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November 9, 2026

Dear LEA Members and Guests,

On behalf of the LEA Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to invite you to the LEA's Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, being held at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale, FL, January 27–29, 2027.

Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with fellow members from across North America, Latin America and Europe, and to enjoy a compelling educational program along with opportunities to earn Continuing Education credits.

We will begin on Wednesday, January 27, 2027, with attendee registration opening at 11:00 am and a choice of morning activities starting at 8:00 am: the LEA 5K Run/1 Mile Walk to Benefit STEM Education Programs, or the LEA Annual Golf Tournament at the Jacaranda Golf Club (supporting Feeding Empty Little Tummies - FELT). Later that evening, we look forward to welcoming you at the Opening Night Reception from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

On Thursday, January 28, our General Session will feature a comprehensive program starting with the LEA Members Meeting, Welcome & Opening Remarks by Marisa Jelicks and Costantino Suriano, Esq., a Golf Report by Paul Aviles, and a Program Overview by Steve Yeo.

Topics and presenters will include *"The FISH! Philosophy for Insurance Professionals"* with Tom Guetzke, *"Claims Leadership Under Pressure: Navigating Shared and Layered Placements in a Complex Claims Environment"* moderated by Dan Woodall with participants Maria Andriola, Luke Echterling, and Mark Graves, *"Managing Portfolio Level Property Losses: Coverage, Valuation and Resolution in Multi-Location School District Claims"* presented by Jared Greisman, Sean Hale, and Tom McCartney, *"Imagery and Damage Assessment"* presented by David Heathcote and Stu Ray, *"Petrochemical Claims, A Case Study"* moderated by Matt Jett with participants Paul Darby, Hugh Kennaway, and Lynette Wachuku, and *"What De-Fect Is Going On? A Guide to Defect Clauses and How They Impact a Claim Adjustment"* featuring Paulina Herrington, Peter Golfman, Luke Longcroft, and Mark Andrews.

That evening, we invite you to the Cocktail Reception from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

On Friday, January 29, the program will feature key presentations including the Keynote Presentation *"Unstoppable"* with Alex Weber (Author, NBC television host, champion coach, and former competitor on *American Ninja Warrior*), *"Wind, Water, and the Date of Loss: Using the Weather Record to Resolve Large-Loss Real Estate Claims"* with participants James Caron, Justin Hodges, and JP Heeger, and *"When Disaster Strikes: Managing Earthquake Risk and Complex Losses"* with participants Jerry Kissner, Larry Arnold, and Ruchika Kaur.

We look forward to seeing you at the January 2027 conference. Please register soon so you don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and take part in another successful LEA event. Once registered, you will receive the link to book your room at the discounted LEA hotel rate.

Best regards,

Marisa Jelicks
LEA President

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96th ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Marriott Harbor Beach Resort • Fort Lauderdale, FL

January 27 – 29, 2027

Wednesday, January 27, 2027

8:00 am	**LEA 5K Run/1 Mile Walk to Benefit STEM Education Programs**
8:00 am	**LEA Annual Golf Tournament** Jacaranda Golf Club 9200 West Broward Blvd. Plantation, FL 33324
8:00 – 5:00 pm	**Speaker Ready Room Available**
11:00 – 6:00 pm	**Registration Desk Opens**
6:00 – 9:00 pm	**Opening Night Reception** *(Open to All Registered Attendees. Name badges are required for admittance into LEA events.)*

Thursday, January 28, 2027

All meetings will be held in the Grand Ballroom unless otherwise noted. There will be a brief pause in between each session.

