

Legal Issues for Maryland Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors
Seminar Agenda
Jessup, MD – February 27, 2015

8:30-9:45	Land Use Law Understanding land use law <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governmental power and authority to zone• Governmental bodies with the power to zone• Comprehensive land use planning Finding existing land use laws and regulations Seeking zoning variances or rezoning Participating in zoning administrative appeals Participating in land use litigation	J. Gontrum
9:45-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:15	Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law Understanding eminent domain powers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Source of eminent domain powers• History of the exercise of eminent domain powers• Types of eminent domain “takings” Participating in the condemnation process Appealing a condemnation decision Understanding regulatory “takings” and inverse condemnation	J. Suntum
11:15-12:15	Handling Ethical Issues in Engineering and Surveying Practice Promoting health and welfare vs. managing risk: complimentary or conflicting duties? Protecting the environment: meeting or exceeding legal requirements Watching the bottom line: identifying and balancing economic pressure in land development and preservation Integrating new technologies: identifying and balancing the benefits and risks	P. Cottrell
12:15-1:15	Lunch	
1:15-2:30	State and Federal Site Contamination Law Discovering existing soil and/or groundwater contamination Understanding applicable rules and regulations Understanding liability issues Exploring remediation and brownfield redevelopment	M. Witherup
2:30-3:30	Civil Engineering and Surveying Liability Understanding the engineer’s and surveyor’s duties and obligations Reviewing common professional liability causes of action: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breach of contract, negligence, strict liability, fraud, misrepresentation Identifying to whom the engineer or surveyor owes a duty	P. Cottrell, J. Klein

Complying with the standard of care
Reviewing common defenses to liability
Participating in the liability claims process and in
liability litigation
Implementing strategies to minimize professional
liability claims
Insurance coverage issues

3:30-3:45

Break

3:45-5:00

Overview of Contract Law

R. Carney

Reviewing standard forms of agreement
Understanding contract documents and formation
Determining scope of services and changes
Specifying risk allocation provisions
Handling problems with contract performance