

**Session Title:**

Fire and Explosion Investigations that Sizzle!

**Day/Time:**

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Location:**

Royal Ballroom E-F  
Property Track

**Session Description:**

This workshop is designed to help develop the skills necessary for a thorough and effective fire claim investigation. Claims professionals will acquire the tools and perspectives needed to ensure cost effective utilization of experts, to avoid common dangerous mistakes, and to minimize exposure to legal liability in the context of the overall claim resolution goals. One important tool for any insurance claims professional responsible for fire cases is the newly published 2017 edition of NFPA 921, A Guide for Fire and Explosions Investigations. This engaging program utilizes visually compelling fire case examples to illustrate the current state of the art/science of forensic fire investigation, and to help claim professionals ensure a complete and proper investigation in a fire-related case.

**Speaker 1:**

Ulises Castellon, CPCU Chief Operating Officer, Fire Cause Analysis

Ulises Castellon, CPCU, RPA has worked as a claims professional for over thirty five years. In 1996, he associated with Fire Cause Analysis, a premier forensic investigation and engineering firm, and is currently Chief Operating Officer. He is also the principal of a consulting business, Claims Analysis serving clients as an insurance consultant and expert witness.

Ulises has managed numerous first and third party cases through litigation and has extensive deposition and trial testimony experience in a variety of jurisdictions. In addition, he regularly teaches courses on issues ranging from Arson and Fraud Investigation to Fair Claims Practices. He has presented nationally at PLRB on numerous occasions and at various statewide organizations. He is a co-author of Scientific Evidence and Expert Testimony, Chapter 6 – Origin and Cause of Fire. Ulises is bilingual and has acted as a media spokesperson for local news and information programs, including Spanish-speaking television.

**Speaker 2:**



Douglas Wood, Member, Clark Hill LLP

Doug is a Martindale-Hubbell “AV-Preeminent” rated trial attorney who has been repeatedly named by his peers and Judges as a “Top Rated Insurance Lawyer”, one of the “Bay Area’s Best Insurance Lawyers”, and one of Northern California’s “Super Lawyers” (a Thomson Reuters distinction honoring the top 5% of lawyers in the region as selected by other lawyers and Judges). Doug is a Member in Clark Hill’s San Francisco office. Doug’s practice encompasses the full spectrum of complex property and casualty insurance coverage issues, disputes, and litigation, including difficult cases arising out of arson fires and suspected fraudulent claims.



During his 32+ years of practice, Doug has successfully defended clients in many such cases through trial and appeal. Doug also has litigated premises liability cases, insurance subrogation cases, real estate actions, products liability cases, construction defect cases, and general business disputes. Doug is an avid instrument rated private pilot who delights in saving his clients’ money by flying himself in “Black Beauty” – his turbo-normalized 1979 Beechcraft Bonanza A36 – to depositions, loss scenes, client meetings, and court appearances all over the western states. Doug gained early trial experience serving the People of California as a Deputy District Attorney for the County of Alameda. He tried his first Insurance Bad Faith case decades ago, and has been litigating and trying cases involving insurance coverage and Bad Faith, commercial business disputes, various torts, and liability defense ever since. Doug is well published, having co-authored five Chapters in a leading legal treatise “California Property Insurance: Law and Litigation”, a Chapter in “Scientific Evidence and Expert Testimony”, and several other publications. He also instructs and presents regularly to clients and industry groups.

**Speaker 3:**

Juliet Schade, Regional Property Claim Manager, Capital Insurance Group

