

## Peckar & Abramson Co-Hosts 15th Annual Groundbreaking Women In Construction Conference In San Francisco



**New York, NY – May 31, 2018** - The 15th annual Groundbreaking Women in Construction (GWIC) Conference, presented by Engineering News-Record (ENR) in partnership with national construction law firm Peckar & Abramson (P&A), took place May 14-16, 2018 at the historic Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Attended by a sellout gathering of 700, the 2018 theme of the construction industry’s premier leadership and talent management conference was ‘Grow Your Network + Build Your Performance’. P&A Miami Partner Melinda S. Gentile once again served as the event’s co-Chair along with Janice L. Tuchman, Editor-in-Chief of ENR.

“The 2018 Conference was by far our most successful event to date. The timely and relevant issues discussed by our high quality speakers and panelists, and the energy and involvement of all who participated, demonstrated why this event continues to be so essential for the construction industry,” said P&A Partner Melinda S. Gentile. “Takeaways from this year’s conference include the ability to bring actionable ideas and methods back to our companies and organizations for implementation and the tremendous value of learning, networking and making industry connections.”

The first GWIC conference was an idea developed by P&A Founder Robert S. Peckar with the goal of convening women—and men—to address the issues confronting women in the construction industry and to create a forum where everyone could gain information and forge relationships that assist in the advancement of women in the industry.

“It is an honor for P&A and our attorneys to again play a key role in this celebrated program for women in construction, engineering and architecture,” said P&A Chairman, Steven M. Charney. “I certainly benefited



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from attending and understand why this event has grown as it has - the discussions regarding best practices and presentations that ranged from industry advances, to personal experiences, to evolving trends, to data based studies, were remarkably informative and thought provoking.”

Attendees gathered to hear this year’s thought leaders and influencers, who provided insights and actionable strategies for achieving success in the construction industry. The five keynote speakers and addresses included: Susan Rozakis, Project Executive, Google, who provided the Opening Address; Ginger Evans, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) *‘Beyond Proactive: Build That Talent Pipeline Now!’*; Author Jeffery Tobias Halter, *‘Women Mean Business, And Why Male Buy-In Matters’*; Vicki O’Leary, General Organizer, Ironworkers’ Union *‘Ironworkers Build Diversity’*; Yvonne Forrest, Deputy Director, Houston Water, Dept. of Houston Public Works *‘Meeting the Challenge!’*. Approximately two dozen panel discussions and conversation tables took place over the three day event. Speakers discussed disruptive technologies, mentoring, work-life success, employee/talent retention, risk management, construction safety, sexual harassment, personal branding, diversity and workforce development among many others.

## About Peckar & Abramson, P.C.

Peckar & Abramson, P.C. maintains offices in New York City, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Miami, Chicago, Oakland, Los Angeles, Austin, Houston and Dallas, and has affiliations with global firms in Latin America (through its founding membership in CONSTRULEGAL), London, China and India. In addition to its core construction practice, the firm has affiliated practice groups who counsel contractors on labor and employment matters, corporate and regulatory compliance issues including D/M/WBE compliance and general corporate and real estate matters. The firm’s website can be found at [www.pecklaw.com](http://www.pecklaw.com).

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