

ZETLIN & DE CHIARA LLP

For Immediate Release

ZETLIN & DE CHIARA LLP HOSTS 12TH ANNUAL COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MOCK MEDIATION

(New York – November 30, 2018) Leading construction law firm [Zetlin & De Chiara LLP](#) hosted the 12th Annual Columbia University Mock Mediation on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. [Tim Hegarty](#) and [Michael Zetlin](#), Partners and Adjunct Professors at Columbia University School of Professional Studies, produce the event annually as part of their "Legal Issues in Building Construction" course. Mr. Hegarty educates candidates in the Construction Administration Masters Program on the relevant case law and statutory information pertaining to construction, design, development, insurance, surety and engineering law. With an emphasis on principal contractual relationships, common problems that arise out of those relationships, and various resolution methodologies, the Mock Mediation is a hugely illustrative element of the class.

Mr. Hegarty served as mediator of the Mock Mediation while two other Zetlin & De Chiara partners, Michael Zetlin and [Jim Terry](#), took on the roles of Plaintiff's and Defendant's Counsels, respectively. Professional engineers [James Feuerborn](#) and [Thomas Duffy](#), of Thornton Tomasetti, played Expert Witnesses, offering real-life insights into structural analysis, design and engineering defects. Elise Greenspan, Corporate Vice President and Assistant General Counsel-Litigation of AECOM, played the Plaintiff, and the Defendant was played by [Tracy Wells](#), Principal Law Clerk to the Hon. Stephen J. Mignano, Judge of the Court of Claims.

The Mock Mediation fact pattern was distributed to students before the event. The cast gathered around the mediation table while Mr. Hegarty provided the audience with the background of the case, then each side's lawyer and expert witness offered their arguments.

Since 2006, graduate students have attended the Mock Mediation produced by Zetlin & De Chiara to observe, in exaggerated form, the process of a construction mediation. The production formerly took place at Columbia University, but in recent years, Zetlin & De Chiara's New York office has taken on the role of host. The event provides an entertaining and informative experience for students, offering them the opportunity to have their questions about when alternative dispute resolution is appropriate, how it is effective, and how to best prepare for it answered by experts in the field.



Zetlin & De Chiara LLP Partner and Columbia University Adjunct Professor Tim Hegarty presenting the fact pattern to the audience.



Zetlin & De Chiara LLP Co-Founding Partner Michael Zetlin presenting Plaintiff's case.



Zetlin & De Chiara LLP Partner Jim Terry presenting Defendant's case.

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About Zetlin & De Chiara

Zetlin & De Chiara provides sophisticated legal and business counsel and advice to members of the construction community including real estate owners and developers, design professionals, construction managers and contractors, insurance carriers and financial institutions. From the World Trade Center, to the Empire State Building, Hudson Yards and Columbia University's Manhattanville Campus, the firm has played a significant role in building New York's iconic skyline.

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