



AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS

# 37th Annual Meeting



***February 19-22, 2026***

The Phoenician, Scottsdale  
Scottsdale, Arizona

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

**10:00 a.m. Golf Tournament** *(Tee Times Starting @ 10:00 a.m.)*  
The official ACCL golf tournament will be held at the Phoenician Golf Club on Thursday with tee times starting at 10:00 a.m. The fee is \$259 per golfer and includes green fees, cart and prizes. Lunch is on your own. The ACCL golf committee will assign players to foursomes and communicate the pairings prior to the event. Fellows, spouses, and guests are welcome to play in this golf tournament. *Advance registration is required on the registration form.*

**1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration Desk Open**

**2:15 – 3:00 p.m. ACCL Executive Committee Meeting**

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ACCL Board of Governors Meeting**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Committee Meetings:**

- Diversity Committee
- Documents Committee
- Guided Choice Mediation (GCM)
- Insurance Committee
- International Committee

**5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception: Wine & Cheese** (Casual Dress)

**7:00 p.m. Dinner Mixer**  
Fellows and guests are invited to form your own dinner parties (or dinners organized by class/year of induction) with a restaurant list to be provided in advance. Transportation and dinner costs are on your own. *(The 2026 Class of New Fellows and their spouse/guest have an arranged dinner on the Resort property with the Executive Committee.)*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

**6:30 – 5:00 p.m. Registration Desk Open**

**7:15 – 3:00 p.m. Spouse/Guest Hospitality Suite Open**  
The Hospitality Suite will remain open until 3:00 p.m. each day for relaxing and catching up with friends. Breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Friday morning with the introduction of the New Fellow spouses/guests at 8:00 a.m. *See Spouse/Guest Program for details and optional events.*

**7:15 – 8:30 a.m. Fellows Breakfast** *(All Welcome)* **& Group Breakfasts**

- Past Presidents Breakfast
- In-House Counsel Task Force
- Public Contracts Committee

**7:15 – 8:30 a.m. New Fellows Orientation Breakfast** (for 2026 New Fellows)  
New Fellows are invited and encouraged to attend a breakfast where ACCL officers and select Committee Chairs will provide information about ACCL practices, operations, and expectations as well as answer questions.

**8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Introductory Remarks and Welcome**  
ACCL President Terry Brookie will formally open the meeting, welcome Fellows, and offer preliminary comments.  
*Terry Brookie, ACCL President*  
*Harper Heckman, Program Chair*

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m. PLENARY ONE – Leadership in Divided Countries, Communities and Companies**  
Steve Inskeep, longtime host of NPR's *Morning Edition* and Best Selling author of the 2023 book *Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America*, discusses the role that our industry and profession has played and can continue to play at a time when our country is hotly divided on many political, social and economic issues.

*Presenter: Steve Inskeep, Author and NPR Host, Washington, DC*

**10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Refreshment Break**

**11:00 – 12:00 p.m. PLENARY TWO – The Art of Persuasion: What Works and What Does Not**  
An examination of the psychological underpinnings of why humans become entrenched in their views and what techniques actually work in persuading them to consider alternative positions.

*Presenters: Calum Matheson, Chair, Dept. of Communication, University of Pittsburgh*

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. FELLOWS' LUNCH and Report from the Long-Range Planning Committee**

*Presenters: Eileen Diepenbrock, Sacramento, CA & Dean Thomson, Minneapolis, MN*

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m. PLENARY THREE – What Lawyers Need to Know About the Business of Construction**

A conversation with a panel of three construction company executives.

*Presenters: Cassidy Rosenthal, Stites and Harbison, Lexington, KY (Moderator)  
Dan King, President, The Skillman Corporation, Indianapolis, IN  
George Pierson, Former CEO, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Kleinfelder, New Hope PA  
Cade Rowley, CEO, Sundt Construction Company, Tempe, AZ*

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m. PLENARY FOUR – Successful Exit Strategies for Privately Held Construction Company Owners**

*Presenters: Greg Curran, Maynard Nexsen, Birmingham, AL  
Tim Szniewajs, Everus Construction Group, Bismarck, ND*

**3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Refreshment Break**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. PLENARY FIVE – Successful Exit Strategies for Retiring Construction Lawyers**

*Presenter: Mike Short, LawVision, Washington, DC*

**5:00 – 5:30 p.m. In Memoriam: Tribute to Fellows who Passed in 2025**

Fellows, spouses and guests are invited to celebrate the lives of our departed Fellows and their contributions to the profession, the industry and the College.

