Honorable William W. Bedsworth, Associate Justice**  
**California Court of Appeal, Fourth District Division 3, Santa Ana, CA**

William W. Bedsworth earned a Bachelor’s Degree (cum laude) from Loyola University of Los Angeles in three years (1968), and his Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) three years later. After graduation from law school, he joined the Orange County District Attorney’s Office where he served as a trial deputy, appellate attorney, and finally as managing attorney in charge of its law and motion/appellate division. He handled cases in both the California and United States Supreme Courts, and his argument before the California Supreme Court in *In re James D.* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 903, was videotaped by the National School Safety Center for educational use. In 1986, he was elected to an open seat on the Orange County Superior Court. He was re-elected in 1992, and in 1996, the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation of the state Bar rated him “exceptionally well qualified” (highest possible rating) for appointment to the Court of Appeal. He was appointed to the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division 3, by Governor Pete Wilson in February 1997. He was then elected to that position in 1998 and re-elected in 2010. Justice Bedsworth has taught law school classes at Western State University (where he was the commencement speaker in 2003 and 2021), Chapman University, the California Judicial College, and the University of California, Irvine Law School, where he now serves on the Board of Visitors. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and was a principal in Fair Share 502 (a charity whose 10 members raised almost a million dollars for homeless children). He was the Hispanic Bar Association’s Judge of the Year in 1997, the Celtic Bar’s Judge of the Year in 2012, and received the LGBT Lavender Bar Association’s first Leadership Award in 2011. He received the David G. Sills Award, the Orange County Bar Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award for appellate law, in 2015. He was the 2018 recipient of the Franklin G. West Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Orange County Bar Association. In 2017, the California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates honored him by naming their only judicial award after him.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**David Blau, Esq. Founding Partner**  
**Blau Keane Law Group P.C., El Segundo, CA**

David Blau is the founding partner of Blau I Keane Law Group P.C., which provides superior transactional and litigation legal counsel to institutional and individual clients primarily in the insurance, construction, and entertainment industries. Mr. Blau has extensive transactional and litigation experience in various areas of law, including insurance coverage, intellectual property, corporate and business formation, development and compliance, construction, employment, and premises liability. He is licensed to practice in the federal and state trial and appellate courts throughout California, federal courts in other jurisdictions, and has engaged in all aspects of litigation, arbitration, mediation and trial. With regard to construction defect coverage issues, Mr. Blau acts as coverage counsel and provides coverage advice to primary and excess insurance carriers respecting policy drafting, program and claims management, and handles large loss and related recovery tasks and issues, including litigation of declaratory relief, contribution, bad faith, and other coverage actions in various state and federal venues including California, Washington, Texas, Nevada, and Arizona, and has successfully negotiated resolutions of countless coverage disputes to avoid otherwise protracted and costly litigation. Mr. Blau takes pride in his and his firm's efficient and effective handling of matter, and coordination with carriers, risk managers, claims adjusting firms and retained defense counsel to proactively address coverage, contribution, allocation and additional insured issues and disputes.



**Kenneth A. Bloom, Esq. Founding Partner**  
**Gartner + Bloom, PC., New York City and Springfield New Jersey.**

Ken is a skilled trial attorney, who concentrates his practice in the areas of Casualty/Liability Defense; Insurance Coverage; New York Labor Law (Scaffold Law); Construction Litigation including construction defect, EIFS, apparent microbial growth (AMG), asbestos and lead paint matters, as well as Insurance Fraud Defense and Commercial Litigation. Ken was admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia in 1981; New York 1982; Pennsylvania 1990; the U.S. District Court, Eastern and Southern District of New York in 1983; U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York in 1990; U.S. Supreme Court in 1985; U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan in 1988; and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit 1990. Ken is a graduate of Cornell University (B.S., 1978), where he serves as a guest lecturer for the course, "Managing and Resolving Conflict." He obtained his J.D. from American University in 1981. Prior to founding Gartner + Bloom, Ken was an Assistant District Attorney, Kings County, New York, 1981-1982; Senior Staff Attorney, New York City Mayor's Strike Force, 1982-1983; Partner, O'Donnell, Fox & Gartner, P.C., New York City, 1983-1990; Resident Senior Partner Cozen and O'Connor, New York City, 1991-1994. Ken is a member of the New York State Former District Attorneys Association, Brooklyn, New York; Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations- member of the Tort and Insurance Practice Section and Alternate Dispute Resolution Section; Co- chair of the Construction Committee of the ABA Section on Dispute Resolution (2004-2005); District of Columbia Bar and the New York County Lawyers Association. He is a frequent lecturer on construction and coverage related topics, as well as ADR.



**Paul Bogseth, Geotechnical Consultant/Engineering Geologist**  
**Laguna Niguel, CA**

Mr. Bogseth was the soils expert for the defense in the Watermill Flying Point Trustcase. He has over forty-seven years of experience in geotechnical consulting. His professional registrations include Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist and Hydrogeologist in the State of California. Mr. Bogseth has been an expert in construction defect cases involving landslides, ground movement, groundwater, faults and other geotechnical issues. With substantial deposition and trial experience, Mr. Bogseth has also been retained as an independent mediation expert. Paul earned Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Aaron B. Booth, Esq., Principal  
Law Offices of Aaron B. Booth, Los Angeles, CA**

Aaron B. Booth, Esq. has been involved in various aspects of construction litigation for 35 years. He is best known as the lead defense counsel in the Watermill Flying Point Trust v. Arracheand Oak Park Calabasas HOA v. ECC Construction cases. Both cases resulted in a complete defense verdict and an award of both general and punitive damages to Mr. Booth's clients. During his career, Mr. Booth has represented a wide cross-section of clients ranging from national lifestyle shopping center developers and residential tract home developers to numerous general contractors, subcontractors and high end single family home plaintiffs. Mr. Booth has also represented a number of prominent professional athletes over the course of his career. He is a graduate of UCLA and UCSF College of the Law (formerly Hastings College of the Law) and has served as both a private mediator and as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.



**Mark A. Boyle, Esq., Managing Shareholder  
Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, P.A., Fort Myers, Tampa, FL, and Charleston SC**

Mark A. Boyle is the managing shareholder of Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, P.A., with offices in Fort Myers, FL, Tampa, FL, and Charleston SC. He began his legal career working as an Assistant County Attorney for Pasco County in New Port Richey, Florida. Mr. Boyle began his foray into the world of insurance when he became associate general counsel for Armor Insurance Company in Tampa, Florida. In 1996, he entered into private practice with Fink & Lane, P.A., which is now known as Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, P.A. Mr. Boyle's current areas of practice include civil litigation, with a concentration in first and third party insurance disputes, including extra-contractual and bad faith matters. Mr. Boyle represents corporate and individual policyholders in insurance and risk management counseling, claims presentation, and litigation. Mr. Boyle was the principal attorney in *U.S. Fire Ins. Co. v. J.S.U.B., Inc.*, 979 So. 2d 871 (Fla.2007), at trial and through all phases of appeal. *J.S.U.B.* is the seminal decision in Florida as to what constitutes a covered "occurrence" and "property damage" under commercial general liability policies in a construction defect setting. Recently, with the assistance of co-counsel, the firm prevailed in the matter of *Sebo v. American Home Assurance Co.*, 208 So. 3d 694 (Fla. 2016). The *Sebo* decision reaffirmed Florida's fealty to the Concurrent Cause Doctrine in first party insurance disputes and disallowed the insurers attempt to apply the highly restrictive Efficient Proximate Cause Doctrine. Mr. Boyle is a 1993 graduate from Stetson College of Law, located in St. Petersburg, Florida. In 1990, Mr. Boyle received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences from the University of South Florida.



**Athena Bozek, Vice President and Director of Property & Casualty Claims  
The RiverStone Group LLC, Manchester, NH**

Athena Bozek is the Vice President and Director of Property & Casualty Claims at The RiverStone Group LLC, a provider of run-off claims management services for Fairfax Financial LLC. Based in Manchester, NH, Ms. Bozek leads a team adjusting complex Construction Defect, New York Labor Law and General Liability claims with nationwide exposure. During her 24 years with RiverStone, Ms. Bozek has led due diligences and various mentoring and training initiatives within the company and oversees the most volatile construction defect claims within the organization. A 2000 graduate of Rivier University in Nashua, NH, Ms. Bozek earned a B.S. in Paralegal Studies. She also earned a Masters of Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix in 2006.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Carla Braunstein, Esq. Partner**  
**Wood Smith Henning Berman, Concord, CA**

Carla Braunstein, is a seasoned litigator with a passion for fighting for her clients. With a focus on construction defects, catastrophic injuries, professional liability, and employment practices, Carla has represented major California developers and general contractors in complex and large-scale construction projects, as well as residential developments. She's also a skilled defender of individuals, professionals, businesses, and public entities against allegations of negligence, premises liability, products liability, misrepresentation, breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duty. And when it comes to transactional matters, Carla is well-versed in general business, real estate, and intellectual property matters. One of Carla's standout strengths is her vast experience in litigating cases involving motor vehicle accidents. She's intimately familiar with the complexities and nuances affecting ride-share technology companies in California, including worker classification and driver regulations. And when it comes to cases involving allegations of sexual assault, harassment, and related claims, Carla is a fierce advocate for her clients. In addition, Carla frequently represents insurance brokers and their carriers in negligence, bad faith cases, and other disputes with policyholders. She's also a trusted advisor to clients and insurance companies on insurance coverage-related issues.



**Richard E. Buck, Esq. Mediator, Arbitrator**  
**JAMS, Irvine, CA**

Mr. Buck serves as a Mediator, Arbitrator, Special Master and Judicial and Discovery Referee at JAMS (Irvine). He also serves as a Settlement Conference Judge and Mediator with the Orange County Superior Court and Mediator with the Riverside County Superior Court. Prior to becoming a full-time Mediator/Arbitrator, Mr. Buck commenced his legal career litigating personal injury matters including medical malpractice, general tort/negligence, automobile liability, premises liability, wrongful death/catastrophic injury, commercial trucking, habitability, landlord/tenant and product defect cases. As a partner with the Cooksey Toolen Gage Duffy & Woog firm for over 27 years, Mr. Buck specialized in construction cases involving complex commercial and residential projects (including luxury homes and tract housing), real estate disclosure/misrepresentation/flipper cases, insurance coverage, class actions, homeowner associations, major land subsidence/geotechnical defects and construction claim disputes concerning delay damages, liquidated damages, mechanic's liens, bond claims and stop notices. Mr. Buck has the distinction of achieving the highest rating of "AV" by the national lawyer rating organization Martindale-Hubbell.



**Lisa Cappelluti, Esq., Partner**  
**Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, San Francisco, CA**

Lisa M. Cappelluti is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gordon & Rees and is a member of the Construction practice group. Her practice emphasizes the representation of developers and general contractors in construction disputes and contract consultations. She has represented clients in a wide variety of cases, for both residential and commercial construction projects including defense of habitability claims. Ms. Cappelluti also represents commercial and industrial clients in injury and premises liability matters throughout California. Ms. Cappelluti has substantial experience assisting developer and general contractor clients in construction litigation and contract matters. She represents clients throughout the state in pre-litigation disputes and construction litigation involving defect issues, construction site injuries, environmental issues, mold claims, contract and delay claims impacting both residential and commercial construction projects. In addition, Ms. Cappelluti has been instrumental in assisting clients in forming corporations, preparing residential development documents for associated real estate transactions, and preparing contracts for developer and construction clients. She also has advised her clients on the procurement and administration of WRAP/OCIP insurance policies. She frequently lectures to members of different contractor groups on construction issues, contract disputes and risk allocation issues facing the construction industry. She has published several articles for the construction industry. Ms. Cappelluti is admitted to practice in California. She earned her law degree from the University of San Francisco and her bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University. She served as the Chair of the State Bar of California Litigation Section and is a member of the Association of General Contractors, Association of Defense Counsel and Claims Resource Management where she regularly serves on panels.

