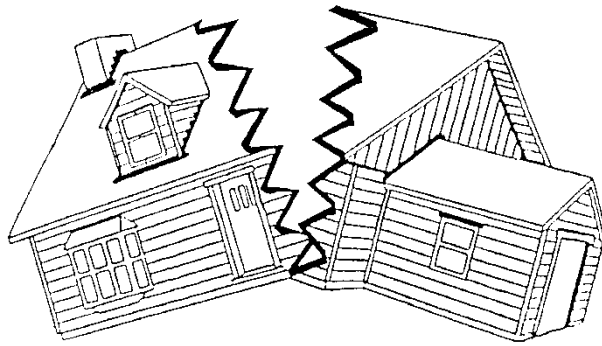


# *The 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary*

*More  
Speakers  
Added*

*West Coast Casualty's*



*More  
Diverse Topics  
Added*

*More  
Sponsors  
Added*

**Construction Defect Seminar**

May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
The Disneyland Resort Hotel  
Anaheim, California

*More  
Vendors  
Added*

## *Final Updated Seminar Invitation*

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

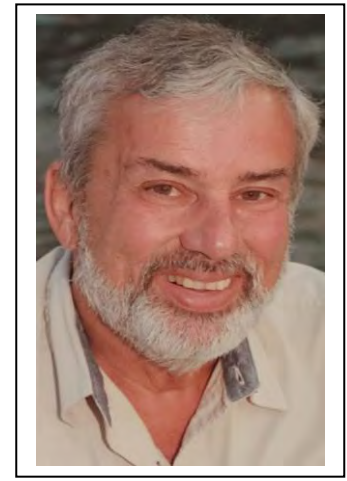
*More diverse sessions...which mean more opportunities for you to learn  
about the up-to-date issues of this community while simultaneously  
earning more continuing education credits at the same time.*

*Since 1993 . . .*

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

*Construction Defect Event !!!*

# *Welcome to the 31<sup>st</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 31<sup>st</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 2025 we will go forward with a wonderful event at the Disneyland Resort.

If you attended any of our 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 2025.

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 2025 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 2025.

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 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 2025. 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 2025 seminar, a number of them you will see here and some we continue to work on.

In May 2025 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 2025, I urge you to review these materials and use the submission process discussed in this packet as your guide to being included in our 2025 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,

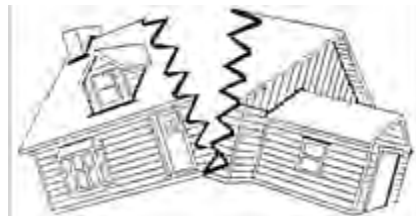
*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.*

*Dave Stern*

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

## *The 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of*

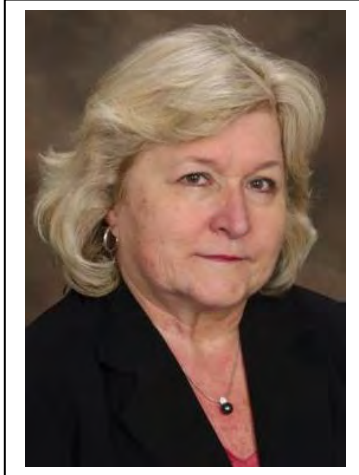
*West Coast Casualty's*



**Construction Defect Seminar**



**The Topics and Speakers Committee of  
*West Coast Casualty's*  
2025 Construction Defect Seminar**



**Linda Tonkovich**  
Arch Insurance Company  
Committee Chair



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



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



**Phyllis Modlin  
Markel**



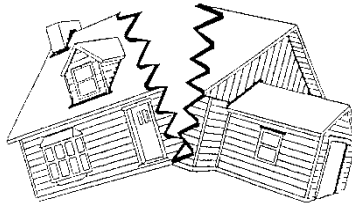
**Kenneth Kasdan, Esq.**  
Kasdan Turner  
Thomson Booth, LLP



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

\* \* \*

*West Coast Casualty's*



**Construction Defect Seminar**

**May 15 and 16, 2025**

***“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 14, 2025**

Early Seminar Registration 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM  
Disney Convention Center – La Strada Entry

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

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 Case Law and Statutory Developments in CD Hot Spots**  
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. Sue Kurita, Hon Chrisatopher Whitten and Hon. Justice Michael Cherry

**10:30 AM – 10:45 AM**

**Morning Break - Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall**  
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**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**

**The Future of Construction Defect Litigation: Riding the Wave(s) of  
Innovation and Change**

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

**11:45 AM – 12:00PM**

***The “Ollie” and “Legends” Awards Presentation***

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

**Lunch**

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

**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

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

Technology. Don't fight it, Embrace it  
Brian Kahn, Esq., Hon. Maria D. Hernandez,  
Terence Kadlec, Warren Parrino and Emma Tortorici

***3:00 PM – 4:00 PM***

Insights, Tips and Best Practices from Experienced Mediators  
to Avoid Common Pitfalls in Mediation

Matthew W. Argue, Esq., David Schlueter, Esq.  
Glenn Barger, Esq. and Rian Jones, Esq.

***4:00 PM – 4:30 PM***

***Afternoon Break***

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

From the Beginning to the End, Essential Tools to Secure Settlement

Hon. Keri G. Katz, Adrienne D. Cohen, Esq. Matthew Adler,  
Timothy Earl, Esq. and Philip M. Kunka Esq.

***5:30 PM – 7:00 PM***

***Cocktail Reception***

**Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall**

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**Don't forget to vote for this year's "Ollie" – Details on Page 45**

**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Friday, May 16, 2025**

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

Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall

**Breakfast Sponsored by**



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**Grand Ballroom**

***8:30 AM – 9:30 AM***

Emerging and Disturbing Trends for 2025:  
The Changing Face of Construction Defect Litigation  
Chad N. Dunigan, Esq.,  
Kenneth S. Kasdan, Esq.,  
Carolyn Crawford

**South Ballroom**

***8:30 AM – 9:30 AM***

You Can't Handle the Roof!  
Richard D. Seely, Esq.  
John Parker  
Anthony Gaeta  
Gustavo Lopez  
Glenn Barger, Esq.

**Grand Ballroom**

***9:30 AM – 10:30 AM***

Where Have All Workers Gone?  
Jason Daniel Feld, Esq.,  
Daniel Crespo, Esq.,  
Benjamin Dowers, Esq.,  
Linda Pretzel,  
James Cole

**South Ballroom**

***9:30 AM – 10:30 AM***

Strategies for Achieving a Complex Global  
Settlement: AI Buyouts, AI Carve-Outs, and  
AI claims from the standpoint of the claims  
professional, mediator, and opposing counsel  
Max Higgins, Esq.  
Hon. Christopher Whitten  
Andrew Radvica  
Carlo Benini  
Rick Buck, Esq.

