ABA Forum on Construction Law: Divisions

The Forum's Divisions are designed to put you in touch with fellow practitioners of specific areas of Construction Law. Members of the Forum may join as many divisions as they wish. Divisions focus on distinct areas of practice:

Division 1: Litigation & Dispute Resolution
Division 2: Contract Documents
Division 3: Design
Division 4: Project Delivery & Construction Technology
Division 5: General Contractors
Division 6: Workforce Management & Human Resources
Division 7: Insurance, Surety & Liens
Division 8: International Construction
Division 9: Subcontractors & Suppliers
Division 10: Transportation, Energy & Environment
Division 11: In-House Counsel
Division 12: Owners & Project Finance
Division 13: Government Construction
Division: Young Lawyers

Building the Best Construction Lawyers

An introduction to the Divisions:

**Division 1: Litigation & Dispute Resolution**
Chair: Cassidy R. Rosenthal (crosenthal@stites.com)

**Mission Statement**
Enhancing advocacy skills of construction lawyers in trials, arbitrations and mediations; and, developing innovative ADR strategies and procedures.

**Division Activities**
The focus of Division 1 is on advocacy. Our goal is to help build the best construction advocates who have the skills and know the best techniques for efficiently and effectively resolving disputes for their clients – whether in litigation, arbitration, or mediation of a case.

At the Forum’s national meetings, Division 1 offers an interactive practicum and presents a lunch or breakfast program on a topic related to our mission of advocacy. Division 1 also has several ongoing projects including The Dispute Resolver Blog (http://abaconstructionforumdivision1.blogspot.com).

Division 1 maintains communications with its members via a LinkedIn page, ABA Connect, and a “Friends of Division 1” email group. The Division 1 Steering Committee also meets by telephone on the second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. ET; all members of the Division are invited to attend as it is the best way to find out what is going on and to get involved in the Division activities and the subcommittees chaired by its members: Membership & Diversity, Marketing & Social Events, Programming, Practicums, and Publications.
Division 2: Contract Documents
Chair: Karen Denys (karen.denys@dbr.com)

Mission Statement
To study, develop and improve contract documents for the benefit of the construction industry generally and the protection of the interests of all project participants.

Division Activities
The Contract Documents Division (Division 2) holds monthly telephone conferences on the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m. ET. An agenda and call-in number is circulated prior to the call to all steering committee members and others within the Division. In addition to covering the business of the Division and hearing reports from committee liaisons and industry groups (typically including representatives from the AIA, ConsensusDocs, and EJCDC), the call offers members an opportunity to participate in the development of the Contract Document Division activities and volunteer for various publications and speaking opportunities. On a rotating basis, these monthly calls include a Hot Topic substantive presentation on a construction contracting issue of interest to the group. All Division members are encouraged to participate. As a further benefit to Division 2 members, Division 2 now publishes a Newsletter containing updates from key industry form document organizations, as well as Division news and events. Also, at each national meeting of the Forum, Division 2 hosts or co-hosts an informal dinner or social for its members, family and friends, and coordinates a Division breakfast or lunch typically featuring a nationally-prominent speaker or panel. All current and prospective Division 2 members are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in Division 2 activities. Visit Division 2’s website for further details, or feel free to reach out D2 Chair, Karen Denys, or any D2 Steering Committee member.

Division 3: Design
Chair: Karen Erger (kerger@lockton.com)

Mission Statement
To provide practical knowledge concerning the problems and needs, risks and rewards, and duties and liabilities of each of the parties involved in the design process, with particular emphasis on design delivery and implementation, construction project development, and project economics and financing in both the public and private sectors.

Division Activities
The Design Division (Division 3) holds a monthly telephone conference on the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. ET. An agenda and call-in number are circulated before the call, which offers all Division members, in addition to the Steering Committee and Working Group, an opportunity to participate in the development of Design Division activities, publications, presentations, and network of relationships. At least once each quarter, the monthly call hosts a presentation on a “Hot Topic” in design and construction. We welcome you to join in our calls and Division activities. If you’d like information about how to get involved, please contact our Division Chair.
Division 4:  **Project Delivery Methods & Construction Technology**  
Chair: Tracy T. James ([tjames@lawhssm.com](mailto:tjames@lawhssm.com))

**Mission Statement**
To provide a forum for the study and discussion of various project delivery methods and the impact of emerging construction technologies.

**Division Activities**
The Project Delivery & Construction Technology Division (Division 4) is focused on new developments in technology impacting project delivery and the construction industry. The Division holds monthly calls or webinars on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 12 noon ET. An agenda and dial-in information are circulated in advance of the scheduled meeting. The calls cover division activities, opportunities for involvement, and substantive presentations on varying project delivery methods and construction technology. At national meetings Division 4 frequently conducts substantive breakfast or lunch presentations and hosts social dinners and other activities for Division 4 members to network and relax in a fun setting. Division 4 welcomes new members and has plenty of opportunities to get involved. For additional information or to become more involved in Division 4 contact the Chair, Tracy James.

