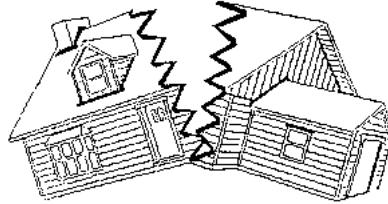


# *The 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*1993 - 2020*

*West Coast Casualty's*



**Construction Defect Seminar**  
**October 6-8, 2021**

**Additional Speakers**

**Additional Sponsors**

**Additional Vendors**

*Since our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> printing*

**A Covid Compliant  
Event**  
**See Page 3 for Details**

**Aria**<sup>TM</sup>

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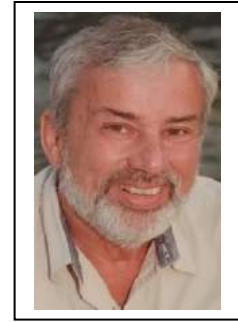
## *Seminar Invitation*

*Since 1993 ...*

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

*Construction Defect Event !!!*

**David Stern, RPA**  
**President**  
*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.*



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

*Welcome to the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar*

*"It's Education, Science, Technology, Charity, Meeting Colleagues, Exchanging Ideas,  
A Learning Experience, A Teaching Experience, A Participation Experience,  
An "I can Do Business Here" event . . . plus so much more"*

*It's not just a Seminar Anymore, . . .*

*It is the Construction Defect Community's . . . "Must Go To" Event*

So, for the first time, here we are going to Las Vegas, a first since 1993 because a lot has changed in the construction defect community and along with those changes, the West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminar changes with them. But like always, we remain an institution, a staple and **"must go to"** event for all the members of the construction defect community. In no other single place can one learn so much about the prosecution, defense, insurance coverage, science and technology regarding this specialized subject of claims and litigation . . . ***and*** . . . in no other place will you be able to meet your colleagues where great long-lasting relationships have been established which assist you in your claims and litigation handling throughout the business year.

It has been long said about our event that it helps bridge the gap between parties by giving them an opportunity, in a neutral forum, to resolve many disputes that they couldn't do otherwise or elsewhere

Our attendees, from the judiciary, legal, insurance, builder, contractor, subcontractor, and numerous other communities averaging in number approximately 1500 per year, come from across the United States and several foreign countries to hear our speaker's views on this continuing and emerging area of claims and law . . . and generally, 67 different organizations grant West Coast Casualty the ability to provide some level of continuing education accreditation to their licensee/members and we expect that again this year too.

The ***only reason*** we have achieved this status is because we concentrate our efforts on the most important people in this community, the attendees of our yearly event. Over the past years, we dedicated a lot of time to listening to those we serve at our seminars and we prepared our events with their ideas, suggestions and goals of our attendees in mind.

I believe that this seminar comes at a time when its subjects are most relevant being brought to our audience by the most diverse group of speakers to be on our seminar stage at a time in world history where everything has changed.

We're looking forward to an educational, enjoyable, and memorable seminar event and I look forward to seeing you in Fabulous Las Vegas on October 6-8, 2021.

Very truly yours,

*West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Stern". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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

## *A Few Words About the Coronavirus . . . . Because We're Ready*

With 26 years of seminar and conference history behind us, West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Seminar has faced events such as terrorism, war, multiple outbreaks of disease and viruses including the threats of West Nile Virus, SARS, Bird Flu, Swine Flu, Ebola, MERS, Asian Flu, Zika, H1N1, plus a garden variety of other outbreaks both from nature or from mankind itself. . . . and now we face COVID-19. With each of these events, we prepare, we become educated, and we respond because that's who we are. Caring about the health and safety of our attendees is, has always been, continues to be and will **ALWAYS** be, . . . our first top priority.

### *We Continually Learn from the Authorities on How Best to be Prepared and We'll Respond Accordingly*

If you decide to come to our seminar, you may rest assured that we will take every precaution necessary to make sure you feel comfortable while you are with us.

As we prepared for this event, we did so, always keeping in mind the protection protocols that our seminar attendees require to protect them from any chances of spreading this disease. Many of these precautions we are updating even as we move forward today. Like many, we have learned a lot about the Coronavirus because, like most of you, we kept up on the news, medical breakthroughs and yes, . . . the rumor mills too. . . . .

We meet regularly with the folks from Aria to talk about planning of various things on the common area seminar floor, the area where the speakers would speak, the breakout rooms, as well as the exhibit hall and common areas associated with it. We also met with various support vendors who will assist us in producing the seminar including the A/V production companies, engineering staffs, convention services who supply our vendor booths, and a few others who will assist us in getting the seminar running.

But let's talk a moment about what we know will impact us as this seminar prepares to go forward and **how we plan to make it all work for everyone's safety.**

First, we talked with the hotel staff about the area where the speakers will be speaking.

Due to the pandemic, and in the anticipation of changing rules, we are setting up the room school room style as we have always done in the past. This time it will be somewhat different as we will be spacing out the attendees in accordance with current Clark County regulations which include:

- Spacing the attendees on 6-foot tables 3 feet apart and in some cases 6 feet apart. If we discover that this method will not exactly work so we will be using more tables further spacing the attendees away from one another.
- The Aria Hotel has purchased, and they have just received, hypogenic chairs which can be easily wipe down during the sessions when they are empty (they are also more comfortable than standard convention chairs).
- We will no longer be using water stations as we will be using bottle bottles instead.
- We have stocked up on hand sanitizers and we will have them out in all our public areas.
- The Aria Hotel will be placing additional staff on hand to continuously wipe down high-touch surfaces which include door handles, doorknobs, push bars, tabletops, public benches, public seating areas, bathroom fixtures, toilets, and any other items that are in constant public use.
- Like at every other large gathering we will encourage our attendees to continue to use proper hand hygiene either by washing hands or using hand sanitizer accordingly.
- Regarding the entire seminar area, we will be putting forth a "helpful hints" guide as supplied to us by Clark County Board of Health & the Las Vegas Convention Services.

*Continued on next page*

Regarding the exhibit hall where we will have most of our vendors as well as the seating for all our meal services.

- Sponsors and vendors will be placed further apart.
- Our original concept plan has been rejected and we are working towards making changes that will be acceptable to meet all current health care issues and we'll update those as necessary.
- Some of those changes will involve having the vendor booths at least six feet from one another or placing an empty vendor booth between each vendor.
- Sponsor booths will be set up in the same manner as they will be separated from other sponsors/vendors.

Public seating at round tables that are described as "rounds" in the exhibit hall will be limited to six or eight people depending on what Clark County eventually approves. We will continue to use our reserved signs for those who have reserved tables meaning parties of 10 or 12 and we will set them up accordingly.

Our registration area will be like what we use at the Disneyland Hotel. While placed differently in the public area of the seminar space, with early registration taking place on Wednesday evening, we anticipate not having long lines at registration. The registration area will also be spaced out a bit differently to accommodate social distancing.

Regarding sign in/sign out at our continuing education area, we are working on a system that attendees will have the opportunity to review their licenses ahead of time which will speed up sign-in process in our continuing education area. We plan to have additional staff on hand to do wipe down processes at our public computers. This will also hold true in the Internet Cafe area.

Like other conventions, seminars and conferences, there will be no Buffet Service. All food service will be handled by the hotel personnel. As we have had in prior years, lunch will be a plated lunch serve by the hotel's employees so we will see no difference there.

We will be employing additional security to prevent anyone who does not belong at our event from coming in. There are more access points where we will be located but we will control those with hotel security. This will require all our attendees to wear their badges.

We have access to an outdoor secured area for those seeking to go outside.

As in the past, our hand out which usually numbers about five to six hundred pages will be delivered on an app about 10 days before our event. We will no longer be providing certificates of attendance at our event to control the flow of paper and those who touch it. Everyone who has registered at our seminar will receive their certificate of attendance by email once the seminar concludes.

We continue to see an increase in both sponsors and vendors, so we'll adjust and if necessary, limit the number of sponsors and vendors for this year's seminar.

We continue to work with the hotel, the Nevada Convention Bureau, the Clark County Department of Health, the Nevada Department of Health as well as the Center for Disease Control almost daily to make sure that we are fully prepared to go forward with our event.

As you know this has been a long road for all of us but barring any unforeseen circumstances, it is time to return to whatever normal can be for all of us which includes this seminar and many others like it. I anticipate that many of you will have questions so please feel free to write to us and I will gladly respond to you.

