American Bar Association
Section of Public Contract Law

2019 Annual Meeting

In-House Perspectives on Hiring Outside Counsel

August 9, 2019
San Francisco, CA
In-House Perspectives on Hiring Outside Counsel

Friday, August 9, 2019

Program

Program Co-Chair Biographies

Program Faculty Biographies
MODERATOR:
Eric S. Crusius, Partner, Holland & Knight, Tysons, VA
Gail D. Zirkelbach, Partner, Crowell & Moring, Los Angeles, CA

PANELISTS:
Melanie Cibik, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary of Teledyne, Technologies Incorporated, Thousand Oaks, CA
Jance Hawkins, Vice President and General Counsel, Global Operations and Government Compliance, Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ
Charles Horwitz, Director of Government Contracts Compliance Worldwide, 3M, Saint Paul, MN
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Leadership Biographies  

Eric Crusius, Program Co-Chair  
Eric Crusius is a senior counsel at Holland & Knight LLP who focuses his practice on a wide range of government contract matters, including bid protests, claims and disputes, compliance issues and sub-prime issues.  

Mr. Crusius has extensive experience in government contract litigation, including successfully prosecuting and intervening in numerous bid protests before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Government Accountability Office (GAO), boards of contract appeals and other federal agencies. He counsels clients regarding the Service Contract Act (SCA) and other labor issues, trade agreements, export controls, subcontracting and teaming agreements, and compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Mr. Crusius also represents contractors in investigations, suspension and debarment proceedings, and in federal and state courts.  

In addition, Mr. Crusius is well-versed in developing strategies for and managing all stages of complex multimillion-dollar litigations from commencement through trial. Mr. Crusius received his B.A. and J.D. from Hofstra University.  

Amy Conant-Hoang, Annual & Quarterly Program Co-Chair  
Amy Conant Hoang is an associate in the Government Contracts and Procurement Policy group at K&L Gates LLP in Washington, DC. Ms. Hoang advises clients on a variety of federal, state, and local procurement matters, with a focus on bid protests, corporate ethics and compliance, internal investigations, and domestic sourcing (“Buy American”) requirements.  

Ms. Hoang is an active member of the American Bar Association’s Section of Public Contract law. In addition to her role as Annual/Quarterly Program Co-Chair, Ms. Hoang currently serves as a Bid Protest Committee Vice Chair, a Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, and as the Young Lawyer Council Member.  

Ms. Hoang received her J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law, and her B.A., with honors, from Washington and Lee University.
Adam Lasky, Program Co-Chair
Adam Lasky is a partner in the Seattle office of Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker LLP, where he helps clients across the nation navigate and win government contracts. While Mr. Lasky represents contractors on a wide-variety of government contract formation, administration, compliance and dispute issues, his primary focus areas are bid protests, helping contractors navigate SBA regulatory compliance issues, and representing contractors in claims against the government.

Mr. Lasky has successfully represented numerous contractors across a wide variety of industries in bid protests before the Government Accountability Office (GAO), U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and state/local agencies and courts. Since becoming chair of Oles Morrison’s bid protest team in 2013, Mr. Lasky has led Oles Morrison to achieve an elite bid protest sustain rate at GAO, nearly five times the national average. He has achieved at least one protest sustain at GAO per year in six out of the last seven years, all while serving as lead or co-lead attorney. Mr. Lasky is also the author of several articles and books chapters on bid protests, including “A Practitioner’s Road Map to GAO Bid Protests” and “Roadmap to Bid Protests at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims” (The Construction Lawyer 2010 & 2018), and the bid protests chapter of “Federal Government Construction Contracts” (ABA 2d and 3rd eds.).

Mr. Lasky is currently Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law Small Business & Other Socioeconomic Programs committee, and a Vice-Chair of the Section’s Bid Protest committee. Adam earned his J.D. degree, cum laude, from the University of Minnesota Law School, where he was a Trogner Scholar. He has also studied law in Ireland at the University College Dublin, and earned his B.A. from the University of Washington. Mr. Lasky has been named a Rising Star by Washington Super Lawyers in each of the past six years.

Aaron Silberman, Program Advisor
Aaron Silberman is a shareholder at Rogers Joseph O’Donnell, PC, in the firm’s Government Contracts and Construction Practice Groups. Mr. Silberman has specialized in public contracts and construction advice and litigation since 1992. He represents contractors, suppliers and design professionals in the construction, defense, information technology, and service industries. His experience includes contracts for federal, state and local public entities and for private, commercial projects. He handles procurement and compliance advice, contract negotiation, investigations, administrative bid protests and proceedings, federal and state court litigation, and ADR.

