

Peckar & Abramson Leads Thirteenth Annual ENR Groundbreeding Women in Construction Conference

New York, NY- June 23, 2017 – Peckar & Abramson (P&A) was proud to serve as Conference Partner and event sponsor for the Thirteenth Annual Groundbreaking Women in Construction (GWIC) Conference, held May 1-3, 2017 in San Francisco, California. For the thirteenth consecutive year, P&A has taken a leadership role in the GWIC Conference. From the event’s inception, Melinda Gentile, Partner in P&A’s Miami office, has served as moderator and since 2009, as co-chair and co-moderator of the event, along with Jan Tuchman, Editor-in-Chief of Engineering News-Record (ENR). As it did that very first year, GWIC 2017 was received by a sold-out audience.



More than a decade ago, Peckar & Abramson developed the first GWIC conference with the goal of convening women—and men—to address the issues confronting women in the construction industry and to create a forum where attendees could gain information and forge relationships to assist in the advancement of their careers. Eight years ago, P&A entered into an agreement with ENR, who would take leadership of the conference and transform it into a national landmark event.

Reflecting on more than a decade of involvement with each GWIC conference since the event started, Gentile said, “It is a source of great pride for our Firm to again play a central role in this critically acclaimed conference for women in the construction industry. Each year, the conference gets bigger and better—drawing nationally recognized speakers and serving as a must-attend event for participants across all aspects of the construction industry.”

Roughly 350 attendees gathered to listen to this year’s thought leaders and influencers, who provided insights and actionable strategies for achieving success in the construction industry. Speakers discussed Construction Technology, Intrapreneurship, Project Managers as Team Builders, Diversity Dividends, Innovative Safety Solutions, Failure and Success, Networking and Negotiation Techniques.



This year's opening keynote address was given by Carey A. Smith, President, Parsons Corp., Federal whose discussion of "Challenges and Opportunities for Women in a Changing Government Environment" provided attendees with an "Inside the Beltway" view for firms and women professionals

in 2017—and beyond. Smith is the highest ranking woman executive of this multi-billion-dollar engineer-contractor and a rising star in government contracting circles. Day One closing keynote speaker was Monique Tallon, CEO of Highest Path Consulting, a Los Angeles leadership development firm. Tallon inspired the audience with her talk entitled *Turn up the Volume on Your Inner Cheerleader*. Founder and CEO of this executive coaching firm and a Silicon Valley veteran, she discussed how to make confidence matter as much as competence at all career levels and how women can communicate their unique strengths to best advantage in current jobs and future roles.

Conference speakers and panelists included:

The Diversity Dividend: the Power of the Purse:

Laura Abrahamson, Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel, Head of Litigation, AECOM
Mara Johnston, Vice President Business Development, Star America Capital
Jon Michael Pardo, Senior Vice President and CHRO, Dragados USA
Moderated by Lisa Mingoia, Corporate Counsel, Skanska USA Building Inc.

Earn What You're Worth - Closing the Gender Pay Gap:

Kellie A. McElhaney, John C. Whitehead Adjunct Professor, University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business and founder of Center for Gender Equity and Leadership
Priya Kapila, Compensation Practice Leader, FMI Corp
Angie Sommer, Associate, ZFA Structural Engineers and Co-Chair, Structural Engineering Engagement and Equity (SE3) Project
Moderated by Kelli L. Kelly, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, PCL Construction Enterprises, Inc.

Women in the Trades, Women in the Field:

Kathleen Dobson, Safety Director, Alberici Constructors, Inc.
Helen Robinson, Senior Project Manager, GEI Consultants
Blue Coble, Journeyman Ironworkers' Union Local 75, Phoenix
Moderated by Patti Morgan, Continuing Lecturer, Purdue University

She Negotiates – Effective Negotiation Techniques and Skills

*Facilitated by Amanda Goldsmith, Senior Estimator, Avalon Bay Communities and
Brenda Radmacher, Partner, Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP*

Attracting Construction's Next Generation of Women

Samar Bedran, Project Manager, SBI Consultants

Tannis Liviniuk, Construction Academy Director, Bentley Systems

Menzer Pehlivan, Geotechnical Engineer, CH2M

Moderated by Hilda Espinal, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, CannonDesign

From Bossy to the Boss – What I Learned from Alpha Male Coaches and Mentors

Sharon Ferruccio, Vice President of Marketing, Day & Zimmermann

Holly Cindell, Project Executive, Lendlease (US) Construction Inc.

Jeanette James, Project Manager, ACCO Engineered Systems

Jacey Raimondo, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity, Bergen County, NJ

Moderated by Brent Darnell, Owner, Brent Darnell International

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, Dallas and Pennsylvania, 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.

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