

JENNA R. HALPERN, P.E.

Associate Principal



Summary

Jenna Halpern is a structural engineer who started her career in 2011. Jenna has worked on a wide range of forensic assignments, including over 100 adjacent construction projects. Her adjacent construction experience ranges from construction document and peer reviews related to risk of adjacent structures, forensic damage investigations, reviews of repair drawings after adjacent construction damage, evaluation of risk to adjacent properties for developers/contractors, and construction monitoring. Jenna has testified under oath and has published and presented lectures on adjacent construction at Manhattan College, for other structural engineers, and the New York State Bar Association. She manages emergency response projects and provides site stabilization and repair drawings and signed and sealed letters to the NYC Department of Buildings advising on the stability of structures post collapse and their safety.

Areas of Technical Expertise

- Adjacent Construction
- Emergency Response
- Forensic Structural Engineering

Education

- M.S., Structural Engineering, 2010, The University of Texas at Austin
- B.S., Civil Engineering, 2009, Cornell University

Registrations

- Licensed Professional Engineer in NY

Professional Activities

- Guest lecturer, "Adjacent Construction," Manhattan College CIVG 507: Introduction to Engineering Investigations/Forensic Engineering, 2020-2022.
- Presenter, "Engineering Aspects of License Agreements," Real Property Law Section Committee on Condominiums and Cooperatives Annual Meeting, New York State Bar Association, January 30, 2020.
- Presentation Contributor, "Best Practices in Monitoring of Adjacent Buildings," Engineering Mechanics Institute (EMI), Boston, MA, June 1, 2018.
- Presenter, "Adjacent Construction," SEAoNY The Ever-Changing New York City: Building Renovations and Alterations, New York, NY, February 6, 2018.

Select Project Experience

Adjacent Construction

Construction Monitoring, 550 Madison Avenue, New York, NY. Engineering services for a developer to create a construction monitoring plan for the adjacent buildings during demolition and construction activities at a 37-story landmark building.

Structural Stabilization & Construction Monitoring, 15 St. Marks Place, Brooklyn, NY. Stabilization and forensic investigation of damage to adjacent structure during pile driving activities for the developer. After stabilization was completed, consulting engineering services for the construction monitoring plan of existing buildings adjacent to the construction site.

Building Damage Investigation, 37-18 27th Street, Long Island City, NY. Forensic investigation of damage to structure due to adjacent support of excavation activities on behalf of the owner. Analysis and assessment of structure to determine safety for residents.

Building Damage Investigation, 84 E. 10th Street, New York, NY. Investigation to determine the extent of structural damage to the building following damage to the load-bearing wall by the adjacent contractor on behalf of the owner.

Building Damage Investigation, 50 Spring Street, New York, NY. Forensic investigation to determine the cause of building damage following adjacent construction activities on behalf of the developer.

Building Damage Investigation, YMCA Natatorium, Long Island City, NY. Forensics investigation to determine cause of masonry party wall separation on behalf of the owner. Engineering consulting services including pool monitoring and wall tie-back design review.

Adjacent Construction Review, 68 Thomas Street, New York, NY. Engineering consulting services including structural review of neighboring building renovation documents and the impact to masonry party wall between two buildings for condo board.

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Structural Analysis, 143 E. 63rd Street, New York, NY. Review of structural drawings for building renovation involving a party wall on behalf of the developer. Structural analysis of party wall to determine wall stability for renovated building and adjacent existing building.

Emergency Response

Emergency Structural Stabilization, 3111 Heath Avenue, Bronx, NY. Emergency services, stabilization and on-site services related to retaining wall collapse for owner. Analysis and assessment of adjacent structure to determine safety for residents and design of modified fire escape for egress.

Emergency Structural Stabilization, 211 W. 17th Street, New York, NY. Emergency stabilization, deconstruction engineering, scaffolding, monitoring, and on-site services related to the stabilization planning and engineering, and the partial building deconstruction following a fire event during construction for the developer.

Emergency Structural Stabilization, 326 W. 37th Street, New York, NY. Emergency stabilization and forensic investigation of an existing underpinning collapse beneath adjacent structure, during new underpinning operations on behalf of the contractor.

Emergency Structural Stabilization, One 7th Avenue, New York, NY. Emergency services and forensic investigation of failure during construction. The design and as-built condition of fencing, scaffolding, hoists, fall-protection, cranes and window protection were evaluated and analyzed for compliance with local, state and federal codes on behalf of the contractor. The details of the construction of these elements were reviewed and compared/analyzed to industry standards and code compliance.

Emergency Response, Queens Plaza, Long Island City, NY. Emergency services, monitoring, and on-site services related to the stabilization following a construction hoist failure on behalf of the contractor.

Forensic Structural Engineering

Engineering Investigation, DOT Parking Garage, Bronx, NY. Forensic investigation to determine the cause of post-tensioned slab failure on behalf of the city.

Engineering Investigation, 322 East 18th Street, New York, NY. Peer review and structural analysis of renovation and support of excavation drawings for the owner after significant settlement occurred during construction.

Peer Review, 230 Park Avenue South, New York, NY. Engineering peer review of structural modifications for a tenant build-out of a 350,000-square-foot 13-story building on behalf of the building owner.

Sworn Testimony

Hearing, 18 W. 55th St. LLC v Pleiades House LLC, RPAPL 881, regarding license to enter property and protections of adjacent structure required, Supreme Court of the State of New York, November 17, 2022.

Deposition, Eunhasu Corp. v. NorGUARD Ins. Co., regarding damage due to adjacent construction, Southern District of New York, June 28, 2021.

Hearing, 14 W. 64th Street, New York, NY, RPAPL 881, regarding license to enter property and protections of adjacent structure required, Supreme Court of the State of New York, January 24, 2020 and February 5, 2020.

Hearing, 181 Avenue B, New York, NY, RPAPL 881, regarding license to enter property, protections and structural stabilization of adjacent structure required, Supreme Court of the State of New York, October 21, 2019.

Publications

“Risk Factors During Underpinning of Historic Structures,” American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 9th Forensics Congress, Denver, CO, November 2, 2022 (author)

“Mitigation of Risks from Adjacent Construction and Key Provisions in Access Agreements,” Building Better Construction Contracts 2019, Practising Law Institute, New York, NY, December 13, 2019 (author)

“Evaluating Existing Structures due to Adjacent Construction,” International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE), Guimarães, Portugal, March 27-29, 2019 (author)

“Dangers of Lot Line Retrofits and Construction,” International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE), Helsinki, Finland, February 11-12, 2015 (co-author)

CONTACT

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