8:00 – 9:00 am	**Continental Breakfast**
8:00 – 5:00 am	**Registration Desk Open**
8:00 –12:00 pm	**Speaker Ready Room Available**
8:30 – 9:00 am	**LEA Members Meeting**
8:30 – 8:35 am	**Welcome & Antitrust Admonition Policy** Costantino Suriano, Esq., Partner *Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass LLP*
8:35 – 8:45 am	**Welcome & Opening Remarks** Marisa Jelicks – Sr. Litigation Examiner, Liberty Mutual *LEA President*
8:45 – 8:50 am	**Golf Report** Paul Aviles *Allied World Assurance Company (USA) Inc.*
8:50 – 9:00 am	**Program Overview** Steve Yeo, Group Head of Claims *Lancashire Insurance Group*

9:00 – 10:00 am	**Keynote Presentation** **The FISH! Philosophy for Insurance Professionals** *Insurance environments are high-stress hubs where burnout is common, and frontline morale directly impacts organizational metrics. This 60-minute, interactive, in-person course equips leaders, adjusters, claims professionals and consultants with the world-renowned FISH! Philosophy to transform workplace culture. Participants will explore how four simple practices—Be Present, Choose Your Attitude, Make Their Day, and Play—can be operationalized to lower litigation rates, accelerate claims cycle times, and retain top talent. Attendees will walk away with actionable tools to lead with empathy, reduce daily friction, and cultivate a resilient team environment.*
Speaker	Tom Guetzke *FISH! Philosophy*
10:15 – 11:15 am	**Claims Leadership Under Pressure: Navigating Shared and Layered Placements in a Complex Claims Environment** *As claims become larger, more complex, and increasingly shared across multiple insurers and layers, claims leaders must navigate competing priorities, differing stakeholder views, and evolving information. This panel will explore the leadership challenges of managing complex placements, from lead/follow dynamics and insurer coordination to policy disputes, settlement authority, and stakeholder alignment, while keeping claims moving in increasingly complex and high-pressure environments.*
Moderator	Dan Woodall, Managing Partner *Woodall Law Firm*
Participants	Maria Andriola, Claims Manager, Property & Specialty *Argenta* Luke Echterling, VP, Sr. Property Claims Consultant *Lockton* Mark Graves, AVP, Executive General Adjuster *Zurich*
11:15 – 11:30 am	**Networking Break**
11:30 – 12:30 pm	**Managing Portfolio Level Property Losses: Coverage, Valuation and Resolution in Multi-Location School District Claims** *Large, multi-site property losses often move claims handling beyond traditional adjustment into enterprise-level management challenges. School district property claims illustrate these dynamics, clearly requiring coordinated analysis across numerous campuses with varying construction, valuation, and maintenance histories, all under the oversight of school boards and public stakeholders. These factors frequently drive heightened scrutiny and, in some cases, escalation into formal dispute resolution, including arbitration.*
Presenters	Jared Greisman, Partner *Kennedys Law LLP* Sean Hale, Assistant Vice President, Property & Crisis Management Claims *Crum & Forster*

Tom McCartney, Sr. Executive General Adjuster
Sedgwick

12:30 – 1:30 pm **Luncheon**
(*Open to All Registered Attendees. Name badges are required for admittance into LEA events.)*

1:30 – 2:30 pm **Keynote Presentation**
Imagery and Damage Assessment
Advances in aerial, satellite, and remote sensing technologies have transformed how damage is identified, assessed, and monitored across a wide range of perils. This session explores the different types of imagery used in damage assessment, how imagery is captured through various sensors, and the advantages and limitations of each approach.

The presentation will examine the principles of imagery analysis and the evolving roles of both human expertise and artificial intelligence in evaluating damage. Through real-world applications, attendees will learn how different imagery solutions support damage assessment efforts and how specific imagery types can be leveraged to address a variety of catastrophe and property loss scenarios. The session provides a practical look at how emerging technologies are enhancing the speed, accuracy, and effectiveness of modern damage assessment.

Presenters
David Heathcote, Head of Intelligence
McKenzie Intelligence

Stu Ray, Sr. Analyst
McKenzie Intelligence

2:45 – 3:45 pm **Petrochemical Claims, A Case Study**
Using real-world petrochemical loss as a case study, this panel will examine the lifecycle of a major industrial claim, from initial response through claim resolution and subrogation. Through the perspectives of brokers, insurers, adjusters, and legal counsel, the discussion will explore the strategic, operational, and coverage challenges that arise throughout the claims process and the decisions that shape large loss outcomes.