*While separated now . . . . we'll be together . . . very Soon . . .*

*Since 1993 . . . America's Largest . . . America's Favorite . . . America's Best . . .  
Construction Defect Event . . . Welcomes you while protecting you !!!*

**The Topics and Speakers Committee of  
*West Coast Casualty's*  
2021 Construction Defect Seminar**



**Linda Tonkovich**

Gallagher Bassett  
Committee Chair



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



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



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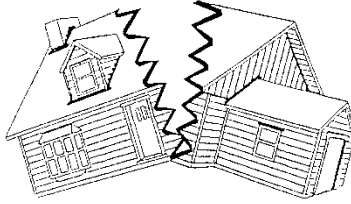


**Kenneth Kasdan, Esq.**  
Kasdan Turner  
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**Bruce Wick**  
Housing Contractors of California

*West Coast Casualty's*



**Construction Defect Seminar  
October 6-8, 2021**

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

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- Share your event experience with others by checking in to sessions, meeting areas, and sponsor booths.
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- Rate general sessions and speakers.
- Receive reminders of upcoming sessions.
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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**

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**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021**

**Early Seminar Registration 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

**Thursday, October 7, 2021**

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

**Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom**

**Breakfast Sponsored by**



**SC Wright Group**

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**8:30 AM – 8:35 AM**

***Welcome Remarks***

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

**8:35 AM – 9:30 AM**

***Recent Important Appellate Decisions in California, Nevada, and Arizona***

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

**Ravi Mehta, Esq. and Luke Ryan, Esq.**

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

***Litigating in The Western States - A Judge's Perspective***

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

**Holly Davies, Esq. Hon. Justice Michael Cherry (ret),  
Hon. Sue Kurita, Hon. James Rogers, and Hon. Peter Swann**

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## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Thursday October 7, 2021*

*10:30 AM – 10:45 AM*

*Morning Break*

**Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom**

**Morning Break Sponsored by**



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

*10:45 AM - 11:45 AM*

*Wrap Policies Today, The Good, The Bad and the Ugly*

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

Adrienne Cohen, Esq., Hon. Rex Heeseman (ret),  
Timothy Earl, Esq. Ellen Best and Brian Kahn, Esq.

*11:45 AM – 12:15 PM*

*“Ollie” and “Legends” Awards Presentation*

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

*12:15 PM - 1:30 PM*

*Lunch*

**Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom**

**Lunch Proudly Sponsored by**



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(Seminar Registration Will be Closed During Lunch)



## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Thursday October 7, 2021*

*1:30 PM – 2:30 PM*

*Virtual Mediation and Arbitration – Today and in the Future*

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

Keith D. Koeller, Esq., Karen Rice, Adrienne Cohen, Esq., Mark Gothold,  
Charles Litt, Esq., and Stacy La Scala, Esq.

*2:30 PM – 3:00 PM*

*Afternoon Break*

**Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom**

*3:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

*C'Mon People, Smile on Your Brother (Through the Mask!):  
Civility, Wherefore Art Thou?*

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

Richard Seely, Esq., Hon. Justice William Bedsworth, Courtney Winzeler, Esq.,  
John Lupfer, Esq., and Sheila M. Totorp, Esq.

*4:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

*Keeping Your Powder Dry: Hybrid Approaches to the Resolution of Residential  
Construction Defect Claims that Incorporate a Builders Right to Repair*

**Aria Convention Center - Pinyon Ballroom**

Ed Schmidt, Esq., Caryn Siebert, Adrienne Cohen, Esq.,  
Luke Ryan, Esq. and Pete Fowler

*5:30 PM – 6:30 PM*

*Cocktail Reception*

**Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom**

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## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Friday, October 8, 2021*

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

Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom

### Breakout Session 1 - Pinyon Ballroom

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

*Southern CD – The Good, the Bad  
and the Ugly*

Joseph R. Miele, Esq.  
Mark Boyle, Esq.  
Paul Amirata, Esq.  
Craig Meredith, Esq.  
And John Cavo, Esq.

### Breakout Session 2 - Pinyon Ballroom

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

*How to Arbitrate a Complex  
Construction Case Virtually*

Brenda Radmacher, Esq.  
TJ Cate  
Kelly Behrens  
Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan

### Breakout Session 1 - Pinyon Ballroom

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

*Maintaining Relationships in the Storm of  
Multi-Party Construction Litigation*

Cheryl Kozdrey, Esq.  
Cameron Kalunian, Esq.  
Ryan Cull, Esq.

### Breakout Session 2 - Pinyon Ballroom

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

*Bankruptcy – The Impact on  
Construction Defect Litigation*

Todd Schweitzer  
Jennifer Kalvestran, Esq.  
Lisa Cappelluti, Esq.  
Mathew Argue, Esq.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM - Morning Break

Aria Convention Center - Bristlecone Ballroom

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## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Friday, October 8, 2021*

### Breakout Session 1 - Pinyon Ballroom

*11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

*Primacy of Coverage – Who Comes First?  
(or “You Go. . . No You Go”)*

David Blau, Esq.  
John McLeod, Esq.  
Chuck Numbers, Esq.  
Kenneth Bloom, Esq.  
Jessica Mauch, Esq.  
Jay Sever, Esq.

### Breakout Session 2 - Pinyon Ballroom

*11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

*Mentoring Under a New Light?  
Is Traditional Mentoring a Thing of the Past?*

Brian Kahn, Esq.  
Sunny Sparano, Esq.  
Linda Pretzel  
Waseem Dulloo, Esq.

### Breakout Session 1 - Pinyon Ballroom

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

*Unique Challenges with Commercial  
Catastrophic Construction Losses from  
a Claims Handling and Defense Strategy  
Perspective*

Cynthia Tarle, Esq.  
Elaine Fresch, Esq.  
Phyllis Modlin, Esq.  
Jay Sever, Esq.  
Mary Ann Vorndran

### Breakout Session 2 - Pinyon Ballroom

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

*Litigating Complex Construction  
Defect Cases During COVID – 19*

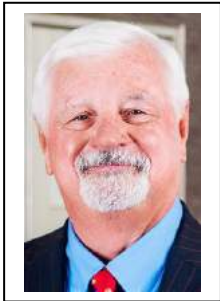
Kelly Cororan, Esq.  
Ronald Kammer, Esq.  
Chad Dunigan, Esq.  
James Prichard, Esq.  
Devon G. Coughlan, Esq.

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**David Lee, Esq.**  
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**Phyllis A. Modlin, Esq.**  
Executive Claims Specialist  
Markel

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

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*Already Decided You're Coming ???*

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## Seminar Speakers



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

Paul Amirata, Esq. has over twenty five years of experience in complex insurance coverage matters with particular expertise in construction defect claims and litigation. His current position is Senior Vice President, CGL Claims at Cranmore, a subsidiary of Enstar Group, a company that acquires and manages insurance and reinsurance companies in run-off and provides management, consulting and other services to the global insurance and reinsurance industry. In this position, Mr. Amirata is responsible for overseeing all of Enstar's construction defect claims handled by Enstar's Third Party Administrators, a portfolio consisting of over 2,000 claim groups. Mr. Amirata has been quoted in The

Wall Street Journal and has made appearances on the Bloomberg Television network on various construction related issues. Paul received his Juris Doctorate degree from Hofstra Law School and was admitted to practice law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in 1990.



**Matthew W. Argue, Esq., Mediator/Arbitrator  
AMCC, Los Angeles, CA**

Matthew W. Argue has over 30 years of experience in construction disputes, mediation and arbitration. In 2004, he incorporated his own mediation company, "One Mediator, Inc." focusing on construction and insurance mediation and arbitration. In 2006, Mr. Argue joined preeminent construction mediator Ross Hart at Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation Center ("AMCC") as full-time AMCC Panel Neutral. Mr. Argue has successfully mediated over 800 construction cases to settlement and arbitrated hundreds of cases for the California Contractor's State License Board. Mr. Argue received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California Law Center in 1989, and graduated

*cum laude* from San Diego State University in 1986. Mr. Argue is licensed in a number of different jurisdictions including California, Nevada, Washington, Colorado and Texas.



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

William W. Bedsworth is an Associate Justice with California's Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division 3 since 1997. Justice Bedsworth presently teaches at the University of California, Irvine Law School, where he also serves on the Board of Visitors. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and was a principal in Fair Share 502 (a charity whose 10 members raised almost a million dollars for homeless children). He was the Hispanic Bar Association's Judge of the Year in 1997, the Celtic Bar's Judge of the Year in 2012, and received the LGBT Lavender Bar Association's first Leadership Award in 2011. He received the David G. Sills Award, the Orange County Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for appellate law, in 2015. He was the 2018 recipient of the Franklin G. West Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Orange County Bar Association. In 2017, the California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates honored him by naming

their only judicial award after him. His monthly humor column "A Criminal Waste of Space" is nationally syndicated, and self-described as the most aptly named feature of the dozen legal publications in which it appears. He has won several awards for it, including the California Newspaper Publishers Association contest to identify the best newspaper column in California in 2019. Also in 2019, George Mason University recognized Justice Bedsworth's opinion in *Brady v. Bayer Corp.* (2018) 26 Cal.App.5th 1156, as the recipient of one of five awards nationwide for "exemplary legal writing." Justice Bedsworth worked as a National Hockey League goal judge for 15 years (he proudly wears a 2007 Stanley Cup ring) and was the subject of a story in *ESPN The Magazine* entitled "Justice of the Crease."

