

# F20-CEE258/258c – Watson Seminar in Construction Engr & Mgmt

Presentations by leaders from various segments of Construction Industry, followed by discussions with their team regarding career options. This year's course will be remote & synchronous for most (CEE258). Students needing / interested in the \*limited In-Person 4:30-5:30 Workshop/Discussion Section must submit [CEE258c Applications](#).

## Meets

Wednesdays 4-5:30pm

ONLINE via ZOOM\*

Prof: Brian Sedar [bsedar@stanford.edu](mailto:bsedar@stanford.edu)

TA: Samantha Liu [samanyl@stanford.edu](mailto:samanyl@stanford.edu)

16Sep



**Joshua Ritti**

Construction Practice Director

Founded as Failure Analysis Associates by Stanford professors and SRI engineers, Exponent is now a 90+ discipline engineering and scientific consultant to numerous S&P 500 companies, helping solve technical, regulatory and business issues. Josh Ritti is Director of Exponent's Construction Consulting practice. He advises construction clients on risk management, project controls and scheduling, change management, contract review and assessment, process improvement, change order negotiations, claims and expert witness services. Josh's dispute experience includes development, analysis and defense of claims related to scheduling, inefficiencies and cost overrun, participating in successful negotiation of numerous disputes, testifying on schedule and cost issues in mediation, dispute resolution board hearings, arbitration and trial.



23Sep



**Mark Kroll**

Managing Director, SRNC

Mark Kroll is co-founder and Managing Director of Sares Regis Group of Northern California, LLC, and Regis Homes Bay Area, LLC. Combined with affiliate Sares Regis Group, headquartered in Irvine, the firm has a portfolio of real estate properties and fee-based management contracts valued in excess of \$7 billion, including 16,000 rental apartments and 15 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, including leading hi-tech companies. Together with Rob Wagner, Mark is responsible for the executive management of all operating divisions in Northern California. He has a BS in Engineering from Lehigh University and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering / Construction Management from Stanford University. Mark is a Consulting Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford and part of Urban Land Institute's Development Council.



30Sep



**Kathryn Cahill Thompson**

Chief Executive Officer

Kathryn Cahill Thompson is CEO of Cahill Contractors LLC. The fourth generation of the Cahill family in the construction business (father Jay Cahill is a Stanford CE BS), Kathryn has worked in project management and estimating for projects spanning affordable, market rate and senior housing. She is also involved with company operations including marketing, recruiting and technology. Prior to Cahill, Kathryn was a management consultant at Mercer Management and in nonprofit leadership at Bridgespan Group, Oakland Schools and SF Chamber of Commerce. Kathryn has a BA in Economics/Geography and an Engineering minor from Dartmouth, an MBA from Stanford, and is LEED AP certified. Cahill has built with quality and integrity in residential, civic, healthcare, education and commercial construction in the SF Bay Area for over 100 years.



7Oct



**Catherine Hunt-Ryan**

BGI CFO, Partner/SVP

Bechtel is the largest construction and civil engineering company in the US, and one of the most respected global engineering and project management organizations. Catherine Hunt-Ryan is the Chief Financial Officer as well as a Director on Bechtel Group's Board. After leaving the World Bank's Infrastructure Economics and Finance team, she joined Bechtel Enterprises in 2007 as an asset manager on jointly-owned airports and led development and financing for renewable power projects. Catherine held project control and commercial lead roles on Sabine Pass LNG and served as CFO of Bechtel's largest Oil, Gas & Chemicals Business. She was made a Bechtel SVP/Partner in 2019. Bechtel is a cornerstone of innovation in the industry. The firm delivers landmark projects—the modern marvels of the world—that foster sustainable progress and grow economies.



