



The SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION and the WSBA CONSTRUCTION LAW SECTION  
*presents*

## 2026 CONSTRUCTION LAW CLE

### January 22, 2026

John J. Hemmingson Center  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Hemm 314  
702 E Desmet Avenue  
Spokane, Washington

- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.                    **Check-in & Coffee Service**
- 8:45 – 9:40 a.m.                    **MODEL RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTS**  
*Bryce Sinner of Landerholm, P.S*
- 9:40 – 10:35 a.m.                    **CONTRACT NOTICE / DEFECT NOTICE**  
*Jackie Jensen-Erler of Ahlers Cressman & Sleight, PLLC*  
*Evan A. Brown of Stoel Rives, LLP*
- 10:35 – 10:45 a.m.                    Break
- 10:45 – 11:40 a.m.                    **BREACH OF CONTRACT**  
*Cynthia Park and Allen Benson of Ogden Murphy Wallace P.L.L.C.*
- 11:40 – 12:40 p.m.                    **LUNCH (On Your Own)**
- 12:40 – 1:35 p.m.                    **INTERSTATE LIEN PRESENTATION (Washington/Idaho)**  
*Travis B. Colburn and Rita M. Kutsin of Ahlers Cressman & Sleight, PLLC*
- 1:35 – 2:30 p.m.                    **CONSTRUCTION INSURANCE**  
*Casey L. Lund and James Clegg of Marsh & McLennan Insurance Agency LLC*
- 2:30 – 2:40 p.m.                    Break
- 2:40 – 3:35 p.m.                    **INTERSECTION OF CONSTRUCTION & BANKRUPTCY**  
*Benjamin J. McDonnell of Piskel Yahne Kovarik, PLLC.*
- 3:35 – 4:30 p.m.                    **EVIDENTIARY ISSUES FOR CONSTRUCTION DISPUTES**  
*Jason T. Piskel of Piskel Yahne Kovarik, PLLC.*

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**ALLEN BENSON** is a member of the Ogden Murphy Wallace’s litigation group, focusing primarily on real estate and construction disputes. He advises public entities, developers, contractors, and subcontractors through all phases of construction projects—from drafting and negotiating construction and design agreements to the final resolution of disputes, including trial and appeals. Allen has successfully litigated numerous complex civil and construction disputes before administrative bodies and trial courts in Washington and Alaska, including contractor claims for disruption and delay, differing site conditions, defective design, equitable adjustments, and wrongful termination.

Allen brings a unique perspective to his clients in the construction industry, having worked as an oilfield contractor and commercial truck driver before attending law school. He has spent more than a decade helping clients in the construction industry navigate and resolve legal issues, starting with his internship during law school. Recently, Allen was elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the Washington State Bar Association’s Construction Law Section.

Allen earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Dakota and his J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law. In his free time, he enjoys skiing, fishing, hunting, woodworking, and hiking with his dog, Juneau.

### Education

- J.D., Gonzaga University
- B.A., University of North Dakota
- Major: Political Science

### Association Memberships

- Alaska State Bar
- Colorado State Bar
- Washington State Bar

### Professional and Community Associations

- King County Bar Association, Member
- Washington State Bar Association (2016- present)
- WSBA Construction Law Section’s Executive Committee
- Alaska State Bar Association, (2019- present)
- Colorado State Bar Association. (2019-present)

**EVAN A. BROWN** has experience with a variety of litigation, transactional, and alternative dispute resolution matters for clients in the construction industry, including interpretation of contracts, statutes, and regulations; claim development and assessment; discovery, including electronic discovery; motion practice; and appeals.

Before joining Stoel Rives, Evan was a judicial law clerk to Chief Judge Thomas R. Bjorgen and Judge Bradley A. Maxa of the Washington Court of Appeals, Division II, a legal intern with Amazon.com, and a judicial extern for Judge Steven C. González of the Washington Supreme Court and Judge Bruce E. Heller of the King County Superior Court.

### Education

- University of Washington School of Law, J.D., 2014, with Honors; Order of the Coif, Pro Bono Honors; Editor-in-Chief, Washington Journal of Law, Technology & Arts

- Pitzer College, B.A., History and Philosophy, 2006

#### Admissions

- Washington
- United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

**JAMES CLEGG** began in the construction industry as a Construction Engineering Technician serving in the U.S. Army where he provided a wide range of support and technical expertise on building projects around the world. Following his undergraduate business coursework, he completed his MBA at the University of Colorado. Prior to joining MMA nearly 10 years ago, he worked as a Branch Manager/Vice President for one of the nation's largest banking and financial firms. James earned his Construction Risk and Insurance Specialist (CRIS) designation in 2016, his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation in 2020, and his Associate in Fidelity and Surety Bonding (AFSB) designation in 2021. Working closely with his clients, James takes extra pride in his hands-on approach to developing solutions for unique risks and some of the region's largest projects, and is honored to be able to partner with some of the finest organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

**TRAVIS B. COLBURN** is an associate attorney at Ahlers Cressman Sleight, PLLC. Prior to joining ACS, Travis represented insureds as appointed defense counsel with a focus on construction defect claims. Travis's first career was in architecture; he is a licensed architect in Washington and California and has worked on commercial and residential projects in New York, Kentucky, California, and Washington. Travis's experience as an architect gives him a unique perspective and understanding into design and construction-related issues.