*Seminar Lunch Proudly Sponsored by*



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# Seminar Speakers



**Ellen Best, Claims Examiner**  
**Blair and Company, Valencia, CA**

Ellen Best began her career in Property and Casualty claims 30 years ago with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. She quickly moved into supervisory positions handling general liability, products liability and complex litigation guiding a team of four. Ellen grew her knowledge working with Guardian Royal Exchange being paired with an Underwriting unit, learning the ins and outs of underwriting new losses. At GRE, she handled large nationwide Commercial 1<sup>st</sup> party Property and General Liability matters, honing her skills in coverage matters. Ellen moved to Sedgwick CMS where she was responsible for various Joint Insurance Funds as well as the liability and workers' compensation claims for the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority within its large Self-Insured Retention and Risk Management department. Ellen returned to Liberty Mutual after a family tragedy in order to better care for her family and young child. Liberty Mutual transferred Ellen to Southern California in 2000, which afforded her the opportunity to grow within the Construction Defect arena. From Liberty, she further advanced her claims knowledge at Design Professionals Insurance Company working with claims made consent policies for Architects and Engineers. Her favorite position was with West Coast Casualty where she worked for more than 10 years as the Lake Forest office manager and then independently in a home office. Ellen has currently been with Blair & Company, handling nationwide claims for various Underwriters at Lloyd's London syndicates, including complex coverage, wrongful death, catastrophic injuries and construction defect. Recently, she has assumed handling of the Cove Program which includes nationally large residential developers with wrap policies with varying levels of Self-Insured Retentions and multi-million dollar annual Self-Insured Retentions. In her spare time, you will find Ellen at her barn with her horse, You're All Talk aka Ollie, whom she competes and shows in English equitation, Hunter under saddle, Western Pleasure and Western Trail.



**David S. Blau, Esq. Founding Partner**  
**Blau | Keane Law Group, P.C., El Segundo, California**

David S. Blau is the founding partner of Blau|Keane Law Group P.C., which provides superior transactional and litigation legal counsel to institutional and individual clients primarily in the insurance, construction, and entertainment industries. Mr. Blau has extensive transactional and litigation experience in various areas of law, including insurance coverage, intellectual property, corporate and business formation, development and compliance, construction, employment, and premises liability. He is licensed to practice in the federal and state trial and appellate courts throughout California, federal courts in other jurisdictions, and has engaged in all aspects of litigation, arbitration, mediation, and trial. Mr. Blau has been recognized as a Top Lawyer (Los Angeles Magazine), and as a Super Lawyer (each year since 2017). With regard to construction defect coverage issues, Mr. Blau acts as coverage counsel and provides coverage advice to primary and excess insurance carriers respecting policy drafting, program and claims management. The firm regularly handles large loss and related recovery tasks and issues, including litigation of declaratory relief, contribution, bad faith, and other coverage actions in various state and federal venues including California, Washington, Texas, Nevada, and Arizona, and has successfully negotiated resolutions of countless coverage disputes to avoid otherwise protracted and costly litigation. Mr. Blau takes pride in his and his firm's efficient and effective handling of matters, and coordination with carriers, risk managers, claims adjusting firms, and counsel, to proactively address coverage, contribution, allocation and additional insured issues and disputes.



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

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

## Seminar Speakers



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

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



**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. 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. Ms. Cappelluti's trial successes include obtaining a defense verdict on two separate construction trials as well as favorable trial verdicts in construction site injury and construction defect trials. 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 also has published several articles for the construction industry.



**Thomas J. Cate (TJ), P.E., S.E., Director**  
**Rimkus Construction and Industrial Practice, Salt Lake City, UT**

Thomas J. Cate (TJ), P.E., S.E. Salt Lake City, UT TJ Cate is Director of the Rimkus Construction and Industrial Practice. He is a licensed civil engineer in 19 states; a licensed structural engineer in Louisiana, Nevada, Texas and Utah; and a licensed general contractor. Mr. Cate's professional experience encompasses design, engineering, and construction. His areas of expertise include the forensic investigation of design deficiencies, construction defects, contractor standard of care, site safety, contract claims, and property damage claims. He has specific knowledge related to structural design in high-seismic risk zones and has experience performing seismic evaluations, rehabilitations, and upgrades to structures. Additionally, he is a licensed swimming pool contractor and a Certified Aquatic Facility Operator Instructor with expertise in swimming pool and waterpark defects, accidents, and fatalities. He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Utah.



**John Cavo, Esq., Partner**  
**Kaufman, Dolowich and Voluck, Chicago, IL**

For over 20 years John Cavo has focused his practice in insurance coverage litigation with an emphasis on construction defect claims nationwide. He also handles all phases of coverage advice and litigation involving first party property and business interruption including COVID-19 and natural disaster claims. Mr. Cavo regularly counsels insurers on good faith claims handling and how to avoid being in "bad faith".

## 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 San Rafael, California and Phoenix, Arizona. 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.5<sup>th</sup> 276 (2017).



**Kelly M. Corcoran, Esq.**  
**Ball Janik, Orlando, FL**

Kelly Corcoran is an insurance coverage attorney focused on resolving complex insurance coverage disputes on behalf of individual and corporate policyholders in their pursuit to recover claims. He has significant experience in handling construction defect coverage issues involving commercial and residential buildings including apartment complexes, condominiums, and single-family homes, as well as other coverage issues involving personal injury and property damage claims. Mr. Corcoran was selected to the Florida Rising Stars list, published in *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2018. Each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected by the research team at Super Lawyers to receive this honor. Before joining Ball Janik LLP, Mr. Corcoran served as coverage counsel for several national insurers, in which he gained invaluable experience in understanding how insurance companies defend themselves in legal battles with claimants and policyholders. His experience includes litigating disputes arising under commercial, homeowners, automobile and general liability policies. Mr. Corcoran has been involved with coverage issues ranging from improperly installed roofs, fire sprinkler systems, curtain wall systems, and post-tension cables to large multi-district litigation involving Chinese drywall and FEMA Formaldehyde Travel Trailers. Mr. Corcoran is well-versed in primary and excess insurance policies, policy interpretations, as well as insurance policies covering subcontractors and additional insureds. He has numerous published opinions in the areas of tort and insurance law, including *Claudio v. Regaldo*, 116 So.3d 451 (Fla. 2d DCA 2013).



## *Seminar Speakers*



**Devon G. Coughlan, Esq., Mediator**  
**Conflict Solutions, Portland ME**

Devon Coughlan specialized his mediation practice in the areas of national and international construction and insurance coverage disputes, with a focus on large, multi-party cases. After receiving his JD and LLM in International Law from Duke University in 1994, Devon spent fifteen years as a commercial, construction and coverage litigation attorney before becoming a full-time neutral. Based in South Florida, Devon has mediated cases in twenty-two US States and territories and well as disputes in Europe, the Middle East, Caribbean and Central America.



**Ryan M. Cull, Esq. Associate General Counsel**  
**OHL North America, Chicago, IL**

Ryan M. Cull is the Associate General Counsel for OHL North America, a general contractor focused on a wide range of heavy highway projects across North America. Before joining OHL, Ryan was Corporate Counsel for another large, national general contractor that performed heavy highway and building work across North America. As Associate General Counsel, Ryan oversees the Midwest and West operational markets and deals with legal issues ranging from insured and non-insured claims effectuating risk transfer where possible, to corporate structure/corporate finance issues, employment law, labor law, owner disputes, subcontractor disputes, contract reviews, negotiations, compliance, and bond claims/liens. Ryan started his career with his previous employer as an intern and took an in-

house position straight from law school gaining a unique perspective on the in-house role for companies of a large, multi-national scale.

