



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

CONSTRUCTION LAW PRACTICE GROUP REGIONAL SEMINAR



Houston, TX | May 14, 2026

PROGAM SCHEDULE

PROGRAM AT THE OFFICES OF MAYER LLP

1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 100B | Houston, TX

1:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION

2:00 P.M. – 2:10 P.M.

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Speakers:

Spencer Wiegard, *Construction Practice Group Marketing Chair*,
GENTRY LOCKE, Roanoke, VA

Nathaniel Martinez, *Host Firm*, MAYER LLP, Houston, TX

2:10 P.M. – 3:10 P.M.

THE TARIFF LANDSCAPE POST-V.O.S. SELECTIONS, INC. V. U.S.

Speaker:

Chris Mueller, TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD, Jacksonville, FL

On February 20, the Supreme Court ruled in *V.O.S. Selections, Inc. v. U.S.* that the IEEPA does not authorize the President to impose tariffs, thus terminating all of the Trump administration's IEEPA-based tariffs as of February 24. This presentation will discuss what has occurred since the termination of these tariffs, provide guidance to assist with tariff refund eligibility and claim recovery, and provide practical solutions regarding the many non-IEEPA tariffs that remain in effect.

3:10 P.M.– 3:20 P.M.

BREAK

3:20 P.M. – 4:05 P.M.

NAVIGATING RISK: PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND PROJECT PRICING

Speakers:

John Watt, BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE L.L.C., Kansas City, MO

Caryn Maxfield, *Senior Vice President*, AMERICAN GLOBAL, South Barrington, IL

This panel explores the critical intersection of insurance costs, contract terms, and pricing strategies for design professionals and contractors. We will discuss today's top concerns in contract negotiations, including rising premiums and coverage restrictions, aggressive indemnification clauses, fee compression versus risk exposure, and emerging vulnerabilities like cybersecurity and climate-related liabilities.

PROGAM SCHEDULE

4:05 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.

DESIGN PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY AFTER *PITTS V. RIVAS*

Speakers:

Bill Luyties, MAYER LLP, Houston, TX

Nathaniel Martinez, MAYER LLP, Houston, TX

This presentation will examine the implications of the landmark *Pitts v. Rivas* decision on design professional liability. We will discuss how the ruling affects standard of care obligations, the intersection of the economic loss rule and the anti-fracturing rule, and contractual liability limitations. Attendees will walk away with understanding implications for contractual risk allocation in a post Rivas legal landscape and how to position defenses for summary judgment.

4:50 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS

Speaker:

Spencer Wiegard, *Construction Practice Group Marketing Chair*,
GENTRY LOCKE, Roanoke, VA

SOCIAL EVENT



Steak
48

Cocktails & Dinner | 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
4444 Westheimer Road | Houston, TX 77027



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SPEAKERS



BILL LUYTIES is a partner with Mayer LLP, ALFA International's member firm in Houston, Texas. Bill began his legal career in 1977, handling general liability cases such as automobile, trucking, premises liability and construction. He has since moved his emphasis towards representing construction professionals, including architects, engineers, surveyors and contractors.



NATHANIEL MARTINEZ is a partner with Mayer LLP, ALFA International's member firm in Houston, Texas. Nathaniel has a diverse practice in business and commercial litigation, construction, products liability defense, employment law, and international corporate matters. He represents product manufacturers in heavy machinery, medical device, agricultural equipment, and industrial automation and control systems. Nathaniel has been selected as a Texas Super Lawyer, Rising Star and Best Lawyers in America.



CARYN MAXFIELD serves as a key member of American Global's Infrastructure Team, leveraging her experience and expertise to support our clients as their risk and insurance advisor on P3 and Alternative Project Delivery pursuits. Caryn is an experienced attorney and former construction company executive with 17 years in the construction and surety industries. Given her extensive experience in project pursuits and alternative project delivery, Caryn also provides assistance and strategic guidance to American Global's clients related to complex project pursuits, construction and design partner relationships, risk transfer and mitigation strategies, as well as developing solutions to clients' disputes and project issues. Before joining American Global, Caryn spent over nine years at The Walsh Group, where she served as Vice President of Strategic Projects, leading the transactional legal team. Caryn and her team were responsible for all alternative project delivery pursuits, as well as the analysis, underwriting and negotiation of complex construction and development contracts, including public-private partnerships and various related partnership agreements, major subcontracts and design agreements. Caryn's experience in the construction industry began with Liberty Mutual Surety as Senior Surety Counsel in the Chicago office, handling surety claims. Caryn also brings years of commercial litigation experience gained at two prominent law firms in New York and Chicago, with a focus on contracts, business and insurance law. This diverse legal background enhances her ability to support and connect with clients and the insurance and surety markets globally. Caryn holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University and a Juris Doctorate from Notre Dame Law School.

SPEAKERS



CHRIS MUELLER is a shareholder with Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boyd, the ALFA International member firm in Jacksonville, Florida, and is Board Certified as a specialist in construction law by the Florida Bar. Chris graduated cum laude from Florida State University and then earned 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 construction matters. He also represents insurance carriers on coverage matters and has litigated commercial and general liability disputes throughout his career. Chris is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, has been named by Super Lawyers magazine in construction law, has been listed among Jacksonville's best lawyers in 904 Magazine and Jacksonville Magazine, is a fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and is a frequent writer and lecturer on a variety of construction law topics.



JOHN WATT is a member of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC, the ALFA International member firm in Kansas City, Missouri, and Overland Park, Kansas. John 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 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 depositions 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. 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 serving as chair of ALFAI's Construction Law Practice Group.

SPEAKERS



SPENCER WIEGARD is a partner with Gentry Locke, ALFA International's member firm in Roanoke and Lynchburg, Virginia. He is the chair of both the firm's Construction Law practice group and the firm's Commercial Litigation practice group. Spencer focuses his practice in the areas of construction law, construction litigation, business litigation, occupational health and safety matters, government contracts, administrative law and regulatory matters. He represents general contractors, subcontractors, trade contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, developers, and design professionals. Spencer is currently the chair of the Construction Law and Public Contracts Section of the Virginia State Bar, and previously served multiple terms on the section's Board of Governors. Spencer is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of Virginia ("AGCVA"). He serves on the Executive Committee for the Roanoke District of the AGCVA and served as the AGCVA Roanoke District President from 2017 to 2019. Spencer counsels and advises his clients concerning a range of legal issues, including contract drafting and negotiation, mechanic's liens, surety bond claims, professional and occupational licensing issues and OSHA issues and claims. Spencer's construction litigation practice involves breach of contract disputes, payment disputes, claims, construction defect disputes, design defect disputes, mechanic's lien enforcement actions, payment bond claims, OSHA enforcement actions, professional licensure and regulatory matters. Spencer's occupational health and safety practice involves overseeing health and safety audits and gap analysis, reviewing health and safety programs, policies, and procedures, assisting with OSHA inspections and investigations, health and safety incident response and representing clients in response to OSHA citations. Spencer's clients include employers from the construction industry, manufacturing industry and general industry. Spencer also represents retailers and manufacturers of manufactured homes in litigation, alternative dispute resolution, licensing and regulatory matters. Spencer serves as counsel to the Board of Directors for the Virginia Manufactured and Modular Housing Association. Spencer also serves as counsel for the Roanoke Regional Home Builders Association.