



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK



Reaching New Heights

WHILE AVOIDING THE PRECIPICES

2023 CONSTRUCTION LAW SEMINAR PROGRAM

JULY 26-28, 2023

FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

www.ALFAInternational.com



Photo: Tourism Whistler/Mike Crane

WELCOME TO WHISTLER!

Welcome to Whistler! Tucked in the coastal mountains and situated between Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains is the village of Whistler: a favourite year-round resort hideaway, a world of sparkling lakes, lush forests and sun-drenched meadows. Chosen for the 2010 Olympic Games, this charming alpine village blends European and contemporary styling in its architecture. The spectacular Fairmont Chateau Whistler resort is located at the base of Blackcomb Mountain, where you will be surrounded by stunning views at every turn.

HOW TO GET HERE

Getting here is easy. You can fly into Vancouver International Airport (YVC), which offers connecting service from most major cities. Whistler is then a scenic two-hour drive along the Sea to Sky Highway. We are pleased to offer airport transportation to make getting to and from the seminar even easier. More information will be provided post-registration.

Note: When booking return flights, please leave approximately 5 hours for travel from the hotel to the airport and clearing customs. Afternoon flights are recommended.

WHAT IS ALFA INTERNATIONAL?

ALFA International is the premier network of independent law firms. Founded in 1980, ALFA International was the first and continues to be one of the largest and strongest legal networks. We have 140 member firms throughout the world. Our 80 U.S. firms represent 95 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas. Our 60 international firms are located throughout Europe, Asia, Australia/New Zealand, Africa, Canada, Mexico and South America.

ALFA International's mission is to provide high quality, cost-efficient legal services wherever our clients need them. The ALFA International model enables our members to use their local expertise to deliver highly effective legal solutions, often drawing upon the collective wisdom and experience of other member firms. ALFA International clients benefit from a geographically comprehensive network of exceptional law firms and accomplished trial and business counsel. Our member firms meet high standards to be part of the ALFA International network and are well respected by their peers in the legal and business community.

Reaching New Heights

WHILE AVOIDING THE PRECIPICES

2023 Construction Law Seminar Program

July 26-28, 2023

Fairmont Chateau Whistler | Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

The Construction industry continues to thrive in a post-pandemic world, with cranes continuing to swing throughout North America and the world (the literal "highs"), but many challenges continue that could quickly derail a project's budget and schedule, some of which occur before you even start the climb.

This year, the ALFAI Construction Law Practice Group is set for another incredible adventure in the Canadian Rockies! With old friends, new acquaintances, and the best views, this seminar will guide you through the highs and lows of some critical issues facing the construction industry today. From Clean Energy and Resilient Design, to the Reptile Theory, and navigating the legal moguls from Contract Negotiation through Project Completion, our plenaries will help you prepare for even the worst of those "black diamond" projects. In addition, our breakout sessions will keep you on top of both transactional and litigation cliffs to avoid. Based on your feedback, we've pared-down to two tracks this year to help alleviate the difficult decision of which sessions to choose. The first track focuses on transactional issues, such as indemnification and insurance provisions, while the second track focuses on litigation and arbitration.

So get "cranking" and register today! We look forward to seeing you in Whistler this July.



John Watt
Program Co-Chair, 2023
Construction Law Seminar
BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC
Kansas City, Missouri



Nora Loftus
Program Co-Chair, 2023
Construction Law Seminar
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio

CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE GROUP LEADERSHIP



Grace Garcia
Vice Chair, ALFA International Board
of Directors and Construction Law
Practice Group Chair Emeritus
MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
Boston, Massachusetts



Paula Boast
2023 Seminar Track Leader
CHARLES RUSSELL SPEECHLYS
Manama, Bahrain



Robert deRosset
Practice Group Chair
YOUNG MOORE AND HENDERSON P.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina



Katie Gorrie
2023 Seminar Track Leader
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois



Chris Mueller
Vice Chair & Marketing Chair
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida



Philip Sumner
Course Book Editor
BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE L.L.C.
Kansas City, Missouri



John Watt
Program Co-Chair
BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC
Kansas City, Missouri



David LeBas
Compendia Editor
NAMAN HOWELL SMITH & LEE, PLLC
Austin, Texas



Nora Loftus
Program Co-Chair
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio



2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
FACULTY REHEARSAL
 Macdonald Ballroom AB

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
EARLY REGISTRATION
 Macdonald Ballroom Foyer

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
 Macdonald E



4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Women's Initiative: Operation Care Kits
 Croquet Lawn

Come together with other women attendees to kick off the 2023 Construction Law Seminar and create "Care Kits" for a local women's shelter.



Ellen Nimaroff
 Women's Initiative Liaison
 LESTER SCHWAB KATZ & DWYER, LLP
 New York, New York

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES: CLIENT ONLY SOCIAL
 Spirit Room

This event allows client attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas and share best practices in a social setting without ALFA International lawyers present.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
ALFA INTERNATIONAL: ALL ATTORNEY MEETING
 Macdonald Ballroom C

All attending ALFA International attorneys are required to attend.



6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
A Warm Whistler Welcome!

WELCOME RECEPTION, BUFFET DINNER & REGISTRATION

Woodlands Terrace

Welcome to the Canadian Rockies! Spend the evening reconnecting with old friends and networking with new acquaintances while enjoying the views of the Rainbow Mountain Range. The night will begin with a cocktail hour in the rooftop herb garden, followed by a buffet dinner on the terrace.

Thursday, July 27

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET
 Woodlands Terrace

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE BREAKFAST
 Macdonald Ballroom E

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
PROGRAM SESSIONS
 General Session - Macdonald Ballroom AB
 Breakout Sessions – Macdonald Ballroom AB & Macdonald Ballroom D

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.
Introductory Remarks



Grace Garcia
 Vice Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors and Construction Law Practice Group Chair Emeritus
 MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
 Boston, Massachusetts



Robert deRosset
 Chair, ALFA International Construction Law Practice Group
 YOUNG MOORE AND HENDERSON P.A.
 Raleigh, North Carolina



Nora Loftus
 Program Co-Chair, 2023 Construction Law Seminar
 FRANTZ WARD LLP
 Cleveland, Ohio



John Watt
 Program Co-Chair, 2023 Construction Law Seminar
 BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC
 Kansas City, Missouri



Jessica Zaroski Bauer
 Chief Executive Officer
 ALFA INTERNATIONAL
 Chicago, Illinois

8:20 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.
PLENARY SESSION

Avoiding the Wipe Out Between Contract and Completion

Amidst the slopes that brought some Olympians to medal glory but caused others to yard sale (that's wiping out for the uninitiated!), this panel examines the litigation dangers that lurk along the slopes between contract negotiation and construction completion. We will maneuver our way through the moguls of contract negotiation, focusing on certain provisions that may prove beneficial – or detrimental – to your position and could lead to an "avy" of litigation later. Then the panel will slalom through the gates where litigation might lie in wait as your project goes vertical. And the panel will close with navigating the always tricky ski jump that is final completion in hopes the project lands smoothly. Strap on your helmets, step into your skis, and get ready to "shred the gnar" as we make a ski bum out of you yet!



