



CASE Spring Risk Management Convocation in Orlando Scores Big with Attendees!

The CASE Spring Risk Management Convocation took place on May 14th during the first-ever combined NASCC/Structures Congress in Orlando, Florida. All of the CASE sessions were well received and had considerable attendance, including the CASE Breakfast which featured David Ratterman, AISC Secretary and General Counsel. His talk centered on the AISC *Code of Standard Practice*. Other CASE sessions held during the afternoon included *Steel Design Dos and Don'ts*, *A Project Manager's Day*, and *Managing Expectations and Risk during the Steel Detailing Process*.

Next year the CASE Spring Convocation will be held in conjunction with the Structures Congress in Las Vegas, NV, April 14-16, 2011.



CASE Risk Management Convocation Comes to Puerto Rico This October

The next CASE Risk Management Convocation will take place during the ACEC Fall Conference, October 17–20, 2010, at the El Conquistador Resort in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. On October 18th, the CASE Convocation will include the following confirmed sessions:

- Avoiding the Pitfalls in Working with Architects Using AIA C401
- Effective Use and Pitfalls of Building Structural Design Commercial Software
- Lessons Learned from Actual Claims (Key Cases)

The ACEC Fall Conference will feature a panel discussion of top engineering firm CEOs, world class educational sessions,



an innovative trade show, a full complement of tours, and entertaining networking events. The Conference will address industry trends, markets, and business practices in a continued challenging economy. For more details and to pre-register go to www.acec.org/conferences/fall-10/registration.cfm. You will receive a discounted registration price if you pre-register prior to July 31st so don't delay!

New CASE Tool Available on Website Resources

CASE's Toolkit Committee has just released its newest tool, Tool 3-3 – *Website Resource Tool*. If you have ever wondered what websites are available for the business of Structural Engineering, wonder no more. This tool contains website links and descriptions of those websites that could be useful in running a structural engineering business.

Examples of website links are CASE, where you can download contracts, publications and tools, CONTRACTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT CENTRAL where you can get information on business laws, doing business across state lines, and sealing and stamping requirements, and other helpful websites.

A few years ago, CASE set out to improve the practice of structural engineering by reducing the frequency and severity of claims. One of the ways CASE planned to accomplish this was through the production of software-based tools that are made available to CASE members through e-mail and on the CASE website at www.acec.org/CASE. A summary for each tool can be found at www.acec.org/case/tools.cfm.



CASE Summer Meeting Planned for Boston in September

The CASE Summer Meeting will take place on **Thursday and Friday, September 16-17, 2010**, Boston, Massachusetts. On Thursday, the CASE committee breakout meetings will be held for the National Guidelines, Contracts, Programs & Communications, and Toolkit committees to continue work on their respective assignments and planning for future CASE products. The CASE Executive Committee will meet on Friday.

A CASE roundtable on structural engineering issues will be held in conjunction with the Boston Association of Structural Engineers (BASE) dinner/meeting on **Wednesday, September 15th** at the MIT Faculty Club. The theme of the evening will be *Risks for Engineers* and the roundtables will focus on the following:

- Risk vs. Award with Integrated Project Delivery
- BIM Investment vs. Payback
- Sustainable Design and the Risk for Structural Engineers
- How to Collect Your Money Without Getting Sued

More details will follow in the August edition of CASE-in-Point.

CASE committees have been the reason behind CASE's success for over 20 years and they remain vital to CASE's future. As part of the committees' ongoing activities, face-to-face meetings and informal discussions are held twice a year to explore current issues, and work on projects like new and revised *Risk Management Tools*, Guidelines and Contracts, as well as Publications, and Risk Management Convocations. These meetings also allow the various CASE committees to interact across all of CASE's activities. For more information on the CASE committees and CASE in general visit their website at www.acec.org/CASE. Contact CASE Executive Director Heather Talbert at htalbert@acec.org or 202-682-4377 if interested in joining.



Government Affairs Update

'Retainage' Now Optional in Federal A/E Contracts; ACEC Says Eliminate It

ACEC has won a substantial change in the longstanding federal requirement that A/E contracts include a retainage of 10 percent of payments. Under the revised Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) policy adopted in April, retainage is no longer mandatory, but optional (up to 10 percent) and at the discretion of the federal contracting officer.

The new rule states that no retainage is required if the contracting officer determines that the work performed by the firm is satisfactory. Additionally, withheld payments for A/Es are to be paid at the successful completion of the design contract. This will, in many cases, significantly reduce the time firms must wait for full payment. The new policy stems from an ACEC-backed recommendation included in the Small Business Administration's Regulatory Review and Reform initiative in 2008, calling for the elimination of retainage as an unnecessary burden on cash flow and overhead.

"While the new rule is a step in the right direction, we would like to see this practice eliminated altogether," said ACEC President Dave Raymond. "The Government has many other remedies for ensuring satisfactory completion that are less damaging to our businesses."

The new rule can be viewed at this link:
www.acquisition.gov/far/fac/Looseleaf_FAC%202005-39.pdf



ACEC Endorses Bill to Reduce Paperwork Burden on Firms

ACEC is backing legislation to repeal a provision in the recently enacted health care law that will significantly expand the paperwork burden facing A/E firms.

Under current law, a business must issue a Form 1099 to any service provider whom it pays more than \$600 in a year, unless that service provider is a corporation. Starting in 2012, the new law expands this requirement to include services or property purchased from any business, including corporations. For example, a firm that purchases \$1,000 in office supplies from a retail supplier will have to issue a 1099 to the business reflecting the purchase. The provision is designed to improve tax compliance, but its primary effect will be to burden businesses with a new paperwork requirement. ACEC has endorsed legislation (H.R. 5141) introduced by Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA) that would repeal the new mandate.

For more information on the new health care law, contact Katharine Mottley at kmottley@acec.org.

