



Zurich Construction Leadership Directory

As one of the leading insurance providers in the construction industry, our mission is to provide creative solutions for the risks our customers face today and in the future by providing a broad array of distinctive products and services, we work to help limit the cost of risk while helping to increase job site safety awareness.

Zurich Construction's experienced leadership team is ready to work with you to help ensure your business risk management needs are met.

Meet the Zurich Construction team.



Tobias Cushing

Head of Construction
Zurich U.S.

Tobias Cushing is the Head of Construction at Zurich U.S. He is responsible for managing the Construction underwriting teams and portfolio, including Construction Property, Casualty, Professional, Environmental and Excess. He is accountable for furthering Zurich's dedication to safety, policyholder experience and innovation in the insurance industry. He is responsible for the financial results of underwriting and is responsible for underwriting quality, portfolio management, finances and broker relationships.

Tobias joined Zurich in 2022 as the Head of Construction Casualty and most recently served as Deputy Chief Underwriting Officer for Zurich U.S. Prior to Zurich, he held various underwriting leadership positions at The Hartford, including Head of Construction, in-house Counsel and Large Loss Claims Adjuster. He began his career as an Insurance Coverage Litigator in private practice.

Tobias serves on the Board of Directors of Lawyers for Children America and is a pro-bono Attorney representing children in abuse and neglect cases.

Toby holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Houghton College, a Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac University School of Law and a Master of Insurance Law from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

He can be contacted at tobias.cushing@zurichna.com.



James Savage

Head of Construction Casualty
Zurich U.S.

James Savage is the Head of Construction Casualty at Zurich U.S. He is accountable for managing the Construction Casualty portfolio, including developing and executing diverse multidimensional strategies across the portfolio and ensuring that all key performance metrics are achieved.

Since joining Zurich in 2014, James held roles as Regional Vice President of Construction Casualty for the South Region and Head of Middle Market Construction and managed the Great Lakes Construction team. Prior to joining Zurich, James worked at National Interstate Insurance in its underwriting and group captives units. James received an MBA from Walsh University and undergraduate degrees from Allegheny College in Economics and History.

He can be contacted at james.savage@zurichna.com.



Matt Wagner

Head of Construction Property
Zurich U.S.

Matt Wagner is Senior Vice President and Head of Construction Property at Zurich U.S., where he leads the company's Construction Property business across the United States. In this role, he is responsible for business strategy, underwriting performance, product development, distribution management and talent leadership for Zurich's construction property portfolio.

Since joining Zurich, Matt has held multiple leadership roles within the Construction business, including East Region Construction Property Regional Vice President, E&S Construction Leader and Business Execution Leader. Before joining Zurich, Matt worked on the brokerage side of the industry, advising clients on complex construction property risks and insurance programs.

Based in New York, Matt leads a national team focused on delivering underwriting excellence, market-leading customer solutions and sustainable profitable growth across Zurich's Construction Property business.

He can be contacted at matthew.wagner@zurichna.com.



Kolter Knutson

Head of Construction Professional Liability
Zurich U.S.

Kolter Knutson is the Head of Construction Professional Liability at Zurich U.S. He is responsible for managing the Construction Professional Liability portfolio, including developing and executing diverse multidimensional strategies across the portfolio and ensuring all key performance metrics are achieved. Kolter joined Zurich in 2007 and previously held roles as Assistant Vice President of Construction Casualty for the West Region and Construction Defect Claims Team Manager. Prior to joining Zurich, he worked at Travelers Insurance as a toxic tort claims adjuster.

Kolter holds a B.A. in Business Finance & Management from Carroll College in Helena, MT.

He can be contacted at kolter.knutson@zurichna.com.



Minhaj Ashraf

Head of Underwriting, US Construction
Zurich U.S.

Minhaj Ashraf is Head of Underwriting for US Construction at Zurich. Minhaj is responsible for improving underwriting performance, portfolio strategy and execution, risk selection and pricing, portfolio stewardship and product management. Since joining Zurich in 2015, he has taken on a variety of key roles, most recently serving as Head of Portfolio Insights for U.S. National Accounts.

Minhaj holds a Bachelor's in Information Technology from Cochin University in India and a Master's in Data Science from Northwestern University.

He can be contacted at minhaj.ashraf@zurichna.com.



Alicia Pavelko

Head of Construction Innovation and Sustainability
Regional Vice President, Construction Property - West
Zurich U.S.