Chris Mueller
 Moderator
 TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
 Jacksonville, Florida



Gina Grimsley
 General Counsel
 SAUER
 Jacksonville, Florida



Grace Garcia
 MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
 Boston, Massachusetts



Britney Prince
 Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary
 COMMERCIAL METALS COMPANY
 Irving, Texas



Sarah Ryzner
 General Counsel
 STARK ENTERPRISES
 Cleveland, California

9:20 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

BREAK

9:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – GROUP 1

TRACK ONE

Designers v. Contractors: Common Project Disagreements and Legal Battlegrounds

These days, it's a rarity for projects to be completed on schedule, within the owner's budget, or without some personnel strife. When projects get off track, it's common for designers and contractors to find themselves at odds with each other. This panel will discuss the typical problems that arise between design and construction teams during projects and how those contentious issues develop into legal battles. Particular topics include: uncoordinated and vague contract documents v. excessive RFIs and change orders; design delegation issues; BIM; digital modeling; personnel changeover and impacts to work schedule; delays; perceived relationship biases; assignment of liability; standard of care assessments; and impacts to the owner.



Ryan Casteix
Moderator
LEAKE & ANDERSSON, L.L.P.
New Orleans, Louisiana



Ed Everitt
General Counsel
NEEL-SCHAFFER
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Liz Molina
*Assistant Vice President,
Senior Claims Examiner*
BERKLEY ALLIANCE
MANAGERS
San Bruno, California



Jon Lieb
MCDOWELL KNIGHT
ROEDDER & SLEDGE, L.L.C.
Mobile, Alabama

TRACK TWO

Performance Bonds and Commercial General Liability Insurance for Construction Projects: Understanding the Differences and Overlap

Commercial general liability insurance and performance bonds are two common financial risk mitigation tools used in construction projects. The panel of experienced construction and surety professionals will explain the distinctions between insurance and suretyship, the potential overlap and interplay between these two products for losses involving defective work or property damage, and best practices to minimize risk and maximize coverage.



Marc Sanchez
Moderator
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio



Chris Burns
President
BC CONSTRUCTION GROUP
Brighton, Michigan



Daniel Pentecost
Master Surety Claims Counsel
WESTFIELD INSURANCE
COMPANY
Westfield Center, Ohio



Reed Grimm
TAYLOR, DAY,
GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida

10:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

BREAK

10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – GROUP 2

TRACK ONE

Blurred Lines? How Product Failures Amplify Exposures Facing Designers, Contractors and Insurers

Most legal systems carefully distinguish between standards of care applicable to designers and contractors versus those applying to product suppliers. For instance, architects correctly argue that "perfection" is not the standard, nor is it a realistic expectation. But, courts will find manufacturers strictly liable when products or warnings fail. When issues overlap, critical legal defenses are eroded from designers and contractors facing defect claims arising from selecting and installing engineered products. Predictably, manufacturers are better equipped to mount repeatably successful product defenses than designers, contractors and insurers who may be dealing in one-off situations. In this timely, engaging session, our panelists from diverse industry viewpoints will explore the pros and cons of injecting product liability concepts into design and construction defect lawsuits – and how current claim trends may be increasing your exposure, whether you realize it or not.



Benton Barton
Moderator
HALL & EVANS, LLC
Denver, Colorado



Erica Holzman
*Focus Group Leader, US
Architects & Engineers Claims*
BEAZLEY
Atlanta, Georgia



Xavier Balderas
Associate General Counsel
CRH AMERICAS
Atlanta, Georgia



Andy Burns
COSGRAVE VERGEER
KESTER LLP
Portland, Oregon

TRACK TWO

How to Remove an Arbitrator

We have all been there. Watching arbitral proceedings unfold with an arbitrator who seemingly has cause or a conflict which may impact their directions or awards whether interim, jurisdictional or final. The question is what (if anything) can we do and how should we approach applications to remove them? This session explores our direct experiences of these situations, how they can arise and what we can do practically and procedurally to deal with them, including if possible, applying to remove and replace the arbitrator.



Paula Boast
Moderator
CHARLES RUSSELL
SPEECHLYS
Manama, Bahrain

*Additional speakers are in the process of being confirmed.



11:50 p.m. – 12:05 p.m.

BREAK

12:05 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION

Crikey! Where’s Steve Irwin When You Need Him? Keeping Your Corporate Representatives from Being Eaten Alive by the Reptile Theory

The use of Reptile Theory tactics by the Plaintiff’s Bar has increased significantly over the past decade. In construction cases, defense counsel must be ready to combat these vicious attacks especially at the litigation stage when corporate representatives are deposed. This session will discuss the background of the theory and its tenants, as well as providing strategies that will keep your construction corporate representatives out of the jaws of the reptile.



Katie Gorrie
Moderator
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois



Lissa Kalt
Senior Corporate Counsel
BELFOR USA GROUP INC.
Birmingham, Michigan



Derrick Mullen
Vice President
SENECA INSURANCE
COMPANY, INC.
New York, New York



Spencer Wiegard
GENTRY LOCKE
Roanoke, Virginia

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

BUFFET LUNCH

Woodlands Terrace

2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON NETWORKING HOSPITALITY SUITE

Croquet Lawn

Enjoy this time to relax and unwind with fellow attendees. Connect with colleagues over beverages, light snacks and traditional outdoor games!



Hospitality Hosts:



Robert deRosset
YOUNG MOORE AND
HENDERSON P.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina



John Watt
BAKER STERCHI
COWDEN & RICE LLC
Kansas City, Missouri

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

A Night at the Chateau



COCKTAIL RECEPTION & BUFFET DINNER

Woodlands Terrace

After an enjoyable afternoon, keep the party going into the night! Enjoy a cocktail reception and buffet dinner, followed by a night of dancing “At the Chateau!”

Friday, July 28

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Woodlands Terrace

8:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

General Session - Macdonald Ballroom AB

Breakout Sessions – Macdonald Ballroom AB & Macdonald Ballroom D

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – GROUP 3

TRACK ONE

We All Know What Happens When You Assume (the Risk): Indemnification in Construction Cases

We will give an overview of what indemnification means, what provisions look like in construction contracts, and how they are triggered. The session will provide an interactive opportunity for participants to evaluate indemnification clauses as well as work through real-world examples of job site accidents and issues. We will tie the issue of indemnification to other risk management clauses like fee-shifting provisions, limitations on liability, and insurance coverage.



Alichia Grubb
Moderator
GENTRY LOCKE
Roanoke, Virginia



Ron Peppe
General Counsel & EVP
CANAM STEEL
CORPORATION
Point of Rocks, Maryland



Patrick Ortman
Assistant General Counsel
KIEWIT CORPORATION
Omaha, Nebraska



Melissa Morton
GIBSON, MCASKILL
& CROSBY, LLP
Buffalo, New York

TRACK TWO

Could’ve, Would’ve, Should’ve– What to do when a construction issue arises and how to properly document for future resolution or litigation

Whether it is an incident resulting in personal injury or property damage, issues requiring repair or resulting in delay, there are many issues that can arise during a project that require foresight and planning for a potential future claim or suit. This panel will host a discussion of best practices and pitfalls when it comes to the who, how and what is documented when such issues arise, including considerations of when to retain outside counsel or involve experts.



