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# NEWSLETTER: September 2019

## A Note from the Chairman

Fall 2019 has started off strong for our North American Section. We are up to 164 members as of mid-September.

In September we hosted two more events in Los Angeles and Miami, as well as a webinar in conjunction with RICS MENA, presented by SCL NA Director Walied Abdeldayem. Looking forward to October, we have a fall event taking place in New York City (which will also be available for members to join in via webinar), and events in Toronto and Calgary. Members in Texas can save the date for an event in Houston in early November.

SCL NA is also part of the planning committee for the SCL International Conference in New Zealand in November 2020. Please visit the conference website ([link below](#)) and register your interest. In addition, there is a [new paper available](#) to members on "Security of Payment for Subcontractors- Lessons for England From Around the World" by Louise Hall (Highly Commended in the 2018 Hudson Prize).

Following the success of the prestigious essay prizes of our international colleagues including the Hudson Prize in the UK and the Brooking Prize in Australia, we have launched our Hardhat Paper award. The deadline for submissions has been extended until December so we encourage you to submit an entry.

Help us spread the word about SCL NA by connecting with us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) and speaking with non-members about our Section and upcoming events.

- Dr. Anamaria Popescu, P.E., PSP, PMP  
Chairman, SCL North America

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## Upcoming Events

**2 October 2019** - 8:00am-10:30am -  
New York City, New York.

**24 October 2019** - 6:00pm-8:00pm -  
Toronto, Ontario  
Wine tasting and "Letters of Credit in

"Collaborative Contracts - What Do They Really Mean?" Sponsored and hosted by BDO. [RSVP](#). Webinar link will be available soon, see website for further details.

**9 October 2019** - 3:00pm-6:00pm - Calgary, Alberta

"Navigation Construction Claims in Insolvency" Sponsored by BRG and Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP. [RSVP](#)

Construction: Rethinking the Autonomy Principle in Canada" [RSVP](#)

**6 November 2019** - Houston, Texas

"Dispute Management Best Practices in Construction Projects"

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## New Podcast Available

Our colleagues at the [Society of Construction Law Australia](#) have just released a new podcast episode, "It All Changed On-Site. Or Did It...?". If you have ever wondered whether your construction contract can be varied by what happens on site, or how contractor claims are treated, and whether your entire agreement clause is valid, this is the episode for you. Michael Trim and Claire Schneider of Level Twenty Seven Chambers in Brisbane share their insights on these questions as well as recent developments in the law. You can access the episode on your desktop [here](#) or on iTunes [here](#).

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## Recent Events

### Los Angeles, California (10 September 2019)

We hosted a lunch event to launch the SCLNA in the Southern California Region, sponsored by Secretariat International and HKA. The session, "It's not about the rates? What General Counsel want from outside counsel" included Michael Bayard (Moderator), Jim Dierking (Fluor), Todd Bressler (Suffolk), Sarah Levitt (AECOM), Walker Matthews (Southern California Edison - SCE).

Many thanks to our Regional Directors, Adam Winegard and Ted Scott, for organizing this event.



Gregory Smith, Regional Director (Southeast Region) and Anamaria Popescu, SCL NA Chairman

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## Miami, Florida (12 September 2019)

SCL Regional Director Andres Alva hosted an evening panel and cocktail reception in Miami, Florida on September 12th. The topic "To what extent can technology reduce risks in construction projects in US and LatAm?" was extremely well received. Speakers included Andres Alva and Richard Gregorie (BRG), Anna Weiss (Kennedys), Michael Cuevas (DeSimone), Kenneth Figueroa (Foley Hoag).



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## Inaugural SCL NA Hardhat Essay Prize

The Society of Construction Law North America is pleased to announce inauguration of its annual writing competition, "The Hardhat". The Hardhat is an annual competition for the best essay submitted to the Society in the field of construction law. There are two levels of competition, General and Student. The General category is deemed to mean any working or retired profession regardless of discipline. Students are to be currently enrolled in any degree program.

The purpose of the Hardhat competition is to solicit essays on issues of construction law and its application to the construction industry. Submissions are limited to 6,000 to 8,000 words, and to be in the form of an essay and not a research paper. An essay has been defined in a variety of ways but the best may be a prose composition saying almost everything about almost anything, and by tradition the essay is a short piece. For 2019 the Society will award six prizes as follows:

General Category

First Prize - \$1,000,  
High Commendation - \$500  
Commendation - \$250

Student Category

First Prize - \$500

High Commendation - \$250

Commendation - \$150

In addition, all entrants awarded a prize or commendation will be granted a one year complimentary membership in the Society. Candidates may select any subject matter concerning the theory or practice of construction law or its application in the construction industry. The Society encourages entries from all disciplines and levels of experience.

Entries must be submitted in Microsoft Word using the Society's template. The competition rules and the paper template can be downloaded at the Society's website: <https://www.scl-na.org/news/inaugural-scl-na-hardhat-writing-award-accepting-papers-2019>. All entries must be received by 4.00pm Pacific Standard Time **Thursday, December 5, 2019**. Entries are to be submitted by email to the Paper Committee Chairs: Walied Abdeldayem ([walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net](mailto:walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net)) and Bruce Hallock ([Brucewng@aol.com](mailto:Brucewng@aol.com)).

The winners of the Hardhat Writing Award will be announced on **February 15, 2020**. Please direct any queries to the Judging Panel Chair, Walied Abdeldayem at ([walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net](mailto:walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net)) or the co-Chair Bruce Hallock at ([Brucewng@aol.com](mailto:Brucewng@aol.com)).

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## SAVE THE DATE

For more information go to: <http://www.constructionlaw2020.com>



### 9th International Society of Construction Law Conference

4th – 6th November 2020

Auckland, New Zealand

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SCL North America is one section out of the many international sections of the SCL which was founded in 1983 to promote the study and research in the field of construction law. The SCL has over 3,000 members internationally and in

2017 a major milestone was achieved: the final gap in the global SCL network was closed with the founding of the SCL North America Section, which includes the USA and Canada.

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