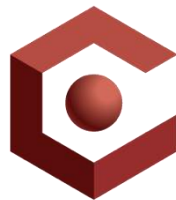


**Holly Davies, Esq., Partner**  
**Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, AZ, NM and CO**

Holly Davies is a partner with Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, and practices out of the Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado offices. She joined the firm in 2004, and focuses her practice on handling construction law and general litigation cases. Her practice includes a significant amount of construction related matters, including construction defect litigation, construction contract disputes, bodily injury litigation at construction sites, coverage issues, lien issues, contract drafting, and pre-litigation matters on behalf of commercial and residential contractors and developers. She is licensed in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico, and handles matters in the state and federal district courts in these states. Ms. Davies is the past president of the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel, where

she has also served as the editor for the bi-annual publication "Common Defense" for the past several years. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Women in Construction – West Coast Conference. In addition, Ms. Davies is a member of the Maricopa County Bar Association, New Mexico Association of Defense Counsel, Homebuilders Associations of Central New Mexico and Arizona, and DRI. Her past speaking engagements include, West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminar, MC2 Annual West Region Construction Defect & Insurance Coverage Conference, State Bar of Arizona, NBI, and various insurance carrier seminars. She has spoken on topics ranging from trends in construction defects, duties of an insurer, condo conversion and bankruptcy issues in construction defect matters, and the right to repair process in western states. Ms. Davies graduated from the University of Notre Dame and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Waseem Dulloo, Esq., Associate Attorney**  
**Goldberg Segalla, LLP, Irvine, CA**

Waseem Dulloo is currently with Goldberg Segalla, LLP, a national law firm, working out of the Orange County office as an Associate Attorney. At Goldberg Segalla, Mr. Dulloo handles a variety of cases but primarily defends clients in professional and management liability matters. Previously, Mr. Dulloo defended clients in a plethora of different insurance defense matters including construction defect, products liability, wrongful death/personal injury, and insurance bad faith. He also has experience in commercial litigation involving contract disputes, breach of fiduciary duty actions, business torts, fraud actions, real estate transactions, and franchise disputes. During his time as a claims' adjuster at Chubb Insurance, Mr. Dulloo exclusively handled construction defect claims of all types and exposures across multiple jurisdictions. Mr. Dulloo earned his bachelor's degree from University of California, Los Angeles, and his law degree from University of Southern California, Gould School of Law.



**Chad N. Dunigan, Esq. Partner**  
**Koeller Nebeker Carlson Haluck LLP, Orlando FL, and Austin, TX**

Chad is a partner with Koeller Nebeker Carlson Haluck and is licensed to practice before all Courts in the States of Florida, Texas, California and Nevada. He is a member of the firm's construction, business litigation, and environmental practice groups. He specializes in construction law, including all areas of public and private contracting, bidding and protest issues, mechanics' liens, public and private stop notices, licensing and surety disputes. For more than 20 years, Chad has represented owners, developers and general contractors in connection with a wide variety of commercial, public works and private projects. He has been an advocate for KNCH clients throughout the country in connection with major construction claims, including claims of construction and product defects, delay, acceleration, default and bond surety issues. As insurance and bonds often play a vital role in construction disputes, Chad has considerable experience handling insurance coverage claims, including errors and omissions, builder's risk, environmental contamination, and general liability.



**Timothy C. Earl, Esq., Shareholder**  
**Sullivan Hill, Sand Diego, CA**

Timothy C. Earl is chair of Sullivan Hill's Construction and Insurance practice group, and is an experienced litigation attorney practicing primarily in the areas of construction litigation, insurance coverage, and business litigation. His insurance coverage practice involves 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 and asbestos claims. Mr. Earl's construction litigation practice primarily involves the representation of developers, architects, engineers, general contractors and subcontractors in both residential and commercial contexts, both in private and public work projects. He has handled numerous indemnity claims on behalf of developers and general contractors. Mr. Earl has also tried cases involving construction defect, bid protest and indemnity claims. Mr. Earl has an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized as a 2021 Top Rated Litigator by the Legal Leaders of ALM. He was named a Super Lawyer in the area of Insurance Coverage in 2019-2021 and a Top San Diego Lawyer in 2013-2021 by San Diego Magazine. He has also been named a Top Lawyer of Southern California in 2014-2018 by the LA Times, a Top San Diego Attorney in Insurance Coverage in 2015 by San Diego Daily Transcript, and has been recognized in the top 1% of The American Registry, "Best of the Best" for 2016.

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## Seminar Speakers



**Pete Fowler, Construction Consultant, Professional Cost Estimator  
President and Chief Quality Officer, Pete Fowler Construction**

Pete Fowler is a construction consultant, professional cost estimator, President and Chief Quality Officer of Pete Fowler Construction, a licensed general building contractor in California and Oregon. Pete received a B.S. in Construction Management from CSU, Chico. Mr. Fowler has published articles in national magazines, has been invited to speak by the most important groups in the building industry, and has composed and delivered hundreds of educational programs on building inspection & testing, estimating, quality & construction management, project management, and claims & litigation. Pete has experience with successful expert witness testimony, including

Federal Court.



**Elaine K. Fresch, Esq., Partner  
Selman Breitman LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Elaine K. Fresch, Esq., Partner Selman Breitman LLP, Los Angeles, CA Named to the Daily Journal's 2016 "Top 100 Women Lawyers in California" list and the "Top 50 Women in Southern California" list from Super Lawyers (2014-2021), Elaine Fresch serves on the firm's Executive Committee and is the Managing Partner of both the firm's Construction Law practice and the firm's Las Vegas office. Elaine focuses on representing developers, general contractors and commercial subcontractors, design professionals and product manufacturers. She has tried complex construction cases as well as many other types of cases. She has successfully arbitrated cases including obtaining a defense award for her national product manufacturer client against a national builder in a contract dispute and successfully won a summary judgment motion leading to a dismissal of a proposed class action against her construction product client. Elaine focuses on achieving settlements for clients while optimizing risk transfer. Elaine is a member of CLM's Construction Advisory Board and is a Co-Chair of CLM's Diversity in Construction Litigation Committee. She has been invited to speak at numerous seminars sponsored by such organizations as CLM, West Coast Casualty, Perrin, and DRI on a variety of topics related to the construction industry and the defense of construction defect cases. She is also a Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and a Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. For her contributions to the construction industry, Elaine has been honored with the Syhre Award



**Mark Gothold, Claims Director, Corporate Risk Management Department  
McCarthy Holdings, Inc., Newport Beach, CA**

Mark Gothold is the Claims Director in the Corporate Risk Management department of McCarthy Holdings, Inc., a national commercial general contractor. He manages losses involving Builder's Risk, Professional, General Liability (personal injury and construction defect), Pollution, Cyber and Employment Practice Liability. Mr. Gothold partners with McCarthy's insurance companies, vendors, and third-party administrators in the adjustment of those claims. He also supervises the handling of Worker's Comp and Auto Liability claims. Mr. Gothold works closely with McCarthy's Legal Department on insurance losses that impact McCarthy's projects, including Subcontractor Default claims. Prior to McCarthy, Mr. Gothold spent over 18 years working for Property & Casualty insurers, handling litigated claims involving excess, reinsurance and wrap policies.



**Hon. Rex Heeseman (Ret.), Mediator and Arbitrator  
JAMS, Los Angeles, CA**

Hon. Rex Heeseman (Ret.) has been at JAMS, Los Angeles, since late 2014 after serving over nine years as a Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Following his graduation from Stanford Law School, he was an Assistant United States Attorney. Commencing in 1974, he practiced as a business litigator at private law firms. He is widely known for his insurance expertise which he often applies to the resolution of construction matters. He coauthors The Rutter Group's *California Practice Guide: Insurance Litigation*. Judge Heeseman actively manages the resolution of complex, multi-party construction disputes concerning owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors and design professionals. His experience includes trials, arbitrations and mediations spanning a wide array of construction, construction defect, engineering and infrastructure disputes involving single family homes, public facilities, condominiums and high rise buildings.

## Seminar Speakers



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

Brian Kahn is a Partner with Chapman, Glucksman, Dean & Roeb. 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, Dean & Roeb, 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 has recently co-authored Thomson Reuters' *Torts (California Civil Practice Series)*. He has also been a regularly contributing staff writer for multiple audio / video and home theater magazines. When not practicing law or writing, Mr. Kahn enjoys spending time with his family and does community work through Kiwanis International; Co-Chairs the Construction Law Committee of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel; sits as a Judge Pro-Tem in Ventura County; and serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Leonis Adobe Museum, a non-profit educational group.