*Organized by: Chris Whitney and Stan Martin*

**6:00 – 9:30 p.m. Reception, Dinner & Entertainment (Outdoors/Resort Casual)**

Join us at Jokake Inn & Lawn for a special evening under the stars. Jokake Inn and Lawn is a short walk from the main lobby of the Phoenician Resort (transportation will be provided for those who choose to ride to the event). Please dress for the weather as appropriate.



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

**7:00 – 12:30 p.m. Registration Desk Open**

**7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Committee Meetings**

- 2027 Annual Meeting – Planning Committee
- ADR Committee
- ACCL Journal
- Education/Professors Task Force

**7:15 – 3:00 p.m. Spouse/Guest Hospitality Suite Open**

The hospitality suite will remain open until 3:00 p.m. See *Spouse/Guest Program* for details and optional events.

**8:00 – 9:45 a.m. JOINT BREAKFAST with Spouses/Guests and Wellness Speaker**

Physician, author, and founder of The Healthy Living School, Dr. Ann Kulze, will discuss proven techniques for hard-charging lawyers (and those who love them) to utilize in order to maintain both their physical and mental health as they progress and then wind down their careers and prepare for their next chapters.

*Presenter: Dr. Ann Kulze, The Healthy Living School, Charleston, SC*

**9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Refreshment Break**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m. PLENARY SIX – The Future of Healthy Community Design and Construction**

A conversation with a leading expert on helping communities envision and implement streets that promote walking, bicycling, and social engagement.

*Presenter: Dan Burden, Blue Zones, LLC, Port Townsend, WA*

**11:00 – 12:00 p.m. PLENARY SEVEN – Ethical and Effective Branding of Your Firm, Group or ADR Practice (1.0 Ethics Credit)**

An informative and lighthearted look at the at the myriad branding mistakes made by lawyers.

*Presenter: Ross Fishman, Fishman Marketing, Inc., Chicago, IL*

**12:00 p.m. Adjourn Saturday Sessions**

**12:15 p.m. AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES BEGIN**

*(Optional)*

**Pre-Purchase a Box Lunch To-Go**

In a hurry? Grab a quick bite before your afternoon event begins. Cost is \$40 per person. Available for pickup beginning at 11:45 a.m. Please pre-purchase your box lunch on the registration form as they will not be available for purchase onsite.

**12:30 – 4:00 p.m. Musical Instruments Museum**

The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) originated with a vision to create a museum that would be truly global. Realizing most musical museums featured historic, primarily Western classical instruments, MIM's founder Bob Ulrich (then CEO of Target Corporation) was inspired to develop a new kind of museum



that would focus on the kinds of instruments played every day by people worldwide. The MIM has a collection of more than 8,000 instruments from more than 200 countries. The galleries reflect the rich diversity and history of many world cultures. Music and instruments also show us what we have in common – a thought powerfully expressed in MIM’s motto: music is the language of the soul. MIM’s exhibits foster an appreciation of diverse cultures and the craftsmanship and traditions of instrument makers from the past to the present. A visit to MIM is also about experiencing the sensory nature of music and how it affects our emotions. Through state-of-the-art, interactive media, guests can see the instruments, hear their sounds, and observe them being played in their original contexts.

*Cost is \$40 per person and includes transportation to and from the hotel and entrance fee. Bus departs hotel at 12:30 p.m. sharp and departs the Museum for the hotel at 4:00 p.m. to arrive back at 4:30 p.m. Please purchase your ticket in advance on the registration form.*

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

## **Pickleball Tournament**

The tournament will be held at The Phoenician Athletic Club pickleball courts. *Cost is \$20 per person. Advance registration is required on the registration form.*

**5:30 – 5:45 p.m.**

## **BOARD, OFFICER AND PAST PRESIDENT GROUP PHOTOS**

**5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

## **FELLOWS AND GUESTS RECEPTION** *(Black-Tie Attire)*

**6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

## **FORMAL DINNER**

- **Recognitions and Awards**

*Terry Brookie, ACCL President*

- **Formal Introduction of New Fellows**

*Eileen Diepenbrock, ACCL President-Elect*

**9:00 p.m.**

## **After Party Celebration**

Stay around as we toast and celebrate the New Fellows inducted into the College. Continue the camaraderie and sharing of memories with a social hour promising much laughter and fellowship.