Alicia Pavelko is Regional Vice President of Construction Property for the West Region and the Head of Construction Innovation and Sustainability. Alicia manages the growth of Zurich's innovative, sustainability-inspired construction-solutions. She is also responsible for developing and deploying new product solutions for Construction. Previously, Alicia held leadership positions in the Construction practice at Willis Towers Watson and Marsh, as well as Construction and Marine underwriting positions of increasing responsibility at Hanover Insurance and Zurich U.S.

Alicia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

She can be contacted at alicia.pavelko1@zurichna.com.



Jay Bell

Head of Operations, Construction
Zurich U.S.

Jay Bell is the Head of Operations for Construction at Zurich U.S. Jay drives strategic transformation across underwriting frameworks and operational excellence, aligning innovation with execution to deliver measurable impact across the organization.

With over two decades of experience in the insurance industry, Jay has held pivotal roles including Vice President, National Middle Market Construction Consultant for Zurich, Divisional Vice President at Great American Insurance Group, and Head of Middle & Large Commercial Programs at The Hartford. His expertise spans underwriting, operations, risk management and strategic business planning, consistently contributing to growth, profitability, and innovation.

Jay holds certifications from Vanderbilt University in Prompt Engineering, Generative AI Automation, Leadership & Strategy and AI Assistants.

He can be contacted at jay.bell@zurichna.com.



John Priebe

Regional Vice President, Construction Property - South
Zurich U.S.

John Priebe is Regional Vice President of Construction Property for the South Region. Within his role, John oversees financial performance, analyzes market trends, and implements strategies to drive profitable growth. He is also responsible for broker and client relations within the region.

John has been working for Zurich for over 11 years. Prior to his current role, he served as the National Construction Property Energy Underwriter; responsible for growing the energy portfolio within Construction Property, with a focus on our sustainable energy book of business. John holds a BS degrees from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

He can be contacted at John.Priebe@zurichna.com.



Alex Donnelly

Regional Vice President, Construction Property – Midwest
Zurich U.S.

Alex Donnelly is Regional Vice President of Construction Property for the Midwest Region. In his role, Donnelly manages profitability, growth and implementation of underwriting initiatives throughout the region. In addition, he is responsible for broker and client relationships, focusing on delivering solutions to complex Construction Property risks.

Alex joined Zurich in 2020, having previously held the role as Team Lead for Zurich Construction Property Midwest where he handled key relationships in the region, and was responsible for the training and mentorship of the underwriting team. Throughout his career, he has had a construction industry focus, with a specialization in large Builder's Risk underwriting at multiple large carriers. He is a graduate of Illinois State University, with a degree in Business Information Systems.

He can be contacted at alexander.donnelly@zurichna.com.



Joe Riela

Regional Vice President, Construction Casualty – East
Zurich U.S.

Joe Riela is Regional Vice President of Construction Casualty for the East region. He is responsible for delivering underwriting sales execution and talent management strategies for staff, broker partners and customers in the East region.

Riela has worked at Zurich since November 2009 and has over 28 years of diversified construction experience within the insurance industry. He began his career as a surety underwriter with Seaboard Surety. He subsequently joined AIG, where he held positions of increasing responsibility in Surety, Construction Casualty, and as Real Estate Practice Leader for their Lexington Insurance and Risk Management divisions. Riela also served as Senior Vice President of Construction Brokerage Group in New England for Willis Towers Watson. Riela graduated from Providence College with a degree in Finance.

He can be contacted at joseph.riela@zurichna.com.



John Vang

Regional Vice President, Construction Casualty – West
Zurich U.S.

John Vang is Regional Vice President of Construction Casualty for the West region. He is responsible for delivering underwriting sales execution and talent management strategies for staff, broker partners and customers in the West region.

Prior to joining Zurich, Vang spent six years with Hartford Construction, where he held various roles with the most recent being Assistant Vice President for the West and Midwest territories. He started his insurance career and spent 11 years with the combined company of St. Paul and Travelers Construction.

Vang holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of the Pacific.

He can be contacted at j.vang@zurichna.com.



Rudy Leon

Regional Vice President, Construction Casualty – South
Zurich U.S.

Rudy Leon is Regional Vice President of Construction Casualty for the South Region. He is responsible for delivering underwriting sales execution and talent management strategies for staff, broker partners, and customers in the South Region.