Eric Leppo
Moderator
SEMMESE, BOWEN & SEMMESE
Baltimore, Maryland



Brian Raymore
Senior Vice President
of Safety & Risk
CENTIMARK CORPORATION
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania



Tj Cate
Vice President–
Construction Practice
RIMKUS
Salt Lake City, Utah



Wally Irvin
LEWIS THOMASON
Nashville, Tennessee

9:30 a.m.– 9:45 a.m.

BREAK

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – GROUP 4

TRACK ONE

Insurance Certificates, Endorsements, and COI Pitfalls

What are certificates of insurance (“COI”), why are they important, and what information should be analyzed when evaluating a COI? During this session we will discuss if COI’s affect additional insured status, notice of cancellation or termination, waivers of subrogation, policy endorsements and the information to be reviewed in conjunction with a COI to avoid future coverage limitations or exclusions. We will also dive into best practices for insurance policy placement, the differences between various types of coverage to include commercial general liability (“CGL”) coverage, errors and omissions (“E&O”) coverage, cyber liability coverage and the current trending problems and pitfalls concerning COIs and strategies for resolving claims with insurers.



Jeremy Ward
Moderator
FRANDEN | FARRIS |
QUILLIN | GOODNIGHT |
ROBERTS + WARD
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Jon Beling
Associate General Counsel
CLAYTON HOMES
Maryville, Tennessee



Ernie Wetzler
Senior Counsel
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY
Atlanta, Georgia



E. Tyron Brown
HAWKINS PARNELL
& YOUNG, LLP
Atlanta, Georgia

TRACK TWO

How to Thrive at the Bottom of the Sewer Pipe: Hot Topics and Best Practices for Managing Indemnity Risk in Construction Defect Litigation

Indemnity provisions in contracts are ubiquitous, under scrutiny, and problematic. As a risk management technique, they are certainly not a panacea, and may be a mere chimera. In litigation, they can become a double-edged sword or a rattled-sabre. This panel will continue the discussion on indemnification provisions, focusing on the benefits and pitfalls of litigating indemnity provisions in construction defect claims. Panelists will offer their various perspectives and experiences with advice regarding best practices and developing trends.



Rett Kendall
Moderator
MURPHY & GRANTLAND, P.A.
Columbia, South Carolina



Matt Piwonka
Legal Counsel-Risk
INSTALLED BUILDING
PRODUCTS
Columbus, Ohio



Alfredo Alvarado
LESTER SCHWAB KATZ
& DWYER, LLP
New York, New York

10:45 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.

BREAK

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

ALFA INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

This session will provide an overview of many new and some improved offerings available at ALFAI as well as resources and opportunities available to our clients.



Jessica Zaroski Bauer
Chief Executive Officer
ALFA INTERNATIONAL
Chicago, Illinois

11:15 a.m.– 12:15 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION**

Clean Energy Production and Resilient Design: Climbing the “Range” of Challenges to a Panorama of Opportunities

The landscape of clean energy production is being transformed by global initiatives, public pressure and governmental mandates to undergo an “energy transition” that incorporates more sources of clean and renewable energy. At the same time, climate change is re-defining the concept of design useful life, forcing the industry to develop standards for resilient design that will withstand increasingly severe weather events and climatic conditions. The challenges these transformations present can be a winding trail, and the learning curve can be a steep climb! This session will help you ascend this seemingly insurmountable expanse of new information and opportunities until you have a clear view of the industry’s horizon and how you can navigate the rest of your journey!



Ian Frank
Moderator
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio



David Royer
Deputy General Counsel
X ENERGY, LLC
Lynchburg, Virginia



Andy Dopheide
Vice President &
General Counsel
BABOCK POWER
RENEWABLES
Duncan, South Carolina



Jessica Mederson
STAFFORD
ROSENBAUM LLP
Madison, Wisconsin

12:15 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

12:20 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

BUFFET LUNCH

Woodlands Terrace

1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

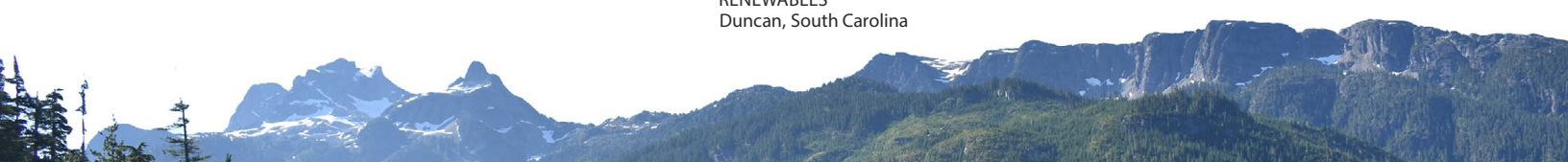
OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

See optional activities brochure. Advance registration is required.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

OFF-SITE FAREWELL COCKTAILS & DINNER

See optional activities brochure. Advance registration is required.



Faculty Bios

ALFREDO ALVARADO is a Partner at Lester Schwab Katz & Dwyer, LLP, the ALFAI International member firm in New York City. His practice concentrates on complex cases, products liability, professional liability, construction/labor law cases, general liability, and motor carrier and automobile liability. He has 26 years of extensive experience in the representation of companies and individuals in high exposure cases in both State and Federal Courts in both New York and New Jersey. Mr. Alvarado has lectured extensively on trial preparation, defending traumatic brain injury cases, Frye and Daubert standards in New York, role of excess monitoring counsel, defending Labor Law Claims and jury selection. Mr. Alvarado is a 1987 graduate from Tulane University where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors, and a 1990 graduate of the Tulane University Law School where he received Order of the Barristers Award for his skills in oral advocacy. Mr. Alvarado has been selected for inclusion in the 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 New York Super Lawyers.

XAVIER BALDERAS is Associate General Counsel for CRH Americas, the largest construction materials company in North America. In this capacity, he oversees CRH's litigation in the West, which includes actively litigating cases as lead counsel. Xavier's practice includes commercial disputes, construction defects and accidents, product liability, and trucking accidents. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1997 and after completing his military service, he transitioned into the civilian world to attend law school at the University of Florida. Prior to his tenure at CRH, Xavier practiced commercial and construction law in Atlanta.

BENTON BARTON leads the Construction & Design Practice Group at Hall & Evans, ALFA International's law firm in Colorado. He regularly defends high-stakes claims for design professionals and product suppliers. After graduating from the University of Texas in 1992, Benton has led teams defending disputes of the utmost complexity, with many matters addressing state-of-the-art technologies alleged to have caused defects and injuries. Benton has been repeatedly recognized as a Colorado Super Lawyer in professional liability and construction claims, and also honored in Best Lawyers for expertise in three areas: Construction Law, Construction Litigation, and Arbitration. Over the past decade while maintaining his busy advocacy practice, Benton has served on the AAA's National Panel of Construction Arbitrators, helping parties resolve more than 60 design, construction and commercial disputes. Benton previously chaired the ALFA International Construction Practice Group and served on ALFA's Board of Directors. He regularly offers timely, engaging presentations on design, construction, products and environmental topics nationwide.