## Seminar Speakers



**Alex M. Chazen, Partner,  
Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, Poway, CA**

Mr. Chazen is a partner with Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, licensed in California and Texas. Mr. Chazen primarily handles construction and real estate law and has represented all sides of these types of cases, including developers, general contractors, trade contractors, owners, and buyers. Mr. Chazen works with his clients at all stages of a project, from site planning and the drafting of contract and project documents through actual construction, the sales process, and litigation that often arises during and after the construction phase. He also works with his clients to develop risk management strategy, business and project planning, and dispute resolution prior to the initiation of litigation. Mr. Chazen is a past-chair of the Orange County Bar Association Construction Section, was the winner of the 2020 CLM Professional of the Year – Young Outside Counsel, and has been published in several industry magazines, including the ABA Construction Section's Under Construction and CLM Construction Claims magazines, and is a monthly columnist in the Bay Window Magazine.



**Hon. Michael A. Cherry, Chief Justice (ret)  
Nevada Supreme Court, Las Vegas, NV**

Justice Michael Cherry received his under-graduate degree from the University of Missouri and his law degree from Washington University Law School in St. Louis, MO. His legal career spans over 50 years...first as a Deputy Public Defender, then 28 years in private practice. It was during this time he was appointed Special Master to oversee the MGM & Hilton Hotels Fire Litigation and was given the title "Master of Disaster" by his colleagues. He closed his practice in 1997 when asked to serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Public Defender overseeing death penalty and homicide cases only. In 1998 he was elected and served 8 years as a District Court Judge hearing civil and criminal cases and was one of the original 3 Judges who established "dirt court" better known as cases involving Construction Defect. In 2006 he was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court serving 12 years and 2 terms as Chief Justice before retiring in January of 2019. Justice Cherry is presently a Senior Judge in the Nevada Courts and also serves as a Private Mediator, Arbitrator, Special Master, and Private Judge. During his legal career he was an Instructor for the University of Phoenix, is an Adjunct Professor at Touro University, and has voluntarily served, and continues to serve, his community on a wide range of non-profit Boards. Justice Cherry was commissioned as an Air Force Officer upon his college graduation and entered the United States Air Force Retired Reserve as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.



**Daniel A. Crespo, Esq., Partner  
Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara, LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Daniel A. Crespo is a Partner with Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP in its Los Angeles office, directing his focus toward insurance defense litigation. Admitted to the California State Bar in 2004, Mr. Crespo is licensed to practice before all courts in the State of California. Mr. Crespo received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology, from the California State University at Northridge. He thereafter received his Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern University School of Law in 2004. During law school, Mr. Crespo served as Chairman of the Moot Court Board of Governors and was highly successful in nationwide appellate advocacy competitions as a member of the Moot Court Honors Program. Mr. Crespo concentrates his practice in all aspects of complex civil litigation, including construction defect and general liability defense matters.

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## ***Seminar Speakers***



**Holly Davies, Esq., General Counsel  
Campos EPC, LLC**

Holly Davies is General Counsel for Campos EPC, LLC, a national engineering, procurement, and construction firm with projects throughout the United States. As General Counsel, she handles legal issues ranging from contract reviews, negotiations, compliance, bond and lien claims, corporate structure, employment law, and litigation for the company. Before joining Campos EPC, Holly was a partner with Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, practicing in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado with a large portion of her practice focusing on construction related matters. Holly serves on the Board of Directors for Women in Construction, West Coast Conference and the Arizona State Bar, Advisory Committee for CD Specialization.



**Toby Donoway, Construction Defect and Litigation Specialist  
United Fire Group, Glassboro, NJ**

With 20 years in the insurance industry, Toby specializes in commercial liability claims involving injury, property damage, manages complex, litigated construction defect cases nationwide, expert in contractual and coverage analysis. Toby showcases a deep understanding and expertise in complex legal and insurance scenarios.



**Benjamin W. Dowers, Esq. Partner  
Gunther Legal, PLLC**

Mr. Dowers is Board Certified in Construction Law by the Florida Bar and has been practicing for 13 years throughout Florida, and Ben is also barred and practices in Texas. Ben serves a counsel for general contractor and subcontractors in complex construction defect matters from the Fla. Stat. 558 Notice of Claim stage through trial and final hearing. Further, Ben has represented and defended contractors in lien and performance/payment bond disputes. In addition to construction litigation, Ben practices admiralty and maritime law, subrogation, and commercial litigation. Ben graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 2006 and from the University of Florida Law School in 2011.



**Colleen B. Dougherty, Esq., Staff Counsel  
Law Offices of Karen M. Johnson, Irvine, CA**

Ms. Dougherty is staff counsel for AmTrust North America representing subcontractor-insureds in construction defect and property damage subrogation matters through all phases of litigation. In her career she has also represented major hospital and health care entities in employment and wrongful termination matters through all phases of litigation and trial as well as represented private high-end business clients for breach of contract claims, negotiation of termination of contracts, and review of partnership and non-disclosure agreements. She has tried and defended Travelers equitable subrogation against subcontractors. She was part of the trial team representing owner/general contractor that defended construction defect/real estate matter in the famed case of Fred Adelman v. Arrache. She co-mediated construction defect matters with Ross Feinberg, Esq. Ms. Dougherty is a graduate of Willamette University College of Law: Juris Doctorate and Santa Clara University: Bachelor of Science in Political Science with emphasis in Public Administration and minor in Economics. She holds a ABA Certificate in ADR and is licensed in California and Texas.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



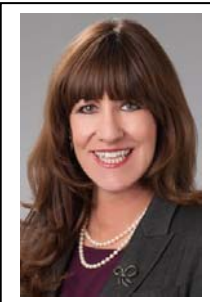
**Jason Daniel Feld, Esq. Founding Partner  
Kahana Feld, Irvine, CA**

Jason Daniel Feld, Esq. is a Founding Partner of Kahana Feld where he chairs the insurance defense and real estate/construction litigation practice group. Mr. Feld focuses in the defense of homebuilders, contractors, developers, and real estate professionals primarily in construction defect, general liability, insurance defense, construction accident and real estate matters. Mr. Feld also represents government entities handling construction, eminent domain, general liability and environmental claims. Mr. Feld is a nationwide leader in construction claims and active industry speaker serving as panel counsel for many prominent insurance carriers, as well as personal counsel to several national and regional homebuilders, developers and general contractors. Mr. Feld is licensed to practice law in the States of California, Arizona, New York and Texas.



**Ian R. Feldman, Esq., Shareholder  
Clausen Miller PC, Mission Viejo, CA**

Ian is a shareholder and the managing partner of the firm's California office. He has extensive litigation and trial experience defending contractors, design professionals, property managers, retail businesses, manufacturers, landowners, lawyers, accountants, veterinarians, brokers and healthcare professionals in all areas of professional, products, premises and construction liability matters. Ian graduated from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1993 cum laude and Hofstra University School of Law in 1996 where he was a member of the Law Review. During law school, he was also a member of the Hofstra Housing Rights Clinic where he successfully defended a client at trial. After graduating law school, Ian worked for a major domestic insurance carrier handling the defense of personal injury matters throughout New York City. Ian is admitted to practice in California, New York and North Carolina. He is also a member of the Orange County Bar Association, the Southern California Defense Counsel Association and the Los Angeles County Bar Association.



**Elaine Fresch, Esq., Senior Partner  
Hawkins Parnell, Los Angeles, CA**

Elaine Fresch is a senior partner in the Los Angeles office of the national litigation defense firm Hawkins Parnell. She specializes in construction defect litigation, representing developers, general contractors, subcontractors, and product manufacturers. She develops aggressive strategies to defend her clients cost-effectively, including formatting and operating successful joint defense agreements. Elaine has tried complex construction defect cases and handled various complex commercial/real estate litigation matters in federal and state courts. She has also arbitrated construction cases successfully over the years. She is aggressive in her pursuit of settlement on cost-effective and strategically sound terms for her clients. Elaine also represents product manufacturers in complex subrogation claims and defends various clients in general liability and construction accident lawsuits. Elaine is a member of CLM's Construction Advisory Board and is a Co-Chair of CLM's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is also a Charter Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and a Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. Elaine has been honored with the Larry Sylhre Commitment to Service Award for her contributions to the construction industry.



**Robert L. Friedenberg, Esq., Mediator, Arbitrator, Discovery Referee  
ADR Services, San Diego, CA**

Bob Friedenberg has over 40 years of legal experience and 35 years of mediation and arbitration experience, the last 21 of which have been exclusively as a Mediator, Arbitrator, Discovery Referee and Special Master. Bob has handled over 2,500 cases through his years of experience, covering a wide range of subject matter, but with an emphasis on construction, real estate, E&O and insurance. He has worked through ADR Services, Inc. for the last five years, handling cases all over California at all of its offices. Prior to becoming a full-time mediator and arbitrator, Bob began his legal career in 1983 after graduating UCLA School of Law, practicing all types of civil litigation in state and federal courts. He worked in private law firms in the Bay Area and San Diego until 2000, acquiring significant experience handling numerous bench and jury trials in general civil and business litigation. Bob has presented at many conferences and seminars over the years, including West Coast Casualty, CLM (Construction and National), Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), Orange and San Diego County Bar Association panels, and for Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. In his past life Bob was a secondary school teacher and track coach.

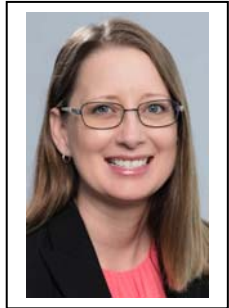


## *Seminar Speakers*



**J. Bennett Friedman, Esq. Shareholder  
Friedman Law Group, P.C., Los Angeles, CA**

J. BENNETT FRIEDMAN, shareholder of Friedman Law Group, P.C., received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana in 1984 and his Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University Los Angeles in 1987. Mr. Friedman is admitted to practice in both California and Illinois. He is a member of the Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Illinois Bar Associations, and was chair of the Executive Committee for the Beverly Hills Bankruptcy Section in 2008. Mr. Friedman is also admitted in the Central, Northern, Southern and Eastern Districts of the United States District Court in the State of California, and routinely practices in the Southern District of New York and Delaware Bankruptcy Courts. Mr. Friedman is a real estate and bankruptcy attorney representing real estate and business owners in complex acquisitions, commercial, transactional and reorganization matters. Mr. Friedman also handles general corporate and business matters. Education Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University, J.D., 1987; University of Illinois, B.A. in Speech Communications and Music, 1984.



**Donna Friis, P.E. Practice Leader of the Construction Group  
Envista Forensics, Orlando, FL**

Ms. Friis serves as the Practice Leader of the Construction Group at Envista Forensics. She has over 27 years of structural engineering design, design-build, project management, construction, and forensic engineering experience. Holding professional engineering licenses in 10 states, having contributed to the ASCE 7 Standards, and having earned Fellow Status with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineering Institute, Ms. Friis is recognized for her achievements. Her extensive analysis, design, and construction experience, coupled with a strong educational background, uniquely equip her to opine upon construction defect cases.