Mr. Silberman has spoken and published books and articles on a wide variety of government contracts and construction law subjects, including false claims, terminations, bid protests, subcontracting and teaming, cybersecurity, Building Information Modeling (BIM), green building, Energy Savings Performance Contracts, IT procurements, abandonment/cardinal change claims, disabled access, and licensing.
Mr. Silberman is a leader in several prominent government contracts and construction organizations. He is Chair of the ABA Public Contract Law Section for 2017-18, having served as Secretary in 2014-15, Vice Chair in 2015-16, and Chair Elect in 2016-17. (He is a former member of the Section Council and a past chair of its Federal Procurement, State & Local Procurement, and Construction Divisions and of its Procurement Fraud and Subcontracting Committees.) He is immediate past chair of the Publication Committee of the ABA Forum on Construction Law and is a past member of the Governing Committee and past chair of its Specialty Trade Contractors & Suppliers Division. He is a member and past chair of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area District of AGC-California, a former chair of the AGC-C's Legal Advisory Committee, and a former member of its Executive Committee.

Mr. Silberman earned his J.D. at the University of California Los Angeles Law School with honors and served as an Editor of the UCLA Environmental Law Review. He earned his B.B.A. at the University of Michigan, with honors.

Kara M. Sacilotto – Chair, Section of Public Contract Law
Kara M. Sacilotto is a partner in the Government Contracts Practice at Wiley Rein LLP. She counsels and represents government contractors of all sizes on all aspects of government contracting, including pre- and post-award bid protests before the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and federal agencies. Ms. Sacilotto has successfully represented contractors, as protester and intervenor, in numerous protests involving billions of dollars, and has had many matters resolved favorably by an agency taking corrective action prior to tribunal reaching the merits. Ms. Sacilotto also represents contractors in disputes litigation before Boards of Contract Appeals and the Court of Federal Claims and represents contractors and individuals in suspension and debarment proceedings.

Ms. Sacilotto has held several positions with the ABA Section of Public Contract Law. She is currently Chair of the Section for 2018-2019. Previously, she served as a Council Member, Co-Chair of the Regulatory Coordinating Committee, and Vice Chair of the Debarment and Suspension Committee.

Ms. Sacilotto earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and received her B.A., with distinction, from the University of Virginia. She holds bar memberships in the District of Columbia and Virginia, and court admissions in the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and District of Columbia Circuits; the U.S. District Courts for the District of Colorado, District of Columbia, and Eastern District of Virginia; and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Gail Zirkelbach, Program Co-Chair
Gail D. Zirkelbach is a partner with the Government Contracts group at Crowell & Moring LLP in Los Angeles. Ms. Zirkelbach has over 30 years of experience successfully litigating and investigating government contracts matters both in the U.S. and abroad. Her practice focuses
on internal investigations, fraud actions, and actions under the False Claims Act. She has extensive experience handling complex legal issues and transactions, negotiating successful settlements with both private and governmental entities. Ms. Zirkelbach also has experience with defective pricing and termination cases, bid protests, cybersecurity, and compliance issues. She litigates at the federal and state levels, including the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals (ASBCA), U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Ms. Zirkelbach is the co-chair of the American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law Procurement Fraud Committee. She is also a member of the firm’s Government Contracts Group Steering Committee. Ms. Zirkelbach was named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2017 list of “Most Influential Women Lawyers” in recognition of her leadership on False Claims Act matters.
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Melanie Cibak  
Since August 22, 2016, Melanie Cibik has been Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary of Teledyne Technologies Incorporated, where she oversees its legal, compliance, ethics and corporate governance programs and its corporate secretariat office, regularly interfacing with the Board of Directors and its standing committees and senior management. From September 1, 2012 to August 22, 2016, she served as its Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. At the time of spin-off of Teledyne Technologies Incorporated from Allegheny Teledyne Incorporated in November 1999, Ms. Cibik became Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary and was subsequently promoted in December 2001 to Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary. Ms. Cibik had been Counsel – Corporate and Securities of Allegheny Teledyne Incorporated from April 1998 to November 1999.

From 1994 to April 1998, Ms. Cibik was Senior Counsel of the Regulatory/Mergers and Acquisitions Group and Treasury Management Subgroup of PNC Bank Corp, a bank holding company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to that she had been an Associate in the Business Group of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 1986 to 1994. Ms. Cibik began her legal career as an Associate in the General Corporate Department of Taft Stettinius & Hollister, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ms. Cibik earned her law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, having been a member of its Law Review and a Notes Editor. She graduated cum laude from the Georgetown University’s College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in Government-International Relations, minoring in Economics and becoming a member of both the Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Sigma Nu honorary societies.

Ms. Cibik is the proud mother of a 7 year old son, Dino.

Jance Hawkins  
Jance Hawkins is the Vice President and General Counsel of Global Operations and Government Compliance at Honeywell Aerospace in Phoenix, AZ. Mr. Hawkins received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and received his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.
Charles Horwitz
Charles Horwitz is the Global Director of Government Contract Compliance for the 3M Company. In that role, Mr. Horwitz oversees and ensures 3M's government contract compliance for state and local contracts, federal contracts, and across the globe where 3M sells to governmental agencies. Prior to his role at 3M, Mr. Horwitz was the Director of Contracts & Estimating for BAE.