

Risk Training Webinar: Project Selection, Mid Project Assessment and Project Close Out

A discussion with legal professionals regarding best practices for client selection for new design projects from the contract initiation through project completion to provide insights in avoiding unnecessary liability risk while improving communications from the beginning to the end of a building cycle.

Learning Objectives:

- Improve risk management for architectural professionals in go / no go on new projects. Improve risk management through careful contract negotiation and, when necessary, termination.
- Improve risk management for architectural professionals in handling mid project issues and scope change communication.
- Improve risk management for architectural professionals in closing out projects and addressing tail liability issues.

Rick van Oppen – Inszone Insurance Services – Business Unit Manager - A&E Unit



Rick Van Oppen is the Business Unit Manager for Inszone's Architects and Engineers Practice, joining in January 2024 after the merger with Van Oppen and Co. 2. A CPCU and Whitman College graduate, he specializes in Property & Casualty insurance and Risk Control support for architects, engineers, and environmental firms. Rick previously led VOCO2 for 15 years, serving clients across the U.S. and Canada. He splits his time between San Luis Obispo and Jackson Hole, enjoying family life and the outdoors.

Catherine Bednar – FMG Law – Partner



Catherine Bednar is a Partner in Freeman Mathis & Gary's Boston office, Chair of the firm's Environmental practice, and Co-Chair of the Northeast Coverage team. She focuses on professional liability, construction litigation, and insurance coverage, with extensive experience defending architects, engineers, and other professionals. Catherine also advises clients on contracts and risk management. A former environmental engineer, she brings deep insight to environmental disputes, including those under Chapter 21E and the Clean Water Act. She also represents insurers in a range of coverage matters.

John Kortum – FMG Law – Partner



John Kortum is a Partner in Freeman Mathis & Gary's Walnut Creek office with over three decades of experience in complex litigation. He focuses on construction defect claims, environmental litigation under CERCLA, RCRA, the Clean Water Act, and Proposition 65, as well as personal injury, property damage, and contract disputes. John has represented a wide range of clients—from design professionals and developers to public entities and national corporations—and has litigated cases in both state and federal courts, including matters before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Webinar Details:

- Learning Unit: 1 AIA LU
- Date: August 19, 2025
- Time: 12:30PM Pacific Time; 3:30PM Eastern Time
- Registration Link: [Risk Training Webinar: Project Selection, Mid Project Assessment and Project Close Out](#)