Division 5:  **General Contractors**  
Chair: Diane Utz ([Diane@Utzconstructionlaw.com](mailto:Diane@Utzconstructionlaw.com))

**Mission Statement**
To provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge related to legal issues encountered by general contractors in the course of the construction process and the provision of practical advice on managing construction risks.

**Division Activities**
Division 5 holds a telephone conference on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. EST. Our Teleconferences include relevant “Hot Topic” presentations by industry professionals on topics of interest to general contractors and construction managers, and “Help Desk” calls for members to get real-time feedback from colleagues on current issues. If you are interested in participating and/or presenting, please dial 866-646-6488, Passcode: 477-023-1272 or contact the Division 5 Chair.

Division 5 holds meetings at each of the Forum’s three national meetings. These in-person meetings generally include a speaker/panel on a topic of interest, as well as networking opportunities. All current and prospective Division 5 members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Opportunities exist for getting involved in Division 5. If you are interested, contact the Division 5 Chair.

Division 6:  **Workforce Management & Human Resources**  
Chair: Jodi Taylor ([jotaylor@brasfieldgorrie.com](mailto:jotaylor@brasfieldgorrie.com))

**Mission Statement**
To provide practical knowledge concerning labor, employment, human resources and 21st century civil rights issues unique to the construction industry.
October 2019

**Division Activities**
Division 6 provides educational content consistent with its mission statement to all Forum members through webinars, articles, telephone conference calls, and Division Breakfast and Lunch meetings at each of the national meetings. We provide social and networking opportunities at the national meetings as well, often joining with another Division for dinner during one of the National meetings. We are always on the lookout for individuals wanting to become more active in the Forum and our Division – please reach out to the Division Chair or join us at the next national meeting.

**Division 7: Insurance, Surety & Liens**
Chair: Sam Laurin (slaurin@boselaw.com)

**Mission Statement**
To study developments and trends relating to insurance coverage, surety bonds and liens for the purpose of educating construction industry participants.

**Division Activities**
The Forum’s Division on Insurance, Surety & Liens (a/k/a “Division 7”) conducts monthly teleconferences on the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. ET. The call-in number is 866-646-6488 and the Passcode is 711-487-1942. Every other month, these calls include a Hot Topic presentation. The calls are open to all Forum members and provide an excellent entre into the activities, publications and speaking opportunities available within the Division and Forum. As a benefit to Division 7 members, Division 7 publishes a self-styled newsletter “Insurance, Surety & Liens” containing substantive articles, news and events. At each national meeting of the Forum, Division 7 hosts an informal dinner for its members, family and friends and usually has a Division breakfast and/or lunch featuring a nationally-prominent speaker. All current and prospective Division 7 members are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in Division 7 activities. For further information feel free to contact the chair or any steering committee member. Please also visit the Division 7 page on ABA Connect.

**Division 8: International Construction**
Chair: Richard Wong (rwong@osler.com)

**Mission Statement**
To provide education, resources and assistance regarding project structuring, design, procurement, construction contracting, dispute resolution, financing and other issues relevant to international construction projects, transactions and legal disputes.

**Division Activities**
The Forum’s International Division holds a Steering/Working Committee conference call on the third Wednesday of most months at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, which often includes a substantive program. Steering Committee members and Standing Committee liaisons are expected to participate, but all Division members are welcome to participate in these calls. Agendas for these meetings are circulated ahead of time with draft Minutes from the previous meeting. At each of the Forum’s three national meetings, Division 8 holds either a breakfast or a lunch program on a current international construction topic, often partnering with other Divisions. The Division also hosts a social dinner at each of the national meetings, typically on Thursday evening. The members of Division 8 regularly contribute to the Forum’s publications Under Construction and The Construction Lawyer. Members of Division 8 are also invited to join a LinkedIn group and will receive a Division 8 lapel pin.
**Division 9: Subcontractors & Suppliers**  
Chair: Neale Johnson (neale.johnson@foxrothschild.com)

**Mission Statement**  
To serve those who generally represent subcontractors, specialty trade contractors and suppliers in the construction industry. Division 9 keeps its members up to date on current issues and developments affecting these groups in construction law through seminars, programs, publications, breakfasts and monthly calls.

**Division Activities**  
Division 9 holds a breakfast or lunch meeting with a topic of current interest at each of the Fall, Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings. All are welcome! Division 9 also holds a Division Dinner at each of the three national meetings at a local restaurant after the Welcome Reception. We have monthly conference calls on the third Wednesday of each month, where we often have brief presentations on hot topics of interest. “Things are fine in Division 9!”