**10:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

***Morning Break - Disney Convention Center – Exhibit Hall***

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# SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Friday, May 16, 2025*

## Grand Ballroom

*11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

The Changing CD Landscape Litigating  
the Mega Single Family Home Case  
David Harris, Esq.,  
Mona J. Jeffery, Esq.,  
Bob Mann, Esq.,  
John Silberstein,  
Darren Ebner, Esq.,

## South Ballroom

*11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

Strive Mightily: Act Civilly  
Rick Seely, Esq.  
Brian Kahn Esq.  
Ross Feinberg, Esq.  
Hon. Victoria Chaney  
Brandon Mohr

## Grand Ballroom

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

Where's all the Insurance Money?  
Rebecca Appelbaum, Esq.,  
Rachel K. Ehrlich, Esq.,  
Janna Rogers, Esq.,  
Mark Boyle, Esq.

## South Ballroom

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

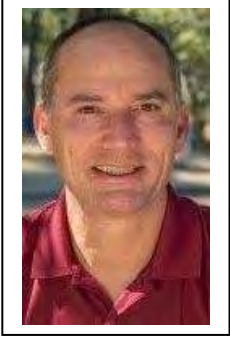
Design Professionals Liability in the Absence of  
Privity-The Demise of *Weseloh*  
Serge Tomassian, Esq.  
Talin Grigorian, Esq.  
Edward F. Morrison, Jr., Esq.  
Christopher Menjou, Esq.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Matthew Adler, Large Loss Specialist**  
**AXA XL, Los Angeles, CA**

Matthew Adler is currently with AXA XL, a worldwide group of insurance companies, and he works out of the Los Angeles office as a Large Loss Specialist. At AXA XL, Mr. Adler handles a variety of claims including excess, reinsurance and wrap programs involving commercial and residential construction. Mr. Adler was previously with OneBeacon and handled construction defect claims and coverage actions of all types, exposures and jurisdictions across the United States. Mr. Adler's prior work history includes many years at The St. Paul/Travelers and The Zenith Insurance Companies. In addition to the construction field, his experience includes general liability, SIU and Workers Compensation. Matthew is a past president of the Construction Defect Claim Managers Association, an active board member at his temple and local JCC and a former executive board member of The Production Company, a Los Angeles theater group. Mr. Adler

is thrilled to speak again at West Coast Casualty and has been a frequent speaker at various seminars and industry events on a variety of claims related subjects. Mr. Adler earned his bachelor degree from Pitzer College.



**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.



**Matthew W. Argue, Esq., Mediator**  
**AMCC, San Diego, CA**

has over 35 years of experience in complex construction litigation and for the past 19 years has served as a full-time Construction Mediator and Arbitrator. Mr. Argue has successfully mediated over 1000 construction defect cases to settlement. Mr. Argue handles a wide variety of construction claims cases both public and private works involving airport, Port District, San Diego Airport Authority, hotels, high rise commercial developments, local government facilities, Federal facilities, schools, water district, universities, low-income housing, residential luxury high-rise developments, large scale residential housing developments, and high-end luxury single-family homes. He has experience resolving disputes relating to

change order disputes, Guaranteed Maximum Price contracts, budget disputes, construction failures, scheduling delays and inefficiency claims, termination, defective construction (commercial and residential), condominium buildings, insurance coverage and bad faith claims. Mr. Argue regularly lectures and writes on mediation and construction law issues. Most recently, he has published in the ABA Forum on Construction's Dispute Resolver (2025) entitled *Mediation Success – Strategies For Avoiding Prolonged Litigation And Getting To "Settled"*. Mr. Argue is licensed in several different jurisdictions, including California, Nevada, Washington, Colorado and Texas.

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## *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.



**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 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.



**Andy Bradvica, Principal**  
**B2R Consulting Group, San Diego, CA**

Andy Bradvica is a Principal of B2R Consulting Group with offices in San Diego, Orange County, and Roseville, California. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s College of California, and his Master of Architecture degree from the Newschool of Architecture in San Diego. Mr. Bradvica is NCARB certified and a licensed architect in seven (7) states, including California, as well as a licensed General Contractor in California. He has experience in design and building of single-family homes, interior tenant improvements, and remodeling of commercial projects. Since 2012, Mr. Bradvica’s experience includes expert deposition, arbitration, and trial testimony; forensic analysis; building inspections; building condition assessments and reports; construction defect investigations; intrusive testing; building envelope failure analysis; analysis of catastrophic failure damage related to hail, wind, rain, and fire; claim analysis; allocation analysis; repair recommendations; building code review; and ADA review.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



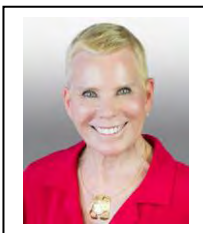
**Richard E. Buck, Esq., Mediator**  
**JAMS, Irvine, CA**

Richard E. Buck, Esq., joined JAMS following a widely respected 38-year legal career and is available as a mediator, arbitrator, special master/referee and neutral evaluator. As a litigation attorney, Mr. Buck specialized in complex commercial and residential projects (including long-cause matters), insurance coverage, real estate (habitability, disclosure, misrepresentation and flipper cases), class actions, homeowners' associations, major land subsidence/geotechnical defects, medical malpractice, wrongful death/catastrophic personal injury, subrogation, and general tort/negligence and product defect cases. He is extremely knowledgeable of the litigation and mediation processes. He is best known for his calm demeanor and relentless pursuit of civility in litigated and mediated matters. He has a keen awareness of risk management and the necessity of cost containment in legally and factually complex, expert-driven matters. Mr. Buck has been counsel in approximately 1,300 mediations, served as mediator in 200+ cases and litigated approximately 600 cases.



**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.



**Hon. Victoria Gerrard Chaney (Ret.), Mediator**  
**ADR Services, Inc.**

Hon. Victoria Gerrard Chaney (Ret.) is a distinguished mediator, arbitrator, referee, and appellate consultant with an illustrious career spanning more than four decades. Justice Chaney was confirmed to the California Court of Appeal, Second District, Division One in 2009 following nineteen years as a trial judge. Her experience as an appellate justice is broad and deep. She has handled an extensive array of cases including civil, criminal, family law, probate, dependency, and writs, both civil and criminal. Additionally, she has sat by appointment on the California Supreme Court and has served as a special master for the Commission on Judicial Performance. Justice Chaney was assigned to the Complex Litigation Division at Central Civil West Courthouse from its inception in 2000 until her nomination to the Court of Appeal in 2009. Her caseload included large class actions, mass torts, insurance coverage, construction defects, product liability actions, pharmaceutical claims, environmental claims, labor law, and Government disputes. As a judge, Justice Chaney was highly regarded for her judicial demeanor, intelligence, and case management skills. Her respectful and considerate approach fostered a professional and personable environment, and her analytical approach to complex legal issues demonstrated her formidable intellectual rigor. In trial, she skillfully managed cases involving dozens of attorneys, focusing on essential issues and facilitating effective resolutions. Attorneys consistently commended Justice Chaney's even-handedness, resulting in her reputation as one of the best judges in the division. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Justice Chaney served for eleven years in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, including as Assistant City Attorney in the Civil Liability Division. Before that she was an associate with Dryden Harrington and Swartz. Her career in law followed an earlier profession in healthcare, where she worked as a registered nurse at the LAC-USC and Cedars-Sinai medical centers. She continues to hold active licenses as a registered and public health nurse.