**Adam W. Gabler CCIP, CRIS, MLIS, Principal & Senior Vice President  
Southwest Construction Leader, Newfront, Los Angeles, CA**

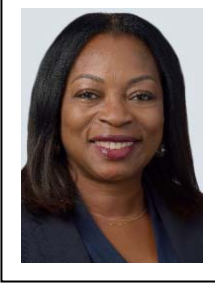
Adam W. Gabler is a seasoned construction risk management professional with a distinguished 16-year career in the insurance industry. Adam leads the Southwest Construction Practice for a tech enabled global brokerage called Newfront. Adam has garnered a reputation for his exceptional expertise and commitment to delivering unparalleled product knowledge and service. Adam holds several professional designations that showcase his dedication to continuous learning and mastery in the field. His professional designations include CCIP, MLIS, and CRIS. Adam has been recognized for his exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and ability to navigate complex challenges for clients. Most recently, Adam was named 2023 Top Retailer as well as Power Broker in 2023 (Construction) by prominent risk management publications. Adam consistently applies his technical knowledge in the complex casualty space to find the smallest of details that have the ability to derail projects or create financial risk for clients. He goes above and beyond with his analysis and program structures and thrives on those projects that are the most difficult to place. His primary goal is protecting project profitability from inception through the statute of repose across geography and asset classes. Adam's commitment to community engagement is noteworthy, as he actively participates in industry associations and philanthropic initiatives. His passion for making a positive impact extends beyond the boardroom, reflecting his dedication to fostering positive change both within and outside the insurance industry. Notable associations are HomeAid, BIA, and HCC. Adam is the proud father of 4 boys and spends time in both California and Wyoming with his boys, wife Erin and 100 lb husky-wolf mix. He enjoys all things outdoors including mountain biking, golf and fishing.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Juanita Gadsen, Claim Advocacy and Consulting, Claim Consultant  
Conner Strong & Buckelew, New York, NY**

Juanita Gadsden provides claims support in a wide range of industries, including construction and real estate. In her role, she assists with all aspects of the claims process, including receiving, analyzing, and submitting claims to insurance carriers on behalf of our valued clients. Additionally, her duties include consulting with clients on coverage analysis, providing guidance and direction on claims-related matters, assisting in negotiations with insurers, monitoring open claims and assisting clients with their internal claims management programs. Juanita advocates on behalf of each client to foster collaboration and maximize available resources, while ensuring that insurance carriers deliver prompt, fair claim handling practices and all claim resolutions are in her clients' best interest. Prior to joining Conner Strong & Buckelew, Juanita was a Claim Director at Chubb Insurance Company, one of the world's largest multi-line property and casualty insurance companies. Juanita was the point person on several specialized, high-profile accounts where she handled complex property and casualty claims, with a specialty in coverage analysis, general liability, commercial auto, product liability, product recall and excess liability claims. Before Chubb, her extensive insurance career also included working in the excess casualty groups at AIG and XL Catlin Insurance Company. Her industry peers and business partners highly respect Juanita's knowledge and collaborative approach in attaining optimal results.



**Cynthia Garcia, Chief Risk Officer  
Bernards, San Fernando, CA**

With over 25 years of experience in construction risk management and business, Cynthia provides thoughtful leadership and oversight for the comprehensive enterprise risk management for Bernards. An accomplished industry thought leader, Cynthia serves as an advisory board member for the School of Risk Management at CSU Fullerton, on the board of directors for the Orange County Chapter of Risk and Insurance Managers Society (RIMS) and serves on the board of directors for Women in Construction. She's been awarded Safety Professional of the Year by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and has earned several other industry recognitions. Her collaborative approach to strategic partnerships has been instrumental in cultivating trusted relationships within the construction industry risk management community. She focuses on creating and fostering a safe space for open communication where teams work together to develop innovative solutions to complex challenges throughout our business and industry.



**Tom Gesner, Technical Claims Director, Construction Defect Group  
AmTrust, Boston MA**

Tom Gesner is a Technical Claims Director in the Construction Defect Group at AmTrust and was formerly a Complex Claims Unit Manager in the CD Group with Liberty Mutual. Following his graduation from high school, Tom served on Active Duty with the U.S. Marine Corps and after serving our country, attended the University of Maine obtaining his A.A. in Criminal Justice and B.S. in Social Sciences. Tom began his insurance career in San Diego and has over 30 years of experience in the insurance industry with extensive experience in construction defect where he was part of the original construction defect team at Golden Eagle. He also has over 10 years as a Quality Assurance Claims Auditor responsible for project management, development of best practices and claims auditing. Growing up he spent many years working for his father (a General Contractor) developing construction skills that would later prove valuable while handling CD claims at several different levels.



**Victoria N. Godwin-Reese, Esq. Partner  
Chartwell Law, Deerfield Beach, FL**

Victoria N. Godwin-Reese is a partner in Chartwell Law's Deerfield Beach office, where she focuses her civil litigation practice on construction law. She defends insurance carriers as well as local and national businesses in matters ranging from construction defect to product and premises liability and professional negligence. Victoria is committed to obtaining the best possible results for her clients, whether that means settling a claim early in litigation to save the time and expense or defending a claim through the appellate process. Over the years, Victoria has saved her clients millions with creative and effective litigation practices.



## *Seminar Speakers*



**Kelley Gorman, Claims Director**  
**Chubb, Chatsworth, CA**

Kelley Gorman has thirty years of experience in construction defect matters with expertise in coverage and litigation. She is currently with Chubb as a Claims Director handling a variety of claims including subcontractor, general contractor, wrap-up, excess and TPA oversight involving commercial projects. She handles claims throughout the United States. Ms. Gorman was previously with Gallagher Bassett where she handled construction defect, bodily injury, and errors & omissions claims for a large Southern California residential general contractor, followed by multiple years of supervising claims adjusters. Ms. Gorman's prior work history includes supervising adjusters and handling claims for Travelers, Reliance and Aetna. Her experience also includes handling workers compensation and bodily injury claims. Kelley earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Marketing from California State University, Northridge.



**John Gregory, Esq., Partner**  
**Jones, Skelton & Hochuli, P.L.C., Phoenix AZ**

John Gregory is a partner at Jones, Skelton & Hochuli in Phoenix, AZ, where he leads the firm's General Liability and Construction Defect trial group. While focussing primarily on construction and construction defect claims, he represents clients in a variety of industries, including construction, hospitality and child care, handling all manner of disputes. He focuses his defense practice on providing favorable results in the areas of construction defect, dram shop liability and general civil defense litigation. John was named a Southwest Super Lawyers Rising Star in the area of construction litigation for 2020-2023, as well as being recognized in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Construction Law for 2022 - 2024. He has written and presented extensively on construction law topics. John currently serves as Secretary of the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel Board of Directors.



**Dylan D. Grimes, Managing Partner**  
**Grime Law, Santa Monica CA**

Dylan D. Grimes is the founder and managing partner of Grime Law. Regarded as a leader, Mr. Grimes has more than 15 years of total legal experience, and has been named a Super Lawyer in his Practice for the last five years. The Super Lawyer distinction is limited to less than 5% of all lawyers nationwide. Over the course of his practice, he has achieved significant success assisting his clients with matters in contract negotiation, drafting and enforcement, litigation, in both intellectual and real property disputes and other legal matters. Along with being a highly effective trial attorney, Mr. Grimes has extensive experience handling mediations and negotiations to help his clients resolve their issues and find favorable agreements, in a manner that is far more economical and less time consuming than traditional litigation. Whether inside or outside the courtroom, he maintains an unwavering focus on protecting his clients' right and interests, and has earned consistent top rankings and endorsements from his peers for his outstanding professionalism and service. After graduating from the University of Vermont in 1999, Mr. Grimes attended Vermont Law School and obtained his Juris Doctor in 2004. He holds a license to practice law in California and Hawaii, and is an active member of several local, state, and national legal organizations, including The State Bar of California and The Hawaii State Bar Association.



**Jason K. Gunther, Esq., Owner and Principal Partner**  
**Gunther Legal, PLLC, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

Jason K. Gunther is the owner and principal of Gunther Legal, PLLC law firm and has been an attorney for over 25 years. He is an AV rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Gunther handles cases and claims dealing with automobile and trucking liability defense, business and commercial litigation, and construction law throughout the state of Florida. Mr. Gunther has tried numerous cases and handled many complex trucking liability matters, as well as multi-party construction cases and mediations. He has represented United Parcel Service, Inc. in trucking, automobile and premises liability matters since 2006, and has handled hundreds of claims and cases for them. Through his years of practice, Mr. Gunther has acquired significant litigation and trial experience in automobile liability, general liability, premises liability, construction, and wrongful death disputes. Mr. Gunther is often involved in representing clients in pre-suit matters and claims to develop an early analysis of the issues and disputes, and to develop and implement early resolution strategies and settlement agreements. Prior to forming Gunther Legal, PLLC, Mr. Gunther was a partner with Gunther McIntosh, PLLC (f/k/a McIntosh Schwartz, PL.) and was a partner at Yoss, LLP (f/k/a Adorno & Yoss, LLP) for seven years. Mr. Gunther began his career as an Assistant Public Defender for the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County, Florida, where he tried numerous cases and held supervisory positions in felony divisions.

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Sharon A. Huerta, Esq. Shareholder  
Fennemore, San Diego, CA**

Sharon A. Huerta, a member of the Construction and Insurance practice group, excels in comprehensive insurance law and effective dispute resolution. Her practice encompasses all aspects of litigation, with a focus on insurance coverage litigation and evaluation, bad faith, and developer representation. Sharon's proficiency extends to appellate writing, where she has been instrumental in drafting briefs for several successful published and unpublished opinions, showcasing her in-depth legal knowledge and skilled argument. Notable cases include *Pardee Construction Co. v. Ins. Co. of the West* (2000), *Emerald Bay Community Assn. v. Golden Eagle Ins. Corp.* (2005), and *Pulte Home Corp. v. American Safety Indem. Co.* (2017). Her skillset in insurance law, coupled with her knowledge in navigating complex legal disputes, makes her a valuable asset to clients across a broad variety of business and personal sectors. Her role in shaping influential legal decisions further underscores her capabilities as a leading attorney in insurance and construction litigation.



**Brian Kahn, Esq., Partner  
Chapman, Glucksman, APC, Los Angeles, CA**

Brian Kahn is a Partner with Chapman Glucksman, APC. His law practice focuses on complex civil litigation, large casualty losses, business and the representation of general contractors, developers, construction managers and design professionals throughout the state of California. He has trial, arbitration and mediation experience. Mr. Kahn earned his B.A. degree from the University of Southern California and his J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law. While in school he became active in politics, working in various capacities for the U.S. Senate, Governor's office and the White House. Prior to joining Chapman Glucksman, APC, Mr. Kahn practiced with various law firms, where his practice included complex litigation, construction litigation, insurance bad faith, toxic tort, business litigation and provided general business advice. Mr. Kahn is a returning speaker at West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar and is the recipient of the Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence for 2023. In addition to participating in the construction defect community, he continues to co-author Thomson Reuters' Torts (California Civil Practice Series) and received his Certified Litigation Management Professional (CLMP) certificate from the Litigation Management Institute. He has also been a regularly contributing staff writer for multiple audio / video and home theater magazines. When not practicing law or writing, Mr. Kahn enjoys spending time with his family and does community work through Kiwanis International; Co-Chairs the Construction Law Committee of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel; sits as a Judge Pro-Tem in Ventura County; and serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Leonis Adobe Museum, a non-profit educational group.



**Robin Kahn –Vice President  
Chubb, Chatsworth, CA**

Robin Kahn is the Vice President of Construction Claims with Chubb. Robin started her career with Kemper Insurance in 1996 as a claim trainee handling national accounts auto, slip and fall and a variety of bodily injury claims. During her time with Kemper, she moved on to complex matters such as Construction Defect, Personal Injury and Advertising Injury claims. In 2002, she moved to St. Paul Insurance to focus on CD claims. St. Paul merged with Travelers Insurance in 2004 and she was promoted to a Major Case Specialist position, handling a variety of complex claims and providing oversight to other claim professionals. In 2012, she joined ACE/Chubb as a supervisor, leading the Chatsworth CD team. She continued expand her role to lead the entire CD department, which specializes in property damage matters involving construction, as well as construction products liability claims. She now leads the Construction Claims department, which includes the CD and construction injury departments. She was the recipient of West Coast Casualty's 2017 "Legends of an Era" honor, awarded for her lifetime contribution to the CD community. She has a BA from the University of California at Santa Barbara and an AIC designation from The Institutes.