**Division 10: Transportation, Energy & Environment**  
Chair: Ben Patrick (bpatrick@grsm.com)

**Mission Statement**  
To provide education, resources and a forum to discuss legal issues which arise on transportation and energy projects nation-wide and insight on how to navigate those issues. We also provide education, insight and a forum to discuss environmental legislation and programs which affect the construction industry in general, with a special focus on how environmental legislation impacts transportation and energy projects.

**Division Activities**  
A great number of opportunities to participate, research, write and present are found within Division 10. We are always looking for contributors to our quarterly newsletter, 2X4X10. Division 10 generally hosts a membership breakfast/lunch with a nationally recognized speaker at the Forum’s Annual Meeting and has other substantive and social meetings and gatherings at other Forum events. Finally, Division 10 is committed to providing its membership with cutting-edge information regarding legislative developments affecting construction in the transportation and energy industries.

**Division 11: In House Counsel**  
Chair: Catherine Bragg (cbragg@trcsolutions.com)

**Mission Statement:**  
Our mission is to help corporate counsel become better construction industry lawyers. We do this by helping to make the ABA Forum on Construction Law the premier organization for construction law education, training, and professional networking. We collaborate on designing, planning, and executing programs and publications of interest to corporate counsel. We create and promote an inclusive, welcoming membership environment that encourages participation, informal learning, and social opportunities for members to share knowledge and expand their professional network.

**Division Activities:**  
Membership in the Division for Corporate Counsel is limited to construction lawyers who formerly were or currently are working in-house. At the national meetings, we hold networking and educational meetings. All Division 11 members are encouraged to participate in the bi-monthly Steering Committee
telephone conferences, which occur the third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. Eastern. The Steering Committee plans breakfast/lunch programs, other Division activities, and the monthly conferences allow D11 members to stay abreast of Forum activities.

**Division 12: Owners & Project Finance**  
Chair: Kristen Sherwin ([KSherwin@winstead.com](mailto:KSherwin@winstead.com))

**Mission Statement:**  
Education and practical advice on the unique concerns of owners and lenders in all aspects of the construction process.

**Division Activities:**  
Division 12 holds monthly teleconferences on the second Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon EST. The meetings are open to all Forum members by dialing 866.646.6488, passcode 613.577.4053. The calls cover division activities, opportunities and Hot Topic presentations by our sponsors, exhibitors and members. Prior to each call, we circulate an agenda. During each national program, Division 12 holds a breakfast or lunch meeting with a speaker or panel. We also host a Division dinner for relaxed networking and introduction of those interested in joining Division 12. We encourage active participation in the Division including publishing articles and speaker presentations at national, regional and long-distance learning seminars organized by the Forum.

**Division 13: Government Construction**  
Chair: Paul Varela ([pvarela@vlmglaw.com](mailto:pvarela@vlmglaw.com))

**Mission Statement:**  
To provide a forum for the study and discussion of legal issues inherent in federal, state and local construction contracting, including the latest developments in public construction contracting. Division 13 serves its members, contractors, suppliers, design professionals, construction managers and owner agencies through education and leadership regarding public contracting laws and regulations and other issues affecting the industry.

**Division Activities:**  
Division 13 holds monthly conference calls (open not only to the steering committee, but also to all members) the second Wednesday of every month at noon ET. During these calls we discuss planning activities including: a quarterly newsletter with government construction tips and information, luncheon seminars at the three national meetings, writing and publishing articles, putting on webinars, interfacing with other public contracting sections of the ABA and other social activities at our national meetings.

**Division: Young Lawyers Division**  
Chair: Tamara Lindsay ([tamara.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:tamara.lindsay@gmail.com))

**Mission Statement:**  
Building the best young construction lawyers through fun, fellowship, and opportunities for leadership and professional development.

**Division Activities:**  
If you are a lawyer who has been practicing for five years or less, or is less than thirty-six years old, then the Young Lawyers Division is for you. The Forum YLD provides opportunities for Young Lawyers to get involved with the Forum by hosting a Forum YLD event at each National Meeting on the Wednesday prior to the meeting so you can meet and network with other young lawyers, partnering with a Division at each National Meeting for a Breakfast or Lunch Meeting so that you can learn about all of the Divisions.
within the Forum, providing speaking and writing opportunities for young lawyers, co-sponsoring a food bank donation drive to help the local community at the Fall and Annual Meetings, organizing community service events at National Meetings, developing programming and supporting the ACE Mentor Program, and appointing liaisons to each of the ABA Forum’s Standing Committees. The YLD holds a monthly telephone conference on the first Friday of the month at 12:00 p.m. ET, which is open to all members.