

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Participants Laud First Annual Women in Construction Conference

WASHINGTON DC (Thursday, November 9, 2006) —Thelen Reid and Priest LLP -- soon to be **Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner LLP** -- hosted the “First Annual Women in Construction Conference – A Leadership & Networking Conference by Women, for Women,” at its Washington, DC office November 9. The four-panel conference was coordinated by Thelen Reid Construction partner **Barbara Werther, Esq.**, along with fellow Board of Directors, **Lisa Enloe** of Held Enloe & Associates LLC, **Kathy S. Taub, Esq.** of Kathy S. Taub LLC, **Barbara C. Wagner** of The Clark Construction Group, **Tracy Browne** from Centex Construction, **Margaret Van Voast** of WCD Metro LLC and **Cecilia Morgan, Esq.** of JAMS.

The full-day conference brought together high-powered business, legal, and community leaders with experience in areas that are of critical importance to women working in the construction and design industry. The agenda combined valuable technical information with ideas and advice about how to improve professional skills like networking and negotiating.

The first panel, *World Trade Center*, focused on the “hypothetical rebuild” of the site and the costs of determining property insurance claims. Panelists **Lisa Enloe**, **Jon Held** of Held Enloe & Associates and **Jane Stevens** of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP discussed the key legal and construction issues for one of the largest insurance cases in history. They also described their innovative work in creating a construction model used for the insurance appraisal that predicts what it would cost to completely rebuild the World Trade Center complex. Thelen Reid attorney **Melissa Lesmes** then concluded the panel with a discussion of current insurance and risk management protections for catastrophic events.

The second panel, *Mentoring*, was moderated by Barbara Wagner and was made up of respected professionals in various stages of their careers: **Margaret Van Voast**, **Doug Turner** of Centex Construction, **Liz Walsh** of Thelen Reid & Priest LLP, **Susannah O’Connor** of The Clark Construction Group, **LeeAnn Goodwin** of Smoot Construction, and **Christine Merdon** of McKissack & McKissack. The panelists provided insight and inspiration to the younger women in the audience, but also emphasized the tremendous responsibility women have to those who follow in their footsteps. **Susannah O’Connor’s** story of being “hit on” by a potential client resonated, and engaged the audience in an interactive discussion.

Kathy Taub led the third panel, *Top 5 Issues in Construction Contracts*, and addressed recent trends in drafting construction contracts and the implications of various clauses from the perspective of developers, owners and contractors.

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Panelists **Gretchen Dudney**, **Jane Mahaffie** of Stonebridge Associates Inc. and **Rosemarie Schmidt** of Marriott International Inc. discussed consequential damages, risk-shifting clauses, responsibility for errors and omissions, and the differences in bargaining power between the various parties to a construction contract.

The fourth panel, *Women as Negotiators*, was moderated by JAMS' Cecilia Morgan and featured an elite panel of both sitting and retired judges, as well as three arbitrators/mediators. The panel, **Judge Ruth Burg (ret.)** and **Judge Cheryl Scott** of the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, **Judge Marion Blank Horn** of the United States Court of Federal Claims, **Judith Ittig** of Ittig & Ittig PC and conference chair and organizer **Barbara Werther**, provided insight into the effectiveness of various negotiation styles used by female negotiators. Judge Horn's story of being asked to serve coffee when the parties did not realize she was a judge was a sad reminder that women are not always regarded as professionals. "Take control of the situation," was the advice. The judges on the panel offered valuable advice regarding their own experiences, and provided tips for effective negotiation.

The conference also featured two dynamic keynote speakers. **Lurita Alexis Doan**, Administrator of General Services, U.S. General Services Administration, gave a memorable address about taking charge of your life as a wife, mother, and business executive. She counseled the "elder stateswomen" to mentor the up-and-coming women of the trade and advised attendees to relish the role of "the only woman in the room" by taking advantage of the free marketing while at the same time conducting yourself responsibly.

The second keynote speaker, **Katherine Gurun**, a mediator at JAMS, shared her personal success story and unique career path that took her to positions around the globe. She advised that opportunities often come at inconvenient times and shared her thoughts on making extremely difficult career choices. She stressed the importance of staying true to yourself and pursuing your goals, even when all logic points to giving up.

The event culminated with a networking reception and a guided tour of the Smithsonian Institute's National Portrait Gallery and American Art Museum, conducted by the gallery's architect, **Mary Kay Lanzillotta** of Hartman Cox Architects.

The conference would not have happened without the generosity of its sponsors: *Gold Sponsors: Centex Construction, Davis Construction; Silver Sponsors: The Crowley Group, Held Euloe & Associates, Forrester Construction, JAMS; Bronze Sponsors: StructureTone, Stonebridge Associates, The Construction Superconference.*

The First Annual Women in Construction Conference was a huge success, judging by the comments:

- You could give lessons on how to present a conference. The topics were so interesting and the panels and individual speakers were all outstanding. Everything was organized perfectly. ... Thank you for this special event.

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- The Seminar was unbelievable! For all of us ladies, you deserve our sincerest thanks for taking the initiative to provide such a session.
- I thoroughly enjoyed myself. . . . The panels and panelists were great! Most conferences cannot hold my attention for an entire day and this certainly did. It was all very well done and I was proud to have been included with such prestigious panel speakers.
- I have personally never been to a conference that had it all – energy, information, curiosity, humor, knowledge . . . they usually all impart something, but this was truly a special experience. Attention to detail in most all of our jobs is a requirement – Thelen took it to a new level or raised it to an art form.
- I was honored and proud to be part of such accomplished, successful, smart, and nice women! It was amazing how everyone connected and I think they all felt the same way. Thelen did a wonderful job on the details!
- The speakers were great, knowledgeable and articulate. It was a pleasure to hear from so many intelligent and successful women who spoke with humor and insight.
- Very exciting to meet and listen to so many wonderful, talented, intelligent, successful women in the construction industry – proud day!
- The mix of participants, in terms of age and experience, was just perfect!
- The conference was over the top! The next day DAVIS had an “all hands” meeting and the ladies who attended the conference were so pumped. Thank you for all your hard work in putting it together.
- LOVED IT!

About Thelen Reid

From its beginnings in San Francisco more than 80 years ago, Thelen Reid & Priest LLP grew to national prominence as an Am Law 100 firm with profits per partner in 2005 of \$850,000. Since the firm’s founding, it has served a distinguished roster of clients, including many Fortune 500 companies, leading privately owned enterprises, public institutions, and partnerships. The firm’s domestic and international clients were from a wide array of industries, including aerospace, banking, energy, construction, e-commerce, financial services, healthcare, insurance, manufacturing, media, mining, retailing, software, technology, and transportation. The firm has repeatedly been recognized as a leader in the construction, infrastructure, and energy industries, and as a leading project finance law firm.

Thelen Reid will officially merge with **Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner LLP** December 1 to create Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner LLP.

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About Brown Raysman

Founded in 1979, Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner LLP built on its international reputation as a leader in the area of technology and intellectual property law to become a full-service law firm. As it expanded, the firm's focus extended from technology, media, outsourcing, and intellectual property law, to real estate finance, leasing and construction, and corporate transactional work, as well as securities, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, commercial and IP litigation, communications, bankruptcy, and employment law.

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