Travis is a former volunteer at the King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinic, and is the current WSBA Construction Law Section secretary. He enjoys spending free time with his family, running, skiing, playing soccer, fly-fishing, and cooking.

#### Education

- 1999 – B.Arch, Pratt Institute, with honors
- 2018 – J.D., Seattle University School of Law

#### Professional Associations

- WSBA Construction Law Section Member, Young Lawyer Liaison 2021-2023
- WSBA Construction Law Section, Secretary, 2023-2024
- ABA Construction Law Section Member
- DBIA Member and National Contracts Committee Member
- Member, Jefferson Society

**JACKIE JENSEN-ERLER** recently joined Ahlers, Cressman & Slight, PLLC in 2025 as a partner and brings with her nearly 15 years of diverse litigation experience, including representing owners, developers, contractors and subcontractors in construction and construction-related litigation.

Jackie focuses her practice on representing contractors, sub-contractors and design professionals in navigating litigation challenges and construction-related legal issues.

Jackie also serves as an Executive Committee Board Member for the Construction Section of the Washington State Bar Association and has served as a Board Member of a local construction non-profit for nearly a decade. Jackie lives on Bainbridge Island with her husband and two young children.

#### Education

- B.A., Political Science; Communications, University of Washington, 2007
- J.D., Seattle University, 2011

#### Professional Associations

- Executive Committee Board Member – Construction for Change
- Board Member of a local construction non-profit for nearly a decade
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers

**MARGARITA “RITA” KUTSIN** recently joined Ahlers, Cressman, & Sleight after completing a two-year judicial clerkship with Judge Anne M. Crusier of Division II of the Washington State Court of Appeals.

While attending law school, Margarita participated in multiple externships that were aimed at developing experience in the practice of civil litigation, including an externship for the Seattle City Attorney’s Office and a judicial externship for Justice Debra L. Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court. Margarita will serve as the Executive Committee Secretary for the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section beginning October 1, 2021.

#### Education

- J.D., *summa cum laude*, Seattle University School of Law, 2019
- – Seattle University Law Review, Lead Note and Comment Editor
- -CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Property
- -CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Contracts
- -CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Legal Writing I
- B.A. in Political Science and in Law, Societies, and Justice, University of Washington, 2012

**CASEY L. LUND** is a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law in 2001 and is an attorney in both Washington and Idaho. Prior to Joining Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA) in 2017 Casey worked as an attorney advising and representing contractors and commercial businesses as well as serving as a general manager of a transportation company. Casey earned his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and Associate in Fidelity and Surety Bonding (AFSB) designations in 2019, and his Associate in Reinsurance (Are) in 2021. Casey is part of the Construction Specialty Division within MMA and handles the placement of insurance and surety bonding for clients primarily involved with construction, real estate, manufacturing, and transportation throughout the western United States.

**BENJAMIN J. MCDONNELL** – Ben is a Member at Piskel Yahne Kovarik PLLC. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, construction disputes, creditor/debtor law including bankruptcy litigation, and real estate litigation. Originally from Helena, Montana, Ben earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Gonzaga University and graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law with honors.

#### Education

- Gonzaga University School of Law, J.D. cum laude, 2012
- Gonzaga University, B.A. in English, cum laude, 2008

### Associations

Washington State Bar Association

Spokane County Bar Association

Oregon State Bar Association

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

U.S. District Court, District of Oregon

Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Eastern District of Washington (Former President)

Gonzaga University School of Law Board of Advisors (2022-2025)

**CYNTHIA PARK** is an associate with Ogden Murphy Wallace. Cynthia primarily handles construction law matters, advising public entities, contractors, and subcontractors on various issues that arise during the course of a project. Cynthia also represents corporations, small businesses, and public entities in commercial disputes. Throughout her practice, Cynthia has worked with clients to navigate the different stages of litigation, including from discovery through appeal.

Cynthia is admitted to practice in Washington and New York. She received her B.A. in Political Science and Certificate in International Security from the University of Washington and her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law. During law school, she interned with the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Agency for International Development. Cynthia was also a member of her law school's Moot Court Honor Society and competed in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition's regional and international rounds, where she received recognition as a top oralist. Upon graduating from law school, Cynthia received the Juris Doctor Distinguished Fellowship from her law school to represent asylum seekers in affirmative and defensive proceedings before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Baltimore Immigration Court.

