

**David T. Arena** is a partner at the firm of DiMonte & Lizak, LLC where his practice focuses on commercial law matters, including business disputes, contract and construction law, mechanic's lien, mortgage foreclosure, bankruptcy, debt collection, municipal law and probate litigation. Mr. Arena has been a guest on the ISBA television series Illinois law speaking on mortgage foreclosures and home improvements, and has presented at ISBA seminars addressing construction law and mechanic's lien issues. Mr. Arena is also a frequent contributor to his firm's quarterly newsletter. Mr. Arena received his bachelor degree in political science from Loyola University of Chicago in 1993 where he was a member of the Phi Sigma Alpha National Honor Society and recipient of the Presidential Scholarship. Mr. Arena received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law with honors in 1996. He joined DiMonte & Lizak, LLC in 1996 and accepted an invitation to become an equity partner in 2005. Mr. Arena is an accomplished trial lawyer in both state and federal court.

**Geoffrey A. Bryce** earned his B.A. in Marketing and Systems Analysis at the University of Toledo in 1977, his M.S. in Taxation at DePaul University in 1976, and his J.D. at The John Marshall Law School in 1981. He concentrates his practice in commercial and construction transactions and litigation. He represents developers, owners, facility management companies, architects, general contractors, subcontractors, engineers and material suppliers. His litigation practice includes, but is not limited to, product liability, insurance coverage, personal injury, property damage, real estate, mechanics liens, bankruptcy, landowner contractor disputes, annexation, condemnation, zoning, breach of contract, restrictive covenant, construction defect, architectural/engineering malpractice, breach of surety agreement, and delay claims. He has successfully tried cases to conclusion in Illinois, California, Missouri, Oklahoma, Virginia and Wisconsin. He also defends manufacturers of products in environmental, toxic tort cases and other products liability cases. Geoff has handled coverage disputes arising out of construction/development projects and many other coverage disputes, such as environmental, asbestos, silicosis and the like. His transactional work includes the conceptual business framework for the transaction, the closing strategy, terms and conditions and negotiation of the final contract.

Geoff Bryce is the recipient of the 2015 Corporate Citizenship Award and the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Honor.

**James M. Dash** is a founding member of Carlson Dash, LLC, with offices in Chicago, Illinois and Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of construction, mechanic's liens and real estate-related litigation. Mr. Dash currently serves as vice-chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Construction Law Section Council and treasurer of the Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys. Mr. Dash also is a past chair of the Construction and Mechanic's Lien Subcommittee of the Chicago Bar Association. He served on the joint ISBA-CBA committee writing the draft legislation that, with some changes, became the Mechanics Lien Act effective January 1, 2006. Mr. Dash has been recognized by Leading Lawyers Network, Best Lawyers, Illinois SuperLawyers and Chambers USA. He has lectured to various professional groups on construction and mechanic's liens and has been involved in several important decisions by the Illinois courts in this area of law. He also is a frequent lecturer for the ISBA and National Business Institute on mechanic's lien law and other construction and real estate related topics.

**Nathan B. Hinch** is an attorney in private practice at Mueller, Reece & Hinch, LLC in Bloomington, Illinois where he helps clients with wills, trusts, and other estate planning matters, and with legal issues regarding business, real estate, construction, and civil litigation. He also serves as an administrative hearing officer for the Town of Normal, Illinois, in adjudication proceedings for municipal ordinance violations.

Mr. Hinch is licensed to practice law in Illinois by the Illinois Supreme Court (2007) and is admitted to the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois (2011). He holds a J.D. from the Chicago-Kent College of Law with a Certificate in the Program in Environmental and Energy Law (2007) and a B.A. in Economics, *cum laude*, from Wheaton College (IL) (2000).

He currently serves as the chairperson of the Hon. Robert C. Underwood Professionalism Committee of the McLean County Bar Association, as the Continuing Legal Education Chairperson for the Construction Law Section of the Illinois State Bar Association, and as a member of the American Bar Association and Peoria County Bar Association. Mr. Hinch is also a member of the the board of directors for the McLean County Chambers of Commerce and is a Paul Harris Fellow and has served as a board member of Bloomington Club of Rotary International and its Foundation, and is a Fellow with the Illinois Bar Foundation. He was named a “30 Under 30” honoree by the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce in 2010, a “40 Under 40” honoree by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce in 2014, an “Emerging Lawyer” by the Leading Lawyers Network in 2015, and the McLean County Bar Association’s “Young Lawyer of the Year” in 2015.

