

DARA THOMAS, P.E.

SUMMARY

Ms. Thomas' expertise is in structural engineering; analyzing design and construction defects; investigating moisture intrusion in roofs, walls, windows and building envelope; stucco and EIFS delamination; Code compliance; investigating building damage from storm, fire, vehicular crashes, earthquakes, collapses, etc.; consulting and inspections for Surety claims; consulting and inspections for Property and Casualty claims.

Additionally, Ms. Thomas is experienced in evaluating premises liability matters including performing slip tests as part of slip and fall investigations; investigate Workmen's Compensation claims for construction related fall accidents (evaluate OSHA compliance) or boating accidents with bodily injury; analyze fall accidents from automatic door closers, and "trip and fall" accidents, from a Code-requirement perspective.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with a specialization in Structural Engineering, University of South Florida; Tampa, FL; 1982.

Master's Certificate in Climate Change and Health, School of Public Health, Yale University; 2022

REGISTRATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Registered Professional Engineer in the following States:

- Florida # 40290
- Georgia # 033398
- North Carolina #28783
- South Carolina #31872
- Virginia # 45278

Florida Special Inspector # 40290

OSHA-30 Certified

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Associate Member, National Academy of Forensic Engineers (NAFE)
- National Council of Engineering Examiners (NCEE)
- Member ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials) and the following Committees:
 - Pedestrian/Walkway Safety & Footwear (F13)
 - Roofing and Waterproofing (D08)
 - Forensic Engineering (E58)
 - Fences (F14)
 - Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces and Facilities (F08)
 - Consumer Products (subcommittee on Bathtubs and showers) (F15)
 - Paint and Related Coatings, Materials & Applications (subcommittees on Industrial Protective Coatings, Architectural Coatings, Evaluation of Weathering and Environmental Concerns) (D01)
- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

CAREER HISTORY

FORCON International – Structural Engineer (1995-present)

Responsible for forensic investigations and expert witness services associated with premises liability matters, structural failures, construction defects, property damage, moisture intrusion, building code compliance, and other issues related to structural engineering.

Dara Thomas PE, LLC, Brandon, FL

Principal of private engineering consulting firm.

Dara M. Zolkower & Co., Inc., Dunedin, FL

Principal of private structural engineering design firm.

McCarthy & Associates, Clearwater, FL

Duties included structural design, engineering and inspection of commercial, residential, and industrial buildings and structures as well as management of draftsmen and junior engineers.

Chris Walker & Associates, Bradenton, FL

Duties included structural design, engineering, and inspection.

Paxton & Associates, Tampa, FL

Duties included structural design, engineering, and inspection.

Tylk, Wright & Gustafson, Clearwater, FL

Duties included structural design, engineering and inspection, heavy emphasis on field inspections.

KEY EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Ms. Thomas' forensic experience covers a wide array of both premises' liability and structural matters, including but not limited to the following areas:

