



Seminars

2022 Construction Law Seminar

On-Site Schedule

Austin Marriott Downtown | Austin | January 26 - 28, 2022

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

- 1:00 p.m. **Registration** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 3:00 p.m. **Construction Law 101** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
Construction litigation is a complex animal. Properly working up a case from the outset can be critical to ensuring the smooth resolution of a case. Hear from experienced panelists who will provide time-honed strategies for managing a complex construction case, including such topics as gathering client documents, attending to risk transfer issues, and early retention of experts. Because we were all junior lawyers once in our lives...
- Diana M. Gerstberger, Arch Insurance Group, Alpharetta, Georgia**
Brooks A. Saible, Brooks A. Saible Esq, Saint Petersburg, Florida
Mark Edwards Hopkins, Guardian Group, Torrance, California
- 4:00 p.m. **How to Win Clients and Influence Partners** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
What defines excellent client service? Nothing is more important to the long-term success of a young attorney than learning how to provide clients with what they need, when they need it. Hear from two experienced insurance professionals about what they expect from their outside counsel, what makes their lives easier, and what simply wastes their time.
- John W. Hays, Jackson Kelly PLLC, Lexington, Kentucky**
Stephanie K. Petras, Phelps Dunbar LLP, New Orleans, Louisiana
Tim Donnelly, Sompo International, Alpharetta, Georgia
- 6:00 p.m. **DRI Networking Reception (and Memorial Event in Honor of David Wilson)** – 603 (Level 6)
Former Committee Chair David Wilson was a leader, mentor, ambassador, and passionate advocate for both DRI and our committee. Dozens of committee members owe their roles in DRI to David's guidance and mentorship. David made such an impact on DRI and our committee that DRI sanctioned an annual award in his honor. Join us at this reception honoring David's legacy in his home State of Texas.
- 7:30 p.m. **Dine-Arounds**
Join colleagues and friends at selected restaurants for dinner.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

- 7:00 a.m. **Registration** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 7:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 8:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
Danielle M. Waltz, Jackson Kelly PLLC, Charleston, West Virginia
Mark D. Shifton, Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP, Princeton, New Jersey

2022 Construction Law Seminar

On-Site Schedule

- 8:10 a.m. **The Aging of America's Housing and Infrastructure** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
Recent events and tragedies have drawn a harsh spotlight onto America's aging structures and infrastructure. A panel of experts will discuss the likely implications over the next decade, such as expanded third-party liability, greater regulation and government oversight, and the importance of maintaining structures.
- Joshua W. Mermis, West Mermis PLLC, Houston, Texas**
Susan Asmus, National Association of Home Builders, Washington, District of Columbia
Matt Pavelchak, Walter P. Moore, Houston, Texas
- 9:10 a.m. **Corporate Sustainability Goals – Net Zero by 2030?** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
Many corporate entities have set aggressive renewable energy goals such as achieving net zero by 2030. Some have likened these steep goals to President Kennedy's declaration of putting a man on the moon. To meet these challenges, some entities have developed partnerships with utilities to develop useable commercial and industrial programs and economic structures targeted to function within the regulatory compact and with minimal impact to non-participating customers. These programs can be developed to serve larger commercial and industrial customers of a particular utility and can have a community approach to provide renewable energy resources to all customers in the utility's service area.
- Stephanie U. Eaton, Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC, Winston-Salem, North Carolina**
Dianne Triplett, Duke Energy, St. Petersburg, Florida
- 10:10 a.m. **Refreshment Break** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 10:30 a.m. **The New Normal – Balancing Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives with Remote/Hybrid Work Policies** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
Corporate diversity and inclusion initiatives serve the important function of ensuring the diversification of the entity's workforce and leveraging that diversity to meet the entity's business goals. Achieving these initiatives requires a company-wide commitment to taking concrete steps to measurably increase diversity while supporting a culture of inclusion. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many employers to reevaluate their office footprints. How can a corporate entity maintain a culture supporting diversity and inclusion initiatives while balancing the need for remote/hybrid work policies over the next few years?
- Moderator | **Toyja E. Kelley, Locke Lord LLP, Washington, District of Columbia**
Lenore R. Chouinard, The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, Alpharetta, Georgia
Ashley Welvaert, JE Dunn Construction Company, Dallas, Texas
Michelle M. Arbitrio, Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP, New York, New York
- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions (Track A) - Case Law Update: Race Against the Clock** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
Stay on the cutting edge of the law by hearing a panel of attorneys discuss the latest developments in the field. But there's a catch – all speakers will be operating under strict time limits. Can they inform and entertain within the designated time? AND begin...
- Chris Begeman, Righi Fitch Law Group, Phoenix, Arizona**
Seth Alhadeff, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, Coral Gables, Florida
Moheeb H. Murray, Bush Seyferth PLLC, Troy, Michigan
- 1:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions (Track A) - Insurance Coverage 101** – 604-605 (Level 6)
Construction cases nearly always involve significant coverage issues, and even counsel retained only to defend an insured must be conversant with basic issues of insurance coverage. Learn what you need to know, even if you don't know an exclusion from an exception.
- Jacob Esparza, Holman Fenwick Willan USA LLP, Houston, Texas**