## Seminar Speakers



**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.



**Adrienne D. Cohen, Esq., Founder**  
**Law Offices of Adrienne D. Cohen, Santa Ana, CA**

Adrienne D. Cohen is the founder and principal of the Law Offices of Adrienne D. Cohen, an eleven-attorney firm with offices in Santa Ana and Novato, California. Ms. Cohen received her Juris Doctorate from the USC School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UCLA. Ms. Cohen has represented major insurance companies and their insureds for over 20 years in the areas of insurance coverage and defense. Ms. Cohen is an executive board member and past president of the William P. Gray Legion Lex Inn of Court. She has been an instructor in the UCI paralegal program, where she taught legal writing, ethics and insurance law. Ms. Cohen is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been named a Southern California Super Lawyer. She is also the recipient of the 2018 West Coast Casualty Silver Star award for best subcontractor attorney. Ms. Cohen has tried many jury and court trials. She is a proud member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. She has argued and won many appeals, including those dealing with complex coverage issues, including Rosenbloom v. Hanour Corp., (1998) 66 Cal.App.4th 1477, Travelers v. Transcontinental (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 949, Parkwoods Community Association v. California Insurance Guarantee Association (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1362, and Fort Bragg Unified School District v. Solano County Roofing Inc. (2011) 141 Cal.App.4th 891, and Bigler-Engler v. Breg, Inc. 7 Cal.App.5th 276 (2017).



**James P. Cole, Principal**  
**James Cole Consulting, Wildomar, CA**

James Cole is a licensed general contractor who has been involved in the construction industry for close to 40 years. He obtained his general contractors (B) license in November of 2000. He started his construction career studying architecture and drafting and working as a draftsman back in 1985. He then worked from 1987 to 1995 as a journeyman in the construction industry for various contractors specializing in both residential and commercial construction projects throughout southern California. After working for a large-scale homebuilder building single family tract homes and condos from 1995 to 1998, he began his career in the construction defect industry in 1998. It was at this time that clients and attorneys found James’ extensive construction background to be an effective tool and resource in handling construction defect claims. He has been providing expert witness testimony and services since this time.

He later founded James Cole Consulting, Inc. in 2014 and continues to provide expert witness testimony for the construction defect industry as a general contracting expert.



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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Carolyn J Crawford, Specialty Casualty Claims Director, Construction Defect Nationwide Insurance Company, Stanwood, MI**

Nationwide is number 75 on the Fortune 500 list of companies and 21<sup>st</sup> on the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For in 2024. Carolyn Crawford is Specialty Casualty Claims Director for Nationwide leading the national Construction Defect teams for both Commercial, E&S and Specialty lines. Carolyn has over 35 years in the Insurance Industry with a wide range of disciplines and specialty handling to include Construction Defect, General Liability, Workers Compensation, Commercial and Non-Standard Auto as well as National Accounts. During her 35 plus years in the industry, Carolyn has held both technical and leadership positions with major carriers such as Fireman's Fund, CNA, AIG, One Beacon, Travelers and now Nationwide. Carolyn currently serves as a member on the CLM Construction Advisory Board.



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

Daniel A. Crespo is a Partner at Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP, where he focuses on complex civil defense litigation. Admitted to the California State Bar in 2004, he is licensed to practice before all California state courts. Mr. Crespo earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from California State University, Northridge, before earning his Juris Doctor from Southwestern University School of Law in 2004. With extensive experience in complex civil litigation, Mr. Crespo specializes in construction defect, general liability defense, and high-stakes cases involving catastrophic injury, wrongful death, and multimillion-dollar construction projects. He represents a diverse range of clients, from small businesses to multinational corporations, providing strategic, results-oriented counsel in a wide variety of litigated matters. Mr. Crespo has successfully negotiated numerous reasonable resolutions and obtained complete defense awards/verdicts at arbitration and trial for both complex construction and general liability cases.



**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.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Benjamin W. Dowers, Esq., Partner**  
**Gunther Legal, PLLC, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

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.



**Chad Dunigan, Esq. Managing Partner**  
**Wood Smith Henning and Berman LLP, Orlando and Jacksonville, FL**

Chad Dunigan, Esq. is the Managing Partner of WSHB's Orlando and Jacksonville offices. Nationally recognized for his exceptional results in managing all aspects of complex construction litigation, Chad is also sought out for his expertise handling commercial litigation, catastrophic injury, and environmental matters. As a seasoned trial lawyer and legal strategist, Chad consistently delivers favorable outcomes for our clients through a powerful combination of courtroom prowess and strategic insight. His commitment to excellence is evident not only in his extensive trial experience but also in his nuanced approach to case resolution. With a laser focus on achieving early resolutions, Chad possesses the capability to navigate assertively in the courtroom, ensuring optimal results at every stage of a case's lifecycle. Chad's versatility extends to alternative dispute resolution methods, including mediations and settlement conferences, where he has proven to be a seasoned practitioner. His multifaceted skill set positions him as an effective legal advocate for WSHB's clients nationwide. In the realm of construction litigation, Chad stands as a national thought leader, boasting expertise in public and private contracting, bidding and protest issues, mechanics' liens, stop notices, licensing, and surety disputes. With over two decades of experience, he passionately represents owners, developers, and general contractors across a diverse range of commercial, public works, and private projects. Chad diligently advocates for WSHB's clients nationwide, handling significant construction claims such as defects, delays, defaults, and bond surety matters. A thought leader, he is active in industry events speaking and publishing on emerging issues.



