ROBERT T. RATAY, PH.D., P.E.
CONSULTING ENGINEER

Structural Design
Structural Analysis
Investigation of Failures

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Dr. Robert T. Ratay, PE, is a **structural engineer in private practice** and **Adjunct Professor at Columbia University** in New York. **His practice is focused on** the evaluation of structural condition and safety, and on the **investigation and analysis of structural and construction failures**. He has been **expert consultant/witness** performing investigations and providing litigation support **on over 200 cases of structural failures**.

His nearly five decades of professional experience in structural engineering is divided between **twenty-five years of full-time design practice** and **twenty-five years of combined teaching and expert consulting**. It includes analysis and design of various steel, concrete, masonry and timber structures; wind and seismic design; design-development of innovative structural systems; condition assessment and repair of buildings, bridges, towers, and other structures; investigation of structural design deficiencies, construction defects, and failures; investigation of temporary structure and construction failures; resolution of claims; litigation support; expert opinions; undergraduate and graduate teaching of the analysis and design of steel, concrete, masonry and timber structures, earthquake engineering, and forensic structural engineering. He **developed and teaches the graduate course, *Forensic Structural Engineering*, at Columbia University** in New York.

Dr. Ratay has been a **consultant and expert to architects, engineering firms, contractors, corporations, law firms, insurance companies, and government agencies**. He has traveled extensively to projects in the USA, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, South America and the Caribbean.

He has **written technical reports and expert opinions, published papers, and lectured widely in the US and abroad** on condition assessment and forensic engineering practices, performance of structures during construction, temporary structures in construction, and on design and construction codes and standards. He is the **Editor-in-Chief** of the ***Handbook of Temporary Structures in Construction*** *(1984, 1996),* a major reference work published in two editions by McGraw-Hill; and of the ***Forensic Structural Engineering Handbook*** *(2001, 2010),* the first and still the only comprehensive reference on the subject also published in two editions by McGraw-Hill; and the book ***Structural Condition Assessment*** *(2005),* the first and only comprehensive reference on the subject, published by Wiley. He is the author of articles on structures and construction in the McGraw-Hill ***Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*****.** He is the originator and principal developer of the ***ASCE/SEI 37-02, Design Loads on Structures During Construction Standard***. He was recently named to the **Editorial Advisory Panel of *Forensic Engineering Journal***, the new quarterly **of the British Institution of Civil Engineers**.

Dr. Ratay was for several years a **structural designer** and Associate Partner with the firm of Severud Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C., in New York; and held responsible positions with other prominent engineering firms, such as LeMessurier Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff (HNTB) in New York. He also worked briefly in 1973 under an NSF grant at the Center for Building Technology of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards (NBS), now U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). His academic positions included five years on the Civil Engineering faculty of the City College of CUNY; nine years at Pratt Institute in New York first as **Professor and Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department**, then **Dean of the School of Engineering**; and seven years as Professor of Structural Engineering at Brooklyn Polytechnic (now Polytechnic Institute of New York University). Since 2002 he has been an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University in New York.

He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with the B.S.(1961) and M.S.(1962) degrees in Civil Engineering, and the **Ph.D.(1969) in Structural Engineering**. He is a licensed **Professional Engineer** in New York.

Dr. Ratay is a Fellow and Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and **had served on the Board of Governors of its Structural Engineering Institute (SEI).** He is a Fellow of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, and **chairs its Working Group on Forensic Structural Engineering**. He is a **member of the Editorial Advisory Panel** of the ***Forensic Engineering Journal*** of the **Institution of Civil Engineers, UK (ICE).** He has **served on and chaired several national and international technical committees** concerned with structural performance, wind engineering, building science, construction methods and safety, design codes and standards. He has also **sat on advisory, review and task committees** of government agencies including the Federal Highway Administration (FHwA) on temporary structures in construction, the National Science Foundation (NSF) on research proposals, the Building Research Board of the National Research Council (NRC) on innovation and new technology in building, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on construction safety, and the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF)/US Army Corps of Engineers on earth retaining structures.

In January, 2003, Dr. Ratay was named by Engineering News-Record ***One of The Top Newsmakers 2003*** who "made a mark in the construction industry"; in December, 2010, he received the Palotás **Award of the *Federation International du Beton*** from the Hungarian Group of ***fib*** "for his very valuable achievements in the field of structural concrete"; in 2011 he was named by *Structural Engineer* magazine as one of the ***Power List*** of ten "individuals who bring progress and passion to the structural engineering field."