JESSICA ZAROSKI BAUER joined ALFA International (ALFAI) in 2004 as a Coordinator of Events & Member Services. She then worked for several years as a Marketing Manager, Chief Events Officer and Chief Operating Officer. After 17 years with the association, she accepted her current role as Chief Executive Officer. In this position she is the strategic thought leader of the organization, working closely with the Board of Directors and the various ALFAI committees. She manages headquarters staff and maintains constant communication with association members. Jessica oversees the member recruitment, development and retention programs as well as the marketing and business development initiatives for the organization. Prior to joining ALFA International, she worked in the marketing department of the Chicago-based law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas, LLP (now Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath). She is a graduate of the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business (Go Hawkeyes!) and is an avid college football fan. In her spare time Jessica can be found enjoying family time with her husband Harry and her two young daughters, Greta and Vivian. She also enjoys swimming in Lake Michigan, playing beach volleyball and watching Oscar nominated movies.

JON BELING serves as Associate General Counsel for Clayton Homes and its subsidiaries. As part of the Company's litigation team, he is responsible for managing the Company's disputes and litigation throughout the United States. Prior to joining Clayton Homes, he was in private practice at Simpson McMahan, Glick & Burford, PLLC, in Birmingham, Alabama, defending modular and manufactured homes, manufacturers and retailers in connection with

consumer litigation. He is experienced in defending claims in various forums, including arbitration, state and federal courts throughout the country and he has argued before the Eleventh and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

PAULA BOAST is Head of Construction Engineering & Projects with ALFA International member firm Charles Russell Speechlys in Bahrain. She has lived and worked in the Middle East region since 2006 and specializes in construction projects, with a focus on Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. Her extensive experience includes real estate and development, regeneration, infrastructure and utilities, renewable energy, power and water, oil and gas, hotels, leisure and tourism, industrial and commercial, education and healthcare. She operates in both the private and public sectors acting on behalf of government and regulatory clients, including the Ministry of Works and Ministry of Finance, as well as project employers and developers, lenders and investors, contractors, subcontractors, consultants and specialized procurement and supply chain. Paula is a 360-degree projects lawyer who carries out both contentious and non-contentious work. She is an International FIDIC Contracts specialist. She assisted the Bahrain Ministry of Works in the drafting and publication to market of its first-ever Standard Suite of Construction Contracts (2009 Edition) based on FIDIC forms. Her work includes front-end project suite preparation and procurement for PPP and PFI projects, EPC, design and build as well as contract claims administration, advisory and dispute resolution. She is renowned for her work in the ADR arena, including being an accredited Mediator with the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution. She is extremely experienced in the Middle East local and multi-jurisdictional litigation and arbitrations, including UNCITRAL, ICC, DIFC, QFC, BCDR and LCIA.

E. TYRON BROWN is a Partner at Hawkins Parnell & Young LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Atlanta, Georgia. He has extensive litigation, arbitration and other dispute resolution experience in complex business, construction and professional liability cases including construction design and defect claims against property owners, developers, contractors, architects, engineers and construction managers, contract disputes, directors and officers liability, business torts, unfair trade practices, business fraud, civil RICO and other professional liability claims. Ty has successfully represented some of the most recognizable Fortune 500 companies in these areas of law. For 2015 - 2018, Ty was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers of America in the field of Construction Law. He is a member of the ALFA International Construction Practice Group and serves on the Boards of Directors of the Litigation Section and the Construction Law Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. He was awarded the 2006 Attorney of the Year by the Judicial Council of the Gate City Bar Association. He is a past Vice-President of the Gate City Bar Association and a member of the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association. He served as Co-Chair of the Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee for the NBA Atlanta 2007 Convention. Ty received a B.S. in Political Science and his J.D. from Florida State University, where he served as Student Body President.

ANDREW T. BURNS is a Partner at the ALFA International member firm in Portland, Oregon, Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP. He is the Chair of the firm's construction practice group and a former managing partner of the firm. His practice focuses on providing advice and counsel to contractors, developers, architects and engineers, litigation construction defect disputes and construction related professional negligence claims. He also has significant experience in defending personal injury, products liability, environmental and premises liability litigation. He frequently speaks and writes on all aspects of construction from contract formation and bid process to construction disputes, liens and post construction defect and professional negligence claims.

CHRIS BURNS is responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of business plans that fulfill the organization's mission and vision. He is ultimately accountable for profit and loss for the company's national book of business. He oversees career development and training to ensure there is a skilled workforce of associates providing clients with high value facilities that respond to their needs for best value solutions in a competitive market. Chris is passionate about the organization's culture and committed to safe, high-quality buildings that meet the client's budget and quality standards. Prior to running BC

Construction Group, Chris oversaw operations as Chief Operating Officer at Wely Building Company Ltd. in Akron, Ohio and served as Chief Estimator for The Walsh Group in Chicago, Illinois.

RYAN CASTEIX is a partner with the ALFA International member firm of Leake & Andersson, LLP in New Orleans, Louisiana. His practice primarily focuses on construction litigation, specifically including construction defect, design professional liability, contract negotiation, licensing, collections and lien claims. In addition, his practice includes commercial litigation and premise liability defense. Ryan was named to the 2021 New Orleans Magazine Top Lawyers List in Construction Law and has been recognized as a Rising Star in the field of Construction Litigation by Louisiana Super Lawyers (2016- 2018). Ryan received his B.A. from the University of Georgia and his J.D. from Tulane University.

TJ CATE studied Engineering (both Mechanical and Civil) with co-emphasis in Managerial Economics at Utah State University, then completed studies and obtained a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering with a structural engineering emphasis from the University of Utah. Mr. Cate is a licensed civil engineer in 19 states, a licensed structural engineer in Utah, Nevada, Louisiana, and Texas, and a licensed general contractor and swimming pool contractor. Mr. Cate has extensive structural engineering experience including design and detailing of conventional wood framing, steel, concrete (including post-tensioned), and masonry. Mr. Cate has also employed his expertise on unique and specialty structures including ice-climbing training towers, underground tanks, aluminum canopies, and RF transparent panels and enclosures. As a general contractor, Mr. Cate has experience in the planning, design, and construction of diverse projects including single- and multi-family residential, hotels, waterparks, and resorts. He is skilled in construction safety, quality control, scheduling, cost estimating, and budget tracking and management. Mr. Cate has conducted forensic investigation and analysis of various building systems and materials. He has extensive experience with structural failures including primary building framing, foundations, retaining walls, scaffolding, cranes, and construction equipment. Mr. Cate has evaluated many claims of construction defects, design errors and omissions, construction vibration damage, and delays. Mr. Cate also uses his training, experience, and expertise to investigate construction accidents involving equipment, falls, and other types of construction safety. Mr. Cate is certified as a mobile crane, tower crane, and rigging inspector, and uses that expertise to provide consultation, analysis, and investigation of crane operations and accidents. Mr. Cate supplements his engineering and construction experience with his background and passion for aquatics. Public entities including health departments and building departments regularly rely on Mr. Cate for consulting and peer review services for swimming pools and water parks. He has provided consultation and expert services on many waterpark and swimming pool incidents including design and construction defects, accidents, injuries, drownings, and water quality failures.