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

**6:45 – 11:00 a.m.**

## **Registration Desk Open**

**7:00 – 8:30 a.m.**

## **Fellows and Spouse/Guest Continental Breakfast**

**7:15 – 8:30 a.m.**

## **ACCL Foundation Board of Directors Meeting**

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

## **PLENARY EIGHT – International Arbitration Techniques and Their Application in Domestic Disputes**

A panel of arbitrators will explore best practices and protocols used around the world and consider how they might be used in American arbitrations.

*Presenters:*

*Albert Bates, Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, Pittsburgh, PA*

*Deborah Mastin, Law Office of Deborah Mastin, PLLC, Aventura, FL*

*Andy Ness, Andrew Ness ADR, LLC, Falls Church, VA*

*Allison Snyder, Allison Snyder ADR LLC, Houston, TX*

*Sharon Vogel, Singleton Urguhart Reynolds Vogel LLP, Toronto, ON*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 (Continued...)

### 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. PLENARY NINE – HOT TIPS/HOT TOPICS

*Chairs: Harper Heckman, Greensboro, NC & Tony Meagher, Baltimore, MD*

Join us for another entertaining and interactive discussion of hot topics and trends in the construction industry. The discussion will be moderated by the Committee Chairs, and, as always, there will be time to discuss any additional tips or topics provided by the Fellows.

### 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. ACCL BUSINESS MEETING

- Election of New Board Members and Officers
- Committee and Task Force Reports
- Remarks by Incoming President
- Adjourn 37th Annual Meeting

### 11:15 – 12:15 p.m. Board of Governors Meeting

## HOTEL & GENERAL INFORMATION



**HOTEL:** For the convenience of conference registrants, a block of rooms has been reserved at The Phoenician Scottsdale, 6000 E Camelback Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Please reserve your room by calling +1 (480) 941-8200 and requesting the 'ACCL' group rate or visit <https://tinyurl.com/ACCL26Hotel> to book your reservation online. **To ensure availability please make your reservation as soon as possible. The reservation deadline is January 26, 2026.** After that date, or when the room block is

exhausted, the hotel will assign rooms on a space and rate available basis only. The conference rates are \$449.00 plus tax for a standard single/double. A one-time portage gratuity charge of \$16 total per room will be charged to each guest folio. The \$50/night resort fee is discounted to \$40/night for attendees booking in the ACCL room block and includes standard guest room Wi-Fi & basic meeting room Wi-Fi, craft beer tasting (11am daily), access to tennis & pickleball courts/equipment at The Phoenician Athletic Club (reservations required, one hour daily), bicycle usage (two hours, daily), and daily outdoor morning yoga class at The Phoenician Spa. A one-night deposit is required at the time of reservation. *Please note in the event of room cancellation, the deposit is refundable if notice is received by the hotel at least 7 days prior to arrival. Cancellations within 7 days of arrival will incur a cancellation fee of one night's room and tax.* Overnight valet parking at the resort is \$40 and overnight self-parking is \$28 per day.

**TRAVEL:** The closest major airport is the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX), ~8 miles (15-20-minute drive) from The Phoenician Resort. Rideshares are estimated at ~\$25 each way and taxi fare at ~\$40 each way. Sedan service and rental car services are also available at the airport.

**MCLE Credit:** This program has been approved for 10.25 hours of MCLE credit (1.0 hours ethics) in the State of Texas. Applications have been filed and are pending in other states. Approved credit hours may vary by state. Full MCLE information will be available at registration.

**PRIVACY NOTICE:** Registration for, and attendance at, or participation in the ACCL Annual Meeting and other associated activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant or participant to permit the ACCL to use and distribute (both now and in the future) the registrant's or participant's image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions, and audiotapes of such events and activities.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

- 7:15 – 3:00 p.m. Spouse/Guest Hospitality Suite Open**  
The Hospitality Suite will remain open until 3:00 p.m. each day for refreshments, relaxing and catching up with friends... or challenge them to a game of Bridge or Mahjong!
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 8:50 a.m. Introduction of New Fellow Spouses/Guests**
- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Leadership in Divided Countries, Communities and Companies**  
Join the Fellows for a special presentation by Steve Inskeep, longtime host of NPR's *Morning Edition* and Best Selling author of the 2023 book *Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America*. He will discuss the role that the construction law industry and profession has played and can continue to play at a time when our country is hotly divided on many political, social and economic issues.
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Cactus Garden Tour (Optional Ticketed Event)**  
Explore this two-acre retreat, located along the northern edge of the resort grounds at the base of Camelback Mountain. This secluded garden showcases 250 varieties of cacti and succulents. The surprising diversity and regular appearance of its numerous desert inhabitants – from Road Runners to Chuckwallas – draw many guests. This is a guided tour with a maximum of 20 per tour. (A second tour may be scheduled at 1:00 p.m. with a minimum of 20 people registering for this event.) Cost is \$30 per person. *Advance registration is required.*
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Bridge and/or Mahjong Available (Optional Ticketed Events)**  
Bridge and Mahjong are offered at no additional cost, but *please rsvp in advance* so we can be sure to have enough room.
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Aromatherapy Workshop (Optional Ticketed Event)**  
Ready for sensory overload? Allow aromatherapy to overtake you! Learn about essential oils and how aromatherapy can safely support your personal health in this interactive workshop led by Marguerite Gavel, a certified aromatherapist. Whether you need relief from stress, a sleep aid, or pain or allergy relief, Marguerite will work to identify scents to fit your individual needs. You will even take home your very own custom-made essential oil blend in a 2oz spray bottle or 2 oz. massage lotion blend. It's time to pamper yourself! Cost is \$65 per person with a maximum of 50 registrants. *Advance registration is required.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