**Darren Ebner, Esq., Partner in Charge**  
**Springel & Fink, Newport Beach, CA**

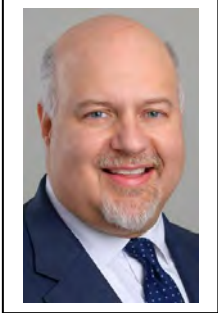
For over twenty years, Darren Ebner, the partner in charge of Springel & Fink's day-to-day California operations, has successfully defended clients in both single-defendant and multi-party complex lawsuits involving construction defects, product defects, and personal injuries. Darren has obtained defense verdicts for his clients in all of the major forums in California—Jury Trial, Bench Trial and Binding Arbitration. Darren prides himself on developing connections with his clients so he can provide them with the best customer service. Darren received his law degree from Emory University School of Law and his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan. He is admitted to the California State Bar and admitted to all federal district courts in California. Darren is also a graduate of the Trial Advocacy College at the University of Virginia School of Law and is a Certified Litigation Management Professional as given by the Litigation Management Institute.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Timothy C. Earl, Esq., Director  
Fennemore, San Diego, CA**

Timothy C. Earl is a Director with the San Diego Office of the law firm Fennemore, LLP. Mr. Earl is licensed to practice in the states of California and Washington, his practice focuses on the representation of policyholders and insurance companies in a variety of insurance coverage disputes primarily involving property damage or bodily injury arising out of construction defect, asbestos and other environmental claims, including but not limited to contractual and extra-contractual claims. He has significant experience in complex insurance coverage disputes involving wrap-up insurance policies, additional insured endorsements, and the allocation of claims amongst multiple insurers. Mr. Earl also represents developers, architects, engineers, general contractors and trade contractors in construction disputes in both residential and commercial contexts. Mr. Earl has served as a panelist for construction and insurance issues on multiple occasions at bar associations and regional and national conferences. Mr. Earl received his B.A. degree from the University of California, Davis in 1991 and Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1994.



**Rachel K. Ehrlich, Esq., Mediator  
Judicate West, Oakland, CA**

Ms. Ehrlich is a nationally recognized mediator specializing in complex civil disputes. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, she is affiliated with Judicate West. Ms. Ehrlich mediates litigated and non-litigated matters in insurance coverage, insurance bad faith, personal injury, mass tort, real estate (financing, purchases/disclosures, development, and landlord-tenant), and various other subjects. A mediator since 2014, Ms. Ehrlich has been designated as a top mediator by Super Lawyers. She mediates in several court programs including the Federal District of Northern California, trains mediators and mediation advocates, and regularly presents on mediation of insurance coverage, bad faith, mediation confidentiality, and ethics to varied audiences. Ms. Ehrlich serves on the Alameda Superior Court's ADR Administration Committee and as a mentor to lawyers and claims professionals who are aspiring mediators as well as to UC Law San Francisco (fka "UC Hastings") law students and alumni. Ms. Ehrlich is a member of The Mediation Society and the ABA's Sections of Litigation and Dispute Resolution. Previously, she served as Co-Chair of the ABA's Committee on Mediator Ethical Guidance, President of the UC Law San Francisco Board of Governors, and on the board of The Mediation Society. Prior to becoming a full-time neutral, Ms. Ehrlich spent 20 years gaining an invaluable understanding of civil disputes and the insurance industry as a casualty and coverage attorney, insurance claims person, underwriter, and insurance executive.



**Ross W. Feinberg Esq., Mediator  
JAMS, Irvine, CA**

Ross Feinberg has served as a full time mediator and special master since 2007. A highly respected and sought after neutral, he has been the recipient of numerous awards from all sides of the bar. Critical to his work, Mr. Feinberg is equally respected by all sides. Mr. Feinberg, known originally for solving and settling complex construction defect matters also actively handles complex disputes including business and commercial, personal injury/tort, insurance, school district claims, and construction and community association disputes. After spending 22 years mediating complex multi-party cases, Mr. Feinberg joined JAMS in 2007. He has been recognized by the Daily Journal as a top neutral and was the recipient of the prestigious Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence in 2003. An AV rated lawyer, author and speaker, Mr. Feinberg has been the chair and/or a speaker of well over 100 national seminars Mr. Feinberg has successfully mediated over 2,000 cases both as counsel and as a mediator. For 36 years, Mr. Feinberg has been widely recognized for his ability to initiate open communication in cases with a myriad of complex situations leading to constructive results. Mr. Feinberg is admitted in the states of California, Nevada and Colorado and actively mediates cases in these jurisdictions as well as in the state of Florida.

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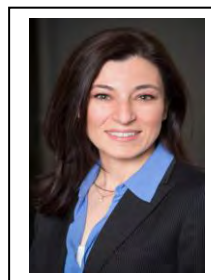
**Jason Daniel Feld, Esq., Founding Partner  
Kahana Feld, Irvine, CA**

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 CA, AZ, NY and TX



**Anthony Gaeta, Esq., Partner,  
Collinsworth, Specht, Caulkins & Giampoli, LLP, San Diego, CA**

Anthony Gaeta's legal practice specializes in complex construction defect litigation, personal injury and general liability defense, employment litigation, contract law, business formation, premises liability, and hospitality law. In addition, Mr. Gaeta has extensive experience providing sexual harassment prevention training to employers and has led continuing education seminars for insurance adjusters and industry professionals. He is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association and the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM). Mr. Gaeta graduated in 2005 from California Western School of Law in San Diego, California, where he earned a place on the Dean's Honor List. He holds a BA in Political Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, earned in 2001. He was admitted to the State Bar of California and the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in 2005. Mr. Gaeta was second chair during the jury trial and co-authored the brief that became the *Gerlach v. K. Hovnanian* appellate decision (82 Cal. App. 5<sup>th</sup> 303 (2002)).



**Talin Grigorian, Esq.  
Tomassian, Inouye & Grigorian LLP, Irvine, CA**

Ms. Grigorian practices in the following areas, construction law, construction contracts, construction claim and liens, construction defects, litigation; representing contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and homeowners; commercial, residential projects, homeowners association law; representing homeowners associations and homeowners, environmental law. She prides herself in jury trials and bench trials; preparation of cases for trial, Appellate work before the California Court of Appeal. Her experience includes administration of cases, including case assessment, litigation strategy and investigation; dispute resolution; draft construction contracts; regular communication with clients, opposing counsel and experts; settlement negotiations; and witness preparation for depositions and trial. She aggressively pursue early and effective resolution of cases through mediation, arbitration and effective communication. She is admitted before the State Bar of California and the New York State Bar Association.



**David A. Harris, Esq., Attorney  
Law Offices of Santana, Vierra, Stevenson, Harris & Hermanson, San Francisco, CA**

David Harris is a field lawyer with Liberty Mutual Insurance and is the company's liaison for construction defect cases in the Northwest region. Prior to joining Liberty Mutual Insurance, Mr. Harris was a partner in private practice and was the general counsel for a large construction company. Mr. Harris graduated from UCLA School of Law and the University of California, Berkeley.