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# *Details on Pages 49 to 51*

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Cameron Kalunian, Esq. Partner**  
**Lewis Brisbois, LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Cameron Kalunian is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Lewis Brisbois, a vice-chair of the nationwide Construction Practice, and a member of the Complex Litigation Practice. Mr. Kalunian's practice is focused on multi-party litigation in a wide variety of cases involving claims related to breach of contract, fraud, unfair business practices, real estate, construction defect disputes, and various tort claims. Additionally, Mr. Kalunian has served as litigation counsel for both Fortune 500 companies and small businesses in matters involving intellectual property, employment, real estate, financial institutions, and environmental claims. Mr. Kalunian is an experienced trial lawyer who has garnered many favorable verdicts. His reputation as an aggressive and effective trial lawyer has also resulted in lucrative settlements for his clients.



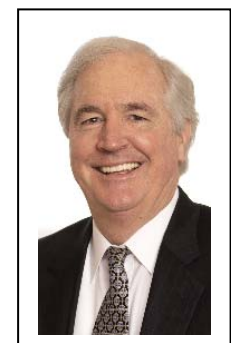
**Jennifer C. Kalvestran, Esq., Partner**  
**Anderson, McPharlin & Conners, LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Jennifer Kalvestran is a partner at Anderson, McPharlin & Conners, LLP's Los Angeles office. Her practice is focused on insurance coverage analysis, bad faith, and litigation. She counsels insurers on a broad range of coverage issues falling under primary and excess policies, with a focus on long-tail liabilities and other general liability, pollution liability, and professional liability coverage matters. She also counsels and otherwise represents insurers as to the "bad faith" issues arising from these coverage disputes. With over 20 years of experience, Jennifer is involved in all aspects of litigation, including trial practice, mediations, and depositions, and she brings a practical perspective to planning and executing these dispute resolution and litigation strategies. She has successfully represented clients in numerous matters on appeal before the California Appellate Court and Ninth Circuit. Jennifer also counsels insurers and assists in drafting policy language, ensuring that the language is reasonable and legally enforceable. Jennifer is a member of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice section. She is also a member of CLM, and as past President its Los Angeles chapter, she now serves as a Regional Chair. Jennifer is admitted to practice in California, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona and Minnesota.



**Vicky Karpinski, Claims Specialist**  
**Next Insurance, Phoenix, AZ**

Vicky Karpinski is currently with Next Insurance US Company. Next Insurance is an online insurance provider for small businesses based in Palo Alto, California. The company offers policies to a range of small businesses. Vicky works in Phoenix, AZ, as a claims specialist. At Next Insurance, Vicky handles a variety of claims, involving construction defect claims and coverage actions of all types, exposures, and jurisdictions across the United States. In addition to the construction field, her experience includes general liability, professional liability, employer liability, and cargo claims.



**Keith D. Koeller, Esq., Mediator, Arbitrator, Referee and Special Master**  
**JAMS, Irvine, CA**

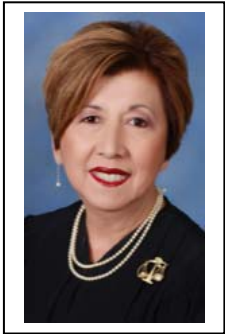
Keith D. Koeller, Esq., has joined JAMS as a full-time mediator, arbitrator, referee and special master. As a founding partner of Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck, LLP, he has litigated, tried, arbitrated and mediated a multitude of complex commercial and residential construction defect, construction claims, government liability, insurance coverage, catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death cases. In 2009, Mr. Koeller was the recipient of the prestigious Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence, for his outstanding contribution to the construction community, presented at the West Coast Casualty Conference. Additionally, he was recognized with the Larry Syhre Commitment to Service Award in 2003. Mr. Koeller is AV Preeminent rated, a Southern California Super Lawyer, 2009 – 2021 and has been a featured speaker at numerous seminars on various construction topics.

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Cheryl L. Kozdrey, Esq. Partner**  
**Saxe Doernberger & Vita, P.C., Temecula, CA**

Cheryl L. Kozdrey, Esq. is a Partner at Saxe Doernberger & Vita, P.C., where her practice is dedicated exclusively to policyholder representation throughout the insurance claims process and in coverage dispute litigation against insurance carriers. Cheryl advises insurance brokers, risk managers, and construction industry professionals regarding optimal risk transfer strategies and insurance solutions, including key considerations for Builder's Risk, Commercial General Liability, D&O, and Commercial Property policies. She assists clients with initial policy reviews, as well as renewals and modification(s) of existing policies to ensure coverage needs are satisfied. Cheryl also represents policyholders throughout the claims process, and in coverage dispute litigation against insurance carriers. She is currently working on some of the largest construction defect cases in the country. Cheryl is a published author and is admitted to practice in the State of California and all federal district courts within the State.



**Hon. Sue Kurita, Judge**  
**County Court at Law #6, El Paso, TX**

Judge M. Sue Kurita is the presiding judge of El Paso County Court at Law Number Six since its creation in 1998. Judge Kurita has served on the boards of Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, and on the National Association of Women Judges. She was elected Vice-President of the National Association for Women Judges and also served as the Chair for the New Judges Program for NAWJ. In 2010, the Texas Supreme Court appointed Judge Kurita to the State Commission for Judicial Conduct, where served as Vice-Chair from 2013-2015. In 2014, the Texas Supreme Court appointed Judge Kurita to the 9 member Grievance Oversight Committee and is presently the Vice-Chair. She serves on the State Bar of Texas standing committee on Administration of Rules of Evidence. Judge Kurita was named the 2018 Outstanding Jurist by the El Paso Bar Association. Judge Kurita was named the 2015 Outstanding Jurist by the American Board of Trial Advocates. Judge Kurita is a Clinical Professor of Business Law at the University of Texas-El Paso; Adjunct Professor at Park University and Excelsior College. She was named 2015 outstanding faculty member by Excelsior College. Judge Kurita received the 2013 Daniel H. Benson Public Service Award from The Texas Tech University School of Law Alumni Association. Judge Kurita is committed to furthering legal and judicial education. She is serving on the Texas Center for the Judiciary Curriculum Committee and is a frequent speaker at seminars including the National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics. Judge Kurita is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso (BA); Webster University; and Texas Tech University School of Law. Additionally, Judge Kurita is also a graduate of the Defense Language Institute completing the Modern Greek Language Course. Judge Kurita has received certification in Criminal Law and Civil Law from the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Judicial College. Judge Kurita is certified by Mediators Without Borders, as a mediator and arbitrator. Judge Kurita is one of the 100 women featured in JoAnne Gordon's recently published book "100 Happy Women at Work". Judge Kurita has received the City of El Paso Conquistador Award; and was named a Woman Trailblazer by the El Paso Bar Association.

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## ***Seminar Speakers***



### **Stacy La Scala, Esq. Mediator, Arbitrator and Owner JAMS, Orange, CA**

Stacy La Scala is a full time mediator, arbitrator and Owner with JAMS, specializing in the resolution of construction, insurance and contractual disputes. Over the last 34 years, Mr. La Scala has accumulated extensive experience in insurance, construction, contracts, mediation and arbitration. He commenced his legal career with the representation of developers, architects, engineers and subcontractors in complex multi-party construction proceedings. Stacy then joined a national property casualty carrier as a Regional Director where he was responsible for construction claim operations in the Southwestern United States, including Nevada and Arizona. Stacy's role was then expanded to National Litigation Director, where he oversaw insurance litigation, including extra contractual, subrogation, contribution and declaratory relief actions arising from construction disputes throughout the United States. With a comprehensive background in construction litigation, claims handling and

coverage issues, Stacy moved into private practice and eventually a full time mediation and arbitration practice. In addition to mediating full time, Stacy is also the co-author of Thomson Reuters' California Civil Practice: Torts (2013-2024).



### **Wendy M. Lau, Esq. Vice President, Risk Management Director/Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion - AECOM's West Region, Los Angeles, CA**

Wendy Lau is the Risk Management Director/Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (ED&I) Lead/Vice President for AECOM's West Region. Wendy is engaged in the evaluation and mitigation of risk for potential pursuits and actively assists business lines and teams with the management of risks throughout the lifetime of a project. Wendy also serves on both AECOM's Global and Americas ED&I Steering Committees, as a Global Well-Being Strategic Partner, a Global Mental Health Ally, and as the President of the Women's Leadership Alliance, the women's employee resource group. Prior to AECOM, Wendy was a partner at Wood Smith Henning & Berman, LLP and practiced construction defect and employment law for over sixteen years. Wendy's other current responsibilities include serving as a

Trustee for the University of La Verne, a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI); a director on Phi Sigma Sigma's National Housing Corporation; and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of La Verne.



### **David F. McPherson, Esq., Senior Partner Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald L.L.P., IRVINE, CA**

David McPherson is the managing partner of the Firm's Irvine office. For over 26 years, David has focused his practice exclusively on complex construction disputes and litigation. He has a broad range of experience in representing clients on virtually every type of major construction project and provides legal representation to some of the world's largest contractors and engineering firms as well as prominent general contractors, developers owners, and subcontractors in the western United States. David has handled contract negotiations and disputes involving all types of public and private construction projects throughout the Western United States including, power plants, water treatment plants, wastewater

treatment plants, military base construction, libraries, highways, mass transit systems, high-rise apartments, parking structures, hospitals, high-rise buildings, commercial complexes, universities, five-star resorts, international resorts, and high-end luxury homes. In 2018, David served as lead counsel on two major public works trial efforts. The first trial was a case of first impression under Public Contract Code Section 5110. In that case a verdict was rendered awarding the client 100% of the claimed damages. In June 2018, a Los Angeles Federal Court Jury awarded David's client a \$45 million judgment (98% of the claim) against the City of Los Angeles and rejected all but 0.05% the City's \$163 million claim.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Hon. Layne Melzer, Supervising Judge, Civil Panel  
Orange County Superior Court, Santa Ana, CA**

Judge Melzer was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court bench in 2016 by Gov. Gerry Brown. He has been a member of the Civil Panel since 2018 and was selected as Supervising Judge for the Civil Panel in 2021. Judge Melzer currently supervises more than 30 civil judges, including the unlimited and complex civil panels. Prior to serving on the bench, he spent 30 years as a civil litigator and trial attorney at Rutan & Tucker LLP, a large regional, California-based law firm, where he specialized in complex business disputes, including class and mass actions. He served as managing partner and general counsel during his tenure with Rutan & Tucker. Judge Melzer attended law school at King Hall, University of California, at Davis graduating (Order of the Coif) in 1987.



**Joseph R. Miele, Jr. Esq., Partner  
Kaufman, Dolowich & Voluck, LLP, Ft Lauderdale, FL**

For over 30 years, Joseph R. Miele, Jr. has dedicated his practice to the representation of insurers in a variety of complex insurance coverage and claim handling disputes under a multitude of different insurance programs. He has particular expertise in Construction Defect, First Party (including severe weather events, Cyber-risk and infectious disease), Environmental Contamination and Toxic-Torts. Mr. Miele has handled hundreds of coverage and claim handling matters individually and as regional counsel in State and Federal Courts at the trial court level and on appeal. He has litigated or provided coverage evaluations in the majority of States throughout the Country. Mr. Miele frequently lectures and counsels insurers and third-party administrators on insurance coverage law and proper claim handling practices. Originally from New Jersey, Mr. Miele practiced in his home state and in New York for 10 years prior to admission to the Florida Bar in 2000. He began his career as a Home Office Supervisor with a division of AIG overseeing complex claims nationwide.