**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 and 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.



**Jennifer C. Kalvestran, Esq., Partner**  
**Gust Rosenfeld, PLC, Los Angeles, CA**

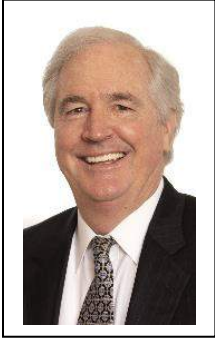
Jennifer Kalvestran is a partner in Gust Rosenfeld's Los Angeles office. Her practice is focused on insurance coverage analysis, bad faith, and litigation. She counsels insurers on a broad range of coverage issues falling under primary and excess policies, with a focus on long-tail liabilities and other general liability, pollution liability, and professional liability coverage matters. Jennifer also counsels and otherwise represents insurers as to the "bad faith" issues arising from these coverage disputes. Jennifer is involved in all aspects of litigation, including trial practice, mediations, and depositions, and with over 20 years of experience, she brings a practical perspective to planning and executing these dispute resolution and litigation strategies. Jennifer is a member of CLM, and serves as the President of its Los Angeles chapter. She is admitted to practice in California, Nevada, Arizona and Minnesota.



**Ronald Kammer, Esq. Partner**  
**Hinshaw, Coral Gables, FL**

Ronald Kammer has represented insurers throughout the United States for more than 40 years. He has been involved in many significant coverage matters including trials and appeals of cases involving an insurance company's duty to defend, trigger of coverage, breach of policy conditions, claims involving bad faith and unfair and deceptive trade practices, policy rescission and reformation. His experience includes cases involving employer's liability, the use of automobiles, construction defect, pollution and advertising injury offenses such as copyright, trademark and patent infringement claims under commercial liability policies, as well as matters under claims-made policies including such issues as what constitutes a claim, related and multiple claims and the prior knowledge exclusion. Ron has over 150 reported decisions involving general liability, professional liability, excess and umbrella and property insurance, as well as bad faith matters. He has argued cases before the Florida Supreme Court, First and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals and Florida Court of Appeals. He has served as an expert witness on many occasions as well as lead counsel for insurance clients in several MDL actions. He is a fellow of the American College of Coverage Lawyers, was selected as lawyer the year for insurance coverage for Miami in 2019 by *Best Lawyers in America* and is ranked in *Chambers* for Insurance Law. Professional Background Ron Kammer is the former Co-National Practice Leader of Hinshaw's Insurance Services Practice Group. He is also the former Co-Partner-in-Charge of the firm's Miami office and a past Business Development Partner and Regional Director for the firm. He now serves on the firm's Management Committee.

## *Seminar Speakers*



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

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



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

Cheryl L. Kozdrey, Esq. is an Associate at Saxe Doernberger & Vita, P.C., a national insurance coverage law firm dedicated exclusively to policyholder representation and advocacy. 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.



**Jim Kurkhill, Attorney and Litigation Consultant  
Law Offices of Jim Kurkhill, Yorba Linda California**

Jim Kurkhill has concentrated his 25-year law practice on all aspects of construction law, including contract drafting, construction defect, project delay and change order disputes involving commercial and residential projects. He has litigated construction cases from all perspectives, representing owners, developers, general contractors and design professionals with an emphasis on the resolution of complex and multiparty disputes. Mr. Kurkhill also serves as a consultant to other law firms assisting in developing case themes and presenting tech-heavy cases. He is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics, including how technology is changing the way lawyers practice, and managing & presenting complex construction cases. Mr. Kurkhill graduated with a B.S. in Optics from the School of Engineering

and Applied Science at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY in 1983. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Kurkhill worked for seven years as an engineer in the laser industry. He received his J.D. from Pepperdine University in 1993.

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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.



**Stacy L. La Scala, Esq., Mediator**  
**Jams, Irvine CA**

**Stacy L. La Scala, Esq.** is a highly regarded mediator who has resolved a wide array of disputes, including construction, insurance (CGL, Property, Professional, carrier v. carrier and subrogation) business/commercial, Covid-19, Cannabis, fire loss and professional liability matters. Mr. La Scala has been mediating and arbitrating matters for since 2011; following 21 years as an attorney handling complex, multi-party litigation involving construction, construction defect, insurance, commercial, and contract disputes. In private practice, Mr. La Scala represented a wide variety of entities, including businesses, individuals, policyholders and insurance companies. In addition to his legal career, Mr. La Scala was a regional director for the southwest United States and eventual National litigation director for a large property casualty insurer. In addition to serving as a Judge Pro Tem for the California Superior Court, Mr.

La Scala is also an accomplished author and lecturer. In addition to his many articles, he is co-author of Thomson Reuters' treatise *California Civil Practice: Torts*, 2013-2020 editions.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**Charles M. Litt, Esq., Managing Partner**  
**Fenton Grant Mayfield Kaneda & Litt, LLP, Walnut Creek, CA**

Charles Litt is a founder and the managing partner of the Fenton Grant Law Firm. He is a graduate of University of California at Berkeley and University of San Diego School of Law. Mr. Litt is a member of the California and Nevada State Bars and has received the highest rating (AV) by Martindale-Hubbell's national law directory, indicating very high to preeminent legal ability and very high ethical standards. Mr. Litt has successfully litigated more than three hundred construction defect cases in California and Nevada, as well as serving as lead counsel to the Millennium Tower Association in the landmark Millennium construction defect claim.



**Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan, Vice President – Head of Claims**  
**Golden State Claims Adjusters, Carlsbad, CA**

Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan has held various risk and claims management positions in the construction and insurance industries and is currently the Vice President and Head of Claims for Golden State Claims Adjusters headquartered in Carlsbad, California. Ms. Laskaris-Lorigan was previously an Assistant Vice President for the Construction Defect Specialty Unit at Arch Insurance; a Construction Claims Manager and Large Loss Specialist at Gallagher Bassett Services; the Regional Manager of Claims, Contracts and Credit for SelectBuild, a subsidiary of Building Materials Holding Corporation; Southwestern Regional Team Manager for construction defect claims for Zurich North America; and the Construction Liability Claim Manager for the former Arrowhead Claims organization. Ms. Laskaris-Lorigan has over twenty-six years of experience in the construction defect industry, including investigations, complex claims handling, and management of losses throughout the United States, and has lectured before various legal and trade organizations. Ms. Laskaris-Lorigan is currently the President of the San Diego Chapter of CLM. In her spare time, she enjoys running and has captained a relay race team that has raised over \$110,000 for Taking Control of Your Diabetes, a charity that promotes education for those suffering from diabetes.



**John Lupfer, Esq. Assistant General Counsel**  
**Suffolk Construction Company**

John Lupfer is the Assistant General Counsel at Suffolk Construction Company. Suffolk is one of the most successful privately held building contractors in the country. With \$4.5 billion in annual revenue and 2,400 employees., Suffolk provides preconstruction, construction management, design-build and general contracting services to clients in the healthcare, science and technology, education, federal government and commercial sectors. Engineering News-Record ranked Suffolk #23 on its national list of "Top 400 Contractors." At Suffolk, John provides legal counsel to the company's South region. Prior to joining Suffolk, John worked at AIG managing complex, high exposure construction defect and coverage claims.



**Jessica Mauch, Esq., Claims Manager**  
**AXIS Insurance**

Jessica Mauch is a Claims Manager with AXIS Insurance. Jessica has worked in the insurance industry for years as a claims adjuster, before becoming a claims manager at AXIS in 2019. Jessica started her career in claims as a Claims Associate with ACE American Insurance Company (now Chubb), working in the Primary Casualty Group of North American Claims. Her multi-line claims experience includes construction, transportation, products, premises, habitational and hospitality claims. Jessica holds a Juris Doctorate from Widener University School of Law and is admitted to both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bars. She achieved her Bachelor's degree in Politics and Economics from Juniata College. Jessica earned her Certified Claims Professional Designation ("CCP") after completing CLM's Casualty Claims College in 2018 and earned the Advanced Claims Professional Designation ("ACP") just this year. In 2015, Jessica earned her Associate in Claims ("AIC") from The Institutes. Jessica is a licensed Property and Casualty Adjuster in the following states: TX, SC, NM, FL, RI, WY, LA, CT, DE, KN, NH, and NC.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**John J. McLeod, Esq. Principal**  
**McLeod Law Group, APC, San Diego, CA**

John McLeod is a widely-recognized attorney who has recovered billions of dollars for organizations and high net worth individuals from insurance companies and related groups. In his 25-years of experience, Mr. McLeod has had the privilege of working on some of the most high-profile real estate development projects in the country. From developers to general contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, manufacturers, hotels, pharmaceuticals, tech companies and others across the country and even internationally, John has been recognized by his peers, including being recognized as a Top Attorney in 2015 and as a Super Lawyer in 2020 and 2021. In addition to his insurance coverage practice, John handles matters in a variety of other legal fields, such as professional errors and omissions, construction and real estate development, and counseling and litigation. McLeod Law Group ([www.mcleodlawgroup.com](http://www.mcleodlawgroup.com)) is a leader in the area of insurance, having consulted on and/or litigated cases on matters

involving some of the largest projects in the country. With offices in San Diego and Denver and attorneys licensed throughout the western United States, McLeod Law Group is uniquely positioned to help our clients leverage opportunities, maximize coverage and minimize loss.