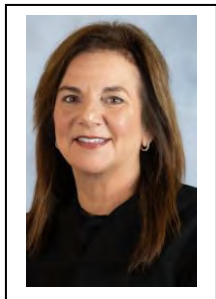
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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Judge**  
**Presiding Judge of the Superior Court-Orange County**

The Honorable Judge Maria D. Hernandez was first elected as the Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge in 2023 and recently reelected for an additional one-year term through December 2025, overseeing the daily operations of the third largest court in the state of California and the fifth largest court in the country. Judge Hernandez most recently served as the chair of the State Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and currently serves as a voting member of the Judicial Council. She served as the court's Assistant Presiding Judge from 2021 as well as the court's COVID-19 liaison throughout the global pandemic. Judge Hernandez previously served as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court for Orange County until January 2018 when she returned to a criminal felony trial calendar. During her nine years as a juvenile court judge, she created and presided over the dedicated court addressing commercially sexually exploited children (GRACE—Generating Resources to Abolish Child Exploitation) and co-chaired the Orange County Committee relating to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). While overseeing all daily court operations for the juvenile branch, she convened the county's first Juvenile Justice Summit in 2016, which brought together over 400 of the county's leaders to address the special needs of the children and families of Orange County. Judge Hernandez also created and presided over an innovative collaborative court dedicated to boys in the child welfare system back in 2010, which continues to meet the needs of the highest-risk system-involved youth. In 2018, Judge Hernandez launched the Young Adult Court (YAC), an innovative program that addresses the special needs of emerging adults charged with felonies in the criminal justice system.



**Max A. Higgins, Esq., Senior Associate**  
**Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP., Encinitas, CA**

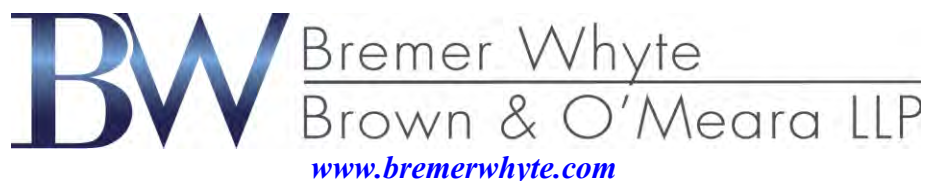
Mr. Higgins is a senior associate in the new Encinitas office of Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP. After graduating from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2005, he attended law school and received his Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law in San Diego. During law school, he received American Jurisprudence awards for academic achievement in Trial Practice and Negotiations. Mr. Higgins became licensed in California in 2010. Mr. Higgin's experience includes bankruptcy, collections, subrogation, workers' compensation defense, wrongful termination, wage & hour disputes, and construction defect litigation.



**Mona Jeffery, Esq., Founding Partner**  
**Jeffery & Grosfeld, LLP, Orange, CA**

Mona Jeffery is a founding partner of Jeffery & Grosfeld, LLP, having started the practice with Robert Grosfeld in 1999. Ms. Jeffery's practice has always specialized in construction defect litigation through the defense of Developers, General Contractors, and every subtrade in the construction industry. Recently, she ventured out to handle the Plaintiff's side of such cases, but soon realized she is an insurance defense attorney through and through, and will to continue to defend those in the construction industry which she and her firm have so aptly defended over the last 25 years. Ms. Jeffery has developed strong business relationships with large product manufacturing firms, and construction companies, all of which have been defended by Ms. Jeffery for 30+ years, even before the formation of Jeffery & Grosfeld, LLP. She has also developed similar business relationships with insurance carrier Representatives and Supervisors that have worked with her for as many years, as they have moved from one carrier to another. It is these strong ties to the construction and insurance industries that have made Ms. Jeffery and her firm successful. She is a member of the Orange County Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She has been a member of the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, an organization that works to further the highest standards of litigation management and defense of parties. Ms. Jeffery is proud to hold the status of an AV Preeminent Rated Lawyer on Martindale-Hubbell's AV Peer Review Rating which is granted to those who demonstrate the highest ethical and legal standards by which California lawyers are measured.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



### **Rian W. Jones, Esq., Mediator, Arbitrator, Referee/Special Master, Neutral Evaluator JAMS, San Diego, CA**

Rian W. Jones, Esq., joined JAMS following a 39-year legal career as a trial attorney and is available as a Mediator, Arbitrator, Neutral Evaluator, Judge Pro Tem, Referee and Special Master. Mr. Jones began his legal career representing developers and contractors in construction defect litigation. He next spent 14 years as a Director and Trial Counsel for Fireman's Fund Insurance Company where he represented a variety of clients in cases involving premises liability and other personal injury cases, including catastrophic injuries and wrongful death claims, commercial and individual motor vehicle accidents, construction defect claims, and real estate agents and brokers in professional negligence claims. He was a partner in a national law firm litigating cases involving commercial claims, breach of contract, toxic torts and multiple chemical sensitivity. During this time, he was part of the team selected by the lead insurance company to manage nationwide litigation for the manufacturer of a dietary supplement. The last 15 years of his career has been dedicated to representing Common Interest Developments and Homeowners Associations in a variety of cases, including defending corporate directors in breach of fiduciary duty claims, handling breach of CC&R litigation, enforcing covenants and restrictions against developers and golf course owners, land use cases, including easements and encroachments, and tort claims involving mold exposure, legionnaires disease and other personal injury claims. He has been lead counsel and/or involved in several appeals resulting in precedence setting, published opinions. While skilled as a trial attorney, Mr. Jones was able to settle many cases before trial and post-trial by working with neutrals and mediators to forge a consensus among the litigating parties.



### **Terence Kadlec, P.E. Senior Vice President, Technical Services MC Consultants, Carlsbad, CA**

Terence Kadlec, P.E. serves as Senior Vice President, Technical Services at MC Consultants where leads the team's effort in delivering high quality consulting services specific to the growing demands related to a wide range of engineering disciplines. Based in Denver, Colorado, he serves the Rocky Mountain Region as a practicing civil and structural forensic expert, specific to construction defect and general liability claims. Mr. Kadlec additionally leads MC's specialty services which include a wide range of offerings from aerial drone investigations to artificial intelligence, specific to analyzing large volumes of forensic consulting project's data. As a licensed Professional Engineer in 18 states and credentialed by NCEES as a Model Law Engineer, Mr. Kadlec has provided expert witness testimony through sworn affidavits, deposition, and trial as a practicing forensic engineer and expert witness. Mr. Kadlec's engineering experience includes performing civil and structural engineer design on residential, commercial, marine, and industrial projects; while his forensic expertise includes investigations following fires, explosions, vehicular impacts, weather/catastrophe events, structural failures, civil/earthwork failures, and construction deficiencies. Mr. Kadlec's experience with construction and design defects include evaluations in civil and structural engineering matters. Mr. Kadlec regularly collaborates with industry professionals and is a frequent presenter at industry seminars across the United States and published author on the topics of forensic engineering, expert witness testimony, and CD claims.



### **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 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.

## *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 & Connors, LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Jennifer Kalvestran is a partner at Anderson, McPharlin & Connors, 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.