BOB DEROSSET is a shareholder of ALFA International member firm Young Moore and Henderson P.A. in Raleigh, North Carolina. Bob serves clients primarily in the fields of construction, business and product liability law. He tries cases at the state and federal levels in North and South Carolina. He is certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission to conduct mediated settlement conferences in Superior Court cases and uses his perspective as a seasoned litigator to assist parties to voluntarily resolve their disputes through mediation. Bob has also completed collaborative law training and advanced collaborative law training. He is part of the effort in North Carolina to expand collaborative law into construction and business law. He is an active member of ALFA International's Construction and Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Groups. He is recognized in North Carolina Super Lawyers in the area of Construction Litigation and holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Before joining Young Moore in 2001, Bob practiced law for two years in Columbia, South Carolina and served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in León, Nicaragua. When he is not working for his clients, Bob enjoys trail running or running on the streets and greenways of Raleigh. He is a novice ultra-marathoner who has not yet run one too many races. Bob is a fan of the Raleigh area, as well as North Carolina in general, and enjoys showing visitors what the region has to offer.

ANDY DOPHEIDE is Vice President and General Counsel of Babcock Power Renewables, a division of Babcock Power, Inc. based in Duncan, South Carolina. Babcock Power Renewables provides installation, testing, repair, and maintenance services to the wind energy industry nationwide. Andy has spent most of his career as in-house legal counsel to design, construction, and technical services firms. Prior to joining Babcock Power Renewables, Andy

served as Associate Counsel with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., Vice President and Assistant General Counsel with URS/AECOM and as a staff attorney with HDR. His experience over twenty-five years includes transactional and litigation matters in the energy, transportation, water/wastewater, buildings, and environmental sectors. Andy received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, his J.D. from Creighton University, and his M.B.A. from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

ED EVERITT, PE serves as Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for Neel-Schaffer, a multi-disciplined engineering, planning, and construction management firm which ranks as one of the largest privately held, employee-owned engineering firms in the South. As Neel-Schaffer's General Counsel, Ed is responsible for all of Neel-Schaffer's legal, risk management, and safety affairs. With over 18 years of experience in the construction and engineering industry, Ed primarily focuses on risk avoidance through consultation and evaluation of engineering and construction issues encountered during all aspects of a project's life cycle. Ed seeks to help resolve issues before they grow into a dispute through open collaboration and gaining an understanding of the root cause. Ed has served as in-house counsel for construction and engineering firms since 2011. Before that, Ed practiced primarily in the area of construction law for a leading national law firm. Ed has extensive experience in construction law, professional liability insurance, corporate risk management, contract negotiation, quality control, and mergers and acquisitions. Ed is a 2001 cum laude graduate of Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a 2006 cum laude graduate of The University of Mississippi School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. His professional affiliations include the ACEC Business Insurance Trust, the ACEC Legal Counsel Forum, the American Bar Association's Construction Law Forum, ACEC-Louisiana Risk Management Committee, and the Louisiana and Mississippi Bar Associations. Outside the office, Ed is an avid in-shore fisherman and follower of Mississippi State athletics.

IAN H. FRANK is a partner with the ALFA International member firm of Frantz Ward, LLP in Cleveland, Ohio, where his practice is dedicated to construction and surety law. Ian is a former Chair of ALFA International's Construction Practice Group and is currently the Chair of the ALFA International Marketing Committee. His clients comprise construction managers, EPC contractors, owners, developers, sureties, specialty trade contractors and manufacturers of every size, from closely-held small businesses to Top 10 ENR companies. Ian is frequently involved in large, technically complex construction projects around the country and overseas, whether developing contract documents to manage risk, counseling clients on claim management and performance disputes, acting as project counsel, or arbitrating and litigating claims. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, a Charter Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and has been recognized as a "Leading Lawyer" in Construction by Chambers USA since 2006. In August 2021, The Best Lawyers in America named Ian the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" in Construction Law in Cleveland.

GRACE V.B. GARCIA, a Partner of Morrison Mahoney LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Boston, MA, concentrates her practice in the areas of construction law - including personal injury, construction defect, and contractual - OSHA, product liability, commercial litigation, employment litigation, premises liability and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cases. Grace has obtained successful outcomes on behalf of her clients in trials in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Superior Court and the state District Court. She also has successfully argued before the Appeals Court. In 2022, the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association named Grace as its "Lawyer of the Year." In 2020, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly selected Grace for its "Circle of Excellence" after naming her in 2013 as one of the "Top Women of the Law." Additionally, Grace has been elected by her peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Personal Injury-Defendants (2023), Construction Law (2020-2023), Product Liability Litigation Defense(2020-2023), and Insurance Law (2019-2020). Grace has also achieved an AV Preeminent peer review rating (highest) by Martindale Hubble. Over the last 25 years, Grace has been actively involved in several legal associations. For example, she is currently President of the Massachusetts Bar Association (2022-Present), Vice Chair of the Board of ALFA International (2022-Present), and is Past-President of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (2016-2017). She is a routine lecturer on risk transfer and indemnity issues, best discovery practices and deposition techniques, OSHA, and defending brain injuries. Further, Grace was a Legal Writing and Research Instructor for Boston

University School of Law's first year J.D. program from 2003 to 2006. Grace is a graduate of the University of Rochester (cum laude) and Boston University School of Law (cum laude).

KATIE E. GORRIE is a shareholder at Johnson & Bell LTD, the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois. Her practice centers on construction and general negligence. Ms. Gorrie defends owners, construction managers, general contractors, and subcontractors in construction litigation involving personal injury, property damage and construction defects. Ms. Gorrie has handled construction-related litigation in state and federal courts, as well as before the Illinois Court of Claims. She also represents clients in municipal matters involving construction-related permit and citation issues. In addition, she has served as both first and second chair for jury trials that went to verdict in the Law Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Risk-management education is central to Ms. Gorrie's practice, as she teaches construction professionals on ways to avoid litigation and writes extensively on the subject. She presents regularly to construction and insurance professionals regarding litigation trends in construction, incident preparedness, and proper investigative and risk management procedures for litigation. Ms. Gorrie is involved in both the Construction and Women's Initiative practice groups in ALFA International and has been involved in presentations and seminars focused on issues affecting attorneys. Ms. Gorrie has also been involved in diversity strategies for the legal market, including being engaged in diversity and minority focused job fairs in Chicago. She is a member of numerous organizations, including the Chicago chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction. She earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, and her J.D. from Michigan State University–Detroit College of Law.

REED W. GRIMM is a shareholder with the Jacksonville, Florida ALFA International firm Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boyd, and is a graduate of Stetson University and Stetson College of Law. His practice includes complex commercial, construction and insurance extra-contractual and coverage litigation. He has been Board Certified in Construction Law by the Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education since 2007, and is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel. He represents general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and manufacturers in all areas of construction law as well as insurers in coverage matters related to construction claims. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, has been included in Best Lawyers in America, Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Trend's Legal Elite and has been named as one of Florida's best lawyers by Jacksonville Magazine. He has been selected as the 2023 Lawyer of the Year for Insurance Law in north Florida by Best Lawyers.

