



# NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION DEFECT CONFERENCE

The Roosevelt New Orleans | New Orleans, LA  
November 14-15, 2024

## Conference Chairs

**Gary F. Baumann, Esq.**  
Baumann, Gant & Keeley, P.A.

**Kelly Behrens, CRIS**  
Vela Insurance Services

**Michael Bryant**  
The RiverStone Group

**Steve Lokus**  
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**Perrin Conferences**  
**National Construction Defect Conference**  
**Thursday, November 14 - Friday, November 15, 2024**  
**The Roosevelt New Orleans, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel**

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**Wednesday, November 13, 2024**

**4:30 PM – 5:30 PM CT: Pre-Registration**

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM CT: Networking Cocktail Reception** (Pool Deck at The Roosevelt)  
*Sponsored by: Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, P.A.*

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**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**8:00 AM – 8:45 AM CT: Registration and Light Breakfast** (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom)

**8:45 AM – 9:00 AM CT: Welcome & Opening Remarks**

**Gary F. Baumann, Esq.**, Baumann, Gant & Keeley, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, FL  
**Kelly Behrens**, CRIS, Claims Manager-Construction Defect, Vela Insurance Services, Omaha, NE  
**Michael Bryant**, Vice President, Head of P&C, The RiverStone Group, Manchester, NH  
**Steve Lokus**, Vice President, Casualty Construction Claims, Sompco, Irvine, CA

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM CT: Jurisdictional Analysis and Future Outlook of Nationwide Industry Trends**

- Jurisdictional overview of the most active and emerging jurisdictions
- Filing trends in 2024 and what to expect in 2025
- Building trends and emerging issues in CD litigation
- Ethical implications of utilizing AI for attorneys

**Moderator: Michael Bryant**, Vice President, Head of P&C, The RiverStone Group, Manchester, NH

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

**Lee J. Hurwitz, Esq.**, Segal McCambridge, Chicago, IL

**Anita M. Thornell, CCLA**, Claims Consultant, Nationwide, Detroit, MI

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CT: Enhancing Collaborative Partnerships Through Communication, Conflict Resolution, Trust, and Adaptability**

- Defense cost contribution claims between insurers and insureds

- Claims professionals and defense counsel; defense counsel and experts; vendor partnerships, coverage counsel and defense counsel
- Conflicting demands as to claims adjusting and litigation management
- Privileged or not privileged communication

**Paul Balentine, CPCU**, AVP-Specialty Casualty Claims, Nationwide Insurance Company, Scottsdale, AZ

**Timothy Dobrenen**, Assistant Vice President – Claims, Hannover Re Services USA, Inc., San Tan Valley, AZ

**Jay Sever, Esq.**, Phelps Dunbar, New Orleans, LA

**Cynthia Pertile Tarle, Esq.**, Tarle Law, Carlsbad, CA

**Emma Tortorici**, VP, Claims Construction Defect, AmTrust Financial Services, Inc., Danville, CA

### 11:00 AM – 11:15 AM CT: Break

*Sponsored by: S.C. Wright*

### 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM CT: The Impact of Social Media on Jury Pools and Settlements

- Social media impact on jury pools and how it impacts verdicts
- Effectiveness of these social media claims
- Social media impact on settlement efforts including expectations to settle
- Reptile theory

**Moderator: Kelly Behrens**, CRIS, Claims Manager, Vela Insurance Services, Omaha, NE

**Sabrina Rochelle**, Senior Unit Manager, North American Risk Services, Altamonte Springs, FL

**Jannea Rogers, Esq.**, Adam and Reese LLP, Mobile, AL

### 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM CT: Lunch (on your own)

### 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM CT: Navigating Ethical Challenges in the Tripartite Relationship

- Cumis counsel
- Bad faith allegations
- What scenarios should you stay away from?

**Sean Gallagher**, Senior Unit Manager, North American Risk Services, Altamonte Springs, FL

**Christine Gudaitis, Esq.**, Ver Ploeg & Marino, Miami, FL

**Won Jai Lee, JD, CPCU**, Team Leader, ESIS ProClaim, Jersey City, NJ

**Spencer Mallard, Esq.**, Lydecker LLP, Miami, FL

**Donald C. Partridge, Esq.**, Maron Marvel, Jackson, MS

### 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM CT: Driving Progress: Innovations in Construction Technology

- Challenges that face claims professionals and legal counsel handling disputes associated with this new construction technology

- Understanding the complexities that these new construction techniques pose to those handling the inevitable construction disputes that will arise as this technology is employed in more locations throughout the U.S.