**Phyllis Modlin, Director and Senior Counsel - Specialty International Claims Team  
Markel, San Diego, CA**

Phyllis Modlin is a Director and Sr. Counsel with the Specialty International Claims – Casualty team of Markel. Ms. Modlin received her B.A. degree from University of California at Santa Barbara and her J.D. degree from University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. She handles complex excess construction claims in the United States. Ms. Modlin is responsible for all aspects of claims handling, including damages, liability, coverage, reserving, risk transfer, litigation management, expense control measures and claims resolution.



**Linda Pretzel, Executive Claims Analyst  
The Riverstone Group, Manchester, NH**

Linda Pretzel has over 39 years claims and risk management experience. In addition to her extensive involvement in Construction Defect litigation (emphasis on Wraps and Developers), Linda has expertise in handling E & O (legal, real-estate, accounting, and insurance agents), D & O, and Medical Malpractice claims. Linda's educational background includes a Juris Doctorate and a Masters in Finance. She is licensed in 20 states.



**Maria Quintero, Esq.,  
Partner of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP.**

**Maria Quintero** is a Partner of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. She handles complex insurance disputes involving a broad range of insurance coverage lines including property, cyber, environmental, employment, commercial general and professional liability. She devotes her practice to assisting clients with all facets of insurance law including negotiation, litigation, coverage opinions, policy drafting and extra-contractual disputes. Maria served as the Insurance Liaison as well as Diversity Committee Chair to the Association of Defense Counsel for Northern California and Nevada, and is a National Co-Chair for the Extra-Contractual Committee with the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance. She is also a contributing author to Insurance Agency Risk Management: E&O Exposures By Line of Business. Maria develops training on industry best practices and is experienced with both bench and jury trials and with appellate court proceedings.



## *Seminar Speakers*



**Brenda K. Radmacher, Esq., Partner**  
**Akerman LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

With nearly 30 years' experience, Brenda's practice emphasizes resolving complex construction disputes through negotiation, mediation, and when necessary, arbitration/ litigation, on projects in California, nationwide, and internationally. Brenda Radmacher is a Partner at Akerman LLP, where she is the leader of the firm's Construction Industry Group on the West Coast. Brenda handles all types of matters in the construction industry surrounding vertical construction as well as infrastructure projects across the western region, and around the world, providing pragmatic counsel on contracting strategies and drafting. Brenda is a prolific contributor to thought leadership, being a sought-after speaker and trainer and has provided hands-on workshop training on negotiation and contract risk management. Brenda has been consistently recognized by her peers within the industry for numerous accolades including being selected as a Fellow with the Construction Lawyers Society of America (CLSA), and has served in leadership roles in the industry including being the Co-Chair of the ABA Forum on Construction's Annual Meeting in April 2024, the Chair for the Associated General Contractors-California 2024; and a National Director for the Women Construction Owners & Executives.



**Trevor O. Resurreccion, Esq.**  
**Lynberg & Watkins, APC, Orange, CA**

Trevor Resurreccion is a Shareholder with the law firm Lynberg & Watkins, APC in Southern California, a firm which has been in existence for over 40 years. Trevor has been a member of the firm's Board of Directors for the past four years and was elected as the President of the firm in September 2022. Trevor is an experienced litigator representing owners, architects, engineers, general contractors, subcontractors, material manufacturers and other members of the design and construction industry. Trevor has handled a wide variety of construction related cases, including claims for design errors and omissions, delays, cost overruns, mechanic's liens, payment and performance bond claims, construction defects, as well as catastrophic personal injury and death claims. Since 2005, Trevor has litigated a wide variety of projects, including single-family and multi-family residences, commercial projects, hotels and casinos, sports stadiums, schools, government facilities, road construction, airports, and waste water treatment facilities. In 2001, Trevor received his undergraduate degree in Architecture with a concentration in Construction Management from The Catholic University of America. Trevor's background in the design and construction industry includes hands-on experience on construction projects, including construction administration for an international architecture firm on a high-profile project in Los Angeles and construction management for Georgetown University on a significant university project. Trevor is licensed to practice law in California and Nevada, and has also represented clients in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation in Foxwoods, Connecticut.



**Rick Righi, Esq., Founder**  
**Righi Fitch Law Group, Phoenix, AZ**

Rick Righi founded Righi Fitch Law Group 15 years ago to service the insurance and building industries. The firm has grown into the commercial space and acts as panel counsel for fortune 500 companies, insurance carriers, risk managers, builders, contractors, and licensed professionals. Rick spent the first four years of his career as a prosecutor and after 27 years of civil practice has tried over 70 cases to jury verdict in Courts throughout the states of Arizona and New Mexico. Rick is a member of the Board of Directors of the Phoenix Chapter of ABOTA; he is a Past-President of the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel (AADC); he is rated AV pre-eminent by Martindale Hubbell (since 2011); he is a ten-time Southwest Super Lawyer and is recognized as one of Arizona's Finest Lawyers. Rick was a Judge Pro Tempore of the Maricopa County Superior Court for over 15 years and currently sits as a construction panelist with the American Arbitration Association (AAA). Rick's practice extends from Arizona to New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Hawaii.

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*Details on Pages 49 to 51*

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Rosie Rodriguez - Jury Foreperson**  
**Watermill Flying Point Trust v. Ronald Arrache Construction Company**

Rosalinda (Rosie) Rodriguez was the jury foreperson in the case of Watermill Flying Point Trust v. Ronald Arrache Construction Company, et al. She has been married for 41 years and has three sons and three grandchildren. Educated at Rio Hondo College, Rosie spent many years as a dental assistant and as noon director at Bella Vista Elementary school in Monterey Park. She is a past PTA president who has proven adept at fundraising for her school and is active in local politics.



**James E. Rogers, Presiding Judge**  
**King County Superior Court, Seattle WA**

Judge James E. (Jim) Rogers serves on the King County Superior Court in Seattle, Washington, currently as the Presiding (head administrative) Judge. He has presided over many trials since taking the bench in 2005, including construction defect and insurance coverage cases. He has been Presiding Judge during the pandemic as King County Superior Court has gone “virtual” since July 2020, the court holding more than 625+ trials to date. He has presided over virtual civil jury trials, as has many of his colleagues. He was awarded Judge of the Year by the Seattle ABOTA chapter in 2019. Judge Rogers earned his degrees from the University of Washington and Georgetown Law, was a federal law clerk for District Court Judge

Robert J. Bryan, practiced law in Seattle at the Riddell Williams/Fox Rothschild firm, and was a county criminal prosecutor. He and his extended family cheer for the Huskies, the Seahawks, the Irish, and they are Eternal Blue Forever Green.



**Jannea Rogers, Esq. Partner**  
**Adams and Reese, Mobile, AL**

Jannea Rogers is a partner in Adams and Reese’s Mobile, Alabama office. She has engaged in civil litigation in Alabama, Florida and Georgia for over 25 years, handling all phases of representation of clients from initial investigation through trial and appeal. Her practice focuses on defense in the areas of product and premises liability; professional malpractice, including medical, architectural and engineering; D&O liability; and insurance coverage litigation. Jannea represents insurance agents, brokers and carriers in issuance of coverage opinions and pursuit of declaratory judgment, defense of bad faith failure to investigate or pay claims, and defense of accounting and legal malpractice claims and securities fraud matters. In her product liability practice, Jannea represents manufacturers and their insureds in product design and defect claims as well as warning, labeling and instruction claims, marketing representation, warranty and recall. Jannea also defends clients in claims of fraud, intentional interference with business relations, fair debt collection practices, contracts, and management and ownership disputes among shareholders/members. Jannea is admitted to practice in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. She received her Juris Doctorate from Cumberland School of Law in 1989, and a bachelor of science from Spring Hill College in 1985.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Karen Rice, Vice President - Head of Construction Claims, North America  
AXA XL, Los Angeles, CA**

Karen Rice is the Head of Construction Claims, North America, for AXA XL out of Los Angeles, CA. She supports several business units, including Construction, Excess Casualty, and Surplus Lines. Prior to joining XL in 2011 she was the National Construction Defect Claim Manager for OneBeacon Insurance (OBI), and the AVP of National Construction Defect claims and Western States ACE Risk Management claims with ACE USA. Ms. Rice has sat on the DRI Construction Law Steering Committee for the past several years, and is on the Construction Advisory Board for CLM. She is also on the advisory board for ALFA International Construction Committee and has been a frequent lecturer at various Construction and Insurance Law seminars throughout the country. She is also the past Chair of the West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Conference Speakers and Topics Committee. Ms. Rice earned her Bachelors degree from University of California at Santa Barbara and her Masters in Business Administration from the University of LaVerne.



**Erika Sandler, Esq. Partner  
Kennedy & Souza, APC, San Diego, CA**

Ms. Sandler received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Santa Clara University in 2000. She received her Juris Doctorate degree in 2005 from California Western School of Law. Prior to joining Kennedy & Souza in 2006, Ms. Sandler worked at a small boutique firm specializing in Family Law, personal injury and medical malpractice. Ms. Sandler is currently a Partner at Kennedy and Souza, APC where she has concentrated her area of practice in insurance defense for complex personal injury and construction defect matters. Through the years, Ms. Sandler has defended numerous matters ranging in various exposure values and damages being sought. Ms. Sandler is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and is licensed to practice before California State Court.



**Rick Seely, Esq., Partner  
Kahana Feld, San Diego, CA**

Rick Seely is a Partner in Kahana Feld's construction, general liability, and insurance defense practice groups. Mr. Seely has 27 years of experience representing clients mainly in business litigation, construction defect litigation, and general insurance defense matters. He has managed numerous matters from the initial case introduction through trial. Mr. Seely also regularly presents and moderates continuing education panels for organizations such as The CLM, West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar, and the OCBA. His topics range from the basics of subrogation claims; the analysis of indemnification clauses; construction litigation trends; and his favorite: civility among lawyers.



**Jay Sever, Esq., Partner  
Phelps Dunbar, New Orleans, LA**

Jay Sever is a partner in the Insurance and Reinsurance group of Phelps Dunbar. He is the Regional Practice Coordinator for the firm's insurance practice group and is also head of the insurance and reinsurance practice group in the New Orleans office. He serves as local, regional and national coverage counsel for both foreign and domestic insurance companies. He counsels clients, manages disputes and tries cases involving a wide variety of insurance coverage issues, including matters arising from bad faith, construction defects claims, third-party liability claims, first-party claims, professional liability claims, crane and rigging claims, racing and competitive sport claims, entertainment claims, transportation claims, environmental claims, general and toxic tort claims, advertising, copyright and trademark claims, media liability claims, multiple-year trigger and allocation issues, marine liability claims, Louisiana direct action claims and numerous others. In addition to handling cases in Louisiana and California courts in which he is admitted, Jay also has acted as lead counsel in cases pending in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington. Jay's practice, both litigation and counseling, involves attorneys from all of Phelps Dunbar's offices in the Gulf South and, where necessary, local counsel in states throughout the United States.

## ***Seminar Speakers***



**Melanie Smith, Esq., Partner**  
**Hawkins Parnell & Young, LLP, San Diego, CA**

Melanie Smith is a partner in the San Diego office of the national litigation defense firm Hawkins Parnell & Young, LLP. She specializes in construction defect litigation, representing developers, general contractors, subcontractors, and product manufacturers, with 20 years of experience handling complex construction defect matters. She also specializes in representing product manufacturers in subrogation claims and defends clients in general liability and catastrophic construction accident lawsuits. Ms. Smith's experience includes taking numerous matters to trial or arbitration, as well as broad experience at the appellate level. Ms. Smith has previously served on the Wake Forest University Alumni Council and currently serves as the San Diego Wake Forest Club president. She also serves on the Board of Directors

for Foster the Earth, a 501(c)(3) organization which provides educational outdoor experiences to vulnerable children and young adults that are in or aging out of the foster care system.