GINA GRIMSLEY is General Counsel and part of the Executive Leadership Team for Sauer and its affiliated companies. Since 1876, Sauer has provided best-in-class professional construction services through its various affiliate companies nationwide, which includes 3 different mechanical contractors (Sauer Group, Ruthrauff Sauer, and Sauer Mechanical), a specialty steel contractor (Sauer Structural), a large general contractor (Sauer Construction), and several different servicing companies. Gina is a key leader within the organization and is responsible for providing legal counsel and risk management advice for the day-to-day operations of Sauer and its corporate affiliates. Such counsel includes oversight and administration for all legal matters including litigation, insurance claims and coverage, and contract negotiation. Before joining Sauer, Gina spent 8 years in private practice handling appellate and insurance coverage matters as well as a variety of complex commercial disputes and construction litigation. In 2023, Gina was selected as a Jacksonville Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree and she was previously featured in Attorney at Law magazine as a recipient of the First Coast Women in Law, featuring top female lawyers in the community.

ALICHA GRUBB is an associate with the ALFA International member firm of Gentry Locke in Roanoke, Virginia, in its commercial litigation and construction practice areas. Alicha handles matters related to contract negotiations, payment disputes, mechanic's liens, construction defects and delay claims for owners, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and design professionals. Alicha also handles disputes involving real estate contracts, landlord/tenant issues and other general business matters. Before joining Gentry Locke, Alicha researched criminal and civil motions as a law clerk for the 23rd Judicial Circuit, where she assisted on large projects such as editing the Virginia Model Jury Instructions. Alicha is an award-winning speaker who is also fluent in Spanish.

EDWARD T. HAYES is a partner at ALFA International member firm Leake & Andersson, L.L.P. where he leads the firm's international trade and business

practice. The firm's international trade and business practice focuses on a wide variety of international issues, including customs matters; import/export transactions; international sales of goods and services; disputes under bilateral investment treaties; antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings before the Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission; and World Trade Organization dispute settlement. Mr. Hayes also maintains an active international public policy and government relations practice, where he advises businesses and local governments on international trade capacity and international economic development issues, including the business implications of international multilateral and regional free trade agreements. In January, 2014 the country of Ukraine appointed Mr. Hayes to serve as the Honorary Consul to Ukraine for the State of Louisiana. Mr. Hayes is charged with promoting and preserving the interests of Ukraine and her citizens throughout the State of Louisiana.

ERICA HOLZMAN is the Focus Group Leader for US Architects and Engineers claims at Beazley. In addition to leadership responsibilities, she directly manages complex professional liability claims for design professionals. Prior to joining Beazley, Erica practiced law at a regional law firm in Atlanta where she represented clients in a variety of professional liability and litigation matters. Erica is a graduate of the University of Georgia and is licensed to practice law in the state of Georgia.

J. WALLACE IRVIN is a shareholder with Lewis Thomason, the ALFA International member firm in Nashville, where he focuses his practice on construction law. Mr. Irvin represents contractors, architects, engineers, and surveyors in a wide variety of business matters including contract negotiations, project administration/closeout, construction defect defense and payment disputes, including the assertion and enforcement of lien and bond claims. Additionally, Mr. Irvin advises clients in administrative matters before the Tennessee Occupational Health and Safety Administration (TOSHA), the Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners, and Tennessee Board for Licensing Contractors. In 2019-2020, Mr. Irvin helped lead an industry coalition to amend Tennessee's construction statutes to provide additional protections and remedies for contractors and design professionals to ensure timely payments are made on construction projects. Mr Irvin is an active member of the Associated General Contractors, Associated Builders and Contractors, American Council of Engineering Companies, and the Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar Associations. Mr. Irvin is also a member of the 2023 Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law program and is a graduate of Leadership Middle Tennessee (2019), the Nashville Bar Foundation's Leadership Forum (2016), and the AGC Construction Leadership Program (2015). Mr. Irvin also contributes to numerous industry publications, such as the 2017 A201 Desk book (ABA/AIA 2017), the Tennessee Construction Law Handbook (HLK 2017), the Annotated Construction Law Glossary (ABA 2011), and the Law of Payment Bonds (ABA 2011) and is a frequently lecturer for construction industry trade organizations and seminar providers. Mr. Irvin is rated "AV Preeminent" by Martindale Hubbell. He is licensed to practice in Tennessee and Alabama and is a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 listed Civil Mediator.

LISSA KALT is Senior Corporate Counsel for Belfor USA Group, Inc., the international leader in disaster recovery and property restoration services. As a member of Belfor's litigation team, Lissa manages Belfor's complex general liability matters. Lissa's responsibilities additionally include the handling of commercial litigation, insurance coverage issues, bankruptcy and matters involving OSHA Workplace Health and Safety. Lissa also provides legal counsel and risk management advice for Belfor's day-to-day operations. Prior to joining Belfor, Lissa spent 12 years in private practice handling a variety of real property and commercial litigation matters from inception through appeal, during which time she spent five years managing her firm's litigation practice group. Lissa earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and her J.D. from the John Marshall Law School.

RETT KENDALL is a shareholder with the ALFA International firm, Murphy & Grantland, P.A. in Columbia, South Carolina. For more than 23 years, Rett's practice has focused on construction defect and products litigation, representing both contractors and building component manufacturers.

ERIC LEPPA is a Principal with Semmes, Bowen & Semmes, the ALFA International member firm in Baltimore, Maryland, practicing in the firm's Litigation practice with a focus on construction, product liability and toxic tort matters. His practice includes both state and federal trial and appellate work, as well as representation of clients before the Maryland Insurance Commissioner. Mr. Leppo has represented contractors on a wide array of matters involving

commercial and residential projects across Maryland and in the District of Columbia. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science from Penn State University and received his J.D. from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at William & Mary in 2006. He has been selected as a "Rising Star" since 2015 by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters Business, as published in Baltimore Magazine and Super Lawyers Magazine.

JON LIEB is a partner with the ALFA International firm of McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge in Mobile, Alabama. While representing clients across several areas of the law, Jon has accumulated diverse experience applicable to a variety of types of litigation. His involvement in numerous complex construction defect cases has equipped him with particular expertise in this area. He has worked extensively with contractors, engineers and architects to successfully investigate, analyze and litigate a myriad of construction related claims. Jon also regularly handles claims involving industrial accidents, marine construction, transportation and premises liability. Jon is actively involved in ALFA International's Transportation and Construction practice groups and is a member of the federation of defense and corporate counsel (FDCC).

NORA E. LOFTUS is a Partner in the Construction Practice Group of the Cleveland, Ohio, ALFA International member firm, Frantz Ward. Nora devotes her practice to the construction industry. Nora helps clients identify, avoid and resolve project disputes at all stages—from project inception drafting and negotiating contracts, while the project is progressing to prevent issues from escalating and through mediation, litigation and arbitration. With a focus on risk management, Nora believes in helping clients spend their time where it should be spent—developing their businesses. Nora has represented owners, architects, engineers, general contractors, subcontractors, manufacturers, suppliers and sureties, which enables her to spot issues and risks from all sides. Nora also serves as an arbitrator on the Construction Panel of the American Arbitration Association. She is AV Preeminent, the highest ranking, peer review ranked by Martindale-Hubbell and has been named in Chambers USA and Ohio SuperLawyers.

