

WWEMA FINANCE & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION VIRTUAL MEETING SPEAKER BIOS

JULY 22, 2021

Jeffrey Ammon, Attorney at Law, Miller Johnson



Jeffrey Ammon is an attorney with Miller Johnson who devotes a significant portion of his practice to the construction industry. He counsels contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, and owners on construction contracts, liens, and a range of related business and real estate subjects. Mr. Ammon is a past board member of Associated Builders and Contractors-West Michigan Chapter and is active in other construction trade associations, including the local chapters of CFMA and ASA. He is also a past Chair of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Ammon is a frequent lecturer and author on construction law subjects. He designed CFMA's Construction Contracts 101 course and has presented it at several of CFMA's annual conventions. He also prepared the materials for the CFMA chapter course on that subject. Mr. Ammon has also personally constructed a shed, tree house, and 240-foot zip line, all without injury, defects, or construction liens.

Philip Beck, Attorney and Partner, Smith, Currie & Hancock LLP



Philip Beck is a partner in the Atlanta office of Smith, Currie & Hancock LLP. His practice focuses on construction law, government contracts, and commercial litigation. He joined Smith Currie in 1981 upon graduating 4th in his class from the University of Tennessee College of Law and completing a judicial clerkship with the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Phil is experienced with a broad range of construction issues, problems, and disputes. His experience includes representing clients on a wide range of public and private construction projects throughout the United States and abroad. He has drafted and reviewed thousands of design and construction contracts on behalf of owner, developer, general contractor, subcontractor, supplier, architect/engineer, consultant, surety, design/builder, and construction manager clients. Phil is also an experienced arbitrator and mediator of construction claims and disputes.

He has successfully tried construction cases before a variety of forums, including many state and federal courts, several federal Boards of Contract Appeals, and numerous state and local administrative bodies. He has represented clients in more than a hundred arbitrations and mediations throughout the United States, as well as in numerous bench and jury trials.

Phil also holds a Master of Business Administration degree (with a concentration in Finance) from the University of Tennessee, where he earned his undergraduate degree (with high honors) as well. He is a member of the legal honorary society Order of the Coif, the business honorary fraternity Beta Gamma Sigma, and the service honorary fraternity Omicron Delta Kappa.

He is an active member of the Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee Bars and the Bars of various state and federal courts. He also serves on his law school's Alumni Council.

Alan Fishel, Attorney, Communications & Technology Practice Lead, Arent Fox LLP



Alan Fishel leads the Communications & Technology practice at Arent Fox LLP and is a member of the firm's Corporate & Securities and Privacy, Cybersecurity & Data Protection groups. He handles transactional matters relating to technology and telecommunications agreements, including cloud service agreements, professional service agreements, hardware agreements, colocation agreements, service level agreements, manufacturing agreements, dark fiber agreements, and in-building wireless agreements. He also drafts and negotiates a wide variety of agreements in other areas as well. In addition, Alan helps clients in many industries improve their template agreements. Alan also has a strong success rate representing clients in FCC proceedings and other advocacy matters.

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[Alan Fishel, Attorney, Communications & Technology Practice Lead, Arent Fox LLP \(continued\)](#)

Alan frequently provides interactive workshops and presentations, as well as webinars, to in-house counsel regarding topics such as (1) how to most effectively draft many types of provisions and agreements; (2) how to find the material flaws in contracts; (3) how to become an excellent negotiator, avoid negotiating mistakes, respond to common negotiating lines, and handle difficult negotiators; and (4) how to most effectively work with your business teams. Alan also launched the Find the Flaws™ program in 2018 under which he provides regularly-scheduled webinars designed to help attorneys, contract specialists, and others with their contract drafting and issue-spotting skills.

His clients include both customers and providers of technology services, telecommunications services, and wireless services, providers of emerging technologies, non-profit associations, and equipment manufacturers. Alan holds a B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and a J.D. with honors from Duke University School of Law.

[Vanessa Leiby, Executive Director, Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association](#)



Vanessa Leiby, the Executive Director of the Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA), has a B.S. and M.S. in Zoology, with emphasis in aquatic ecology and aquatic toxicology respectively, from The Ohio State University. An environmental scientist and policy analyst, she has over 30 years' experience in aquatic ecology, aquatic toxicology, drinking water and wastewater regulation development, water and wastewater technologies, innovation, enforcement, security, water and energy efficiency, and state drinking water and wastewater programs. She is responsible for overall management of the Association and leads the advocacy efforts for WWEMA with a focus on the Administration, Congress, and key Federal agencies. She maintains an extensive industry network at the national, state, and local levels to connect members to opportunities as well as industry thought leaders.

Prior to joining WWEMA in 2014, Ms. Leiby was a Principal for 11 years at The Cadmus Group, an environmental consulting firm providing mission support work to EPA's Office of Water. In that capacity, she provided extensive support to EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water on projects related to water and energy efficiency, source water protection, regulation implementation, Buy American provisions of ARRA, and water system security. She was the Principal Investigator for the Water Research Foundation project (#4223) Energy Efficiency Best Practices for North American Drinking Water Utilities and was the lead author on the first Water Sector Security Plan working in cooperation with EPA and the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to joining Cadmus, Ms. Leiby was, for 10 years, the Executive Director of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. In that position, she was instrumental in the 1996 reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and participated in discussions and negotiations on key aspects of the Bioterrorism Act that related to the water sector.

[Jason Villere, Partner and Chief Operating Officer, Brayn Consulting LLC](#)



Jason Villere is Partner and Chief Operating Officer at Brayn Consulting LLC, a consulting firm that guides businesses to greater value through tax credits and incentives by working with the client's CPA firm to assist in the review, documentation, and substantiation of the tax incentives. Villere has over 15 years of experience in various accounting, finance, and operational capacities. Prior to joining Brayn Consulting LLC, Villere was Vice President at Capital One where he led a team of Cash Management Executives who created and managed deposit and treasury management opportunities for industry clients. Villere also held positions within internal audit, project accounting, business analysis, and financial reporting at National Oilwell Varco where he was Financial Reporting Manager, Rig Solutions. Villere has a B.S. in Accounting from Louisiana State University and an M.B.A. in Finance from Sam Houston State University and currently holds a license as a Certified Treasury Professional.