



## Construction Group Out + About

May 2020

Members of Robinson+Cole's Construction Group speak and are published on various construction-related topics, are recognized in the community, and participate in high-profile industry group programs throughout the country. As the coronavirus outbreak challenges businesses to adapt to a rapidly-changing environment, we continue to deliver the services our clients need to navigate the new construction landscape. You will find many resources and insights available on the dedicated R+C Coronavirus Response Team web page available [here](#). We encourage you to visit the resource center, and look forward to seeing you soon when we are once again "out and about."

### Construction Law Zone Blog

Even when we're away from the office, we continue to follow developments and trends in all areas of construction law and to share our insights in our [Construction Law Zone](#) blog. If you haven't checked out the blog, we invite you to do so and to subscribe to receive e-mails when new content is posted in real time. We welcome your feedback and input on topics you'd like us to cover.

### Construction Practice Ranked

Our construction practice was ranked Tier 1 in Hartford, Connecticut in the 2020 Edition of *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms." In total, Robinson+Cole received 33 first-tier metropolitan rankings. Law firms included in the publication are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from both clients and peers. Read more about the methodology [here](#).



Photo from *Condé Nast Traveler*

### Counsel to Condé Nast-Recognized Property

We are proud to have served as construction counsel to 1 Hotel West Hollywood listed in *Condé Nast's Traveler* "The Best New Hotels in the United States and Canada: 2020 Hot List." Last year, 1 Hotel West Hollywood was also listed at no. 2 on *Condé Nast's Traveler* "2019 Readers' Choice Awards: The Top 30 Hotels in Los Angeles." Congratulations!



[Virginia K. Trunkes](#)

### Virginia "Ginger" Trunkes Presents on Drones at RPTE CLE Conference

**Ginger Trunkes** presented "Drones Fly Over Trespass, Nuisance, Privacy and Data Security Issues: What you Need to Know" on May 15 at the American Bar Association's 32nd Annual National Real Property, Trust and Estates Section (RPTE) CLE Conference. The program discussed unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS, or drones) and provided an update on the ever-changing regulatory scene. Real Estate + Development Group lawyer **Karla Chaffee** chaired the program.

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## Joseph Barra, Matthew Miklave and Niel Franzese Co-Present a Webinar with GZA GeoEnvironmental on Returning to Work During COVID-19

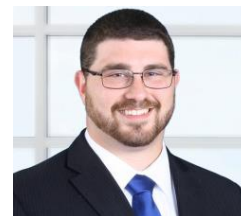
**Joe Barra**, **Matt Miklave** and **Niel Franzese**, along with industry colleague Brian Morrill from GZA GeoEnvironmental, presented a webinar on May 5, as part of AGC MA's Building Endurance Series on "Getting Back to Work: Important Concerns for the AEC Community." Joe moderated the panel discussion, which focused on practical labor and employment considerations for re-opening offices and project sites; industrial and corporate hygiene; and the potential implications of the City of Boston's COVID-19 Safety Plan for Construction. On May 18, the team presented the same program to the Boston Society for Civil Engineers (BSCES) and the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA).



[Joseph A. Barra](#)



[Matthew T. Miklave](#)



[Niel P. Franzese](#)



[Martin A. Onorato](#)

## Martin Onorato Hosted Virtual Judging of the Connecticut Building Congress's Annual Project Team Awards

**Marty Onorato** hosted a virtual judging of the Connecticut Building Congress' (CBC) annual Project Team Awards on May 12. The event brought together experienced construction industry professionals from around the world to review and critique a record high number of entries, and to award winners in eight categories of construction projects. The Project Team Awards celebrates extraordinary teamwork among the spectrum of professionals and trades that overcomes extraordinary challenges and exceeds expectations of success. CBC will be publicizing the winners shortly.

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## Ginger Trunkes Named Vice President of JALBCA

**Ginger Trunkes** was named Vice President of JALBCA (Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert) on May 8. JALBCA leverages the legal community's expertise and resources to promote awareness, early detection, treatment, education and legal support for all those affected by breast cancer.