JESSICA MEDERSON is a partner in the ALFA International member law firm, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, and is a partner in its Litigation department in Madison, Wisconsin. After practicing for a decade in Texas she moved to Wisconsin, where she litigates business and IP matters in state and federal courts across the United States, focusing her practice on construction disputes, UCC litigation, contract disputes, director/officer and shareholder litigation, employer-side employment litigation, and patent infringement litigation. Jessica also advises corporate clients on contractual negotiation issues and employment law and has extensive experience with both ediscovery issues and attorney-client privilege issues. Jessica is President of the Western District of Wisconsin Bar Association Board of Directors as well as being a member of the Precast Concrete Institute and its Financial/Risk Management Committee. She is also certified for entry into OSHA Permit-Required Confined Spaces. She writes and presents nationally on addressing resiliency in construction projects and business operations. She is admitted to practice in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, and Florida as well as a number of federal courts across the Midwest and in Texas.

LIZ MOLINA has worked in the Insurance Industry since 1978 with first handling claims involving Auto, Homeowner's, General Liability and Tribal Claims. In 1994 she began handling Professional Liability claims involving Real Estate, Medical Malpractice and Legal Malpractice. But the most rewarding work is with the Architects & Engineers Professional Liability claims which she continues to handle today. The experience resulted in traveling to almost every State in the U.S. With her current tenure at Berkley, she holds an adjuster's license in all State's requiring them. Much of her knowledge and skills come from true experiences in the insurance industry.

MELISSA MORTON is a partner with Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Buffalo, New York. Her practice focuses on the defense of casualty and negligence cases including industrial and construction accidents, premises liability matters, and other catastrophic accidents. Ms. Morton is also experienced in handling business/commercial litigation, insurance coverage, and municipal liability matters. Ms. Morton is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, and the Bar Association of Erie County. Ms. Morton provides pro bono legal services to federal litigants through the Volunteer Lawyers Project Pro Se Assistance Program, which is venued in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. Ms. Morton is a graduate of the State University of New

York at Buffalo School of Law and Canisius College. She is admitted to practice in the State of New York, as well as in various federal district and circuit courts including the United States Supreme Court.

CHRISTOPHER J. MUELLER is a shareholder with Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boyd, the ALFA International member firm in Jacksonville, Florida and Board Certified as a specialist in construction law by the Florida Bar. Chris graduated cum laude from Florida State University and then received his juris doctor from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. His practice primarily includes the representation of developers, general contractors, subcontractors, designers, and material suppliers in a wide variety of construction disputes. He also represents insurance carriers on coverage matters and has litigated commercial and personal injury disputes throughout his career. Chris is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, has been honored by Super Lawyers magazine and U.S. News Best Lawyers in America in construction law, is a fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and is a frequent writer and lecturer on a variety of construction law topics. Chris also serves as a mayoral appointee on Jacksonville's Construction Trades Qualifying Board.

DERRICK MULLEN is a Vice President with the responsibility for handling complex and high exposure litigated claims involving major coverage issues, coordinating mediation days, manages a plaintiff doctors spreadsheet as well as monitoring defense and coverage counsel at Seneca Insurance Company, Inc. Since 1991, he has also worked for Hartford Insurance Company and Crum & Forster Insurance Company as an inside claims representative and an auto claims supervisor. Derrick gained a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Engineering at Gardner Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. In his current role, Derrick specializes in commercial general liability insurance claims, as well as first party property litigation filed against the company. Derrick's success in this area is supported by excellent negotiation and communication skills, high claim technical ability, leadership, organizational skills combined with a special interest in coverage, habitability, products defect as well as construction defect claims. Derrick also carries an insurance adjusting license in 17-States and has a designation as a Master Certified Special Arbitrator (MCSA) as well as a Certified Claims Professional (CCP) designation. Derrick lives in Ozone Park, New York with his cat named Kobe. When not working, Derrick likes to watch movies, spend time with his two adult daughters, attend sporting events, workout, travel and dine at fine restaurants.

ELLEN NIMAROFF is from the New York, New York ALFA law firm of Lester Schwab Katz & Dwyer, LLP. Her practice is focused on the areas of insurance brokers and agents errors & omissions, insurance coverage and professional liability. She represents insurance agents and brokers in New York and New Jersey in both state and federal courts in complex errors & omissions litigation and claims. She also represents insurance agents and brokers at administrative proceedings before the New York State Insurance Department, State Insurance Fund and Worker's Compensation Board. She represents national insurers in complex insurance coverage disputes. She analyzes insurance coverage issues, renders opinions for insurers and defends and prosecutes declaratory judgment actions. She received her BA degree from Wellesley College and her JD from Brooklyn Law School.

PATRICK ORTMAN is Assistant General Counsel for Kiewit, one of North America's largest and most respected construction and engineering organizations. With its roots dating back to 1884, the employee-owned organization operates through a network of subsidiaries in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Kiewit offers construction and engineering services in a variety of markets including transportation; oil, gas and chemical; power; building; water/wastewater; industrial; and mining. At Kiewit, Patrick oversees the investigation of serious accidents and resulting litigation all over the United States and Canada, handles OSHA- and MSHA-related matters, and is a core member of the company's crisis management team. Prior to joining Kiewit, Patrick worked as an insurance defense litigator for a prominent Omaha law firm and later as a Major Case Director for a national insurance company with an emphasis on construction, premises liability, and trucking litigation.

RON PEPPE is Executive Vice President for Canam Steel Corporation, and oversees legal, human resources, risk management, and health, safety, and environmental issues. Ron has also served as VP Law and Technology for the Association of Corporate Counsel, and Vice President and Associate General Counsel at Prudential Home Mortgage. Ron is the co-chair of the ERISA subcommittee of the ACC Employment and Labor Law Committee and previously served as co-chair of the ACC Environment and Sustainability Committee. Ron currently serves on the Frederick City Charter Review

Commission, and has served as a member of the City Council and as Chairman of the School Board of Falls Church, Virginia and was President of the Board of Education of Frederick County, Maryland. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, an MA from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a JD from the University of MD School of Law.

MATT PIWONKA graduated from the University of Arizona School of Law in 1997. After serving three years as a Navy Judge Advocate, he spent four years in private practice in Portland Oregon. Mr. Piwonka then served 14 years as Staff Counsel for a top five commercial liability insurer, focusing on construction defect and general liability litigation. Mr. Piwonka joined Installed Building Products' Risk Department (IBP) in 2019. IBP installs insulation, gutters, gas fireplace inserts, shelving, mirrors and other construction materials on a nationwide basis through its over 210 branches. Mr. Piwonka is currently IBP's Senior Manager for General Liability Claims and Contract Review. He collaborates with IBP's branch personnel, third-party claim professionals and defense counsel to achieve cost-effective, creative claims and litigation results throughout the country. Mr. Piwonka also manages IBP's Contract Review Team and participates in strategic planning within the Risk Department.

DAVID ROYER is Deputy General Counsel for X Energy, LLC, a nuclear reactor & fuel design engineering company. X Energy develops Generation IV high-temp gas cooled nuclear reactors and the TRISO-X fuel to power them. In direct support of X Energy's General Counsel, David is responsible for handling a broad range of legal, risk, transactional and compliance matters. Prior to joining X Energy in 2022, David worked in the nuclear energy industry for nearly twenty years at Framatome Inc., where he most recently served as General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer responsible for managing Framatome's Legal Department and overseeing its compliance programs for North American. With over twenty-five years of in-house corporate legal experience, including roles at GE Capital and Wells Fargo, David has experience with wide variety of legal matters including in the area of new build nuclear facility projects. David earned his B.A. in English and International Relations from the Virginia Military Institute with distinction and graduated *magna cum laude* from Vermont Law School where he received his J.D.

