# **Avoiding Contract Drafting Landmines**

Monday, September 23, 2019 | Convene Conference Center | NYC Tuesday, September 24, 2019 | NYSBA | Albany (Live Webcast)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# **PROGRAM AGENDA**

3.0 MCLE Credits; 3.0 Areas of Professional Practice

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Introductory Remarks

9:10 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. **Contractual Provisions Found in Non-Contractual Documents** 

Landmines of Drafting On-Line Contracts: Browsewrap and

Clickwrap

(0.5 MCLE Credit; 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice)

9:35 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Pitfalls in Drafting Common Contractual Provisions

Battle of the Forms--UCC Section 2-207

(0.5 MCLE Credit; 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice)

10:00 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. **Warranties** 

- Drafting express warranties
- Drafting disclaimers of implied warranties
- Drafting warranties that extend to future performance and delay the running of the statute of limitations

(0.5 MCLE Credit; 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice)

10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Break

10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Merger Clauses** 

- The Parol Evidence Rule
  - Integration partial or complete
  - Merger Clauses turn even partially integrated into completely integrated contracts

- Drafting Merger Clauses (using the language recognized by the courts; to disclaim "invisible" terms—trade usage and course of dealing).
- Limitations of Even Well-Drafted Merger Clauses (i.e. fraud)
- No Oral Modification Clauses and Anti-Waiver Clauses

## (0.5 MCLE Credit; 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice)

#### 11:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

## **Limitations of Liability Provisions**

- Drafting Exclusions of Consequential Damages
  - The fundamentals: the line between "direct" and "consequential" damages is hazy
  - "Lost profits" are not always consequential damages
  - Exclusion of consequential damages does not necessarily exclude tort damages
  - The presumption of cumulative remedies and how to draft around it
  - If a remedy fails of its essential purpose, it might eliminate the exclusion of consequential damages
  - Exclusion of consequential damages is sometimes not permitted if the remedy would not make the aggrieved party whole

#### (0.5 MCLE Credit; 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice)

#### 11:25 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

#### Miscellaneous Clauses

- Recitals and Effective Date Provisions
- Provisions Stating Time for Performance
- Indemnity Provisions
- Force Majeure Provisions
  - The default protections without a force majeure clause
  - Impossibility, impracticability, and frustration of purpose
  - How these default protections can be lost by improper drafting
  - Drafting force majeure clauses
- Termination
  - The problem in knowing whether a "material breach" occurred
  - Drafting to avoid the uncertainty as to what is a "material breach"
- Choice of Law
  - If scope is too narrow, may not include extra-contractual claims

- Opting out of The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods
- Choice of Forum and Arbitration

(0.5 MCLE Credit; 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice)

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Question & Answer

12:00 p.m. Adjournment