**Moderator: Steve Lokus**, Vice President, Casualty Construction Claims, Sompco, Irvine, CA  
**Rose Hall, PE**, Senior Vice President, Head of Innovation, Americas, AXA XL, Irvine, CA  
**Terence Kadlec, P.E.**, Senior Vice President – Technical Services, MC Consultants, Inc., Denver, CO  
**Ryan Pitterson**, Managing Director, Turner Surety and Insurance Brokerage, Inc., Dallas, TX

**3:15 PM – 3:30 PM CT: Break**

*Sponsored by: DeSimone Consulting Engineering*

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM CT: Construction Defect Best Practices**

**Moderator: Donna Friis, PE**, Practice Leader, Construction, Envista Forensics, Orlando, FL  
**Jason Daniel Feld, Esq.**, Kahana & Feld, LLP, Houston, TX  
**Katherine L. Klapsa, Esq.**, Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP, Orlando, FL  
**Chris Miles**, Casualty/General Liability Property Adjuster, Engle Martin, Jacksonville Beach, FL  
**A. Paloma Ramirez, JD**, Director, Construction Defect, AmTrust Financial Services, Inc., New York, NY

**4:30 PM – 5:15 PM CT: Demystifying Indemnity, Liability, and Risk Management**

- What is indemnity?
- Risk transfer including CCIP, OCIP, OPPI, OPPL
- Builders' risk
- Outside of the CGL policy, what else is out there?
- Controlled insurance and wrap up issues

**Rebecca C. Appelbaum, Esq.**, gartner + bloom P.C., Tampa, FL  
**Mark Boyle, Esq.**, Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, Fort Myers, FL  
**Tara Lucas**, SVP, North America Claims, Casualty Specialty, Chubb, Jersey City, NJ  
**Paul Mason**, Claims Manager, Energy and Construction, XL Specialty Insurance Company, AXA XL, Los Angeles, CA

**5:15 PM – 6:15 PM CT: Networking Cocktail Reception (Pool Deck at The Roosevelt)**

*Sponsored by: Chapman Glucksman*

**8:30 PM – 11:30 PM CT: House of Blues - Foundation Room (225 Decatur Street)**

*Join us for this private Perrin Conferences event with live music and an open bar*

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**Friday, November 15, 2024**

## 8:15 AM – 9:00 AM CT: Coffee and Light Breakfast

## 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM CT: Product Liability Claims in Construction – Litigation, Coverage, Tips, and Strategies

**Moderator: Elaine K. Fresch, Esq.**, Hawkins Parnell & Young, Los Angeles, CA  
**Jay Graif, Esq.**, Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP, Scottsdale, AZ  
**Henrietta Hinojosa**, Senior Vice President, National Claim Services LLC, Atlanta, GA  
**Phyllis Modlin**, Director & Senior Counsel, Specialty International Claims-Casualty, Markel, Carlsbad, CA

## 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM CT: Hot Topics in Defending Design and Construction Defect Claims

- Repping the A/E: Uptick in *Design* Claims Across *Construction* Cases
  - Heightened Standards of Care - Contracts and AI
  - FHA/ADA Claims
  - Construction Administration
  - NY's Martin Act and *Espinal Doctrine*
- Claims Corner - Uptick in design, life safety, and warranty claims since *Surfside*
  - Trying to Tap Coverage Beyond the OCIP/CCIP
- Coast-to-Coast CD Caselaw Survey 2024

**Anthony D. Capasso, Esq.**, Murphy Schiller & Wilkes LLP, Newark, NJ  
**Daniel A. Cribbs, Esq.**, Chapman Glucksman, Los Angeles, CA  
**Tom Gesner, CRIS**, Vice President – Construction Defect, Applied Claims, Addison, TX  
**Christopher Ling, AIA, NCARB, LEEDap**, ARCHforensic, New York, NY  
**Luke P. Ryan, Esq.**, Shinnick & Ryan LLP, San Diego, CA

## 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM CT: Break *Sponsored by: Kennedys*

## 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM CT: Navigating Uncertainty: Effective Risk Management Strategies for Construction Projects

