PERRIN CONFERENCES

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION DEFECT CONFERENCE

The Roosevelt New Orleans
November 13-14, 2025

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

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

Kelly Behrens, CRIS
Claims Manager-Construction Defect

Michael Bryant
The RiverStone Group

Steve Lokus
Sompo

Agenda Sponsor: RECONSTRUCTION EXPERTS

Perrin Conferences
National Construction Defect Conference
Thursday, November 13 - Friday, November 14, 2025
The Roosevelt New Orleans, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM CT: Pre-Registration (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom Foyer-Mezzanine Level)

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM CT: Opening Cocktail Reception (Outdoor Pool Deck – 4th Floor at The Roosevelt Hotel)
Sponsored by: Reconstruction Experts and STENO Court Reporting

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Thursday, November 13, 2025

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

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM CT: Welcome & Opening Remarks (Crescent City Ballroom- Mezzanine Level)

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

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM CT: Jurisdictional Analysis and Future Outlook of Nationwide Industry Trends

- Overview of the most active and emerging jurisdictions
- Filing and building trends in 2025 and what to expect in 2026
- Facing the Future – Construction Risks in 2025 and Beyond

Moderator: Michael Bryant, Vice President, Head of P&C, The RiverStone Group, Manchester, NH
Benjamin W. Dowers, Esq., Gunther Legal, PLLC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Elaine K. Fresch, Esq., Hawkins Parnell, Los Angeles, CA
Phyllis A. Modlin, Director & Senior Counsel, Casualty Claims, Markel, Carlsbad, CA
Cynthia Pertile Tarle, Esq., Kahana Feld LLP, Carlsbad, CA

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM CT: Claims Resulting from Natural Catastrophes

- Natural disasters reveal construction defects and cause more repairs, leading to lower quality repair work
- Influx of construction related claims
- Insurance companies are not renewing some policies
- Hurricane Katrina – 20 years later

Darwin L. Cooprider, Director – Building Consulting, Charles Taylor Engineering Technical Services, Golden, CO
Stephen J. Henning, Esq., Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP, Los Angeles, CA
Scott Loeb, Esq., Loeb Law Firm, Mandeville, LA
Ellen G. Smith, Esq., Boyle Leonard & Anderson, P.A., Tampa, FL

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM CT: Break (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom)

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM CT: Utilization of Artificial Intelligence in Construction Defect Litigation

- New issues and current application
- Associates and new graduates: how to attract them with AI and tech advancements
- Expectations and generational differences

Paul Balentine, CPCU, Associate Vice President – Specialty Casualty Claims, Nationwide, Scottsdale, AZ
Abigail Horvat, Esq., Cozen O'Connor, Chicago, IL
Terence Kadlec, P.E., Senior Vice President – Technical Services, MC Consultants, Inc., Denver, CO
Steve Lokus, Vice President, Casualty Construction Claims, Sompo, Irvine, CA

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM CT: Florida Contribution Statute Revisited

- This statute will "change EVERYTHING in our world"
- Has it?
- Future uses for AI (additional insureds)

Rebecca C. Appelbaum, Esq., gartner + bloom P.C., Tampa, FL
Mark Boyle, Esq., Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, Fort Myers, FL
Kelly Behrens, CRIS, Claims Manager-Construction Defect, Omaha, NE
Christine Gudaitis, Esq., Ver Ploeg & Marino, Miami, FL
Jay Sever, Esq., Phelps Dunbar, New Orleans, LA

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM CT: Lunch (on your own)

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM CT: Separating Fact from Fiction for Stakeholders: Common Design Professional and Contractor (and even Insurer) Misconceptions

- All Construction Defects Can Be Blamed On the Contractor(s)

- A&E Liability is Always Limited By Contract
- All Claims are Covered (Insurance, Bonds, Warrantees)

Moderator: Anthony D. Capasso, Esq., Murphy Schiller & Wilkes LLP, Newark, NJ
Tom Gesner, CRIS, Vice President – Construction Defect, Applied Claims Group, Dover, NH
Christopher Ling, AIA, NCARB, LEEDap, The Vertex Companies, New York, NY
James Liskow, Esq., DeCaro, Doran, Siciliano, Gallagher & DeBlasis, LLP, Bowie, MD
Tristen Pomerance, Esq., Legally Built, Calgary, AB, Canada

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM CT: Litigation Funding in Construction Defect

- Commercial construction
- Incorporating litigation funding in tort reforms

Henrietta Hinojosa, Senior Vice President, National Claim Services LLC, Atlanta, GA
Stephen Miles, Esq., Pipes Miles Beckman, New Orleans, LA
Jackeline Rodriguez, Esq., Hamilton Miller & Birthisel, Miami, FL
Kevin Skrzysowski, Director, Certum Group, Plano, TX

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM CT: Break (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom)
Sponsored by: S.C. Wright Group

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM CT: Emerging Coverage Issues in Construction Defect Cases

- Shrinking Statute of Limitations (SOLs in FL, TX, AZ)
- Statute of Repose
- Coverage issues to consider
- Strategies for handling the coverage and defense including risk transfer tips
- What happens after the carrier accepts the GC's AI tender?
- The handling of the AI defense and issues that arise

Jay Graif, Esq., Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP, Scottsdale, AZ
Derrick Harris, Major Case Unit Specialist, FCCI Insurance Group, Santa Rosa Beach, FL
Brad Kilbourn, Large Loss Claims Specialist, Construction Defect, AXA XL, Los Angeles, CA
Nicholas E. Richardson, Esq., Segal McCambridge, Tampa, FL
Jedidiah Vander Klok, Esq., Kennedys Law LLP, Miami, FL

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM CT: Litigation vs. Arbitration