Prior to joining Zurich, Rudy spent five years with Hartford Construction, where he held various underwriting roles within their Construction unit. Throughout his career, he has had a construction industry focus, with a specialization in Construction Casualty underwriting. Most recently at Zurich, Rudy was the Construction Casualty Underwriting Manager for the Southeast.

Rudy graduated from Westmont College with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Business.

He can be contacted at Rudy.Leon@zurichna.com.



Tony Zins

Head of Middle Market Construction
Regional Vice President, Construction Casualty – Midwest
Zurich U.S.

Tony Zins is the Head of Middle Market Construction and Regional Vice President of Construction Casualty for the Midwest region. He is responsible for managing the Middle Market Construction Casualty portfolio, including developing and executing diverse multidimensional strategies across the portfolio and ensuring key performance metrics are achieved. He is also responsible for delivering underwriting sales execution and talent management strategies for staff, broker partners and customers in the Midwest region.

Zins started with Zurich in 2005 where he held various underwriting roles in New York, including Property, Large Casualty, Wrap-ups and Subcontractor Default products. He then spent 8 years as Construction Casualty Underwriting Manager for multiple offices throughout the Midwest, including Kansas City, Chicago, St. Louis and Milwaukee. In 2021 he became RVP for Construction Casualty in the Midwest. Zins holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering from Kansas State University.

He can be contacted at anthony.zins@zurichna.com.



Chris Parkinson

National Construction Property Energy Underwriter
Zurich U.S.

Chris Parkinson is the National Construction Property Energy Underwriter at Zurich U.S. In this role, Chris collaborates with key stakeholders to drive growth and enhance product deliverables in the Energy Construction sector, with a focus on sustainable energy initiatives.

Chris brings extensive experience in Construction Property underwriting, most recently serving as a Senior Construction Property Underwriter in the West region. Chris began his career with Zurich directly out of college as part of the Underwriting Training Program (UTP) in Builder's Risk underwriting. Over the past 7 years, Chris has taken on roles of increasing responsibility, managing some of the largest and most complex relationships in the San Francisco market.

A native of San Francisco, Chris earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business Economics from the University of California, Irvine.

He can be contacted at chris.parkinson@zurichna.com.



Paul Orsi

National Construction Property Underwriter
Zurich U.S.

Paul Orsi is a National Construction Property Underwriter and has been with Zurich since February 2004. Orsi has 30+ years of experience in the insurance industry. His career began at Travelers in 1987 as a domestic multi-line underwriter. In 1994, Orsi joined Royal Global, later becoming Royal & Sun Alliance. There he administered global property programs for U.S. multi-national corporations. Since 2004, Paul has held both underwriting and managerial positions within Zurich Construction.

In his current position, Orsi's focus is Master Builders Risk programs for Zurich's largest customers including Bechtel, Turner Construction, Hensel Phelps, Skanska, and DPR Construction. His other areas of focus include complex captive arrangements and reinsurance structuring. Orsi also enjoys acting as a coach and mentor to the newer team members throughout Construction Property.

Orsi holds a BS degree from St. Francis College. He earned the CPCU designation in 2001, completed the Munich Re Advanced Engineering Seminar in 2007, and is Board Member of IMUA. Orsi is a native New Yorker residing in Brooklyn.

He can be contacted at paul.orsi@zurichna.com.



Natia Swan

Underwriting Manager
Construction Business Execution Lead
Zurich U.S.

Natia Swan is the Construction Business Execution Leader and Upper Midwest Underwriting Manager specializing in Construction Casualty. She combines strategic growth leadership with deep underwriting expertise to help clients and brokers navigate complex risks while driving profitable results.

Natia has built a strong personal brand in the marketplace, known for her collaborative style, responsiveness and ability to deliver innovative solutions. Her reputation for trust and consistency makes her a valued partner across the industry.

She is passionate about developing high-performing teams, fostering a culture of excellence and creating strategies that strengthen relationships and expand market presence.

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Doug Stohlman

Vice President, Head of Construction
Zurich Resilience Solutions

Doug Stohlman is Head of Construction for Zurich Resilience Solutions, where he provides leadership and strategic direction to Construction Risk Engineering teams in U.S. and works closely with Construction Customers and industry associations to provide relevant risk solutions, awareness, understanding and management of construction risk.

Doug has been in the insurance industry for 37 years, including leadership roles at Zurich and most recently as Zurich VP of Casualty Construction. His experience of ZRS, including the Construction Industry, have attributed to him contributing to key national initiatives and business strategies.

Doug holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from California State University Sacramento.

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