14Oct



THE ALLEN GROUP, LLC

**Schatzie Allen-Jefferson**

President

The Allen Group, LLC is one of the Bay Area's leading project and construction management firms, overseeing some of the region's most complex and challenging infrastructure projects. Founded in 1989 by CEO LaVerda O Allen, a pioneering entrepreneur in engineering and management consulting, the firm is currently led by President Schatzie Allen-Jefferson, who maintains this tradition of excellence while meeting the rapidly changing needs of a growing industry. A tightly-knit group of construction and communications professionals bringing a diverse set of skills to the construction industry, the Allen Group has a customized approach. Identifying client's specific needs and mobilizing the resources that allow their visions to become reality has resulted in a current list of infrastructure projects that consists of well over 90% repeat business.



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21Oct



**Eric Lamb**

Exec VP, Mgmt Cmte Member

Eric Lamb has over 30 years of construction and engineering experience in technically challenging and green projects for the advance tech, biopharma, healthcare and corporate office sectors. A natural problem-solver and strategy leader, he serves as Executive VP and member of the Management Committee, to ensure DPR continues to "Build Great Things" for its customers. Involved from pre-construction through delivery, Eric drives continuous improvement in the organization, constantly seeking new ways to enhance delivery with process and technology such as integrated delivery, BIM and sustainability. His expertise includes pre-construction, cost control systems, value engineering and network scheduling. A LEED-accredited Stanford MS CEM, he is a member of the AIA California Council task force that developed the Integrated Project Delivery Guide.



28Oct



**Dev A Krishnan**

CEO & President

Dev Krishnan is President & CEO of KKCS (formerly Kal Krishnan Consulting Services), a full-service construction management, project and program management, project controls and engineering organization with a proven track record in project implementation, and experience in planning, engineering, construction and start-up. With another local firm, KKCS won the program management of LA Metro's current mega-buildout. Dev earned his MBA from Univ of Pacific Eberhardt School of Business and was a financial analyst for major finance and tech organizations before stepping into the CEO role at KKCS. Managing a staff of approx 100 professionals with major offices in LA and Oakland, he is responsible for formulating / implementing strategic plans, overseeing company operations, and creating and communicating KKCS' vision and mission.



4Nov



**George Pla**

CEO & President, Founder

George Pla is President, CEO & founder of Cordoba Corp, a nationally recognized engineering and construction management firm based in LA. For over 30 years, he has provided the leadership and vision to grow Cordoba into one of the top civil engineering and CM firms providing services to large public infrastructure projects throughout the Western US. Major current projects include construction services for SF's Water System Improvement Program, PM services for CA High Speed Rail, as well as design-build services for BART, LA Metro and SF Muni. Cordoba is consistently ranked by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of the top ten service providers in California. George's achievements and approach are featured in a Harvard Case Study and eight books, including his latest, *Power Shift*, on how California Latinos have transformed American politics.



11Nov



**Don Clark**

Co-CEO & Co-Owner

Don Clark is co-owner/co-CEO of Clark Pacific, the leading manufacturer of prefabricated building systems in the Western US. The Clark brothers grew up in the firm started by their father, Jim. A Stanford MS CEM engineer, Don has over 35 years' experience in the design, manufacture and construction of architectural façade and structural systems. He has developed advanced systems and solutions with developer/owners, designers and builders to design and manufacture high-quality, cost and energy-efficient, resilient building solutions. Clark Pacific's innovations include award-winning façade and thin-shell cladding systems, seismic advances and manufactured "all-in-on" structural systems with integral architectural finishes and glazing systems. Major examples include Apple's new headquarters and Stanford's Escondido Graduate Housing complex.



18Nov



**Michael Traylor**

CEO & Co-President

Michael Traylor is Co-President & CEO of Traylor Bros, Inc. With brother, Chris, a Stanford MS CEM, he is responsible for overall management of the third-gen family-owned company. Working for 29 years in nearly every role in Traylor Bros in both Bridge & Marine and Underground Divisions—from field engineer to upper management, on bridges, in tunnels and operations support—resulted in a unique set of skills and experience that make him an effective leader. William F Traylor founded the company in 1946, taking on -- and succeeding with -- extremely challenging projects. Now one of the nation's leading heavy civil contractors, TBI uses some of the most innovative construction techniques in industry to build landmark bridges, tunnels and marine structures including New York's new Tappan Zee Bridge, and LA's Westside Subway Extension.

