

Champlain Towers South Collapse WJE Investigation

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Abstract In the early morning of June 24, 2021, the eastern half of the 12-story Champlain Towers South Condominium collapsed, killing 98 residents of the 40-year-old building in Surfside, Florida. WJE was retained by attorneys representing the condominium association to determine the cause of the collapse and provide litigation support. Based on document review, field investigation, material testing, and analysis, WJE determined that the collapse was initiated by punching shear failures in the pool deck slab, which caused the failure of columns at the south face of the building, leading to the collapse.



Dr. Matthew Fadden joined WJE following a professorship in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering at the University of Kansas. His primary areas of expertise include the design, analysis, and evaluation of steel structures (hot rolled and cold formed) and reinforced concrete structures. Additionally, Dr. Fadden has expertise in structural evaluation using finite element modeling and structural testing, seismic design, structural vibrations, offshore structures, and litigation support.