- Code Compliance.
- Construction fall accidents.
- Evaluation of fire damage of concrete, steel, or timber.
- Evaluation of termite damaged structures.
- Evaluation of structural defects resulting in bodily injury.
- Evaluation of beam and floor deflection.
- Evaluation of vibration claims.
- Evaluation of hail damage.
- Evaluation of earthquake damage.
- Evaluation of hurricane damage.
- Evaluation of settlement and sinkhole claims.
- Evaluation of building envelope defects, including stucco, EIFS, window leaks, roof leaks, paint.
- Evaluation of flood damage.
- Evaluation of seawalls.
- Evaluation of Post-Tension concrete.
- Spalled and cracked concrete structures.
- Structural settlement and cracking.
- Foundation repair due to storm or erosion.
- Slip tests and evaluation.
- Structural evaluation after a fire.
- Trip and fall accidents.
- Aluminum structures.
- Bleachers and Stadiums.
- Composite metal deck/steel beam design.
- Concrete restoration and waterproofing.
- Two-Way reinforced flat plate concrete slabs.
- Prestressed precast hollow-core, Condec or Filigree slabs.
- Masonry.
- Retaining walls.
- Steel Joist and composite joist floor systems.
- Seawalls.
- Storefront Design.
- Second story additions.
- Roof Ponding.
- Tilt-up concrete wall panels.
- Timber systems of all varieties.
- Foundation systems for pre-engineered/fabricated metal buildings.
- OSHA compliance evaluation.
- Timber and concrete pile foundation systems for residential construction in V-Zones.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT/CASE LIST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Case Name</u>	<u>Services as Expert</u>
2022-2023	City of Hickory v. Neill, et al City Walk - Arch Collapse (Hickory, NC)	Expert for defense of Neill (GC); Determined fault was with the Engineer's design of the Arch. <i>Settled at Mediation 2023.</i>
2017-2023	Paseo Condo v. Stock and Statewide Painting (Ft. Myers, FL)	Expert for defense of Statewide Painting. (Water Intrusion) <i>Settled.</i>
2020-2022	Ainscow v. Speedway (FL)	Expert for Plaintiff. Trip & Fall resulting in death: Inspection and Written report. <i>Settled.</i>
2017-2019	Avery v. CH Realty (FL)	Expert for Defense. Slip and Fall incident. <i>Settled.</i>
2017-2019	Schooner Cove v. GB Painting (Tampa, FL)	Expert for Defense of Painter (Water Intrusion). <i>Settled.</i>
2017-2018	Petree v. Liberty Alum and Advanced Audio (FL)	Expert for Defense of aluminum railing sub and alarm sub. (Building envelope allegations). <i>Attended Mediation. Settled.</i>
2017	Yacht Club v. Bell Painting (FL)	Expert for Defense of Paint Sub. <i>Settled.</i>
2016-2017	DiCarlo v. G.R. Construction v. First Service Paint (FL)	Expert for Defense of Paint Sub. Depo. July 2017 Alleged building envelope defects. <i>Settled.</i>
2015-2019	North Star Condo v. CLW Concrete (FL)	Expert for Defense of post-tensioned concrete sub. <i>Settled.</i>
2015	Palmetto v. Kellog & Kimsey Quality Exterior (EIFS sub.) (Springhill Suites Hotel, Tallahassee)	Expert for Defense of EIFS sub. Assisted at Mediation. <i>Settled.</i>
2015	Monteverde Condo v. Hovstone Developers. (Boca Raton)	Expert for Defense of General Contractor. Alleged Construction Defects. Assisted at Mediation. <i>Settled.</i>
2014-2015	Bush v. St. Luke Church, (Pensacola, FL)	Expert for Defense. Trip & Fall on Pulpit Steps. <i>Settled.</i>
2014-2015	Wilson v. Temple Terrace Holdings – (Tampa, FL)	Expert for Defense. Slip & Fall on ramp. <i>Settled.</i>
2014-2015	Palmetto v. Aspen AC Hampton Inn - (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	Expert for Defense of PTAC AC installer. Moisture Intrusion at Hampton Inn. <i>Settled.</i>
2013-2014	Alvarez v. Advanced Systems - (Miami, FL)	Expert for Defense of floor coating installer. Trip & Fall matter. <i>Settled.</i>

FORCON INTERNATIONAL

2012-2016	Tibbets v. Sofarelli and F&S Frame and Trim (framer). (St. Pete, FL)	Expert for the Defense (framer) on Water Intrusion case. <i>Settled.</i>
2012-2013	Miami Dade College Parking Garage Collapse (Miami, FL)	Expert for Defense of a subcontractor on concrete parking garage. Inspections/ Analysis. <i>Settled.</i>
2012	Cofer v. Bolivar Construction - (Tampa, FL)	Expert for Plaintiff on construction defect/ water intrusion/stucco/framing Case. Spoke at Mediation. <i>Settled same day.</i>
2011-2013	Prestige Lumber v. La Frontier Bldr. – (Celebration, FL Artisan Park Condo)	Expert for Defense of framer on water intrusion issues (stucco, roof, windows). <i>Settled 2013.</i>

DEPOSITION SUMMARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Case Name</u>	<u>Services as Expert</u>
2016-2017	Vernis & Bowling	DiCarlo v. G.R. Construction v. First Service Paint (FL)	Expert for Defense of Paint Sub. Alleged building envelope defects. <i>Deposition July 2017. Settled.</i>
2013-2014	Kelley Kronenberg	Willow Creek v. Summitt v. Midday Constructors (FL)	Expert for Defense of Framer, Moisture intrusion claim. <i>Deposition May 2014</i>
2013-2014	Pilka & Associates	Olinger v. Bonefish Grill (Lakeland, FL)	Expert for Plaintiff for trip and fall over wheel stop. <i>Deposition Jan 2014. Settled.</i>
2012-2014	Conroy Simberg	Newland Davis V. Rosenbusch - Cape Coral, FL	Expert for Defense of Bldg Owner of curb Ramp with trip/fatality. <i>Deposition Jan 2014. Settled.</i>
2009-2013	Fulmer Leroy Albe	Wolkoff v. Sunshine Storage – (Broward County, FL)	Expert for Defense on wood Structure collapse with injury. <i>Provided Deposition testimony. Trial Nov. 2013. Verdict favorable to Defense.</i>
2009	Stephens Lynn Klein	Lexington v. Wellington Remodel (Palm Beach, FL)	Expert for Defense on gas explosion case on concrete structure. <i>Deposition. Settled.</i>