- The pros and cons of litigation and arbitration
- The rise of cases going to trial and the importance of early resolution

Moderator: Marcus Tappe, Esq., Righi Fitch Law Group, Phoenix, AZ
David Frankenberger, Esq., Tyson & Mendes LLP, Fresno, CA
Marshall Henson, JD, DIA, Claims Manager, CLESS – Specialty Casualty, Nationwide, Columbus, OH
Won Jai Lee, JD, CPCU, CCP, AVP, Coaction Insurance, Jersey City, NJ
Lee A. Weintraub, Esq., Becker & Poliakoff, Fort Lauderdale, FL

5:15 PM – 6:15 PM CT: Networking Cocktail Reception (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom-Mezzanine Level)
Sponsored by: Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, P.A. and maps | Mediation & Arbitration

8:30 PM CT: Perrin Rock n Roll Threaux Down at the Toulouse Theatre
In the heart of the French Quarter, located at 615 Toulouse Street. All registered attendees are welcome to join us for live music by Coco Slipstk. Open Bar 8:30pm - 10:30pm.

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Friday, November 14, 2025

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM CT: Coffee and Light Breakfast (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom)

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM CT: Ethical Issues with Artificial Intelligence in Construction Defect

- Ethical uses of AI
- How to properly navigate the conflicts that arise

Federico Balestrazzi, Civil / Structural Engineer, Kimley-Horn, Miami, FL
Kelly Behrens, CRIS, Claims Manager-Construction Defect, Omaha, NE
Jerry Biondi, Esq., Baumann, Gant, Keeley & Biondi, P.A., Tampa, FL
Spencer Mallard, Esq., Lydecker LLP, Miami, FL

9:50 AM – 10:35 AM CT: Sharing the Load: Allocation and other Cost-Spreading Measures in CD Claims

- Recent case law developments and suggested guidance
- Sharing the burden of increased costs, both from a coverage and a defense/claims-handling perspective

Moderator: Alexa Schmid, Coverage Counsel, Selective Insurance Company of America, Branchville, NJ
Robert Kennedy, Esq., Phelps Dunbar LLP, Raleigh, NC
Patrick Norris, Esq., Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, Charleston, SC
Courtland Redden, Construction Defect Claims Supervisor, Selective Insurance Company of America, New Windsor, NY

10:35 AM – 10:45 AM CT: Break (Waldorf Astoria Ballroom)

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM CT: Who's Liable? Understanding Responsibility for Construction Defects

- A methodical approach: identifying and categorizing the defects, assigning values, listing all potentially responsible parties, understanding their roles, and finally, allocating fair and defensible portions of responsibility

Moderator: Carrie A. Moss, Esq., Bendin Sumrall & Ladner, LLC, Atlanta, GA
Frank Griffin, PE, LEED, AP, F.ASCE, Senior Principal Engineer, Envista Forensics, Arlington, TX
Shannon G. Huff, Esq., Guerrero Huff Law Group, Tempe, AZ
Jannea Rogers, Esq., Adams and Reese LLP, Mobile, AL
Vadim Veksler, Complex Claims Manager – Construction Defect Corporate Claims, Selective Insurance Company of America, Trabuco Canyon, CA

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM CT: Beyond Tract Homes: Navigating Complex New Construction Claims

- The traditional/standard residential tract home cases
- Beyond tract homes
- High-end single family home litigation
- Unique causes of action
- Best practices and take-aways for navigating these claims

Moderator: Luke P. Ryan, Esq., Shinnick & Ryan LLP, San Diego, CA
John Donovan, Esq., Kahana & Feld LLP, Austin, TX
Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan, Senior Vice President – Head of Claims, Golden State Claims Adjusters, Carlsbad, CA

12:15 PM CT: Conference Concludes

Perrin Conferences
National Construction Defect Conference
November 13-14, 2025
New Orleans, LA

**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) 610-220-1817 or Lynnsey Perrin (lperrin@perrinconferences.com) 610-804-6165 with questions or to register at the complimentary rate.

Register Online: National Construction Defect Conference | Perrin Conferences

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

Register by Phone:

Lynnsey Perrin	610-804-6165	lperrin@perrinconferences.com
Bethany Corio	610-220-1817	bcorio@perrinconferences.com

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.
CE Adjuster credit is approved in Florida and Texas, and pending approval in North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma.

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 Minerd at kaminerd@perrinconferences.com.

THE PERRIN ROCK N ROLL THREAUX DOWN – THURSDAY 11/13

Sponsored by: Bauman, Gant, Keeley & Biondi, P.A., Lexitas, Kennedys, Phelps Dunbar, Rimkus and S-E-A

Thursday, November 13th, 8:30pm at the Toulouse Theatre.

Enjoy a New Orleans style Threaux Down with live entertainment by Coco Slipstk, open bar from 8:30pm-10:30pm, and lively conversation.

*This is a private Perrin event for registered attendees and speakers. Those who are not registered for the conference will not be permitted to attend.

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If you cannot attend the conference, please notify us prior to **October 30, 2025** and we will refund your fee, less a $25 administrative 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 or after **October 31, 2025** will not be refunded. You may enroll a substitute at any time before the conference starts. Cancellations received on or after **October 31, 2025** may receive a credit for $200 less than the registration amount paid and can be used by their firm/company within one year from the conference date.

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
November 13-14, 2025 – New Orleans, LA

Mail-in Registration Form

Attendee Name _____

Company/Firm Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

_____

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Email Address _____

CIRCLE ONE: Attorney Non-Attorney Insurance Professional In-House Counsel

***Registration Fee*: $1225**
***Paralegal Fee*: $395**

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

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Email Form to: *bcorio@perrinconferences.com or lperrin@perrinconferences.com*
Make Checks Payable to: *Perrin Conferences, LLC*