Mr. Hinch currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Philanthropy Council for Advocate BroMenn and Advocate Eureka Medical Centers, and on the Board of Directors for the Parklands Foundation, a natural conservation and land preservation, not-for-profit organization with holdings of more than 1,500 acres in McLean and Woodford Counties. He volunteers pro bono work and fundraising support for a variety of charitable organizations in McLean County, most recently including Prairie State Legal Services, the Boy Scouts of America, the Boys and Girls Club, and his local church. He lives in Bloomington, Illinois with his wife Sarah and their three children.

Nathan is the author of the Hinch Law Blog, at [www.hinchlaw.blogspot.com](http://www.hinchlaw.blogspot.com) and can be followed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/HinchLaw](http://www.facebook.com/HinchLaw)), LinkedIn, and Twitter (@nathanhinch). He can also be found at [www.mrh-law.com](http://www.mrh-law.com).

**Raymond M. Krauze** earned his B.A. at Boston University in 1995 and his J.D. at Georgetown University Law Center in 2003 where he was a Staff Member of the *American Criminal Law Review*. He focuses his practice at K&L Gates LLP on two main areas: construction law and complex commercial litigation and disputes. In the construction area, Mr. Krauze has represented major contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, material suppliers, and condominium associations in all aspects of complex construction litigation, including breach of contract, construction defects and omissions, fraud, express and implied warranties, and mechanics lien claims. Mr. Krauze has significant experience regarding issues arising from the design and construction of commercial and multi-unit residential condominium properties. In addition, Mr. Krauze counsels clients on all manner of construction-related contract drafting and negotiation.

In the complex commercial litigation area, Mr. Krauze has handled matters involving claims of breach of contract, fraud, business torts such as breach of fiduciary duty and tortious interference, as well as claims involving violations of federal and state statutes. He has worked with a range of experts including civil engineers, real estate appraisers, and accountants. Mr. Krauze has extensive experience before federal and state courts, as well as other alternative dispute resolution forums.

Mr. Krauze is a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, and Chicago Bar Association. He is a member of the Illinois Chapter of the Construction Owners Association of America where he serves as co-chair on the Association's Program Committee.

**Margery Newman** concentrates her practice in construction law, including complex construction litigation in both the private and public sectors, and related business litigation. Margery's clients are primarily owners, general contractors, specialty trade contractors and disadvantaged business enterprises. She places particular emphasis in client counseling on the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts, mechanics' lien claims and foreclosure actions, construction defects and DBE certification and compliance.

Margery earned her B.A. at Brooklyn College in 1969, her M.A. at Roosevelt University in 1973, and her J.D. at The John Marshall Law School (with High Distinction) in 1983. She is licensed to practice in the Illinois Supreme Court, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. District court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Margery is a member of the American Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Lake County Contractors Association, National Association of Women in Construction, Society of Illinois Construction Lawyers, and Underground Contractor Association. She is an Adjunct Professor of Construction Law at the John Marshall Law School.

**Paul Peterson** is Vice President and Senior Underwriter of Fidelity National Family of Title Insurance Companies. Paul has specialized in mechanics' lien underwriting, mechanics lien workouts and claims, and financial analysis on a national basis since 1982. Paul received the Illinois Land Title President's Award for his work in the passage of the bonding statute that is now Section 38.1 of the Illinois Mechanics Lien Act.

Paul is a past president of the Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys, is a former chairman of the Mechanics' Lien Subcommittee of the Chicago Bar Association, and is a member of the ISBA Construction Law Committee and the ABA Construction Law Forum.

Paul includes in his list of publications Mechanics Lien Issues in Residential Real Estate Transactions by William Lyman and Paul Peterson in Residential Real Estate (IICLE, 2008), The Illinois Statutory Construction Payment Procedure – Contract Concerns in Constructional Law – Contract Concerns (IICLE 2010), and Schedule of Values – Difficulties in Monitoring the American Institute of Architects Documents G702 and 703 Construction Payment Systems in Construction Law and Business Journal, July/August 2001, Vol.2, Number 3, pp 19 to 24. Paul is also the author of several title company publications or articles, including Creditors Rights and Illinois Real Estate and Rights of Heirs and Devisees and their Purchasers in Illinois Real Estate.

Paul is a graduate of IIT-Chicago Kent College of Law. He began his career at Chicago Title Insurance Company in 1971.