- 7:15 – 3:00 p.m. Spouse/Guest Hospitality Suite Open**
- 8:00 – 9:45 a.m. Joint Breakfast with Fellows and Wellness Speaker**  
Physician, author, and founder of The Healthy Living School, Dr. Ann Kulze, will discuss proven techniques for hard-charging lawyers (and those who love them) to utilize in order to maintain both their physical and mental health as they wind down their careers and prepare for their next chapters.
- 10:30 a.m. Book Club ("The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans) (Optional Ticketed Event)**  
Please read the book in advance for a more lively group discussion onsite with discussion leaders Darlene Vorachek & Michael Anthony. *No cost to attend but an advance RSVP is required.*
- 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. Bridge and/or Mahjong Available (Optional Ticketed Events)**
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn to Saturday Afternoon Activities (See program schedule for details.)**



# REGISTRATION FORM: ACCL 37TH ANNUAL MEETING

February 19-22, 2026 | The Phoenician Resort | Scottsdale, Arizona

## REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & OPTIONAL EVENT SELECTIONS

☐ **Fellows Conference Fee: \$1,345** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Does not include accommodations or incidentals. Registrants should pay the hotel directly for these expenses.)

☐ **Add Printed Conference Materials:** Conference materials on USB are *included* with your conference registration. You may purchase the printed binder version for an additional \$50. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Spouse/Guest Fee: \$595** *Name of Spouse/Guest:* \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes food & beverage for hospitality suite, Friday/Saturday/Sunday breakfasts, Thursday reception and reception/dinner on Friday & Saturday nights.)

☐ **Contribution to the Frank Elmore Memorial Fund:** (Increments of \$25 suggested.) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Spouse Activities:** (Check event times to ensure you don't double book!)

☐ **Cactus Garden Tour:** \$30/person ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Friday Bridge** *or* ☐ **Friday Mahjong** - Free (RSVP Required)

☐ **Aromatherapy Workshop:** \$65/person (Max of 50 registrants) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Spouse Activities:** (Check event times to ensure you don't double book!)

☐ **Book Club:** "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans - Free (RSVP Required)

☐ **Saturday Bridge** *or* ☐ **Saturday Mahjong** - Free (RSVP Required)

**Optional Thursday/Saturday Group Activities:** (Please list names below if selecting separate events.)

☐ **THURSDAY Golf Tournament:** \$259/person ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **SATURDAY Pre-Purchase a Box Lunch To-Go:** \$40/person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **SATURDAY Musical Instruments Museum:** \$40/person ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **SATURDAY Pickleball Tournament:** \$20/person ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Advance registration is required for all events. Include payment with your registration fee.

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

**TOTAL DUE** (from front) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Make check payable in U.S. Dollars to "American College of Construction Lawyers"**

☐ **Please charge my:** ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (Street+C/S/Z): \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Refunds less a \$50 processing fee will be granted to registrants who cancel on or before 30 days prior to the first day of the meeting. If notice is received after 30 days and before 7 days prior to the first day of the meeting, refunds will be granted less a \$150 processing fee. *No refunds will be granted thereafter.* In some cases optional event tickets must be pre-purchased or guaranteed by the College on a specific date. Such tickets will not be eligible for refund after that date regardless of when notice of cancellation is received.

**To register by mail send the completed registration form & payment to:**

ACCL 37th Annual Meeting  
PO Box 4646  
Austin, TX 78765

**Email/Scan to:** [bills@clesolutions.com](mailto:bills@clesolutions.com)

**Register Online at:** [www.accl.org](http://www.accl.org)



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