

Presidents Message

Cherise Schacter, CSI, CDT

It's no secret to anyone who knows me that my passion is improving communication and coordination between all disciplines in order to provide better projects with less error, omissions and conflict.

An unfortunate reality in this business is that very few AEC professionals get any project delivery, contract administration or specifications training during their schooling. An even more unfortunate reality is that first education typically happens as a result of a conflict on a project.

The burning need to get more of this education out there was apparent by our sold out Specs 101 Class in January and the feedback received after. Industry professionals need and want this education but don't always know where to get it. **CSI is the place!**

CSI has multiple, very cost effective ways to get this education for any member of your staff. Knowing that the drawings and specifications are the CONTRACT, I can't imagine why any firm would not require this for every person in their employ.

According to **AIA Best Practices, Quality Control: Managing the Top 5 Risks:**

"No matter how desirable a program of in-house loss prevention might be, such a program will not function if it imposes unrealistic burdens or unobtainable goals. It must, therefore, be implemented with little or no increase in general overhead expenses."

The original article was published by Schinnerer & Co. in 1973. In the time since, the five areas that most frequently give **rise to claims have remained the same.**

- **Failure to supervise inexperienced employees.**
- **Inadequate project coordination and in-house coordination.**
- **Failure to communicate between the prime professional and the consultants.**
- **Lack of quality control on design changes.**
- **Poorly worded contract documents.**

I find it rather shocking that, in 42 years, we have not been able to change these top five risks. The sooner we get all disciplines on the same page with the same knowledge, the sooner this can become a thing of the past. It is imperative that we know what is going on outside our own disciplines, who is responsible for what and the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the Contract.

If you are looking to improve either your or your staff's project delivery education, consider some of these options:

1. Support and encourage staff to earn their CDT Certificate and/or advanced certifications.
2. Purchase CSI's pre-recorded, on demand project delivery education program and run the program in house to educate staff.
3. Participate in local and national CSI webinars, practice groups and education programs.
4. Attend CSI Academies (April 16-18 in SFO), CONSTRUCT or other select CSI educational events.
5. Have a Project Delivery Practice Guide available to your staff for reference.

There are many ways to get started on the right path and I am happy to help. Please feel free to call, email or talk to me at a chapter meeting. Let's finally start working together to eliminate these risks. Go big or go home!

Comments, questions, suggestions, good jokes:

cheriseschacter@gmail.com

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Cherise Schacter
<https://www.cheriseschacter.com>