**Kenneth Kasdan, Esq., Senior Partner**  
**Kasdan Turner Thomson Booth, LLP, Irvine, CA**

Ken Kasdan is considered one of the nation's leading construction defect authorities who has achieved more than \$1.5 billion dollars in settlements for his clients in the Western United States. He has practiced law for 47 years and is the senior partner with Kasdan Turner Thomson Booth LLLC and Kasdan Turner Thomson Booth LLP, established in 1992, where Kasdan is the founding and managing partner. Kasdan has been at the forefront of construction defect litigation with complex issues involving corrosion of building components, sulfate attack damage to concrete, soil subsidence, water intrusion, and wind-related damage in high-rise, mid-rise and commercial buildings. As a result of extensive litigation and multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements, the construction industry has modified many of its procedures resulting in better, stronger, and more durable concrete and other building components used through the Western United States, an important outcome for all. Well known in the national legal profession and a sought-after speaker on construction defect litigation, Kasdan is a rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbe, the highest rating achievable for both judicial skill and ethics. Since 2009 to the present, he has been selected for inclusion as a Southern California Super Lawyer.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Judge Keri Katz (Ret.), Mediator, Arbitrator, Referee, and Special Master  
Signature Resolution, San Diego, CA**

As a neutral at Signature Resolution, Hon. Keri G. Katz (Ret.) brings over 39 years of experience in construction and contract litigation matters. Judge Katz was honored to be named West Coast Casualty's Construction Judge of the Year in 2024. She is known for understanding complex legal and factual issues and applying practical solutions to resolve disputes with patience and persistence. Over her legal career as a litigator and a judge, Judge Katz has handled numerous cases across diverse legal specialties. As a City Attorney, she represented the mayor, city engineer, and countless other departments in all legal matters, including the Capital Projects and Water Departments. Judge Katz also litigated insurance, professional liability, contract, and property damages disputes. As a Superior Court Judge, she presided over a civil independent calendar department where she heard hundreds of civil proceedings, including jury and bench trials on cases involving insurance, construction, professional liability, and contractual disputes, while also presiding over property damage cases such as landslides and floods. She has participated in several successful complex settlements and mediations as a litigator, judge, and neutral. For more information on Judge Katz, please visit <https://signatureresolution.com>.



**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.



**Philip Kunka, Esq., Associate Attorney  
Naumann Legal, San Diego, CA**

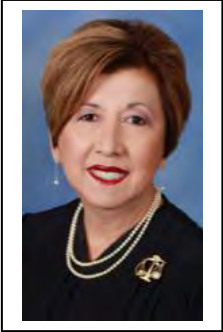
Philip Kunka is an Associate Attorney at Naumann Legal, specializing in plaintiffs' litigation with a focus on construction defect and landslide/flooding cases. Since being barred in California in December 2016 and Michigan in November 2018, Philip has earned a reputation as a skilled litigator. He provides comprehensive counsel to homeowner associations, commercial property owners, and single-family homeowners, guiding them through all stages of litigation from pre-trial negotiations to courtroom advocacy. Most notably, he recently led a trial against the City of Carlsbad that settled for \$7 million three weeks into a planned six-week trial. Philip's litigation expertise is built on a diverse legal background. Prior to joining Naumann Legal, he honed his skills at Artiano Shinoff, where he managed complex cases through trial. His experience includes insurance defense, as well as representing major institutional lenders such as Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Chase in foreclosure and bankruptcy litigation. This multifaceted experience has equipped Philip with a strategic approach to securing favorable outcomes for his clients. An active member of the San Diego Bar Association and the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, Philip serves on the latter's education committee. He has spoken on critical topics, including proper HOA transitions, and will share his unique insights as a plaintiffs' attorney during the West Coast Casualty panel discussion, "From the Beginning to the End: Essential Tools to Secure Settlement." Outside of law, Philip co-owns a stand-up comedy production company in San Diego and occasionally performs on stage, showcasing his ability to connect with audiences both in and out of the courtroom.

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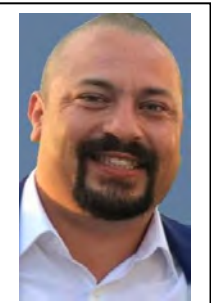
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## *Seminar Speakers*



**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.



**Gustavo Lopez, Senior Construction Defect Claims Adjuster**  
**Pacific Adjusting and Claim Services LLC, Cypress, CA**

Gustavo Lopez is currently a Senior Construction Defect Claims Adjuster at Pacific Adjusting and Claim Services LLC where he manages complex construction defect matters throughout the country as well as general liability and construction injury claims. Gustavo has been in the insurance industry for over 24 years. He began his career handling workers' compensation claims before moving to Zurich North America in 2005 where he was introduced to the CD world. Since Zurich, Mr. Lopez has worked at two of the top five TPA's, Sedgwick and Gallagher Bassett. Gustavo is a California licensed adjuster and currently holds 23 state licenses.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Robert Mann, Esq. Mediator**  
**ADR Services, Inc. Los Angeles, CA**

Robert S. Mann, Esq. is widely respected as one of California's pre-eminent dispute resolution professionals. Selected for five consecutive years as one of the Top 50 Neutrals in California by the Daily Journal, and a multi-year Super Lawyer in Dispute Resolution, he has successfully mediated thousands of complex real estate, business and construction disputes and issued thoughtful, fair and impartial arbitration awards in a variety of challenging disputes. Mr. Mann's technical expertise in real estate and construction is unmatched. This experience allows him to help parties and their counsel understand and manage the risk in these expert-driven and factually complex matters. His experience as a trial lawyer (he has tried over 70 cases to verdict and was lead counsel in the longest construction arbitration in the history of the California operations of the AAA—261 hearing days) and his experience in managing construction projects as an owner's representative, gives him a unique perspective and ability to settle even the most difficult and hotly contested matters. He is the author of more than 50 published articles on mediation and arbitration and he is the published author of a major technical book on construction, *Defect-Free Buildings*, published in 2007 by McGraw-Hill. Mr. Mann is known for his calm yet extraordinarily persuasive demeanor, his ability to rapidly assimilate the most complex facts and legal issues, and an uncanny sense of the critical issues that will guide the outcome of trials and arbitrations. He is sought after for his ability to resolve even the most difficult of cases, especially those involving strong emotions and strong personalities. Mr. Mann has special expertise in real estate matters involving non-disclosure, broker malfeasance, escrow issue, title company issues, and commercial and residential lease disputes. He has likely resolved more real estate non-disclosure disputes than any other mediator in California. He also has substantial expertise in business disputes of all kinds including partnership disputes.



**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.



**Christopher J. Menjou, Esq., Senior Attorney**  
**Clark Hill, Los Angeles, CA**

Christopher Menjou represents and advises design and construction professionals in project development and adversarial disputes, including mediation, arbitration and litigation. Christopher is also experienced in all phases of business and commercial litigation in state and federal courts. He has represented owners in several multi-million dollar commercial and residential construction disputes. Mr. Menjou is licensed in California. His Court Admissions include U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit, U.S. District Ct., C.D. of California, U.S. District Ct., E.D. of California, U.S. District Ct., N.D. of California, U.S. District Ct., S.D. of California. Mr. Menjou education includes J.D., Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, 1994 and B.A., Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, 1989



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

Phyllis Modlin is a Director and Senior Counsel with Markel in the Specialty International Casualty claims division. 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 involving both construction defects and construction site accidents 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.