**Ravi R. Mehta, Esq., Partner**  
**Chapman Glucksman Dean & Roeb, LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Ravi R. Mehta is a partner at Chapman Glucksman Dean & Roeb. He specializes in complex construction litigation, mold litigation, and general liability, including catastrophic torts. He has developed a premier practice of representing craft builders of museum-quality residential properties for high net worth individuals, and also has deep experience in commercial projects, manufacturing facilities, and churches. Mr. Mehta's experience extends from the pre-litigation phase through trial. Mr. Mehta has authored for leading publications in these and related fields, including the Los Angeles Lawyer, the Los Angeles Daily Journal, and AmWINS Group.



**Phyllis Modlin, Executive Claims Specialist**  
**Markel, Woodland Hills, CA**

Phyllis Modlin is an Executive Claims Specialist with Markel. Ms. Modlin received her B.A. degree from University of California at Santa Barbara and her J.D. degree from University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She handles complex third-party casualty and construction claims under primary, excess and wrap policies in the west, mid-south, and southeastern states. Ms. Modlin is responsible for all aspects of claims handling, including damages, liability, coverage, reserving, risk transfer, auditing, litigation management, expense control measures and claims resolution.



**Charles H. Numbers, Esq. Partner**  
**Weinstein & Numbers, LLP, Larkspur, CA**

Mr. Numbers is a partner in the law firm of Weinstein & Numbers, LLP, representing policyholders and claimants in complex insurance coverage disputes nationwide. Mr. Numbers' practice is devoted to resolving high-stakes insurance coverage disputes arising from construction defect, cyber liability, trademark infringement, copyright infringement, misappropriation, and environmental and asbestos claims. Mr. Numbers also has extensive experience with accountant and broker negligence matters as well as Directors & Officers and Errors & Omissions coverage disputes. His primary function is to characterize and develop covered claims and to negotiate with insurance carriers and counsel in order to maximize the funds available for settlement. This includes resolving disputes over defense, indemnity, allocation, and contribution; and increasing participation by carriers providing additional insured and contractual indemnity coverage.

Mr. Numbers serves as a mediator and is well respected for his ability to creatively work toward settling difficult matters. Mr. Numbers is a fellow in the American College of Coverage Counsel and frequently lectures on a wide array of insurance issues and is a featured coverage expert for the Edwards Mediation Academy's Advanced Mediation Course. In his thirty-two years of practice, Mr. Numbers has assisted clients in obtaining over \$1 billion in insurance recoveries.

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## *Seminar Speakers*



**James C. Prichard, Esq., Managing Partner**  
**Ball Janik LLP, Portland, OR**

Jim Prichard is Ball Janik LLP's Managing Partner and maintains a broad practice in all aspects of construction law. He is a leader in the firm's growing national practice, and is focused on representing owners of all types in the prosecution of construction defect and property damage claims. He represents a wide range of clients in the Western states and Florida, including owners of single-family residences, townhomes, condominiums, hotels, commercial buildings, manufacturing facilities, schools and other public buildings. As plaintiff's counsel, he has been instrumental in achieving some of the largest settlements in the Pacific Northwest and Southeast, including recovering hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of owners from national builders and insurers.



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

Linda Pretzel has over 35 years claims and risk management experience. In addition to her extensive involvement in Construction Defect litigation (emphasis on Wraps and Developers), Linda has expertise in handling E & O (legal, real-estate, accounting, and insurance agents), D & O, and Medical Malpractice claims. Linda's educational background includes a Juris Doctorate and a Masters in Finance. She is licensed in 18 states.



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

Brenda Radmacher focuses her practice on construction law, working as a counselor, litigator, and noted speaker on issues involving land owners, developers, general contractors, and design professionals. She has a multi-faceted practice handling litigation and providing advice and transactional counsel to her construction-industry clients. Brenda has experience advising clients on risk management best practices, drafting critical documents, contracts, and procedures, and effectively resolving disputes. With 25 years of experience working with construction contractors, construction managers, design professionals, developers, and owners, Brenda's practice emphasizes resolving complex construction disputes through negotiation, mediation, and when necessary, arbitration and litigation, on projects in California, nationwide, and internationally. She has substantial experience in building envelope, water infiltration, and mold-related claims, having counseled clients with respect to hundreds of such matters. Brenda works with her clients dealing with mechanic's liens, payment disputes, bid protests, and contract and delay claims on both public and private projects. Brenda has substantial experience and expertise in dispute resolution, including a background as a mediator and professor on negotiation and mediation. Brenda also provides her clients with assistance on regulatory compliance, Multi-national and Fortune 500 clients rely on Brenda's knowledge and experience to navigate compliance and related litigation. She also assists her construction and developer clients on employment-related concerns and issues. With the recent legalization of cannabis, she advises on issues regarding jobsite and employee compliance on construction sites, as well as in regard to the construction and renovation of facilities being used in the growth and distribution of cannabis products.



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

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

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## Seminar Speakers



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

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

Rothschild firm, and was a county criminal prosecutor. He and his extended family cheer for the Huskies, the Seahawks, the Irish, and they are Eternal Blue Forever Green.



### **Luke P. Ryan, Esq., Partner Shinnick & Ryan LLP, San Diego, CA**

Mr. Ryan specializes in construction defect litigation. His primary focus has been representing homeowners throughout Southern California since 1993. In the last few years, Mr. Ryan has expanded his practice to include homeowner representation throughout Arizona as well. He also has extensive experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of general civil litigation, products liability, and real estate litigation matters. Mr. Ryan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska and a Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law. While attending law school, he was a member of the University of San Diego Law Review and a tutor in the academic support program. Before his legal career, Mr. Ryan completed ten

and one-half years of Naval Service as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy as a Special Warfare Officer, S.E.A.L. *Professional Associations: San Diego County Bar Association, Los Angeles County Bar Association, State Bar of California (1993), State Bar of Arizona (2004).*



### **Edward Schmitt, Esq., Partner Koeller Nebeker Carlson Haluck, LLP, Irvine, CA**

Ed has been a member of the Koeller Nebeker Carlson Haluck firm since 1991, focusing on the representation of developers and general contractors in residential and commercial construction litigation, while maintaining a personal injury defense and general civil litigation practice. Prior to joining the firm, his practice involved personal injury defense and the representation of school districts and governmental agencies, including the defense of peace officer's in civil rights cases. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara before obtaining his J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. He has obtained his mediator certification through the Straus Institute at Pepperdine University. Ed has tried and arbitrated numerous matters to conclusion, but been blessed with opportunities to work closely with clients to tailor solutions

to protect their immediate interests in litigated and non-litigated matters, while preserving the valued business relationships and long term goals of his clients. Prior to pursuing a legal career, Ed was involved in the southern California sport fishing business and remains active in organizations and publications associated with this pursuit.



### **Todd Schweitzer, Claim Director AON Service Corporation, Los Angeles, CA**

Todd serves as a Claims Director for Aon's Construction Services Group and is responsible for coordinating claim services for Aon's construction clients. Todd provides customer support and advocacy, working collaboratively with account teams and brokers to establish service plans tailored to client needs and expectations. Todd's responsibilities include the oversight of clients' multi-line and specialty product claims programs including OCIP and CCIP programs. Prior to joining Aon in December 2020, Todd worked for large property-casualty insurers, managing construction, construction defect, professional liability, product liability, subcontractor default, premises liability, auto, and medical malpractice claims throughout the United States. He was responsible for the leadership and direction of the major case

construction defect and professional liability claim team at Zurich. Todd has been in the insurance industry for over 33 years, specializing in construction industry claims for more than 30 years.

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Rick Seely, Esq., Senior Counsel  
Tyson & Mendes, San Diego, CA**

Rick Seely is Senior Counsel in Tyson & Mendes' San Diego Office. Mr. Seely has 26 years of experience representing clients mainly in business litigation, construction defect litigation, and general insurance defense matters. He has handled numerous matters from initial case introduction through trial. Rick successfully defends clients in construction and general litigation, including a defense award for his client after a 70 day multi-party arbitration; a defense award which also produced a judgment for attorney fees and costs for his client; and a successful trial in which a general contractor was only assessed \$35,000, against a claim for \$700,000 in construction damages.

Rick earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside in 1990 and obtained his J.D. from Loyola of Los Angeles Law School in 1993. 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. In his time away from the office, Rick runs, surfs, camps, and hikes: all of which are a distant second behind spending time with his wife and children.



