

MICHAEL SO, P.E.

Vice President



Summary

Michael has more than 19 years of experience in forensic investigations and design. His expertise in plumbing and fire protection systems encompasses a wide variety of facilities spanning the globe. He has extensive experience in the investigation of MEP systems after fires, floods, failures and catastrophic loss events. Michael has provided expert testimony and his litigation support work included matters involving subrogation, construction defect and professional liability matters. He also has extensive design experience including high-rise, commercial and cultural projects. Michael's responsibilities include project management of multi-disciplinary teams as well as providing expertise for forensic investigations.

Areas of Technical Expertise

- Forensic Mechanical Engineering
- Forensic Plumbing Engineering
- Forensic Fire Protection Engineering
- MEP+FP Design

Education

- M.S., Structural Engineering, 2014, Columbia University, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
- B.S., Civil Engineering, 2012, Technological Education Institute of Piraeus, Department of Structural Engineering
- B.E.M.E., 2004, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

Registration

- Licensed Professional Engineer in FL, GA, MD, NY, and TX

Professional Activities

- Member, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 2018-present
- Member, American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), 2018-present

Select Project Experience

Property Loss Consulting

Trinitas Regional Medical Center Hurricane Ida, Elizabeth, NJ.* Assessment of damage to multiple hospital and healthcare buildings following flooding caused by Hurricane Ida. Assessed HVAC, plumbing and fire protection systems for damage.

Dominica Brewery Hurricane Maria Assessment, Loubiere, DMA.* Assessment of MEP systems for damage at this 25,000 square foot brewery. Coordinated with the brewery consultant to report findings to adjusters and the market.

Confidential Project, Dubai, UAE. Assessment of structural, façade and MEP systems after major fire event in a hotel. MEP scope included evaluation of fire protection and plumbing systems.

Plumbing and Fire Protection

Grace Farms Community Church, New Canaan, CT.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a community center. The building consists of multiple glass pods with a connecting roof shaped like a river. Plumbing systems included, sanitary, storm, domestic water, natural gas and site utilities.

Houhai Lake House, Beijing, PRC.* Plumbing engineering for a 50,000-square-foot luxury residence.

Harvard University, Tozzer Library, Cambridge, MA.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a university library.

Macarthur Elementary School, New York, NY.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a net-zero energy building. The hot water system was designed to heat water to ambient temperature and heated to final temperature at the point of use.

*Denotes work performed with previous employer.

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SUNY Cord Blood Bank, Syracuse, NY.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a cord blood processing center. The project included laboratory equipment and a liquid nitrogen distribution system.

Granite Broadway Hotel, New York, NY.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a 67-story hotel. The building is approximately 700 feet with 629 keys and includes amenity spaces and restaurants. Systems designed include fire protection, sanitary, storm, domestic water and natural gas.

Gansevoort Park Hotel, New York, NY.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a mixed-use, 18-story luxury hotel. Systems designed include fire protection, sanitary, storm, domestic water and natural gas.

Kent Avenue Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY.* Plumbing engineering services for a four-building residential complex. The project encompasses more than one million square feet, with spaces for commercial, restaurant and exercise facilities. Systems designed include fire protection, sanitary, storm, domestic water and natural gas.

One Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY.* Plumbing and fire protection engineering services for a 300,000-square-foot conversion of a landmark building from offices to condominiums. Systems designed include fire protection, sanitary, storm, domestic water and natural gas.

Litigation

Confidential Sprinkler System Matter, Hollywood Beach, FL.* Forensic investigation, litigation support, expert report and deposition on installation of the sprinkler systems throughout this 42-story, 200-unit condominium building on behalf of defendant. Matter was settled prior to trial.

Confidential Sprinkler System Matter, Miami, FL.* Forensic investigation, litigation support, expert report and deposition on installation of the sprinkler systems throughout this 44-story residential building on behalf of defendant. Trial testimony is expected as the matter continues.

Confidential Condominium Plumbing Matter, San Francisco, CA.* Litigation support, construction consulting, costing and mediation on behalf of defendant for this new construction errors and omissions claim. Matter was settled prior to trial.

Confidential Gaming and Hotel Facility E&O Claim, Oxon Hill, MD.* Forensic investigation, litigation support, expert report and mediation for this construction defect matter on behalf of the plaintiff. The plumbing systems at this casino and hotel complex had extensive design errors and omissions which resulted in \$20 Million of added costs to the project. Matter was settled prior to trial.

Professional Liability Matter, Luxury Condominium Complex, Jersey City, NJ. Forensic investigation, litigation support and expert report on behalf of the defendant on failed water service and sprinkler systems in a large multi-home, residential complex with 1022 residential units. The water service failure affected most units and caused damage to plumbing and fire protection systems as well as architectural finishes. Matter was settled prior to trial.

Confidential Plumbing Matter, Brooklyn, NY and Elberon, NJ. Forensic investigation, litigation support and expert report on behalf of the defendant for a class-action matter regarding flushable wipes in multiple private residences.

2nd Avenue Gas Explosion, New York City, NY. Forensic investigation, litigation support and expert report on failed natural gas system which resulted in an explosion and multiple fatalities in a mixed-use building on 2015 on behalf of the plaintiff.

Sworn Testimony

Lattitude on the River Condo. Ass'n Inc. v. Allied Tube and Conduit Ass'n et al., involving issues related to installation of the sprinkler system in Miami, FL. Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County. January 2020.

2711 Hollywood Beach Condo Ass'n, Inc. v. TRG Holiday, LTD., et al., regarding installation of sprinkler systems in Miami, FL. Third District Court of Appeal State of Florida. June 2018.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Dispute between Developer and Design team for a new casino and hotel in National Harbor, MD. JAMS Arbitration in Los Angeles, CA. Expert witness on behalf of the developer.

Dispute between Developer and Engineer for a new residential building in San Francisco, CA. Mediation in Napa, CA. Expert witness on behalf of the Engineer.

CONTACT

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