

ASCE-CI CAR COMMITTEE

Best Practices Workshop: Avoiding Construction Claims and Resolving Construction Disputes



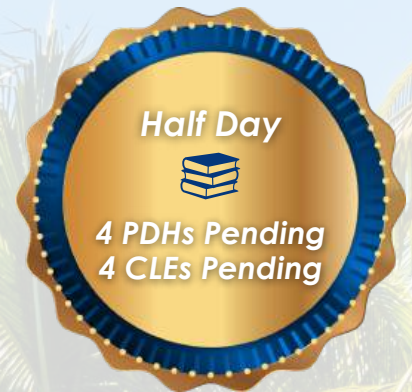
7:30 am – 8:00 am | Registration & Coffee

8:00 am – 9:00 am | Introduction to Claims and Disputes (Claims 101)

Description: Be prepared to manage common project issues that may lead to disputes and understand how to influence the resolution of disputes. This session will explain the basics of the inception of a claim, best practices to prepare a claim, and the options for resolution of a claim (negotiation, dispute review board, mediation, arbitration, litigation). This discussion is relevant for all levels of project participants.

PRESENTERS:

- Wendy Wendrowski, Esq.
- Joe Hellenbrand, PE
- Lance VanDemark, PE



9:05 am – 10:00 am | Project Documentation Requirements (Contract and Legal) and Best Practices

Description: Claims are resolved based on what can be proven using project records. This session will explore effective procedures for preparing and managing project documents, which are vital tools in resolving disputes. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of contract requirements and legal obligations pertaining to these documents, as well as how such documents are utilized in dispute resolution proceedings.

PRESENTERS:

- Wendy Wendrowski, Esq.
- Lance VanDemark, PE

10:00 am – 10:15 am | Break

10:15 am – 12:15 pm | Resolution of Claims and Disputes in Florida: Relevant Concepts in Florida Construction Law, Claim Presentation, Rebuttal, and Resolution

Description: Construction is the life blood of the Florida economy, and Florida's laws have developed to encourage construction. The panel will introduce attendees to Florida legal requirements, including statutory lien law, pre-litigation requirements, venue requirements, and limitations on indemnification obligations. Construction claims are common on a project, and sometimes the dispute cannot be resolved through negotiation. The panel will explore the differences between mediation, arbitration, and litigation, as well as Florida-specific non-binding arbitration, and will present a hypothetical differing site condition claim between a contractor and the Florida DOT through the arbitration process. The panel will role-play as attorneys and witnesses and the audience will act as the panel of arbitrators, with the audience determining the outcome of a dispute. Attendees will gain an understanding of the arbitration process and procedures.

PRESENTERS:

- Kaitlin Townsend, PE
- Mark Young, Esq.
- Wendy Wendrowski, Esq.
- Joe Hellenbrand, PE
- Lance VanDemark, PE

12:15 pm | Lunch



November 18, 2026



Palm Beach County Building
2300 N Jog Rd, West Palm
Beach, FL 33411