## *Seminar Speakers*



**Brandon Mohr, Esq., Assistant Vice President, Casualty Claims  
Ascot, New York, NY**

Brandon currently works for Ascot in the casualty claims department handling primary and excess liability and environmental claims across the country. He began his career in insurance as a defense attorney in New York litigating general liability matters throughout the five boroughs before joining AIG as an adjuster in the construction defect unit. Prior to joining Ascot, Brandon spent time on the broker side of the business as claims counsel assisting with claim advocacy as well as risk mitigation advising. Brandon currently resides in Pittsburgh, PA and works out of Ascot's New York City office.



**Edward F. Morrison, Jr., Esq.  
The Morrison Law Group, Los Angeles, CA**

Edward Morrison is a veteran California civil litigator and trial attorney and is the principal attorney at The Morrison Law Group, which was established in 2006 and has offices in Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. Mr. Morrison attended college at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee where he graduated in 1984 and law school, also at Vanderbilt University, where he graduated in 1987. Mr. Morrison is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, has been named a Super Lawyer by the Super Lawyers Publication in 2025 as well as numerous prior years and maintains an individual "A-V" preeminent rating with the Martindale-Hubbell law directory. Mr. Morrison has taken over thirty-five

matters to either binding arbitration, jury trial or court trial. Through The Morrison Law Journal, Mr. Morrison's firm publishes a monthly journal on California law and Mr. Morrison has personally published over 200 legal articles on various facets of California law.



**John Parker, Commercial Claim Adjuster  
Amtrust Financial Services, Sacramento, CA**

John Parker has over 35 years of experience handling insurance claims. He is currently employed with Amtrust Financial Services as a Commercial Claim Adjuster specializing in Construction defect Claims. Mr. Parker has handled construction defect claims exclusively for nearly 20 years and he also works to train and mentor fellow claims associates. He was previously employed with Nationwide. He has a BS in Communications from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN. His insurance designations include, Senior Claims Law Associate (SCLA), Associate In Claims (AIC), and he is Licensed in 15 states.



**Warren Parrino, Director  
eDiscovery and Consulting, Atlanta, GA**

Warren is the Managing Director of eDiscovery and Consulting, overseeing a team of 18 Project Managers and 8 Analysts. Warren Parrino has worked in eDiscovery for over 17 years and has been leading corporate and law firm accounts for over 10. His corporate clients include a Fortune 20 telecommunications company, a Fortune 200 insurance company, and a Fortune 400 toy company. In addition to his Corporate Clients, Warren works day to day with outside counsel ensuring that the Corporation's workflows and preferences are followed. Warren also oversees a number of boutique law firm clients across the country.

Before transitioning to eDiscovery, Warren was a practicing attorney handling complex anti-trust and payment systems litigation. He attended Cumberland Law School in Birmingham, Alabama after graduating from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia.



**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, accountings, 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.

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Maria Quintero, Esq., Partner**  
**Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, San Francisco, CA**

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.



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

Brenda Radmacher is a sought-after construction attorney with nearly 30 years of experience handling construction disputes and transactions. Brenda is a Partner with Seyfarth Shaw, LLP's Construction Practice Group based in the firm's downtown Los Angeles office. Brenda is also a mediator and arbitrator serving on the American Arbitration Association's panels. Her practice focuses on risk management, dispute resolution, and advice and counsel for developers, owners, builders, and design professionals to find creative solutions to the challenges in the built environment. Brenda has been recognized as a leader in the legal field and the construction industry where she has been an authority on issues including delay and disruption claims, COVID-19 compliance, indemnity and risk transfer, impacts of technology use in the construction industry, and negotiation and litigation strategies. She also has experience in developing creative solutions for complex disputes including building collapses, water-intrusion and building envelope problems, civil and highway construction, and multi-family developments. Brenda also deploys her litigation background to draft stronger contracts and to assist in negotiation of deals for her clients in both the private and public arenas. Brenda brings a broad spectrum of perspectives from working on construction projects across the United States as well as internationally.



**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.



**Karen Rice, Head of Global Claim Success Initiatives**  
**Proactive**

Karen Rice is the Head of Global Claim Success Initiatives at Proactive, a construction claims partner to carriers worldwide, providing a collaborative, non-adversarial approach to enhance the complex claims experience for carriers and insureds. Prior to her current role, Karen was the Head of Construction Claims, North America, for AXA XL. Prior to joining XL, 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 is the co-chair of the Construction Advisory Board for CLM. She is also on the Advisory Board for ALFA International Construction Committee and the Advisory Board for USLAW Construction Committee and has been a frequent lecturer at various Construction and Insurance Law seminars throughout the country. Ms. Rice earned her Bachelors degree from University of California at Santa Barbara and her Masters in Business Administration from the University of LaVerne.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**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.



**David S. Schlueter, Esq., Mediator**  
**AMCC, Burbank, CA**

Practicing law since 1983 and now an AMCC neutral, Mr. Schlueter's expertise lies in the fields of Construction Law, Construction Defect, Real Estate, Business Litigation, and Personal Injury. In addition to his extensive experience in both mediation and arbitration, he is well versed in negotiated settlements in complex, multi-party disputes. As a founding partner of Northrup Schlueter, he led the firm's practice in Alternative Dispute Resolution for over 15 years before transitioning to a full time neutral. Mr. Schlueter represented clients in construction related disputes for over thirty years, including contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, construction managers, and professionals such as architects and engineers and now uses that depth of experience as a neutral to understand and effectively communicate with both parties and experts on the technical issues often at the heart of such disputes. Mr. Schlueter is involved in numerous charitable and civic activities, including acting as Chair of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity, Ventura County.



**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.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**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.



**John Silberstein, Manager Business Market Claims Operation**  
**Liberty Mutual Insurance Company**

John Silberstein has been at Liberty for close to 29 years, having handled all levels and kinds of commercial insurance claims. For the majority of this time at Liberty mutual, he's been involved in construction defect litigation and for a majority of his time he managed the Business Market claims operation handling all of the CD claims west of the Mississippi. He's been actively involved in litigation management efforts, having spent 5 years in the commercial insurance litigation management team, working on various litigation management initiatives, metrics, policies and programs. He is currently managing CD claims in the surplus and excess lines group. Prior to coming to Liberty, he practiced insurance defense litigation for a mid-sized insurance defense firm, focusing on construction defect litigation. John volunteers for USA Hockey and his college fraternity's risk awareness efforts.



