

Ken O'Dell, S.E., Principal, MHP Structural Engineers



Ken O'Dell, a 30-year veteran of the structural engineering industry, is one of five principals leading MHP Structural Engineers, a Long Beach-based firm specializing in the seismic evaluation and retrofit of high-rise and mid-rise structures, structural due diligence and structural design of projects for civic, education and institutional clients.

As principal, he shares responsibility for managing MHP's long-standing client relationships, designing structural systems, supporting a team of 40 employees and overseeing company operations across two office locations. O'Dell's structural expertise includes wood, steel, cast-in-place concrete and prestressed concrete design. Since joining MHP, O'Dell has served as

engineer-of-record and senior assessor for significant projects within the hospitality, multi-family, commercial and education sectors. He also serves as an expert forensic witness for client cases involving structural concerns and construction defects.

Aside from his professional responsibilities, O'Dell is actively involved in the structural engineering community, serving as president-elect of the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (SEAOSC) and as vice president of the Foundation for Interdisciplinary Studies, supporting California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. O'Dell is also a certified volunteer Disaster Service Worker for the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) Safety Assessment Program.

In addition to his industry leadership positions, O'Dell is an active member of engineering trade organizations, including American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Concrete Institute (ACI) and American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). He is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo's Architectural Engineering program and holds structural and professional engineering licenses in 15 states.

O'Dell has been featured in the documentary "Quake Heroes," on KCBS-TV, ABC 7 and KFI AM 640 in Los Angeles, and as a panelist at speaking engagements throughout California for his expertise in structural design and seismic risk.