- Steps to reduce and mitigate risk
- Risk analysis

**Moderator: Richard H. Glucksman, Esq.**, Chapman Glucksman, Los Angeles, CA  
**Jeff Miragliotta, Esq.**, Kahana & Feld, LLP, New York, NY  
**Matthew Scheps, PE, PMP**, Principal Consultant, Rimkus, Houston, TX

## 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM CT: Best Practices for Expert Test Selection and Evaluation

- The appropriate methods an expert should follow when selecting tests
- How to ensure the expert conducts proper tests without limiting the expert
- Review case studies of conducted tests and determine whether the tests were appropriate

**Stephanie Chesney, Esq.**, Cozen O'Connor, Boston, MA  
**Keith Lazere, Esq.**, Anderson Kill, New York, NY  
**Kenneth R. Quigley, PE, MS**, Executive Vice President, CCA Construction Consulting Associates, LLC, Boston, MA

**12:30 PM CT: Conference Concludes**

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**National Construction Defect Conference**  
**November 14-15, 2024**

*\*Speaker and Agenda are subject to change.*

**CONFERENCE LOCATION**

**The Roosevelt New Orleans, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel**  
**130 Roosevelt Way**  
**New Orleans, LA 70112**

**REGISTRATION**

**Registration Rate:** \$1225  
**Paralegal Rate:** \$395

All in-house counsel and insurance claims professionals receive complimentary registration at Perrin Conferences live programs.  
Contact Bethany Corio ([bcorio@perrinconferences.com](mailto:bcorio@perrinconferences.com)) 610-220-1817 or Lynnsey

Perrin ([lperrin@perrinconferences.com](mailto:lperrin@perrinconferences.com)) 610-804-6165 with questions or to register at the complimentary rate.

**Register Online:** [National Construction Defect Conference | Perrin Conferences](#)

**Register by Mail/E-mail:** Complete the Mail-In Registration Form at the end of brochure.

**Mail to:** Perrin Conferences, 214 Orchard Way, Wayne, PA 19087

**Register by Phone:**

Lynnsey Perrin	610-804-6165	<a href="mailto:lperrin@perrinconferences.com">lperrin@perrinconferences.com</a>
Bethany Corio	610-220-1817	<a href="mailto:bcorio@perrinconferences.com">bcorio@perrinconferences.com</a>

Each registration includes private website access to course materials and admission to all sessions and networking events such as refreshment breaks and cocktail receptions.

*Group discounts available, please inquire.*

## **HOTEL ROOM BLOCK**

**The Roosevelt New Orleans, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
130 Roosevelt Way  
New Orleans, LA 70112**

Please make your room reservations by using the group booking link below. The group rate is \$349/night. We advise you to make your reservation as soon as possible before the room block sells out.

[Reservation Link Perrin Conferences Room Block](#)

## **CLE & CE CREDIT INFORMATION**

Applications are being made to all CLE states as requested by attendees. The conference is pending CE Adjuster Credit approval in California, Florida, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Texas.

Please note, there will be no partial credit awarded for CE credit – The full conference must be attended to earn credit. Please send requests for state specific accreditation to Kelsey Miner at [kaminerd@perrinconferences.com](mailto:kaminerd@perrinconferences.com).

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

If you cannot attend the conference, please notify us prior to **October 31, 2024** and we will refund your fee or provide a credit for a future conference. The credit needs to be used within one year from the conference date. Cancellations received on **November 1, 2024** and after will not be refunded. You may enroll a substitute at any time before the conference starts.

## **FINANCIAL AID POLICY**

Perrin Conferences is dedicated to providing high-quality continuing legal education to attorneys interested in course offerings. Program registrants who are unable to afford registration fees due to financial hardship may apply for a complete registration waiver or reduction in fee. Factors to be considered include employment status and annual income. Please send a written letter to Lynnsey Perrin addressing your financial situation for consideration. All requests must be submitted 14 days prior to the start of the program and are kept confidential.

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**National Construction Defect Conference**  
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Mail-in Registration Form

Attendee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Firm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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***Registration Fee: \$1225***

*\*All Insurance Professionals & In-House Counsel receive Complimentary attendance*

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***Email Form to: [bcorio@perrinconferences.com](mailto:bcorio@perrinconferences.com) or [lperrin@perrinconferences.com](mailto:lperrin@perrinconferences.com)***

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