



**Speakers/Panelists: *Changing the Business: Navigating the New Construction (Lien) Act***  
**May 14, 2018**

**Glenn Ackerley** is a partner with the law firm of WeirFoulds LLP. With almost 30 years of experience, Glenn practices exclusively in the area of construction law, representing clients from across the construction industry—including public and private owners, contractors, trades, suppliers, and design consultants. He advises on project structures, construction and consultant contracts, procurement issues, and risk-avoidance strategies, often in the role of “project lawyer”. When disputes arise, Glenn acts for clients in construction lien and trust claims, bond claims, and construction deficiency and delay claims.

Glenn is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers and has been recognized as a leading construction law practitioner in both the Canadian Legal LEXPERT Directory and Best Lawyers in Canada. He is active in the construction industry, having been Chair of the Board of the Toronto Construction Association, and is now serving on the Board of the Canadian Construction Association.

This year he was awarded both the Manufacturers, Suppliers and Services Award of Recognition from the Canadian Construction Association and the Chair’s Award from the Council of Ontario Construction Associations for his contributions.

**Geza Banfai** is a Counsel with McMillan LLP, practicing infrastructure – construction law and mediation. In his extensive construction law practice, he has represented participants at every level of the construction pyramid, from negotiating and drafting construction and related contracts (including alliancing and joint venture agreements, and P3 and similar lender-driven arrangements) to claims and disputes of many kinds.

Geza is certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Construction Law and is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers.

His past directorships include the Canadian Construction Association, Consulting Engineers of Ontario and Toronto Construction Association. In addition, he is a member of the Construction Law and ADR Sections of the Ontario Bar Association, the Forum on the Construction Industry of the American Bar Association and the Society of Construction Law. He sits as the ex-officio legal representative on the Canadian Construction Documents Committee and was chair of CCDC’s IPD Task Force. He is also a member of the Advisory Group assisting the Ministry of the Attorney General in the creation of the Construction Act.

Geza is the recipient of the 2016 Award of Excellence in Construction and Infrastructure Law from the Ontario Bar Association and was named the 2017 Toronto Construction Law Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers in Canada. He is listed in Chambers Global, Construction – Canada, the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada (Lexpert/American Lawyer), Best Lawyers in Canada (Woodward/White), International Who's Who of Professionals, Who's Who Legal, Canada and International Who's Who of Public Procurement Lawyers.

**Edward (Ted) G. Betts** is a certified specialist in Construction Law and the current Head of the Gowling WLG Infrastructure and Construction Sector Group. Ted has 20 years of experience in construction law and infrastructure project experience in all aspects of tendering, negotiating and drafting of contracts, structuring, project management, financing and sales. He regularly acts as quarterback on large-scale construction and development projects in the energy/renewable energy, P3/infrastructure and social/community development projects, co-ordinating and supervising the timely and cost-effective delivery of project documents. He works in all sectors that involve construction projects, including commercial construction, power and energy (nuclear, hydro-electric and solar power generating stations), mining and transportation.

Ted is the Secretary of Executive of the Construction and Infrastructure Law Section of the OBA and is Co-Chair of the Construction Lien Act Reform Committee of the OBA. Ted has also written papers and presented seminars on tendering, liens, prompt payment issues and Construction Lien Act reform. He Chairs the twice annual Construction Law Forum at Gowling WLG.

**Eric Hoffstein** was called to the Ontario Bar in 2001. He is a partner with Minden Gross LLP practicing litigation and dispute resolution with an emphasis on real property and construction litigation. Eric has extensive experience advising and representing owners, contractors, architects and engineers in residential, commercial and industrial projects. Eric also has significant experience in corporate and commercial disputes, including shareholder remedies and injunctive relief, and disputes involving trusts and estates.

Eric is named as one of Canada's Repeatedly Recommended Estates lawyers by The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory. He has appeared as counsel at all levels of Ontario courts and at the Supreme Court of Canada. Eric is a frequent speaker at legal conferences and publishes regularly, for both Canadian and US audiences. He sits on several local charity boards and committees and he has served on an Ontario Bar Association Section executive.

**Steve Ness** has authored a number of articles on surety bonds and the suretyship process and speaks frequently on the subject in Canada and abroad. Steve has also lectured on the role of suretyship in the construction process at the University of Toronto and the Insurance Institute of Canada.

In 1992, Steve joined forces with five industry "renegades" to form what would later become the Surety Association of Canada (SAC). In 1994, he assumed the role of President. Over the last 25 years since its formation, SAC has become the true voice of the industry and represents 97% of surety writers from coast to coast.

**Jerry Paglia** is the Director of Procurement for the Regional Municipality of York. He is a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2000. Jerry worked for several years in private practice until he joined the Regional Municipality of York in 2004. As a construction lawyer for the Region, he specialized in construction and procurement law for 13 years until he was appointed the Director of Procurement in 2017. Jerry was a member of the Construction Lien Act Review Advisory Panel.

**Paul Raboud** joined Bird Construction in 1984 in the Toronto Office. He progressed through the company in a variety of positions in Ontario and British Columbia culminating in his appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer. In 2010, Paul took up the position of Vice Chair. In 2017, Paul retired from day to day operations of the company but remains an active director. Paul is also a member of the board of directors of Stephenson's Holdings Inc. and is Chair of the Ontario General Contractors Association.

Paul earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta. He also earned a Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Washington and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alberta.

**Chris Stanek** is a partner at Gowling WLG and one of the leading litigators in the firm's Toronto office. Known for his aggressive approach, he specializes in finding creative solutions to difficult commercial problems. He has obtained highly favourable results for numerous financial institutions and corporations in Canada, the United States and around the world. Chris has a particular expertise in disputes involving land, including construction, leasing and real property disputes. He customizes his dispute resolution strategy based on the needs of each individual client and is dedicated to furthering his clients' goals - even if those goals may not be conducive to traditional litigation. Using this approach, Chris has successfully represented contractors, lenders and developers in many complicated construction disputes, often employing creative solutions to achieve his clients' desired results.

Chris has appeared before every level of court in Ontario and several administrative tribunals and has successfully argued numerous appeals in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Appeal, both as an appellant and as a respondent. He has also successfully represented clients in arbitrations of varying complexity.

Chris is a member of the executive of The Advocates' Society's Construction Practice Group. He is an instructor in civil trial advocacy in the Law Practice Program at Ryerson University, and has also lectured extensively on construction law, contracts and the *Construction Lien Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.30, for many different organizations, including the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor.

**Clive Thurston** has extensive experience in the construction industry, having worked as a Superintendent, Estimator, Project Manager and former owner/operator of a small Toronto-based construction company for 12 years. He held the position of By-Law/Building Official with the City of Brampton and was the Chief Building Official for Prince Edward County prior to accepting the position of President of the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA). As President, his duties include promoting the industry, facilitating disputes between project partners, promoting education, providing advice on contracts and the supplementary conditions attached to them.

Clive has served on the Editorial Board of the Daily Commercial News and continues to serve on the Building Advisory Committee at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Through the OGCA, Clive represents the industry at the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO), a group of related industry associations focused on the renewal of infrastructure and the impact of government regulations.

In 2008, Clive founded the WSIB Construction Industry Task Force to work on the reformation of the WSIB and Accident Prevention system in Ontario. He is particularly proud of the Strategic Opportunities Committee created by the construction and design associations to work with the Ontario Realty Corporation (Infrastructure Realty). A strong believer in consultation rather than confrontation, Clive promotes policies that are beneficial to all stakeholders within the construction industry.