**Marcus Spiegelberg, President**  
**Douglas Orr Plumbing, Miami, FL**

Marcus Spiegelberg has over 25 years of construction experience and is currently serving as President of Douglas Orr Plumbing in Miami, Florida. Douglas Orr Plumbing is a well-established employee-owned union plumbing company that has led the expansion in the South Florida market for commercial, retail, hotel, and condominium high-rise construction since 1974. Mr. Spiegelberg holds a Certified Building Contractors license with the State of Florida and earned his MBA at FIU University where he currently serves as a member of the Construction Industry Advisory Board. His current role demands integrating leading edge construction technology and implementation for pre-con (BIM), QAQC and operational efficiencies.



**Emma Tortorici, Vice President, Claims, Construction Defect**  
**AmTrust Financial Services, Cleveland, OH**

Emma Tortorici is an insurance industry leader with experience in complex claims including construction defect, construction risk, environmental and auto claims. She has been working in the construction defect claim space for over 15 years and understands the coverage as well as organizational challenges presented by these exposures. Emma is currently working with AmTrust Financial Services as the Vice President of Construction Claims. Her prior work experience includes Chubb and AIG where she held several leadership positions. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University and bachelor's degree from George Mason University. Emma has spoken at several conferences on topics related to construction defect as well as overall good claim handling.



**Sheila Totorp, Esq., Complex Claims Technical Specialist**  
**Argo Group US, Irvine, CA**

Sheila Totorp is a Complex Claims Technical Specialist at Argo Group US. Sheila joined Argo after over 15 years as defense counsel for insurers, general contractors, subcontractors and construction professionals. She began her career as an insurance coverage and litigation attorney, where she worked as a partner at both small boutique and national law firms. Just prior to joining Argo, Sheila primarily defended general contractors, subcontractors and construction professionals in claims and litigation. She now works in the complex claims unit where she manages litigation and high exposure claims throughout the country. Sheila graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelors degree and received a Juris Doctorate from Southwestern University School of Law.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Vadim Veksler, Complex Claims Manager  
Selective Insurance, Trabuco Canyon, CA**

Mr. Veksler is a Complex Claims Manager - Construction Defect with Selective Insurance. He oversees a team of claim professionals who handle high exposure construction defect matters countrywide. Prior to joining Selective, Mr. Veksler worked at other claim organizations since 2014. Claims management is Mr. Veksler's second career as he previously engaged in the practice of law for 14 years. He is licensed to practice law in CA, NV and FL. He represented general contractors, developers, subcontractors, and design professionals in various construction matters. He also represented insurance carriers in coverage disputes. He has spoken at prior West Coast Casualty and CLM events, as well as other national, regional and local organizations on diverse topics.



**Raymond Weisse, Senior Vice President and Head of Casualty Claims  
Ascot Group-US, New York, NY**

Raymond Weisse is a Senior Vice President and Head of Casualty Claims for Ascot Group-US. He is responsible for building a casualty claims operation that services Ascot's excess casualty, general liability, and programs divisions by developing claims handling best practices, litigation management standards, and strategic and tactical approaches to managing losses within the serviced business lines. Prior to joining Ascot, Raymond was a Senior Vice President and Director of Construction Liability for Gallagher Bassett Specialty, where he was responsible for developing practice group standards and best practices for the Construction segment of GB Specialty. The bulk of Raymond's insurance career was with Navigators Insurance Company, where he spent almost 15 years serving as Vice President of the General Liability Claims Team and Chief Technical Officer, where his duties included overseeing managers and their claims teams, and providing subject matter expertise on high exposure claims within construction, product liability, premises liability, auto, and environmental risks, and directly handling multi-million-dollar complex claims. Raymond built multiple claims teams within the Casualty organization, developed best practices, litigation management guidelines, and was a valued resource to underwriters, brokers, auditors, actuaries, and risk management teams. Raymond has over 25 years of legal and insurance industry experience, having also previously held various positions at AIG and SCOR Reinsurance Company. He began his career as a practicing attorney in New York, New Jersey, and Florida. He is a graduate of Pace University with a BBA in Business Management, and a JD from Pace University School of Law. He holds adjuster licenses in various states, is a frequent speaker and instructor at industry conferences.



**Robert Weingarten, Esq., Executive Vice President, Claims  
Certus Claims Administration, Camarillo, CA**

Rob Weingarten has over twenty-five years of experience combined in the legal and insurance defense industry. Rob is the Executive Vice President for Certus Claims Administration, a subsidiary of Ryze Claim Solutions, where he is responsible for directing, managing and implementing the handling procedures for construction defect and casualty claims, nursing homes/assisted living facility claims, property damage claims, as well as sports shooting and contingency claims. Additionally, Rob provides direct supervision and management over the litigated and non-litigated claims involving large exposures, complex issues, coverage issues and direct actions. Rob has been a past speaker at various seminars and industry events on a variety of claims-related subjects. Rob received his bachelor's degree from University of California at Berkeley and his Juris Doctorate degree from Whittier Law School and was admitted to practice in California.

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Hon. Christopher T. Whitten, Judge  
Superior Court of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ .**

Hon. Christopher T. Whitten is a general jurisdiction trial court judge on the Superior Court of Arizona. Before his appointment to the bench in 2006, he was a trial lawyer for fifteen years. He was (and remains) a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and was certified by the Arizona State Bar as a specialist in injury and wrongful death litigation. As a Judge on the Superior Court of Arizona, he has presided over civil, commercial, criminal, family, tax and juvenile cases. Judge Whitten has taught as an adjunct professor at several law schools, including Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, Louisiana State University School of Law, The University of San Diego School of Law and Emory University School of Law. He regularly works with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), both nationally and internationally, receiving the Hon. Robert E. Keeton Award for outstanding service in 2017. He has trained fellow judges and lawyers throughout Mexico as they work to reform their judicial process, with Solicitors in Ireland to improve their advocacy skills as their rights of appearance have expanded, with lawyers in Myanmar (Burma) on the important role of advocacy skills in their emerging democracy, with Judges in Egypt on developing skills to combat human trafficking, with lawyers in Guam and Saipan to expand their trial skills, with law professors in Japan on effectively teaching trial advocacy to law students, and throughout the United States on taking effective depositions and improving trial skills. Judge Whitten is the past Chair of the American Bar Association's National Conference of State Trial Judges and a past member of the ABA House of Delegates. Away from the bench, he has enjoyed serving his community as a board member and officer for numerous organizations, including the Arizona Foundation for Blind Children, the University of San Diego School of Law Alumni Board, the Arizona School for the Arts, the Recreational Association of Madison Meadows and Simis and the Brophy Lacrosse Club. In 2010 Judge Whitten and his sons were part of a team that successfully led a group of thirteen blind hikers on a marathon twenty-four mile, one-day trek from rim to rim across the Grand Canyon.



**Hon. Wendy Wilcox, Judge  
Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles, CA**

Hon. Wendy Wilcox has presided over courtrooms in both Stanley Mosk Superior Court in Downtown Los Angeles and a special hybrid court in Compton. Prior to her appointment, she was a named partner in Skane Wilcox LLP, a highly successful insurance defense and employment litigation firm. She was lead trial counsel for a target defendant, Darrow Heating & Air, in the Watermill Flying Point Trust v. Ronald Arrache Construction Company case. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Wilcox helped found the Women's Construction Litigation Alliance and previously served on the Board of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel ("ASCDC") and Claims and Litigation Management Alliance ("CLM"). She has also provided vital support and input to multiple other professional organizations. Judge Wilcox obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from UCLA and her Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern Law School.



**Courtney Winzeler, Esq., Partner  
Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, Poway, CA**

Courtney Winzeler is a partner at Lorber, Greenfield & Polito and works out of the Southern California office. Ms. Winzeler has extensive litigation experience of over 16 years with an emphasis on construction, insurance defense, and general liability including bodily injury and premises liability. Her construction practice focuses on defending contractors, subcontractors, developers, and suppliers in multimillion-dollar disputes involving high profile, multifaceted construction projects. This includes litigation regarding high-end single-family residences, multi-family projects (condos/apartments), tract homes, commercial and mixed-use properties. Ms. Winzeler's vast experience in insurance defense claims include bodily injury and premise liability. Ms. Winzeler believes in a tactical approach to litigation striving for early resolution of disputes. Ms. Winzeler is licensed in California and Arizona. Ms. Winzeler received her B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Arizona and her J.D. Magna Cum Laude from Western State University, School of Law. Ms. Winzeler is involved with the Orange County Bar Association, CLM, Orange County Women's Lawyer's Association and the Association of Southern California Defense Attorneys. She served as the Chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Construction Law Section for 2021. She previously served as the Orange County Bar Association's Construction Law Section Secretary and Treasurer (2019) and Chair-Elect (2020). Ms. Winzeler grew up in Arizona and continues to staunchly support her Arizona Wildcats.

## Seminar Speakers

S



**Lee Wright, Casualty Claim Director**  
**Tokio Marine HCC, Los Angeles, CA**

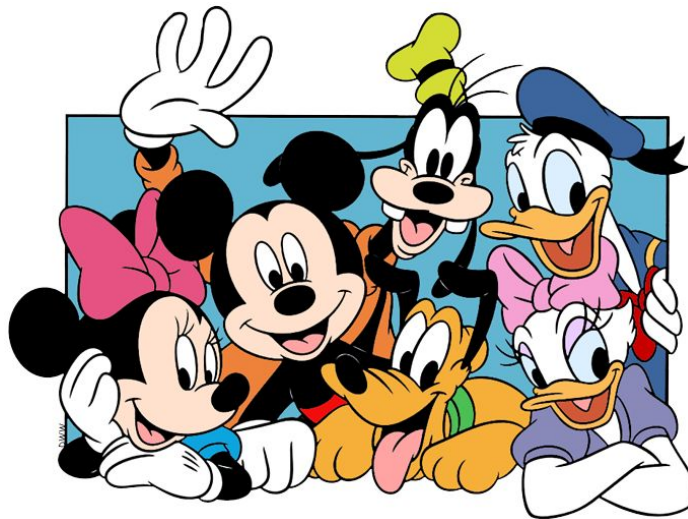
Lee Wright is a claim professional with more than thirty-five years of experience focusing on the handling and management of high exposure, complex general liability litigation files involving products, commercial auto and construction risks. He has overseen national claims programs for self-insureds and foreign insurers and acted as a regional training coordinator for a major insurer. He conducts seminars and classes on insurance coverage analysis and risk transfer issues as an approved CE instructor in several states. He is a past President of the Construction Defect Claim Manager Association and sits on the Construction Claims Advisory Board for the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance as well as serving as Dean for the School of Construction for CLM's Claims College. He holds several industry designations and is a past winner of WCC's Legend of an Era Award.



**Chelsea Zwart, Esq., Partner**  
**Chapman, Glucksman, Los Angeles, CA**

Chelsea Zwart is a Partner of Chapman Glucksman. She grew up in Sonoma County, California where she worked for her family's construction company. She graduated from UCLA in 2010 and earned a Certificate in Construction Management from UCLA Extension in 2011. Chelsea began working at Chapman Glucksman Dean & Roeb in 2014, a year before graduating from Loyola Law School and being admitted to the California State Bar in 2015. Chelsea's practice varies widely. She handles matters in the following areas: construction, real estate, insurance, automotive dealership and repair liability, employment, professional liability, personal and catastrophic injury, product liability, and business and commercial law. She is experienced with trials and arbitrations and has handled multiple matters at the appellate level.