**Serge Tomassian, Esq. Managing Partner**  
**Tomassian, Inouye & Grigorian LLP, Irvine, CA**

Mr. Tomassian is an experienced attorney and managing partner of the Southern California boutique law firm of Tomassian, Inouye & Grigorian LLP. He was named as one of Orange County's Top Real Estate and Construction Litigation Lawyers by OC Metro Magazine. He is an experienced litigator and trial lawyer who has successfully won multimillion dollar verdicts and settlements. He is also a Neutral with the American Arbitration Association serving as an effective mediator and arbitrator on complex civil matters. He has successfully resolved many complex business, real estate, engineering and construction matters. He received the highest legal rating of AV Directory for both ethics and legal ability given to Lawyers by the Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Directory as well as a perfect rating of "10" by AVVO. He has also been repeatedly recognized as a "Super Lawyer" in Southern California (Thompson Reuters) and named repeatedly in Best Lawyers in Southern California. Mr. Tomassian graduated from the University of Southern California (USC-Political Science an emphasis in International Relations) with Phi Beta Kappa Honors. He graduated from McGeorge School of Law in 1983 (International Law Moot Court Honors Board). While in school he clerked for both the US Attorney's and State Attorney General's offices. He was a finalist in both the written brief and oral advocacy competition and was the 1st alternate on the National Champion International Law Moot Court Jessup team. He received the American Jurisprudence Award in Agency law and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi. He also earned a Certificate in Comparative Law from his studies at ESSEC, Paris, France. He is a member of the Sigma Chi National Fraternity. His legal career began in the Los Angeles office of the international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers with assignments on several large complex litigation cases. His current firm Tomassian, Inouye & Grigorian LLP specializes in construction, real estate, general civil and business litigation. He has served as an expert legal analyst on OCN News and has been featured and interviewed by a number of State and So Cal multi-media outlets & publications. He also served as a guest lecturer at various legal seminars for both attorneys and non-attorneys. Mr. Tomassian is a member of the State Bar of California, Orange County Bar and served on the Legislative, Construction and Business Litigation Sections. He is also admitted to practice before the United States Federal Courts, Northern, Central and Southern Districts.



## *Seminar Speakers*



**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.



**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.



**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.

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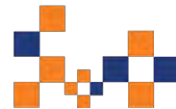
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# To Honor the Brave and Gallant FireFighters of California

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



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### WILDFIRE DISASTERS: WAYS TO SUPPORT

Words alone cannot express our deep appreciation for those who are asking how to help.  
Here are the ways to support our valiant heroes and their families in this heartbreaking crisis:

This worthy charity is named as the 2025 beneficiary for our own charity raising efforts for

- **The Jerrold Oliver Award of Excellence (The "Ollie")**
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  - **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?

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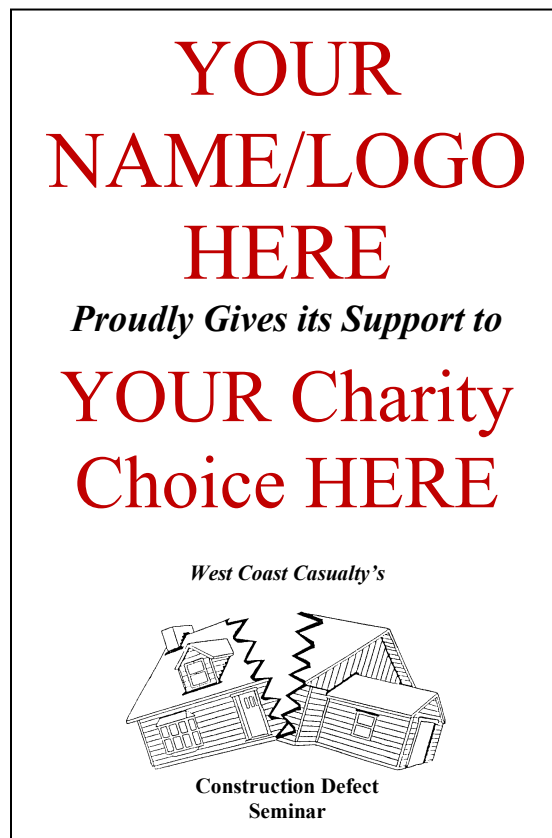
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# *The 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

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*Please consider this year's charity beneficiary  
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**Holly Sepian, CPA Chief Financial Officer**  
**West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.**  
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(\*) 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.



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## To Honor the Brave and Gallant FireFighters of California

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



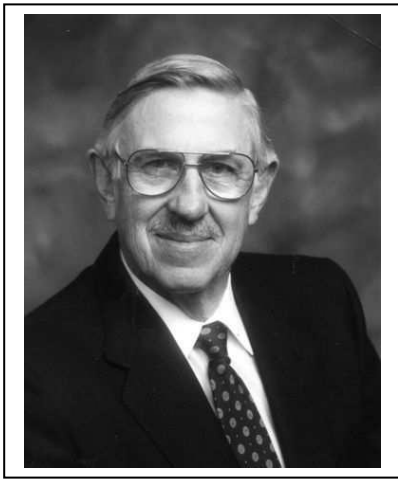
## LOS ANGELES FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

<https://www.lafra.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!**



## 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

Hon. Jerrold S. Oliver (1934 - 1996)

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



Patrick Au, Esq.  
Bremer, Whyte,  
Brown and O’Meara



Adrienne D. Cohen, Esq.  
Law offices of  
Adrienne D. Cohen



Stacy La Scala, Esq.  
JAMS



Scott Rembold, Esq.  
Rembold Hirschman

***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 18, 2025 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”***

***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.

*West Coast Casualty's*  
Construction Defect Seminar  
has selected the world renowned  
**Disneyland Resort**  
to be our seminar site



**\$341.00 Per Night**

**\$439.00 Per Night**

(Standard Room Single-Quad occupancy rates apply)

**A limited number of rooms are reserved at this rate for a limited the time period. To secure a room please contact the Disneyland® Resort by booking online 24/7 at:**

**<https://disneyevent.com/GDWE25A>**

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

**Reservations must be made by or before Monday April 17, 2025, 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**

Group Room Rates are subject to applicable State and local City of Anaheim occupancy taxes

***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 days of you, 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**

**[Sydney.fulkerson@disney.com](mailto:Sydney.fulkerson@disney.com)**



# *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://disneyevent.com/GDWE25A>

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 2025. 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** \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 **Departure time:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Approximate)

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

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

### *Form of Payment:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Charge the above flight itinerary to my credit card  
**Credit Card Information:**  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover  
**Credit Card #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cardholder's Full Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Ground Transportation for West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar for 2024 provided by*

### Element Transportation Group

PO Box 11688

Burbank, CA 91510

Toll Free. 855.768.9001

Tel. 818. 768 9001

[jim4element@gmail.com](mailto:jim4element@gmail.com)

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

*Ground Transportation for the Intelligent Traveler*

# *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 10.0 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-casualty-construction-defect-seminar-2025>

**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 25, 2025

Or

\$749.00 Per Person if registered after Friday April 25, 2025

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 9, 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)*