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Recent Project Engagements

Schedule Delay

MDC[®] is currently assisting an experienced industrial contractor in addressing schedule delay issues associated with the execution of a large scale, multi-step contract for the Department of Defense.

Equipment Performance & Suitability Evaluation

MDC[®] is currently evaluating the performance and suitability of equipment used on a major utility infrastructure project that has been experiencing premature component failures.

MDCSystems[®] Ready to Assist with Hurricane Florence Recovery

MDCSystems[®] is closely following Hurricane Florence as it continues to batter and threaten the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic United States. MDC's licensed engineers and architects are mobilized and prepared to respond.



MDC[®] wishes to express our sincere concern to our friends, clients and colleagues who have been impacted by the ferocious arrival of Hurricane Florence. Our hope is for a speedy and complete recovery from this destructive event.

Click [here](#) for more information on MDC's engineering and construction management capabilities to help in the recovery efforts.

MDC Attending ABA Forum on Construction Law, October 4-5, Montreal, Canada

MDCSystems[®] looks forward to attending the American Bar Association's Fall Meeting entitled *It's Lonely at the Top: Building a Successful Team with the Owner*.

The two-day program will focus on best practices for building a successful project team. At its core, every successful construction project begins

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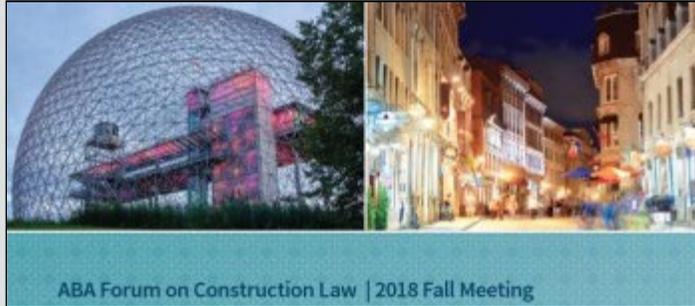


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with the selection of project participants who all share one common goal to construct a project on schedule, in budget and with minimal disputes. Our program will focus on how to achieve this goal, from the perspectives of all of the project participants, including not just the Owner but also the General Contractor, Design Professionals, Subcontractors, Lenders and other stakeholders.



Please [visit](#) the program's website for complete details.

Embracing Your Promotor Fidei

by E. Mitchell Swann, PE

I recently finished reading an interesting book[1] on systems failures and the thinking (or lack thereof) that led to those failures. Each chapter delves into a concept, a case study and the lessons learned. In one chapter there was a fascinating sidebar about the 'promotor fidei' – the promotor of the faith. The back story on the 'promotor fidei' is not what you might think, unless you happen to be knowledgeable about Canon Law in the Roman Catholic Church. A more commonly known name for the promotor fidei is the "advocatus diaboli" – the Devil's Advocate. Many people think of the devil's advocate as someone who looks for flaws or argues against some idea or plan mostly because he, or she, can – a sort of 'fly in the ointment' type. (I'm chock full of old sayings today!)

But that is not quite right. The promotor fidei is a canon lawyer tasked to find every issue, item, foible, wart and weak spot that could be found on any individual considered for canonization, or sainthood. As that devil's advocate sought to disprove every miracle and debunk every tale of wonder about the proposed saint, the aim was not just to be a gadfly, but out of a sense of duty to protect the church from itself. The devil's advocate's role was to disrupt group think and the cognitive decision-making problems that can come with that. By pushing back, hard, the devil's advocate hoped to keep the church from making colossal blunders under the haze of irrational optimism.

Now, what does canonization have to do with capital project development, design and construction?

[Read more](#)