[Choity R. Khan](#)

## Choity Khan Elected Secretary of the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut

**Choity Khan** was elected among an all-female slate of officers as Secretary of the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut for the 2020 term, and was highlighted in *High Profile* Magazine's feature on Women in Construction on February 24. Choity also serves as co-Chair of the Women in the Law Committee for the Connecticut Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

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## Martin Onorato was a Featured Speaker in Connecticut Building Congress Webinar

**Marty Onorato** was a featured speaker in the moderated webinar panel discussion "A New Look at Risk Management" on May 5. The program was the first in a webinar series sponsored by the Connecticut Building Congress (CBC) that is designed to address hot topics within the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry. The panel discussed some of the new challenges affecting the AEC industry's longstanding issue of risk management and delved into some of the thought processes that owners and construction managers now must tackle.

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[Lisa B. Andrzejewski](#)

### [Lisa Andrzejewski Writes Article on New York “Emergency” and “Essential” Construction Published in \*New York Real Estate Journal\*](#)

**Lisa Andrzejewski** penned the article “New York clarifies differences between ‘emergency’ and ‘essential’ construction” published in the *New York Real Estate Journal* on April 21. Originally published in R+C’s *Construction Law Zone* blog, the article examines the March 27 bulletin issued by the New York City Department of Buildings, which offered clarification about the terms “emergency” and “essential” construction. Read the [full article](#).

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### [Ginger Trunkes included in \*New York Real Estate Journal\*’s “Ones to Watch in 2020”](#)

**Ginger Trunkes** was selected by the *New York Real Estate Journal* for inclusion in the publication’s semi-annual “**Ones to Watch in 2020**” spotlight, which recognizes “emerging talents of individuals in the commercial real estate industry.”

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### [Martin Onorato was Among the Members of the Connecticut Building Congress Scholarship Fund Interviewing Graduating High School Seniors](#)

**Marty Onorato** was among the members of the Connecticut Building Congress Scholarship Fund who recently interviewed graduating high school seniors planning careers in the design and construction industry. The Fund awards scholarships each year to bright young minds who are set on becoming engineers, architects, construction managers and colleagues. Based on the track records of the applicants, they’ll be among the industry’s leaders before long.



[Dennis C. Cavanaugh](#)



[Gregory R. Faulkner](#)

### [Dennis Cavanaugh and Gregory Faulkner Co-Present Webinar as Part of the Construction Institute’s Spring Webinar Series](#)

**Dennis Cavanaugh** and **Greg Faulkner** co-presented the webinar “The Impact of Government Shutdowns on Construction Contracts and Schedules” as part of the the Construction Institute’s Spring Webinar series on March 25. They discussed the measures being taken by government and private businesses to contain COVID-19 and the potential impacts on the construction industry. The online training was designed to assist everyone in the construction community in coping with the personal and professional challenges associated with living in self-isolation. For further details, [click here](#).



[Virginia K. Trunkes](#)

### [Article by Ginger Trunkes on Government Approval Published in \*New York Law Journal\*](#)

**Ginger Trunkes’** article “Government Approval: When It’s Not a Sure Bet” was published in the *New York Law Journal* on March 31. The article uses the recent court decision in *The Committee For Environmentally Sound Development v. Amsterdam Avenue Redevelopment Associates, Sup. Ct., N.Y. Co., Index No. 157273/2019* to examine how the issuance of a construction permit by one branch of government can be invalidated after community opposition. Ginger writes, “And when can a developer rely upon final determinations of the Board of Standards and Appeals?” Read the [full article](#).

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### [Ginger Trunkes Authors \*Construction Executive Magazine\* Article on Modular Construction](#)

**Ginger Trunkes** wrote the article “Who’s Minding the Modules?,” published by *Construction Executive* on October 31, 2019. The piece focuses on the various approaches taken towards regulating modular construction, “the process by which buildings are made of individual sections (modules) constructed in an offsite facility and later assembled at the project site.” Read the [full article](#).



[Kenneth A. Sherman](#)

### Kenneth Sherman Presents Webinar as Part of HalfMoon Education's Online Managing Engineering Liability and Risk Seminar

**Ken Sherman** presented the webinar "Understanding How Contracts Can Shift, Reduce or Increase Risk" on March 25, as part of HalfMoon Education's full-day, online Managing Engineering Liability and Risk Seminar. Ken's presentation offered an overview of law and key concepts, and addressed important aspects, including understanding contract formation and revision; recognizing liability exposure under contract; reviewing standard contract provisions, such as guarantees, warranties and indemnities, and understanding their impact on risk; and the potential consequences can be for delay, disruption, and inadequate or non-performance.