Prior to joining Ogden Murphy Wallace, Cynthia was a litigation associate at a full-service law firm, where her practice included not only construction and commercial litigation but also real estate and other general civil disputes.

### Education

- J.D., American University Washington College of Law
- B.A., University of Washington

### Association Memberships

- Washington State Bar
- New York State Bar
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington

**JASON T. PISKEL** is a founding member of the multi-practice law firm Piskel Yahne Kovarik, PLLC. Jason represents companies in the construction industry, including general contractors, engineers, architects, and sureties. He has represented companies varying in size from small contractors and design firms to ENR Top 500 Firms in mediations, litigations, and arbitrations with claims ranging from under \$100,000 to over \$15,000,000.

Jason has represented clients on projects in every sector of the construction industry, including heavy civil (interstate highways, dams, local highways and streets), industrial (manufacturing facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and pump stations), commercial (mixed-use developments, mid-rise office towers, and retail developments), health care (hospitals and elder care facilities), education (universities, colleges, and primary schools), and residential (condominium construction and conversion, planned communities, and single-family homes).

He frequently counsels clients on insurance issues, including coverage questions, risk management, and contract requirements. Jason has counseled general contractors, designers, sureties, and industry trade groups across the country on insurance coverage questions for all major insurance products.

While very familiar with all construction disputes, Jason also assists commercial clients in all types of civil disputes, including sale of goods issues and foreclosure of security rights-along with employment disputes arising from agreements or trade secret laws. He also has enjoyed representing litigants involved in estate litigation arising from will contests or beneficiary disputes about the distribution of inheritance.

During 2018-2019, Jason served as chair of the Washington State Bar Association's Construction Law Section, and sat on the Spokane County Volunteer Lawyers Program Standing Advisory Committee for three years. He is a cum laude graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law and earned his bachelor degree in economics at Western Washington University. He can be reached at 509.321.5930.

#### Education

- Gonzaga University School of Law, J.D. cum laude, 2004
- Western Washington University, B.A. in Economics, 2001

#### Associations

- WSBA Construction Law Section Trustee (2012 to Present)
- Trustee for the Spokane County Bar Association (2011-2012)
- Member of the Education Committee at the Inland Northwest Chapter of the Association of General Contractors
- Spokane Art School, Vice President, 2006-2008
- Spokane Club - Handball Committee Member
- Gonzaga University Alumni Mentor Program (2010-Present)
- Member of the State Bar of Washington
- Member of the State Bar of Idaho
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho

**BRYCE SINNER** counsels clients in the construction industry. He assists with claims, disputes, mediation, arbitration and litigation; drafts, reviews, and negotiates construction contracts; handles bid disputes and protests; assists clients with payment disputes, liens, and bond claims, and has experience with the many complex legal issues that arise in the construction industry.

He brings a wealth of experience in the construction industry to his practice. Bryce majored in Construction Management at the University of Washington and worked for several years in Portland, Oregon for one of the nation's largest general contractors. There, he gained invaluable experience in field supervision, project management, and cost management, giving him a strong understanding of the issues his clients are dealing with.

After graduating from Lewis and Clark Law School, Bryce worked for law firms in Portland and Vancouver that focused on construction law. He then worked as in-house General Counsel for a heavy civil general contractor operating in the Pacific Northwest, where he also served on the company's Board of Directors and as Corporate Secretary, learning how businesses are run, what drives decision making, and what company leaders expect from their attorneys.

Bryce is Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for the Washington State Bar Association's Construction Law Section and worked on revisions to the section's model residential contracts. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Washington Contractors Association since 2010. He also supports opportunities for Southwest Washington youth to engage in science, education, and exploration, serving on the Boards of Directors for the Cascadia Technical Academy Foundation and the Mount St. Helens Institute.

Bryce enjoys applying his experience and knowledge, thinking through the issues, and helping clients make informed and well-reasoned business decisions, while providing sound legal advice.

Away from work, Bryce enjoys spending time with his wife and their twin girls, coaching their soccer team, and teaching them to ski. He is an avid skier and spends his winters on Mt. Hood or traveling to find new ski destinations.

Admitted to practice:

- State of Oregon
- State of Washington

Education:

- J.D., Lewis and Clark Law School, cum laude, 2009
- B.S. (Construction Management), University of Washington, 2003

Professional Memberships & Affiliations:

- Clark County Bar Association
- Oregon State Bar
- Washington State Bar Association
- Construction Law Section Executive Committee
- Vice Chair, October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024
- At-Large Member, October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2023