

Because successful construction projects require successful relationships, construction contracts are not just about allocating project risks, but also about the relationships. A good construction contract is like a good marriage, where both parties share their goals, their expectations, how they will deal with difficulties, and their agreement on what happens if one party does not hold up their part of the bargain. While both parties want the agreement to be in their favor, they must pick their battles and let the other party get some things for the relationship to work and the project to prosper. With that in mind:

- 1. What are the consequences of delay and how can you structure your contract to keep the project on track?
- 2. What are the risks of third-party claims and how can you shift it to others?
- 3. How can you protect yourself and the project against third-party claims?
- 4. How can you ensure that the contractor is bound to lender requirements?
- 5. How can you limit liability for differing site conditions?
- 6. What are some contract strategies for limiting the costs of disputes?
- 7. Can you minimize the impact of design claims?
- 8. How can you get out of a contract if you need to?