LORI-ANN RUSSO-GREEN is responsible for overseeing claims management for Gramercy's Specialty Risk Services Division. With a combined twenty-seven years in the Insurance industry, Lori-Ann brings a diversity of experience and a wealth of knowledge to Gramercy Risk Management. Starting her career in the Property and Casualty space in 1996, she garnered experience across the country in both Auto and Homeowners claims. As her career progressed, she transitioned into Commercial claims specializing in SBLL, Construction Defect, Hospitality, Contractors, NYLL and IP claims. She excels in litigation management, coverage analysis, risk transfer as well as regulatory and compliance audits. Lori-Ann has claims experience in all 50 states and is well versed in pressing jurisdictional issues. Lori-Ann actively volunteers her time on behalf of the Autism Society of North Carolina. She teaches cooking courses for disabled teens and adults in Wake Forest, NC and offers her assistance as an IEP advocate for families within Wake County.

SARAH RYZNER joined the legal department at Stark Enterprises in 2015 and currently serves as General Counsel. Leading the in-house team of real estate attorneys, paralegals and lease administrators, Sarah's multifaceted role involves overseeing all legal aspects of Stark Enterprises including new development, acquisition opportunities and servicing the existing assets within the company's portfolio. Sarah completed the majority of her undergraduate coursework at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and graduated from Cleveland State University. She also received a Master's in Urban Planning, Design and Development and Juris Doctor from Cleveland State University and is admitted to practice law in Ohio. Prior to joining Stark Enterprises, she served in various capacities in the real estate industry in both the private and non-profit sectors.

MARC A. SANCHEZ is a partner with the Cleveland, Ohio ALFA International firm Frantz Ward LLP. Marc devotes his entire practice to construction law, representing contractors, specialty contractors, subcontractors, owners, developers, design professionals and sureties. He has extensive experience with construction-related litigation, mediation, arbitration, claims management,

claims avoidance, insurance coverage and contract negotiation. Marc serves as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and is a Charter Fellow in the Construction Lawyers Society of America. He is named to the Ohio Super Lawyers list, The Best Lawyers in America and is voted AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell.

JEREMY WARD is an ALFA International (ALFAI) Construction Practice Group member with the ALFAI firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Franden | Farris | Quillin | Goodnight + Roberts. He routinely represents companies on claims based on product liability, catastrophic incidents and accidents, and professional negligence defending design professionals. He was named a Super Lawyer Rising Star in general litigation for 2011 and a Super Lawyer Rising Star in Personal Injury Defense (Product Liability) for 2012-2017. Jeremy was selected as one of Oklahoma's Top Rated Lawyers of 2014 presented by Legal Leaders. Jeremy is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He was elected to the Oklahoma Bar Associations' House of Delegates as an Alternate for 2010-2013 and 2015-2016. Jeremy is admitted to practice before all state and federal courts in Oklahoma and Arkansas and before the Northern District of Oklahoma Bankruptcy Court and the 8th and 10th Circuit Courts of Appeal.

JOHN WATT, member of the ALFA International Kansas City firm, Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC, graduated with honors from Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. He has twice been selected as a Super Lawyer "Rising Star" for both Missouri and Kansas in litigation and defense work. He has extensive experience in defending businesses in multi-million dollar litigation. His practice includes product liability defense, construction litigation, and toxic torts. John has been the primary attorney for the defense of such litigation from filing the responsive pleading through jury trial. He has both taken and defended expert, corporate representative, and fact witness deposition in hundreds of cases across the country. John has argued in front of the appellate courts for Missouri and Kansas on multiple occasions. He also has extensive experience in arbitrating and mediating matters to successful conclusion for his clients. In the past year, he has prevailed in both a jury and bench trial for construction surety clients. As an active member of the local bar, he provides pro bono legal services for indigent clients through the Volunteer Attorney Project. He is currently on the Steering Committee for the ALFA Construction Law Practice Group.

ERNIE WETZLER is Senior Counsel at Genuine Parts Company for the past 10 years. Prior to seeing the light and going in-house, he was an attorney at Hawkins, Parnell and Young for seven years concentrating in toxic tort, legal malpractice and general liability. Ernie's duties at GPC include overseeing: general liability matters in half of the United States and Canada, store acquisition and construction disputes, business disputes, collection matters, as well as reviewing internal contract and insurance matters. Ernie married his law school sweetheart, and they stay busy chasing their two boys around Georgia on various ball fields.

SPENCER WIEGARD is a Partner and a member of Gentry Locke's Construction Law and Commercial Litigation practice groups. Spencer focuses his practice in the areas of construction law and construction litigation. He represents general contractors, subcontractors, trade contractors, suppliers and design professionals. Spencer is a member of the Board of Governors for the Virginia State Bar Construction Law and Public Contracts Section and a member of both the Board of Directors and the Legislative Committee for the Associated General Contractors of Virginia ("AGCVA"). He currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Roanoke District of the AGCVA and served as the AGCVA Roanoke District President from 2017-2019. From 2010-2018, Spencer has consistently been recognized as a Virginia Rising Star in Construction Litigation by "Virginia Super Lawyers." In 2019, Spencer was recognized by Virginia Business Magazine's "Legal Elite" list in the area of Construction Law. He received a BA from the University of Virginia ('01) and his JD from the College of William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law ('04). Spencer counsels and advises his clients concerning a range of legal issues, including contract drafting and negotiation, preparation and enforcement of mechanic's liens, surety bond claims, professional and occupational licensing issues, OSHA issues, claims, payment disputes and defect disputes. Gentry Locke is the ALFA International member firm in Roanoke, Virginia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION

Fairmont Chateau Whistler
4599 Chateau Blvd.
Whistler, British Columbia, Canada
Tel: (604) 938-8000
[Hotel Website](#)

REGISTRATION

Please contact ALFA International Headquarters to register.

ATTENDANCE IS OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS OF ALFA INTERNATIONAL AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS AND IS LIMITED TO AGES 21+.

ATTIRE

The attire for the educational sessions throughout the conference is “business casual”. The dinners on Wednesday and Thursday evening are “resort casual” attire. Khaki pants and polo shirts are acceptable for men and dresses, skirts or pants for women. No jackets are necessary at any evening events, but all dinners are outdoors, and it may get chilly, so a sweater or light jacket is recommended. The optional Friday dinner is also “resort casual” and will be an outdoor event.

CLE CREDIT

ALFA International is an approved CLE provider in Illinois, California & Pennsylvania and certifies this program has been approved for 7 hours of general CLE in these states. However, seminars are designed to meet CLE requirements, regardless of jurisdiction. To receive CLE credit outside of these states, attorneys should apply directly to their state’s governing CLE board. Helpful links and information on how to apply for course credit are available on the [ALFA International website](#) and staff are available to assist with any concerns.

SAFE RETURN TO LIVE MEETINGS PROTOCOL

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

If you need any special accommodations, including a nursing room, special dietary meals, ADA access or other needs, please reach out to ALFA International staff in advance of the meeting and we will ensure that necessary accommodations are provided.

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