

# FORCON INTERNATIONAL

**DARA THOMAS, P.E.**

## **SUMMARY**

Dara 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; perform slip tests as part of slip and fall investigations; investigate Workmen's Comp. 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 Engineering degree in Civil Engineering with a specialization in Structural Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 1982.

## **PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS**

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

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

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)

## **CAREER HISTORY**

### **FORCON International – Independent Engineer Consultant**

Responsible for investigations and expert witness services associated with 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's forensic expertise covers a wide array of structural matters, including but not limited to the following areas, as well as providing expert witness services in regard, to the same:

- Structural settlement and cracking.
- Code Compliance.
- Evaluation of fire damage of concrete, steel or timber structures.
- Spalled and cracked concrete structures.
- Evaluation of termite damaged structures.
- Moisture Intrusion.
- Roof Ponding.
- Evaluation of structural defects resulting in bodily injury.
- Evaluation of beam and floor deflection.
- Structure and foundation repair due to storm damage and erosion.
- Construction fall accident Investigation.
- Evaluation of vibrations alleged to have caused property damage.
- Evaluation of hail damage.
- Evaluation of earthquake damage.
- Evaluation of hurricane damage.
- Slip tests and evaluation.
- Evaluation of settlement and sinkhole claims.
- Trip and fall accidents.
- Structural evaluation after a fire.
- OSHA compliance evaluation.
- Evaluation of building envelope defects, including stucco and EIFS delamination, window leaks, roof leaks.
- Evaluation of flood damage.
- Evaluation of Sea walls.
- Evaluation of Post-Tension Concrete Structures.

***Structural Systems:***

- Two-Way reinforced flat plate concrete slabs.
- Post-Tension concrete slabs.
- Prestressed precast hollow-core, Condec or Filigree slabs.
- Tilt-up concrete wall panels.
- Masonry.
- Steel Joist and composite joist floor systems.
- Composite metal deck/steel beam design.
- Long span steel trusses.
- Timber systems of all varieties.

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- Timber and concrete pile foundation systems for residential construction in V-Zones.
- Aluminum structures.
- Foundation systems for pre-engineered/fabricated metal buildings.
- Retaining walls.
- Foundation and Pier Repair.
- Concrete restoration and waterproofing.
- Sea walls.
- Bleachers and Stadiums.
- Storefront Design.
- Second story additions.

## **HIGHLIGHTED EXPERT WITNESS CASES**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Attorney</u></b>	<b><u>Case</u></b>	<b><u>Services as Expert</u></b>
2017-2019	Conroy Simberg	Avery v. CH Realty	Expert for Defense. Slip and Fall incident. <i>Settled.</i>
2017-2019	Dickerson & Gibbons	Schooner Cove v. GB Painting	Expert for Defense of Painter (Water Intrusion). <i>Settled.</i>
2017-2018	Henderson Franklin	Petree v. Liberty Alum and Advanced Audio	Expert for Defense of aluminum railing sub and alarm sub. (Building envelope allegations). Attended Mediation. <i>Settled.</i>
2017	Ivan D. Solari, PA	Yacht Club v. Bell Painting	Expert for Defense of Paint Sub. <i>Settled.</i>
2016-2017	Vernis & Bowling	DiCarlo v. G.R. Construction v. First Service Paint	Expert for Defense of Paint Sub. Depo. July 2017 Alleged building envelope defects. <i>Settled.</i>
2015-2019	Henderson Franklin	North Star Condo v. CLW Concrete	Expert for Defense of post-tensioned concrete sub. <i>Settled.</i>
2015	Thompson, Crawford & Smiley	Palmetto v. Kellog & Kimsey v. Quality Exterior (EIFS sub.) (Springhill Suites Hotel, Tallahassee)	Expert for Defense of EIFS sub. Assisted at Mediation. <i>Settled.</i>
2015	Kelley Kronenburg	Monteverde Condo v. Hovstone Developers. Boca Raton.	Expert for Defense of General Contractor. Alleged Construction Defects. Assisted at Mediation. <i>Settled.</i>
2014-2015	Guide One In-house attorney	Bush v. St. Luke Church, Pensacola, FL	Expert for Defense. Trip & Fall on Pulpit Steps. <i>Settled.</i>
2014-2015	Guide One In-house attorney	Wilson v. Temple Terrace Holdings - Tampa, FL	Expert for Defense. Slip & Fall on ramp. <i>Settled.</i>

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2014-2015	Kelley Kronenburg	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	Walton, Lantaff et al	Alvarez v. Advanced Systems - Miami, FL	Expert for Defense of floor coating installer. Trip & Fall matter. <i>Settled.</i>
2013-2014	Kubicki Draper	Cinnamon Beach Condo v. Centex v. Sun Metal Systems	Expert for Defense of window manufacturer moisture intrusion matter. <i>Settled.</i>
2013-2014	Kelley Kronenburg	Willow Creek v. Summitt v. Middy Constructors	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>
2012-2016	Weekley Schulte Valdes	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	Sellars Marion Bachi	Miami Dade College Parking Garage Collapse	Expert for Defense of a subcontractor on concrete parking garage. Inspections/ Analysis. <i>Settled.</i>
2012	Joseph Cofer, Esq.	Cofer v. Bolivar Construction - Tampa, FL	Expert for Plaintiff on construction defect/ water intrusion/stucco/framing Case. Spoke at Mediation. Settled same day.
2011-2013	Dean Ringers Morgan Lawton	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>
2009-2013	Fulmer Leroy Albe	Wolkoff v. Sunshine Storage - Broward County, FL	Expert for Defense on wood Structure collapse with injury. Provided Deposition testimony. <i>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. Gave Deposition. <i>Settled.</i>