**Eric L. Singer** is a construction lawyer and litigator, concentrating in contracts, insurance and counseling for construction and design projects, as well as disputes concerning real estate, construction, liens, bonds, mortgages, title insurance, easements, injunctions and other commercial litigation. Eric represents a variety of design professionals, contractors, owners, lenders, title insurers and others involved in development, improvement and use of real estate, as well as other businesses. Mr. Singer attended the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign (B.A. 1985) and the University of Chicago (J.D. 1988). He is a Member of the ABA Forum on Construction Law, the Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys and the ISBA Construction Section Council, and is an Affiliate Member of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Chicago and AIA Northeast Illinois.

**Stanley N. Wasser** is a partner of FeldmanWasser, Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Wasser received his B.A. Degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 1972, majoring in political science, and his Juris Doctor Degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. in 1975. Mr. Wasser is admitted to practice before the Illinois state courts and the United States Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Seventh and Second Circuits, and the Central and Southern District Courts in Illinois.

Mr. Wasser served as a staff counsel to the Illinois State Comptroller from 1975-76; as an Assistant Attorney General in the Illinois Office of Attorney General in 1977; as an Assistant, then Deputy Chief Counsel of the Illinois Department of Transportation from 1977-1984; and as General Counsel to the Illinois Bureau of the Budget in 1984-85. He returned to the Illinois Department of Transportation where he served as its Chief Counsel from 1985-1986. In 1987 he joined with Mr. Howard Feldman in private practice.

Mr. Wasser is a member of the Lincoln-Douglas American Inn of Court (present board member); a member of the Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys (present steering committee member); a member of the Illinois State Bar Association Section Councils on Construction Law (2016-2017 chair) and Federal Practice and Procedure (2016-2017 vice chair). Mr. Wasser is recognized in the field of construction law by both Leading Lawyers Network in Illinois and by Illinois "Super Lawyers".

Mr. Wasser has tried civil and criminal trials to verdict in both state and federal courts.

Mr. Wasser has spoken at seminars on the following topics: Illinois public contract code and competitive public bidding in Illinois covering the subjects of competitive bidding, bid protests, public contract requirements, suspensions and debarments, key contract clauses and issues, contract claims and design-build; laws and regulations bearing on public contracting, including state and federal prevailing wage laws, DBE/MBE/WBE requirements, and project labor agreements; ethics and criminal risk issues in public contracting; Illinois mechanics' lien claims; change orders, extras work and differing site conditions in Illinois construction projects; contractor liability for and risk management of residential construction defects; construction damages; construction bonds and suretyship; alternative dispute resolution of construction claims; ethics issues arising from insurance, surety bonds and bankruptcy construction issues; Illinois public procurement laws bearing on public-private partnerships; the Federal Arbitration Act; and federal civil jury instructions.

Mr. Wasser is a co-author of the chapter entitled *Representing the Public Owner* in the IICLE 2009 Practice Handbook, entitled *Pre-Construction Issues*, and a co-author of the chapter entitled *Labor Issues in the Transactional Side of the Project* in the IICLE 2010 Practice Handbook entitled *Construction Law: Transactional Considerations*.

Mr. Wasser has authored newsletter articles on FRCP Rule 12(c) motions; FRCP 30(b)(6) discovery practice; FRCP 12 (a)(4)(A); FRCP Rule 50 and 59 post-trial motions; federal court appointments for prisoner litigation; and the effect of the federal removal laws when securing testimony from federal officials and employees.

**Justin L. Weisberg** is a partner in the Chicago office of global law firm K&L Gates. Mr. Weisberg focuses his practice on construction law and commercial litigation representing private, public, local and international clients in a variety of construction-related transactions and litigation matters. His transactional experience includes contract drafting and negotiation, contract document review and project counseling. His construction dispute resolution experience includes both bench and jury trials, appeals, arbitration and mediation. Mr. Weisberg is also a Professional Engineer and has been a former Chair of the EJCDC. He also serves as Counsel on the Construction Section of the ISBA and has been involved in drafting and testifying before the Illinois House and Senate Judiciary Committees on several bills. He is also a member of the Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys (“SOICA”) and the ABA Construction Forum. He has chaired the P3 Subcommittees of the EJCDC and SOICA. He can be reached with any questions at: [justin.weisberg@klgates.com](mailto:justin.weisberg@klgates.com).