Chelsea is heavily involved in the annual production of CGDR's National Construction Risk Management Handbook and the creation of various presentations on Green/LEED, Right to Repair Statutes, and other significant construction topics. She has presented on various topics including Medical Liens, Conditional Policy Limits Demands, and Automobile Dealership Errors and Omissions and has had articles published in AmWINS, the Los Angeles Daily Journal, and the Construction Defect Journal.



*After all . . . you'll be here anyway . . . so why not make the most of it?*



With most companies and organizations demanding reduction in expenses these so many of your co-workers, clients, colleagues, partners, associates and others coming to our event, doesn't it make sense to have your annual or semi-annual meeting at the same time as our seminar since you will be here anyway? As a leader in holding business meetings, conferences, conventions, family reunions, weddings, trial prep sessions, military reunions, church events, or most any type of group function, you couldn't ask for a better venue than the Disneyland Resort for any group meeting.

Contact: Sydney Fulkerson, Associate Catering & Convention Services Manager, 714-956-6881

[Sydnev.fulkerson@disney.com](mailto:Sydnev.fulkerson@disney.com)

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[davestern@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:davestern@westcoastcasualty.com)*



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or you can visit them right now!*



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# We've come "home" to Orange County

After careful consideration of choosing this year's charity for our seminar, we decided that we will be providing support to



<https://www.familypromiseorangecounty.org/>

Family Promise of Orange County (FPOC) is a non-profit that aims to create a pathway of support for families experiencing housing instability and insecurity. FPOC is one of 200 national affiliates working in our country to end family homelessness. Since 2012, FPOC has helped hundreds of families stand on their feet so that children will never have to experience homelessness ever again.

This worthy charity is named as the 2024 beneficiary for our own charity raising efforts for

- **The Jerrold Oliver Award of Excellence (The "Ollie")**
  - **Tennis Shoe Thursday and Flip Flop Friday**
  - **Buy A Banner, Support A Charity, Lift A Life**

As we always have, we look to support those whose goals are similar to our own in that they exist to meet human needs wherever, whenever, and however they can.

By enlisting all those in the construction defect community through their own individual sponsorships, corporate sponsorship as well as our own we can make a difference.

## Won't you consider joining this effort?

Need further sponsorship or participation details?

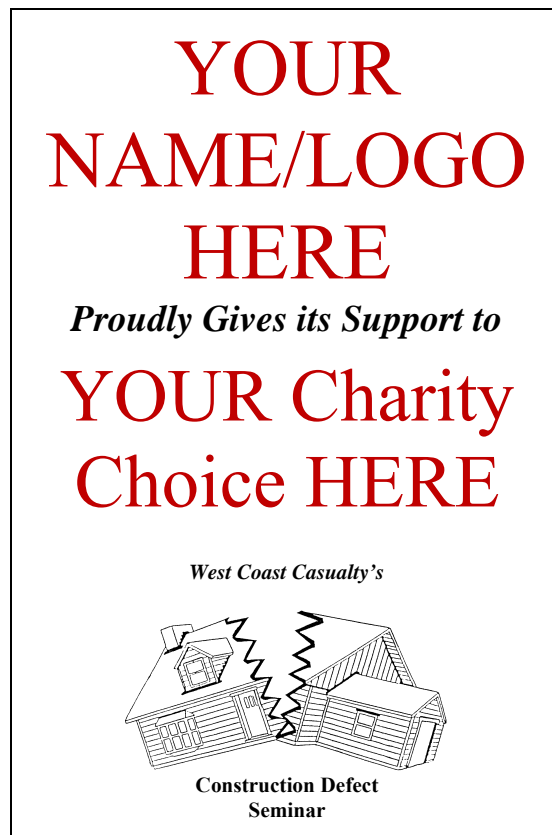
Call Me or Text Me at 818 314 4172

or write to me at [davestern@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:davestern@westcoastcasualty.com) and I'll be glad to provide you with details regarding participation and/or sponsorship opportunities

# ***The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

## ***Buy a Banner . . . . Support a Charity . . . . Lift a Life . . . .***

As in the past 24 West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminars, those wishing to receive recognition for the support of West Coast Casualty's Charity Program may purchase a banner to hang in the halls of the seminar event. The banner will acknowledge the name of the sponsor as well as the charity itself. The "Buy a Banner, Support a Charity" program is tax deductible(\*) and sponsors of this program will be recognized in the seminar handout.



***Help someone today so you can  
be part of the Magic for 2024***



***The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Of***

***Buy a Banner . . . .***

***Support a Charity . . . .***

***Lift a Life . . . .***

***Be Part of the Magic for 2024***

No matter who you donate the banner to or who it is named for, the results are that the proceeds will go to a worthy cause in the name of someone you knew or someone who touched your heart.

***Please consider this year's charity beneficiary  
when making your decision***

Please contact me to participate in this worthwhile cause.  
I'll always be available to take your calls, answer any questions and offer any assistance.

**Holly Sepian, CPA Chief Financial Officer  
West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.  
1534 North Moorpark Road, Suite 181  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
818 521 9842**

[hollysepian@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:hollysepian@westcoastcasualty.com)

***Banner Orders due by Monday April 15, 2024***

(\*) In order to receive tax deductible status, you should check with the charity and your financial planner to determine if you are eligible to take a tax deductible contribution in accordance with the tax law as established under the Internal Revenue Service Code and/or your state tax bureau.



For our 2024 seminar, we're bringing back our famed, fun and beloved fundraising event,

# Tennis Shoe Thursday



Accompanied by another highly requested event specifically selected by our attendees,

# Flip Flop Friday



(Sandals are O.K. too)

You can be part of this great fun fundraising effort as an individual and/or organization participation at this event. This year, we proudly support

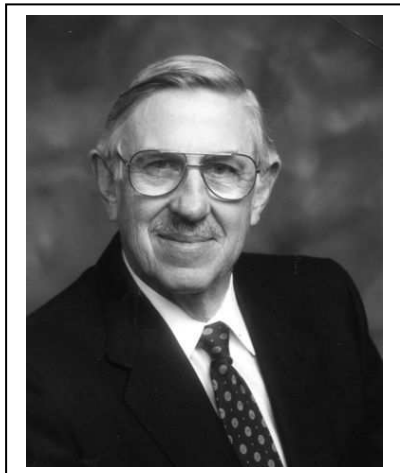


<https://www.familypromiseorangecounty.org/>

As an individual, come and be comfortable, as its \$25.00 a day or **BOTH** days for \$40.00. Just bring a check payable to Orange County Rescue Mission and turn it in at the charity booth located in our continuing education area.

Need further sponsorship or participation details? Write to [davestern@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:davestern@westcoastcasualty.com) and we'll be glad to provide you with details regarding participation and/or sponsorship.

**Consider participating because someone is depending on  
YOU!**



Hon. Jerrold S. Oliver (1934 - 1996)

## The Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence

Each year, West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar recognizes an individual who is outstanding or has contributed to the betterment of the construction defect community. This person is recognized at the seminar and receives a plaque citing his or her achievement. This award has been named after the late Judge Jerrold S. Oliver who was truly a "founding father" in the alternate resolution process in construction defect claims and litigation. His loyalty and commitment to this community were beyond mere words as he was a true believer in the process of resolution. The award, affectionately referred to as the "Ollie" is presented each year at our seminar to someone who has invoked the same spirit of commitment, loyalty and trust for the betterment of the entire construction defect community. Each year we ask all the members of the construction defect community to nominate those who they feel invoke the same spirit as Judge Oliver. We then narrow it down, by simple majority to the four

Along with the recognition of the award is a donation in the winner's name to our designated charity for 2024

***Whether you're coming to the seminar . . . or not!  
We're Counting on You!!!***



**Jeffrey W. Ganzer**  
CHUBB



**Brenda K. Radmacher, Esq.**  
Akerman LLP



**Domingo Tan, Esq.**  
Wood, Smith  
Henning and Berman



**John Toohey, Esq.**  
Bremer Whyte  
Brown and O'Meara

***Send your email vote to***  
**[cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com)**

***Please take a moment of your busy day to help us select who is deserving of this year's "Ollie"***

I would like to vote for: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

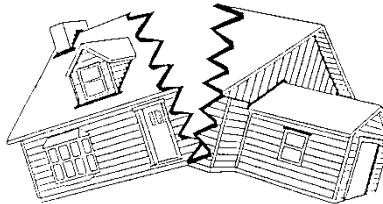
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Of: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_

**You can vote regardless of whether or not you are coming to the seminar Please return by Friday April 14, 2023  
by mail or e-mail**

**West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.**  
**1534 North Moorpark Road, Suite 181 -Thousand Oaks, CA 91360**  
**Tel. 818 314 4172 - E-mail: [cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com)**

***Thanks for helping select this year's "Ollie"***



***West Coast Casualty's***  
**Construction Defect Seminar**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**The Disneyland Resort Hotel**  
**Anaheim, California, USA**

*The Ceremony of Ceremonies*  
*For the Construction Defect Community*



At its 30th Anniversary, West Coast Casualty will present its Silver Star award to the best judge, mediator, plaintiff attorney, developer's attorney, subcontractor attorney, coverage counsel, expert and insurance claims person, et al. as voted on by the 25,000 members of the construction defect community.

. . . so here are the rules;

- Who can nominate and/or vote – Anyone who works in the construction defect community whether you attend the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the seminar or not can nominate and/or vote.
- You may only nominate and/or vote once in each category (best judge, mediator, plaintiff attorney, developer's attorney, subcontractor attorney, coverage counsel, expert and insurance claims person) and such vote must come from your work e-mail address. Any duplicate e-mail addresses will be eliminated and you are not required to nominate in all categories, just the ones you know.

- You may self-nominate and we have no objection to a “campaign” as long as it complies with these rules.
- Nominations and/or votes must be cast via e-mail to [cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com) up to and including Monday April 15, 2024. Winners of *The Ceremony of Ceremonies for the Construction Defect Community* in each category will be notified ahead of the seminar and will be provided free access for the winner and up to One Additional Guests of their choosing. If the winner has previously paid for registration, those fees will be refunded by West Coast Casualty.
- Votes sent outside of the designated voting dates and times will not be counted.
- We will disqualify any nomination and/or vote if we determine that the nomination or vote was cast in exchange for compensation or other consideration or is otherwise contrary to the spirit of the competition.
- We will prohibit a nomination and/or vote from participating in *The Ceremony of Ceremonies for the Construction Defect Community* if we determine that said nomination and/or voter is attempting to undermine the legitimate operation of *The Ceremony of Ceremonies for the Construction Defect Community* by cheating, hacking, deception, or other unfair participation or voting practices.
- We reserve the right to terminate or amend *The Ceremony of Ceremonies for the Construction Defect Community*, in whole or in part, at any time without notice, if any factor, including without limitation virus, bugs, or non-authorized human intervention, interferes with its conduct as contemplated by these official rules.
- West Coast Casualty’s decisions are final on all matters relating to *The Ceremony of Ceremonies for the Construction Defect Community* and the subject matter of these rules.

**So now here’s the easy part . . . it’s your turn . . . . Go ahead and nominate and/or vote RIGHT NOW** for who you believe is the best judge, mediator, plaintiff attorney, developer’s attorney, subcontractor attorney, coverage counsel, expert and/or insurance claims person.

It couldn’t be any easier than just sending a confidential e-mail to [cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com)

**But do so by Monday April 15, 2024 so your nomination and vote counts**

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**Construction Defect Event**

**Keep up to date on seminar events: [www.westcoastcasualty.com](http://www.westcoastcasualty.com)**

*West Coast Casualty's*  
Construction Defect Seminar

## *The Legend of an Era Award*



*“Legend” - One that inspires or achieves legendary fame based upon one’s own achievement(s) which promises to be enduring.*

*“Era” - A fixed point of time from which a series of years is reckoned and an order of things prevail.*

The Legend of an Era Award is the newest in the series of awards created to recognize those in the construction defect community who inspire, contribute, advocate and influence others for the benefit and betterment of this community, making it a better place. Candidates for this award will be chosen by those who sit on West Coast Casualty’s Construction Defect Seminar’s Speakers and Topics Committee for that year’s event.