Moderator
Matt Jett, Partner
Hall Maines Lugrin

Participants
Paul Darby, Claims Manager
STARR UK

Hugh Kennaway, *Managing Director and Global Head Downstream Energy*
Sedgwick

Lynette Wachuku, *US Energy & Power Claims Leader*
Marsh

3:45 – 4:00 pm **Networking Break**

4:00 – 5:00 pm

What De-Fect Is Going On? A Guide to Defect Clauses and How They Impact a Claim Adjustment.
This session examines the role of construction defect exclusions in Builder's Risk claims through a variety of real-world claim scenarios. Panelists will discuss key coverage considerations, claim valuation challenges, and differing stakeholder perspectives when evaluating complex losses.

Participants

Paulina Herrington- Global Practice Lead, Construction Claims
SCOR

Peter Golfman, Partner
Zelle LLP

Luke Longcroft, Director
J.S. Held

Mark Andrews, Sr. Principal
Thornton Tomasetti

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Cocktail Reception
(Open to All Registered Attendees. Name badges are required for admittance into the reception and other LEA events.)

Friday, January 29, 2027

7:30 – 11:45 am

Registration Desk Opens

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast
(Open to All Registered Attendees. Name badges are required for admittance into LEA events.)

8:30 – 9:30 am

Keynote Presentation
Unstoppable
What separates high performers from everyone else is not the absence of challenges, but how they respond to them. In this engaging session, Alex Weber explores the mindset, leadership principles, and habits that fuel resilience, adaptability, and sustained success. Attendees will discover actionable tools for overcoming obstacles, communicating more effectively, and elevating their performance in both professional and personal pursuits.

Alex Weber, Author, NBC television host, champion coach, and former competitor on *American Ninja Warrior*
NBC

9:40 – 10:40 am

Wind, Water, and the Date of Loss: Using the Weather Record to Resolve Large-Loss Real Estate Claims
Large-loss property claims often hinge on questions of causation, allocation, and timing. Using a real-world claim as a case study, this session examines how forensic weather data is developed and applied to evaluate wind and water damage, establish loss timelines, support reserve decisions, and strengthen claim documentation throughout the adjustment process.

Participants

James Caron, Director
Caron Weather Consultancy

	Justin Hodges, Sr. Principal Engineer *Scout Forensics* JP Heeger, Property Claims Manager *Beazley*
10:40 – 11:00 am	**Networking Break**
11:00 – 12:00 pm	**When Disaster Strikes: Managing Earthquake Risk and Complex Losses** *Major earthquakes create complex losses that extend well beyond physical damage. This session explores earthquake science, damage evaluation, causation, secondary perils, and multi-peril claim challenges. It will while also examining resilience strategies such as seismic retrofitting, parametric insurance, preparedness planning, and coordinated response resources.*
Participants	Jerry Kissner, Sr. Vice President, Property Claims *Arch* Larry Arnold, Sr. Counsel *Cummins & White* Ruchika Kaur, Principal *Thornton Tomasetti*
12:00 pm	**Conference Adjournment**
Program Committee:	Steve Yeo – Group Head of Claims *Lancashire Insurance Group* Niacole Borecki – VP, Energy & Construction *Sedgwick*
CE Credit	***CE credits are available based on your individual attendance at each presentation.***
Photography Waiver:	***By attending LEA sessions, you consent that your picture may be in one of the photographs that are taken during the LEA conference. The photos may be published or otherwise used by the LEA, which retains exclusive ownership thereof and this consent is voluntary with no expectation of compensation now or in the future.***
	To Register: Visit the LEA website at www.lossexecutives.com

These presentations are for educational purposes only. The thoughts conveyed here are those of the panel members and are not the views of any companies, firms, or the LEA. The presenters are the professionals solely responsible for the content of these presentations.

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