**Jay Russell Sever, Esq., Partner, Insurance and Reinsurance Group  
Phelps Dunbar, New Orleans, LA**

Jay Russell Sever is a partner in the Insurance and Reinsurance group of Phelps Dunbar. He is also the Regional Practice Coordinator for the Insurance and Reinsurance group and 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 defect 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.



**Caryn Siebert JD – VP, Director of Carrier Practice / Engagement  
Gallagher Bassett Services, Orange, CA**

Caryn Siebert serves as VP and Director of Carrier Engagement at Gallagher Bassett focused on business development and strategic initiatives. Ms. Siebert has more than 20 years of claims, legal, risk management and process improvement expertise and has been a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Claims Officer and General Counsel to TPAs, carriers and self-insureds. She was a 2020 recipient of the Professional Females in Risk Management community service award recognizing her support of industry women and causes. NRRDA recognized Siebert's commitment to advancing the common interests of legal and claims professionals in the retail and restaurant industries by presenting her with the 2019 President's Award. She was the 2017 Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) Litigation Management Professional of the Year and the West Coast Casualty 2017 Ollie Award recipient. She was featured as a Woman to Watch by Business Insurance in 2010 and authored a chapter in "Words of Wisdom from Women to Watch" in 2016

entitled "Hear Me Roar" and discusses mentoring, paying it forward, courage and succession planning. She has spoken on various panels regarding leadership issues, diversity & inclusion, nuclear verdicts, and insurance trends at CLM, PARMA, CAJPA, RIMS, WCC, and NRRDA to name a few.

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## Seminar Speakers



**Sunny Sparano, Esq. Shareholder**  
**Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, Roseland NJ**

Sunny Sparano is a shareholder in the Northern New Jersey office of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin. Ms. Sparano's primary focus during her 20 year career has been in the area of construction defect litigation representing design professionals, developers, general contractors, subcontractors and product manufacturers, both independently and through their insurance carriers, in New Jersey and New York. She also regularly handles environmental claims involving underground storage tanks, groundwater contamination, and claims pursuant to the New Jersey Spill Compensation Act. Ms. Sparano graduated from Seton Hall University in 1997 and received her *juris doctor* in 2000 from Widener University School of Law. Following law school, she served as judicial law clerk to the Honorable Sallyanne Floria, J.S.C. in the Chancery Division, Essex County, New Jersey. She is a member of the New

Jersey State, New York State and Essex County Bar Associations, and was selected as New Jersey's "Rising Star Super Lawyers" from 2010-2013.



**Hon. Peter B. Swann, Vice Chief Judge**  
**Arizona Court of Appeals**

Honorable Peter B. Swann was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 2008, and currently serves as Vice Chief Judge. From 2003-2008 he was a judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court, where he served in the Civil and Family Departments. From 2006-2008, he served as Associate Civil Presiding Judge and helped develop the court's electronic filing system. As an attorney in private practice in Phoenix at Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, he represented clients in commercial and constitutional litigation and commercial transactions. Judge Swann received his law degree from University of Maryland Law School, where he graduated first in his class in 1991. After serving as a law clerk to the Hon. Norman P. Ramsey in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, he became a member of the State Bar of Arizona, receiving the highest score on the Arizona bar exam. He served six years on the Ethics

Committee of the State Bar of Arizona, has served for the past 10 years on the Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure and now serves on its Professionalism Committee. In 2013 and 2014, Judge Swann served on a committee tasked with rewriting the Arizona Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure, and in 2015 and 2016 served on the Supreme Court's Civil Rules Restyling Task Force. In 2016 and 2017, he served on the Supreme Court's Civil Justice Reform Commission. In 2008, Judge Swann was named "Judge of the Year" by the Phoenix Chapter of the Arizona Board of Trial Advocates. In 2016, Judge Swann was named "Judge of the Year" by the Arizona Supreme Court. Judge Swann frequently serves as a mediator in both appellate and trial court matters.



**Cynthia Tarle, Esq., Founder and Managing Director**  
**Tarle Law, Austin, Dallas and Houston, TX; San Diego, CA**

Cynthia is the Founder and President of Tarle Law, P.C., serving as the Managing Director of their offices physically located in San Diego, California as well as Austin, Dallas, and Houston, Texas. Cynthia personally manages and supervises the firm's four offices, litigating and serving clients across both states. The firm is widely recognized for its core competency and work in handling litigation related to construction defect actions, insurance, premises liability, bodily injury and product liability claims. For over 25 years, Cynthia has represented NASDAQ, NYSE-listed, Fortune 500 companies, governmental entities and policyholders. She acts as a national consultant in the

development of clients' corporate insurance programs and directs contract negotiations which serve to align contract terms with insurance provisions, working to mitigate the scope of potential losses for her clients. The firm is also engaged as litigation and trial counsel to defend insureds in multi-party, court designated complex actions, including commercial, mixed use and industrial projects, residential construction, and school districts. The firm specializes in catastrophic loss, traumatic brain injury, and wrongful death claims, including those arising out of construction accidents. Cynthia is a member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), earning the designation of Certified Litigation Management Professional (CLMP) through the Litigation Management Institute (LMI). She served for several years as the California State Membership Chair for Defense Research Institute (DRI) and then as a DRI State Membership Chair Liaison, working with defense attorney leaders across the country. She is admitted to practice in Texas, California and Colorado and frequently speaks to groups nationally on topics of insurance, contracts and construction loss control mechanisms, risk transfer and litigation.

## *Seminar Speakers*



**Sheila Totorp, Complex Claims Technical Specialist**  
**Argo Group US**

Sheila Totorp joined Argo in 2018 after over 15 years as defense counsel for insurers, general contractors, subcontractors and construction professionals. Sheila began her career as an insurance coverage and litigation attorney, where she worked as a partner at both small boutique and national law firms. Just prior to joining Argo, Sheila primarily defended general contractors, subcontractors and construction professionals in civil claims and litigation. Sheila graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelors degree and received a Juris Doctorate from Southwestern University School of Law.



**Jon Turigliatto, Esq., Partner**  
**Chapman, Glucksman, Dean and Roeb, LLP, Los Angeles, CA**

Mr. Jon Turigliatto is a native of Southern California. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of California, Irvine in 1989. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1993. He was an extern law clerk to the Honorable A. Andrew Hauk, United States District Court for the Central District of California, in 1992. Mr. Turigliatto is admitted to the State Bar of California, United States District Court for the Northern and Central Districts of California, United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, and United States Supreme Court. His practice focuses on the representation of the developers and general contractors in complex multi-party construction litigation, products liability and commercial/business litigation. He also counsels owners and contractors in the drafting and negotiation of construction agreements. Mr. Turigliatto has trial, arbitration and mediation experience. He is a contributor to

Chapman, Glucksman, Dean and Roeb's National Construction Risk Management Handbook. He has been a speaker and author on issues related to construction and real estate, including events sponsored by West Coast Casualty, the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, Quality Built, and Lorman.



**Mary Ann Vorndran, AVP Excess Claims Manager**  
**AXIS insurance, Los Angeles, CA**

Mary Ann Vorndran is an AVP Excess Claims Manager with AXIS insurance. Mary Ann has over 30 years of experience in the insurance industry, including construction defect and bodily injury, auto liability, premise, products, management liability, excess casualty and more. Prior to joining AXIS in 2019, Mary Ann's held both technical and managerial roles for large international carriers and third-party administrators including Navigators, American Claims Management, West Coast Casualty Claims, American International Group and Liberty Mutual. Mary Ann received a Masters of Business Administration in 1994 and a Bachelors in Sociology from University of

California Santa Cruz in 1989.



**Courtney A. Winzeler, Esq., Partner**  
**Kahana & Feld LLP, Irvine, CA**

Courtney Winzeler is a partner in the construction/real estate, insurance defense, and general liability practice groups of Kahana & Feld LLP. Ms. Winzeler practices in the States of California and Arizona and manages Kahana & Feld's Arizona office. Courtney has spent over a decade defending contractors, developers, manufacturers, product suppliers, and design professionals in multimillion-dollar disputes involving high profile, multifaceted construction projects facing claims for breach of contract, construction and design defect, negligence, indemnity, fraud and conversion.

Courtney received her B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Arizona and her J.D Magna Cum Laude from Western State University, School of Law. Ms. Winzeler is involved with the Orange County Bar Association, CLM, Orange County Women's Lawyer's Association and the Association of Southern California Defense Attorneys. Courtney is the Chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Construction Law Section for 2021. Ms. Winzeler previously served as the Orange County Bar Association's Construction Law Section Secretary and Treasurer (2019) and Chair-Elect (2020). Courtney enjoys spending time with her fiancé and their beautiful and sassy three-year old daughter. She is staunch supporter of her Arizona Wildcats: Bear Down!