Along with the recognition of the Legend of an Era award is a donation in the winner’s name to the 2024 designated charity of West Coast Casualty’s Construction Defect Seminar.



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has selected the world renowned  
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to be our seminar site



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**\$412.00 Per Night**

**\$463.00 Per Night**

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**<https://www.mydisneygroup.com/GDWE24A>**

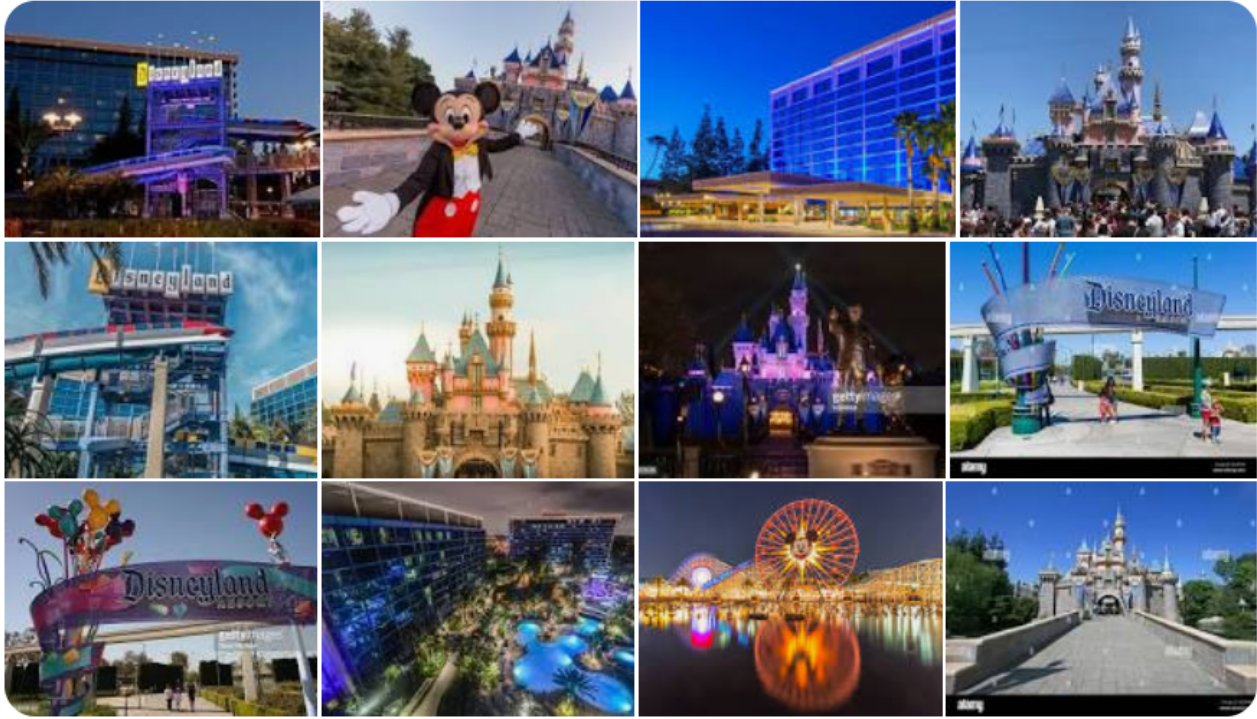
**or by calling (714) 520-5005, M-F from 8 am to 5 pm PST.**

**Reservations must be made by or before Monday April 22, 2024, or when the group rooms are sold out, so do not delay. Prevailing rates may apply after this date or when the group rooms are sold out, whichever occurs first. Rooms are subject to availability.#**

**Check-in time is after 3:00 p.m. Check-out time is before 11:00 a.m**

# ***Coming for the Seminar but Stay for the Fun! !***

***(or bring the kids down after the seminar and save a few dollars also)***



You can use this link to order Disney tickets ahead of time at the Convention Rate:

<https://www.mydisneygroup.com/GDWE24A>

to purchase specially priced Disneyland® Resort Theme Park tickets (\*)

These special ticket prices are not available once you arrive at the Resort.

Don't delay! . . . Prices are subject to change without notice.

*Please note the current requirements for Theme Park Entry; To enter one of the parks, each Guest is required to have a theme park reservation in addition to a valid ticket for the same park on the same date. Reservations are limited and subject to availability, restrictions, and change or cancellation at any time.*

Once on the Disney website, be sure to fully follow all instructions to make your stay and those of your guests an enjoyable one

(\*) These specially priced tickets are intended only for guests that are participating in this event. Only the registered attendee is allowed to purchase tickets from this discounted ticket store link, and they can purchase up to 6 tickets maximum. Disney reserves the right to contact the ticket purchaser to request event registration confirmation. If Disney discovers that the purchaser of the ticket is not participating or attending this event it will be considered a misuse of this offer and ticket, and the ticket(s) will be blocked and will not be eligible for a refund. In addition, these tickets cannot be purchased for the purpose of being resold.

*West Coast Casualty's  
Construction Defect Seminar  
Travel Requirements Provided by*

## **Frosch Classic Travel**

Frosch Classic Travel has been selected as the official travel agency for West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar for May 2024. Frosch is a full service travel organization headquartered in Woodland Hills, California. Our large single location allows us to offer all the sophisticated services available to this industry, while maintaining attention to the smallest detail. We excel at providing quality service and quality control. Frosch's strong presence in the airline industry has given us the relationships and strong negotiating power necessary to guarantee the lowest possible rates for our clients.

Please complete the form below, fax and/or mail to **Frosch** at (818) 346-1492. You may also call Liz Kramer at 818-936-2000 or email your request to [Liz.Kramer@Frosch.com](mailto:Liz.Kramer@Frosch.com)

**Full Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ as it appears on your Driver's License

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** (Billing address)

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### **Preferred Travel Itinerary:**

**Departing from** \_\_\_\_\_ **On** \_\_\_\_\_, 2024  
(Major airport)

**Departure time:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Approximate)

**Preferred Airline Carrier:** American ☐ Southwest ☐ United ☐

**Return travel date on May** \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 **Departure time:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Approximate)

**Seating Preference:** Aisle ☐ Window ☐ Center ☐ **Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Frequent Flyer Information:** Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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# ***West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar***

## **An Important Special Announcement for those seeking CPE credits From the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA)**

For those seeking CPE credits from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), please note the following:

It remains our goal that the following learning objective be met as a result of the presentation of this seminar:

At the conclusion of the program participants should be able to put to practical use the study materials combined with the verbal issues demonstrated by the speakers and/or presenters regarding Management Advisory Services, Business Management and Organization and Regulatory Ethics.

Distinguish through practical application, the use of actual financial method versus the use of actuarial method and how it impacts risk management.

The ability to recognize the application of risk management and how it relates to your client's particular branding of business.

The ability to realize the proper use of self-insured retentions and what financial exposure will result versus the traditional role of insurance

Prerequisites: For courses identified with an (\*) the following prerequisites must be met:

N/A

**Advanced preparation; for all advance preparation regarding those identified with an (\*) above, please visit [www.westcoastcasualty.com](http://www.westcoastcasualty.com)**

**This program has been designed to be an Intermediate Level/Update/Overview course offering and its delivery method will be Group Live**

**You may earn up to 14.0 CPE Credits for attending this seminar**

West Coast Casualty Service, Inc. is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be addressed to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors, 150 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 700, Nashville, TN, 37219-2417. Web site: [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org)

A full refund will be provided to those who request same up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the seminar. There will be no refunds within fifteen (15) days of the first day of the seminar and for more information regarding administrative policies such as complaint and refund, please contact our offices at 1-818-735-3595 or by e-mail [cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com)

National Registry of CPE Sponsor identification number: 108987



## **A Special Note about Continuing Education Credits**

All across the country, Insurance Departments and State Bars are changing their rules regarding granting of continuing education credits. Most of this has to do with fees and reporting requirements. Many states no longer offer reciprocal credits for their licensees and require West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar may have to apply separately to each individual state. We continue to follow these changes but West Coast Casualty can no longer guarantee approval of any reciprocal credits since we never know when a state will change its rules as each state has its own requirements. While we report all continuing education credit updates on our website, <http://www.westcoastcasualty.com/seminar/continuing-education/> it remains the duty and responsibility of the attendee to determine if their state has approved reciprocal credits for our event.

### ***MCLE / CLE Credits***

West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar has applied for MCLE credits from approximately 20 State Bars. No guarantee of credits is implied as each state has its own requirements. Credit updates are reported on our website:

<http://www.westcoastcasualty.com/seminar/continuing-education/>

### ***CPCU and RPA CE***

West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar has applied for CE credits from the Society of CPCU and the Registered Professional Adjusters (RPA) program. No guarantee of credits is implied as each organization has its own requirements. Credit updates are reported on our website: <http://www.westcoastcasualty.com/seminar/continuing-education/>

### ***Insurance Department Continuing Education Credits (CE)***

West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar has applied for continuing education credits from 34 different State Insurance Departments requiring continuing education for adjusters, agents and brokers and No guarantee of credits is implied as each state has its own requirements. (Various state insurance departments require us to inform all interested parties that an application for CE credits does not guarantee approval which is subject to the various insurance departments rules, guidelines and regulations). Credit updates are reported on our website:

<http://www.westcoastcasualty.com/seminar/continuing-education/>

### ***Refunds***

A full refund will be provided to those who request same up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the seminar. There will be no refunds within fifteen (15) days of the first day of the seminar.

### ***Handicap Accessibility***

West Coast Casualty encourages and seeks participation from all members of the physically challenged community. In that regard, West Coast Casualty will only agree to hold its events at sites and locations that meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title 21 of the California Administrative Code. Please contact West Coast Casualty for any special needs or requirements.

### ***Cancellation***

West Coast Casualty assumes no liability in the event a speaker is unable to attend and reserves the right to replace any speaker at West Coast Casualty's sole discretion.

### ***Disclaimer***

*The views and opinions expressed at our seminars and/or in its articles and publications are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any organization or company including West Coast Casualty Service. They are only to be interpreted in a general nature and not to apply to any specific case, claim or situation. Examples of analysis discussed at our events are only examples in a general nature. They should not be utilized or quoted in any specific real-world analytic as they are based only on very limited and general source information. Assumptions made by anyone about the analysis of any particular discussion are not reflective or bound of the position of any company and/or organization of employees presenting at our events.*



# SEMINAR REGISTRATION PAGE

*Register on-line by credit card or check (\*)*

*Save Time !! Register On-Line !! Click Here:*

**Register Online:**

<https://westcoastcasualty.regfox.com/west-coast-casualtys-construction-defect-seminar-2024>

**Register By Check:** Make Check payable to  
*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc and send it to the address below*  
**BUT** *be sure to include the full name and email address of the  
attendee when mailing in the registration*

Individual Registration(s) \$649.00 Per Person if registered by Friday April 12, 2024

Or

\$699.00 Per Person if registered after Friday April 12, 2024

Luncheon tables may be reserved for groups of 10 guests per table and sponsor gets its name on reserved table at lunch. To obtain table(s), register 10 or more individuals and send your table list to:

[Hollysepian@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:Hollysepian@westcoastcasualty.com)



Friday, May 10, 2024 will be the last day to pre-register,  
otherwise registration will be conducted on site, space permitting.

**(\*) All Inquiries, Questions and Checks Should Be Sent To:**

*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.  
1534 North Moorpark Road, Suite 181  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
Tel. 818 314 4172*

*E-mail: [cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:cdseminar@westcoastcasualty.com)*

*All reservations accepted on a first come, first served basis*

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