2022 Construction Law Seminar

On-Site Schedule

- 2:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions (Track B) - Hot Topic Potpourri** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
There are so many interesting topics to discuss we could barely fit them all! Hear three speakers present "bite-sized" presentations on various timely and interesting topics. The word of the day is "brevity!"
Stacy L. Moon, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP, Birmingham, Alabama
Pete DeMasters, Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso, Charleston, West Virginia
John M. Sier, Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti Sherbrook LLC, Detroit, Michigan
- 2:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions (Track B) - Insurance Coverage (But No Potables)** – 604-605 (Level 6)
Think you know about insurance coverage? We invite you to test your mettle by participating in an interactive session of insurance coverage "Jeopardy." Audience participation will be strongly encouraged.
Diana L. Winfrey, Selman Breitman LLP, Los Angeles, California
Rodrick Reed, Arch Insurance Group, Omaha, Nebraska
Sandra Heiden, Arch Insurance Group, Omaha, Nebraska
- 3:00 p.m. **Refreshment Break** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 3:30 p.m. **What Could Possibly Go Wrong?** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
For better or for worse, most construction lawyers only get involved when things go pear shaped. Luckily, there's often a lot of "wrong" to go around, and figuring out who is responsible takes some doing. Join us for an interactive (and competitive!) session where we'll explore some typical construction problems, discuss some of the likely causes, and demonstrate failure mechanisms. Do your clients like to criticize and blame other parties during litigation? If so, this is the session for you!
Bob Bailey, Exponent, Houston, Texas
Cliff D. Bishop, Ph.D., Exponent, Atlanta, Georgia
Kasra Ghahremani, Exponent, Houston, Texas
Richard W. Vose, Exponent, Denver, Colorado
- 5:00 p.m. **Business Meeting/SLG Meetings** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
- 5:30 p.m. **Women's Networking Reception** – 602 (Level 6)
- 6:30 p.m. **Networking Reception** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 9:00 p.m. **Premier Networking Event: Speakeasy Austin**
Join attendees from the Construction and Women in the Law Seminars for this premier networking event at Speakeasy Austin. Engage in friendly competition games (darts, shuffleboard, pool table and bowling), soak up the roaring 20's vibe, relax with a cocktail and mingle with friends and colleagues. Could there be a better way to expand your network and build your book of business to start the new year? We don't think so. Ticketed event.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

- 7:00 a.m. **Registration** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 7:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 8:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6
Lisa J. Black, Black Marjeh & Sanford LLP, Elmsford, New York, United States
Melissa Lin, Righi Fitch Law Group, Phoenix, Arizona

2022 Construction Law Seminar

On-Site Schedule

- 8:10 a.m. **Filling the Coverage Void: Exhaustion Issues** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
The resolution of complex construction defect cases often turns on the availability of insurance coverage. When insurance policies become exhausted, however, parties are often forced to reevaluate their strategies, and tailor their claims against parties with more insurance coverage. Learn how to deal with these thorny issues before they derail the settlement of your next case!
Moderator | **Rinaldo J. Cartaya, III, Quintairos Prieto Wood & Boyer PA, Orlando, Florida**
Amanda K. Anderson, Boyle Leonard Anderson, Tampa, Florida
Michael S. (Mike) Moore, CCIS Construction Consultants, Matthews, North Carolina
- 9:10 a.m. **View From the Other Side of the "V"** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
While we are defending our clients, our friends and colleagues across the aisle are honing their strategies and identifying their next targets. Hear from a distinguished plaintiff's attorney about the new trends and strategies being employed in construction litigation by those who represent owners against contractors, manufacturers, design professionals, and insurers.
Brian K. Carroll, Sanderford & Carroll, P.C., Temple, Texas
- 10:10 a.m. **Defending Crane Cases** – Waterloo Ballroom 4-6 (Level 5)
We have seen tragic collapses that have led to millions of dollars in property damage, delay, and bodily injury claims. Learn from a panel of experts who deconstruct a crane collapse and discuss how these events occur and how to respond when they happen.
Jeffrey D. Schulman, Pillinger Miller Tarallo LLP, Syracuse, New York
Fred A. LeSage, CRIS, AXA XL, Chicago, Illinois
James J. Mason, Ph.D., PE, ARCCA Inc, Oakland, California
- 11:10 a.m. **Refreshment Break** – Waterloo Ballroom Pre-Function (Level 5)
- 11:30 a.m. **The Use of Technology to Simplify Trials (joint session with DRI's Women in the Law Seminar)** – Waterloo Ballroom 1-3 (Level 5)
Construction cases are replete with voluminous documents and esoteric concepts, and effectively translating these issues to a jury can often be problematic. Savvy practitioners can leverage technology solutions to effectively communicate difficult concepts. Learn from a distinguished Judge how this can be done.
Judge Jessica Mangrum, 200th District Court, Travis County, Austin, Texas
Emilio Carlock, Carlock Design, Houston, Texas
- 12:30 p.m. **Litigation Ethics in Federal Court (joint session with DRI's Women in the Law Seminar)** – Waterloo Ballroom 1-3 (Level 5)
When lawyers are sworn in as members of the bar, they agree to abide by their jurisdiction's ethical rules. Despite the existence of these rules, and all lawyers' agreement to follow them, violations of the rules may still occur. This presentation will discuss how attorneys should conduct themselves in Federal Court in order to adhere to the ethical rules, as well as what lawyers should do to maintain the positive reputation of the profession.
Judge Thomas S. Kleeh, United States District Court, Clarksburg, West Virginia
- 1:30 p.m. **Adjourn**