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 Methods
- Division 5: General Contractors
- Division 6: Labor & Employment
- Division 7: Insurance, Surety & Liens
- Division 8: International Construction
- Division 9: Subcontractors & Suppliers
- Division 10: Energy & Environment
- Division 11: Corporate Counsel
- Division 12: Owners & Project Finance
- Division 13: Government Construction
- Division: Young Lawyers

An introduction to the Divisions:

**Division 1: Litigation & Dispute Resolution**  
Cassidy R Rosenthal, Division Chair  
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.

The Division presents a lunch program at every national meeting of the Forum. Division 1 also has several ongoing projects, a blog (http://abaconstructionforumdivision1.blogspot.com) and maintains communications with its members via a LinkedIn page.

The Division 1 Steering Committee meets by telephone on the third 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.
**Division 2: Contract Documents**

**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 a monthly telephone conference 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 who have expressed an interest in becoming involved. In addition to covering the business of the Division and hearing reports from industry and committee liaisons, the call offers Division members an opportunity to participate in the development of the Contract Document Division activities and volunteer for publications and presentations. On a rotating basis, these monthly business calls are replaced with a Hot Topic presentation by one of our members on a subject of interest to the group. All Division members are encouraged to participate.

**Division 3: Design**

**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. The call offers all Division members, in addition to its Steering Committee and Working Group, an opportunity to participate in the development of Design Division activities, publications, presentations and network of relationships. Once each quarter, the monthly call hosts a presentation on a key issue in design/construction. We welcome you to join in our call and Division activity. An agenda and call-in number are circulated before the call by e-mail to all members who are registered on the Design Division Listserve. Please join us.

**Division 4: Project Delivery Methods**

**Mission Statement**
Project Delivery Methods provides a forum for the study and discussion of legal issues related to varying systems of project delivery.

**Division Activities**
Division 4 has experienced renewed interest by the general membership of the division. The Steering Committee and general membership participate in regularly scheduled conference calls. With occasional exception, the conference calls are the 4th Tuesday of the month, Noon ET
(866-646-6488; Passcode: 683-524-3965#). The calls cover division activities, opportunities for involvement and substantive presentations. Prior to each call, an agenda is circulated via the Division 4 e-mail listserv. Division 4 also maintains division4triclinium.blogspot.com, a blog for new developments and topics of interest related to construction project delivery systems. During each of the Forum’s national meetings, Division 4 hosts a dinner where members have an opportunity to socialize and network in a fun, relaxed setting. We welcome all current and prospective Division 4 members to participate in all that we have to offer.

**Division 5: General Contractors**

Amy Hobbs Iannone, Division Chair

**Mission Statement**
Study and development of guidelines and suggestions for each of these aspects of a construction project.

**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: 2402402336# 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: Labor & Employment**

Jodi Taylor, Division Chair

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

**Division Activities**
Division 6 holds monthly teleconferences on the last Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon EST, which are open to all Division 6 members or other Forum members interested in Division 6. We are always on the lookout for individuals wanting to become more active in the Forum and our
Division. One of the best ways to get involved is to attend one of the Division Breakfast Meetings, learn what Division 6 is all about and volunteer to get involved by joining a Working or Standing Committee. The Division 6 Steering Committee and Working/Standing Committee members also meet face-to-face at each Fall or Mid-Winter Forum Meeting.

**Division 7: Insurance, Surety & Liens**

Sam Laurin, Division Chair

**Mission Statement**
Be the leading resource for lawyers and construction industry professionals on developments and trends in construction insurance, surety bonds and lien law through education, networking and industry outreach.

**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 the quarterly 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 coordinates 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. Visit Division 7’s website at http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=CI107000 for further details.

**Division 8: International Construction**

James Butler, Division Chair  
jfbutler@smithcurrie.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**
For anyone who has international clients, or who has American clients involved in international projects, this is a Division you should certainly join. Division 8 holds a Steering/Working Committee conference call on the third Wednesday of most months at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. 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. Approved Monthly Meeting Minutes are posted to the Division’s webpage at: http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=CI108000&edit=1&new=1.
holds either a breakfast or a lunch program on a current international construction topic at the Forum’s three yearly meetings, often partnering with other Divisions. Once a quarter, we schedule an international construction presentation by webinar, conference call or podcast, during one of our monthly Steering/Working Committee time slots. Division 8 also contributes its own column, periodically, to the Forum’s Under Construction publication. Members of Division 8 and friends gather for a social dinner at a local restaurant on the Thursday evening of the Fall, Mid-Winter and Annual Forum Meetings. Members of Division 8 are also welcome to join a special LinkedIn group and will receive a Division 8 lapel pin.

**Division 9: Subcontractors & Suppliers**

Neale Johnson, Division Chair

**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 has a Division Dinner at each of the three meetings after the Welcome Reception at a local restaurant. We have monthly conference calls on the third Wednesday of each month, where we often have brief presentations on hot topics of interest. Our motto is: “Things are fine in Division 9!”

**Division 10: Energy & Environment**

Allen W. Estes, III,

**Mission Statement**
Division 10's mission is to assemble and publish to Forum members all pertinent existing legislation and recent case law dealing with both construction and environmental issues, with a special emphasis on monitoring the ”green” or sustainable trends emerging in the construction industry.

**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. Additionally, Division 10 publishes the highly acclaimed Construction Law Update on an annual basis, which includes State and Federal case law and statutory updates on construction law, federal contracting and environmental issues. Division 10 generally hosts a membership breakfast 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
known as the "Server," i.e. information gatherer and distributor, to the Forum through its maintenance and use of two national 50-state list serves.

**Division 11: Corporate Counsel**

Catherine Bragg, Division Chair

**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 marketing. 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 monthly Steering Committee telephone conferences, which occur the fourth Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Eastern. The Steering Committee plans the breakfast programs and other Division activities, and the monthly conferences allow D11 members to stay abreast of Forum activities.

**Division 12: Owners & Project Finance**

Suzanne M. McSorley, Division Chair

**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 866.646.6488/613.577.4053. 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, D12 holds a breakfast or lunch meeting with a speaker. We also host a Division dinner for relaxed networking and introduction of those interested in joining D12. 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**

**Mission Statement:**
To provide a forum for the study and discussion of legal issues inherent in federal, state and local construction contracting.

**Division Activities:**
Division 13 has now completed two years in existence. Under the leadership of Bill Franczek, Division 13 established 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. Currently, we are working on three major initiatives. The first is a joint luncheon with Divisions 4 and 12 for Palm Desert on Integrated Project Delivery Systems. The second is a revised proposal for the Concepts Book for an annual meeting on the subject of government contracts. The third, in conjunction with the publication of the third edition of our Federal Government Contracts book, due out in October 2017, is a joint meeting in Washington, DC with the Public Contracts section that coincides with the AGC meeting.

**Division: Young Lawyers Division**

Tamara Lindsay, Division Chair

**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 admitted to practice within the past five years, 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 dinner 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, nominating a National Outstanding Young Lawyer for the ABA National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award 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.