[Niel P. Franzese](#)

### Niel Franzese Blog Item on Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on Construction Projects Is Picked Up by High Profile Magazine

*High Profile* magazine published **Niel Franzese's** blog post on the coronavirus pandemic and its potential impact on construction projects on March 19. Though the full impacts of the health crisis remain to be seen, some such as workforce shortages, work stoppages and supply chain disruptions, are already apparent. Niel writes, "As the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread and the governmental and private sectors formulate their responses, it has become apparent that the associated economic impacts will be significant and affect all sectors of the economy, including construction." Read the [full article](#).

### Ginger Trunkes and Endicott "Kit" Peabody Author Federal Reserve Article Published in Four Trade Publications

**Ginger Trunkes** and Business Transactions Group lawyer **Kit Peabody** authored the article "The Federal Reserve's Powers to Pave the Way for Continued Development and Construction Through COVID-19," which was published in *High Profile* magazine on March 26 and the *New England* and *New York Real Estate Journals* on March 27. Originally appearing in R+C's *Construction Law Zone* blog, the article outlines numerous strategies recently offered by the Federal Reserve to support the financing needed to ensure ongoing construction as well as new projects in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Ginger and Kit write, "The Fed's exclusive ability to alter the money supply and credit conditions, and willingness to do so, should spur the necessary institutional lending that can sustain development and its consumers through these troubled times." In addition, the original piece was updated and published by *Construction Executive* magazine on April 22, "[The Fed's Toolbox: What's Left to Pave the Way for Continued Development and Construction Through COVID-19?](#)"



[Joseph A. Barra](#)

### Joseph Barra Serves as Member of Judging Panel for AGC MA Building Women in Construction (BWIC) Committee's 3rd Annual Inspire Awards

**Joe Barra** served as a member of the judging panel for the AGC MA (Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts) Building Women in Construction (BWIC) Committee's 3rd Annual Inspire Awards, which recognize and celebrate exemplary women in construction. The awards ceremony took place in Boston on March 4. The judges selected the winners from among many nominees, based on criteria including demonstrated leadership, generosity, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to their career, colleagues and the industry.



### Martin Onorato Introduces Comptroller at Joint Industry Dinner

**Marty Onorato** introduced the evening's featured speaker, Connecticut State Comptroller, Kevin Lembo, at the 24th Annual Joint Dinner of the Design and Construction Industry. This annual event was organized by AIA and hosted by dozens of participating design and construction industry associations on March 10 at La Bella Vista in Waterbury, Connecticut. Robinson+Cole was a Palladian sponsor of the event.

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### Robinson+Cole Sponsors GreenPearl's 6th Annual New York Construction & Development Forum

Robinson+Cole sponsored GreenPearl's 6th Annual New York Construction & Development (NYCD) Forum on February 27. **Lisa Andrzejewski** and **Ginger Trunkes** attended the conference, which brought together the New York Tri-State area's senior development and construction executives to translate key challenges into profitable opportunities, as well as explore emerging trends influencing and disrupting the industry.

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### Joseph Barra Article on Climate Change Published in *High Profile Magazine*

**Joe Barra** authored the article "Climate Change and the New Normal," published in *High Profile* magazine on October 21, 2019. The article examines how climate change is "rapidly becoming a lightning rod of legal exposure for the design community" and explores the impact this phenomenon is having on the way engineers practice as well as the standards by which they are judged. Read the **full article**.

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Robinson+Cole's [Construction Group](#):

[Lisa B. Andrzejewski](#) | [Joseph A. Barra](#) | [Dennis C. Cavanaugh](#)

[Gregory R. Faulkner](#) | [Aniello P. Franzese](#) | [Christopher J. Huq](#) | [Choity Khan](#)

[Paul S. Lopez](#) | [Martin A. Onorato](#) | [Kenneth A. Sherman](#) | [Virginia K. Trunkes](#)

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## Construction Law **Zone**

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