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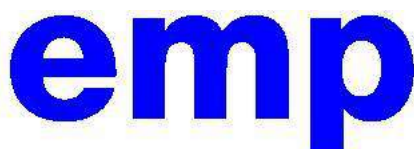
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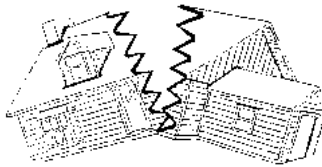
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No matter who you donate the banner to or who it is named for, the results are that the proceeds will go to a worthy cause in the name of someone you knew or someone who touched your heart.

***Please consider this year's charity beneficiaries,***  
***Opportunity Village and Three Square when making your decision***

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

Holly Sepian, CPA Chief Financial Officer  
West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.  
516 Pennsfield Place # 208, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
Tel. 818 735 3595, Ext 108 - Fax. 818 735 3596  
[hollysepian@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:hollysepian@westcoastcasualty.com)

***Banner Orders due by September 6, 2021***

(\*) 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.

**This year we pay special tribute and thanks to those who have already contributed to our  
Buy a Banner . . . Support a Charity . . . Lift a Life . . .  
charity drive by recognizing them here today.**

**The following organizations have donated, and we are proud to recognize and salute them  
here for their kindness and generosity for the charities they supported this year.**

**We will be proud to fly their banners for their support at our 2021 seminar.**

**Bauman, Gant and Keeley, PA  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Sandra Bourdette  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Boyle Leonard Anderson PA  
V Foundation for Cancer Research**

**Chapman, Glucksman, Dean and Roeb  
Alzheimer's Association**

**Marianne & Ed Cutcher  
The Salvation Army**

**Steven Edelman  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Fee, Smith, Sharp & Vitullo  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Bert L. Howe & Associates  
American Heart Association**

**JDI  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes (TCOYD)**

**JDI  
Alzheimer's Association**

**KENNEDY & SOUZA  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Kramer, Deboer & Keane LLP  
National MS Society**

**Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan and Wayne Lorigan  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes  
In loving memory of Dionysios Laskaris**

**Letofsky McClain  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**MC Consultants  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**MC Consultants  
Wounded Warrior Project**

**The Naumann Law Firm Proudly gives their support to  
Challenged Athletes Foundation in Memory of Mark Levine**

**SCHEER.LAW PLLC  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Selman Brietman LLP  
City of Hope**

**Sheehy, Ware, Pappas, Grubbs, P.C  
Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Springel and Fink LLP  
Raising Men Lawn Care Service**

**Caryn Siebert  
St Judes**

**Caryn Siebert  
Children's Craniofacial Association**

**Sullivan Hill Rez and Engel  
Wounded Warrior Project**

**Tarle Law  
Team Connor Childhood Cancer Foundation**

**J. D. Turner, Esq.**  
**American Heart Association**  
**In Loving Memory of Wendell D. Albrecht**  
**“Electrical Expert Extraordinaire”**

**Jacobsen & McElroy PC**  
**Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

**Lisa Unger**  
**Sunny Saints Southern California Rescue**  
**in memory of Heather Wiggins Dunlap**

**West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.**  
**The Salvation Army**

**West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.**  
**Opportunity Village Nevada**

**West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.**  
**Three Squares Nevada**

**White & Williams**  
**Taking Control of Your Diabetes**

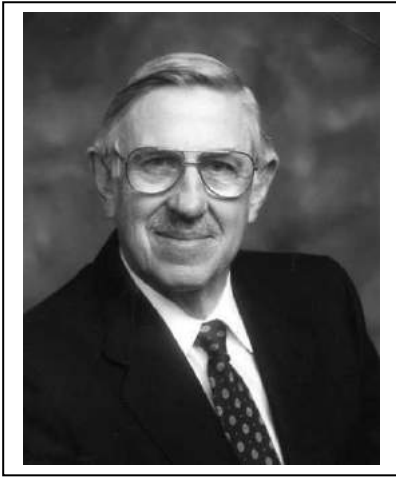
We know more banner orders are coming but we thought this would be a nice way to recognize those who already donated

For information on participating in our  
*Buy a Banner . . . . Support a Charity . . . . Lift a Life . . . charity drive*

Please contact:

Holly Sepian, CPA Chief Financial Officer  
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***Banner Orders due by September 6, 2021***



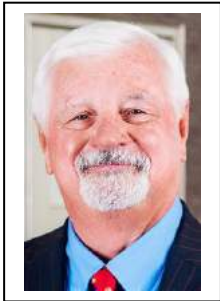
## The Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence

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 names who appear below.

Hon. Jerrold S. Oliver (1934 - 1996)

Along with the recognition of the award is a donation in the winner’s name to Habitat for Humanity and a Nevada local charity

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



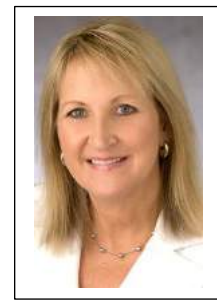
**Robert C. Carlson, Esq.  
Koeller, Nebeker,  
Carlson Haluck, LLP**



**Steve Lokus  
Hartford Ins. Co**



**David Lee, Esq.  
Lee Law Firm**



**Phyllis A. Modlin, Esq.  
Executive Claims Specialist  
Markel**

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

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

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

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

**You can vote regardless of whether you are coming to the seminar Please return by September 6, 2021, by mail, fax or e-mail**

***Cast your vote by mail, fax, e-mail or on our website by clicking here***

**<http://www.westcoastcasualty.com/seminar/ollie-award-voting>**

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

**West Coast Casualty Service, Inc.  
516 Pennsfield Place # 208, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
Tel. 818 735 3595 - Fax. 818 735 3596 - E-mail: [claims@westcoastcasualty.com](mailto:claims@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 2021 designated charity of West Coast Casualty’s Construction Defect Seminar.

*West Coast Casualty's*  
**Construction Defect Seminar**  
has selected the world renowned



RESORT & CASINO  
LAS VEGAS

to be our seminar site and official hotel

**Attendees requiring overnight accommodations may take advantage of  
West Coast Casualty's special seminar rates of:**

Room Type	Wed 10/6/2021	Thu 10/7/2021	Fri 10/8/2021
Deluxe King Room	\$149.00	\$169.00	\$189.00
Corner Suite	\$244.00	\$244.00	\$389.00
One-Bedroom ARIA Suite	\$399.00	\$399.00	\$589.00
One-Bedroom Penthouse Suite	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$639.00

***Make your room reservation now!***

A limited number of rooms are reserved at this rate, please visit our room reservation website at:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SWCC1021AR>

If you prefer the option of phone reservations, please use the following dedicated Group Reservations phone numbers to access special block rates and ensure you book within the block.

Reservations Toll Free: 866.359.7757  
Reservations Local Phone: 702.590.7757

Any questions or specific requests for additional nights, please contact the Aria Convention Services Team at  
[Ariaconvention@aria.com](mailto:Ariaconvention@aria.com)

Rates and availability are subject to change for all suites

The Reservations due date ("Cut-off Date) is **Monday, September 6, 2021**

The Guest Room/Suite rates quoted above are exclusive of the applicable Clark County room tax at the time of stay which is currently Thirteen and Thirty Eight Percent (13.38%), subject to change.

A reduced **\$35.00** Daily Resort Fee (**reduced from the current fee of \$45.00**) plus applicable Clark County room tax at the time of stay which is currently Thirteen and Thirty Eight Percent (13.38%) (subject to change) is applied to each hotel room reservation and includes amenities that are sure to enhance the guest experience. For all registered guests, the resort fee includes: Property-wide high-speed wireless internet access (public spaces, meeting space and in-room), unlimited local and toll-free calls, airline boarding pass printing and cardio room access for guests 18+.

*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 October 2021. 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021  
(Major airport)

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

Preferred Airline Carrier: American  Southwest  United

Return travel date on October \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 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 2021 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***

## **Continuing Education – West Coast Casualty Service Inc.**

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 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

We've made it easier for you !!!

***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-2021>

**Register By Check:** <http://bit.ly/cds-paybycheck2021>

Individual Registration(s) \$649.00 Per Person if registered by September 6, 2021

Or

\$699.00 Per Person if registered after September 6, 2021

**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, October 1, 2021 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.*

*516 Pennsfield Place, Suite 208 - Thousand Oaks, CA 91360*

*Tel. 818 735 3595 - Fax 805 306 1825*

*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)