Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) welcomed Alex Kosis as an Associate Principal. Kosis brings more than 15 years of experience in the industry, specializing in roofing and waterproofing system design and repair and thermal analysis for optimal building performance. Kosis spent 11 years with SGH to start his career, joining the firm as a technical intern and advancing to senior engineering positions. Most recently, Kosis has practiced in Denver, CO, USA, and the surrounding region with several prominent building enclosure consulting firms. His industry and academic contributions include serving on ASTM Committee D08, Roofing and Waterproofing; volunteering as an instructor for the Engineers Alliance for the Arts; and lecturing on building failures and forensic investigations at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA. Kosis is a LEED Accredited Professional, Building Design and Construction (BD+C), and a licensed professional engineer in Colorado and California. He received his master’s and bachelor’s degrees in architectural engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) appointed Sarah Zaleski as Chief Products Officer; Pete Tolsdorf as General Counsel; and Andy Burr as Chief of Staff.

Zaleski previously served in senior roles at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), most recently directing 550 million USD in funding for energy improvements to schools and nonprofit facilities. Prior to the DOE, she established the Office of Sustainability for the city of Baltimore, MD, USA. In the newly created chief products officer position, Zaleski will work collaboratively with the CEO, Boards of Directors, and members of the executive team to lead strategy, development, and optimization of the global portfolio of USGBC and GBCI programs and services.

Tolsdorf previously served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), where he led NEMA’s legal compliance, corporate governance, and legal advocacy. He has held senior legal and policy leadership roles at major trade associations, including the National Association of Manufacturers. Tolsdorf also served as an attorney-advisor at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Burr previously served in leadership capacities at early-stage technology ventures, including ecountabl, the start-up he co-founded and led as CEO that was acquired by a financial services firm in 2022. Burr served in multiple roles at the DOE from 2014 to 2019, leading commercial buildings policy and launching a major intergovernmental modernization initiative. Prior to public service, he directed a 20 million USD special climate project. He has advised major presidential campaigns on climate strategy and has been quoted in national media.

**Honors & Awards**

The Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) and the DFI Educational Trust announced the recipients of the Legends Award. The award goes to three practitioners who have made significant contributions and advancements to the research, design, construction, manufacturing, and use of deep foundations. These 2023 winners were honored during the Legends Awards Reception and Banquet on November 2, 2023.

**Samuel Clemence** is the Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Emeritus Professor for Teaching Excellence at the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA. He is recognized as the 2023 DFI Engineer Legend for his 40 years of comprehensive research on the design and behavior of helical foundations. Clemence is credited with shaping the modern use of helical piles and tiebacks, which advanced to a widely implemented foundation tool and robust business industry. He was a founding member and Chair of DFI’s Helical Piles and Tiebacks Committee.

**Pete Nicholson**, the 2023 DFI Contractor Legend, is recognized as a driving force behind the introduction and use of high-capacity tieback anchors, micropiles, soil mixing, and diaphragm wall technologies in the United States. Through Nicholson Construction, he had the vision to import and promote techniques and processes that revolutionized the earth support and foundation industry.

The 2023 DFI Manufacturer/Supplier Legend Ernst Friedrich Ischebeck (1940-2014) is recognized posthumously for his invention of the hollow bar micropile. The characteristics and installation benefits of the TITAN Hollow Bar, used as a micropile, soil nail, or tension pile, led to the high acceptance of the product. Ischebeck, the fourth-generation leader of his family-owned company, was known as a solution provider who enjoyed analyzing and understanding the needs of his customers.