



2021 Fall/Winter Chapter Newsletter

The Saint Louis Gateway Chapter Fall/Winter Newsletter includes both local Chapter and NCMA HQ news. [Read on for upcoming events, member spotlights and an academic article featuring Chapter Officer Milva Finnegan, Fellow, CPCM, CFCM, CCCM](#) on the important topic of contract simplification. Have a safe holiday and a very Happy New Year!

President's Letter

Greeting NCMA Gateway members, colleagues and friends:

It is my pleasure and honor to be your Gateway St. Louis President for the 2021-2022 program year. As many of you may know, I was elected your Vice President at the start of the program year yet assumed the role as chapter President on September 1st upon the resignation of our previous chapter President. Admittedly this caused an unexpected delay, but now we're well poised to provide the quality programming and events you're accustomed to receiving.

We have an exciting year planned and I look forward to connecting with all of you at our virtual events, training, networking opportunities and at our hybrid 55th Anniversary event. Can you believe that the Gateway Chapter has been NCMA's premier chapter for contract managers for 55 years? This year we are committed to rebuilding, refocusing and reconnecting with our membership. Our value proposition to our members is: NCMA Gateway St Louis is committed to the development and advancement of Contracting professionals through serving out community, inspiring collaboration, diversity, training and leadership.

As we are settling into our new routine amid the COVID pandemic, please know that NCMA is here as your professional network and association. We are here to celebrate the practice of both technical competency and people focused consciousness. This year's theme is Back to the Basics.

We are excited to announce that we are updating our chapters website to better engage with current and perspective members. Each of our VPs, Director and teams have planned amazing initiative and are working hard to provide the NCMA standard.

Lastly, I want to thank our amazing 2021-2022 Board of Directors and YOU who help make our Gateway Chapter Amazing. Knowing who our members are and how to meet their career objectives is our long-standing purpose.

If you have any questions or would like information regarding the NCMA Gateway Chapter you may email us at ncmastl@gmail.com You may also contact me directly at zsanique@gmail.com and feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn.

Very Respectfully,

Zsanique W. Douglass, CPCM
President



NEW President's Corner

President's Corner - December 2021

Taking the time to Wish all NCMA Gateway Members and their Families a Safe and Prosperous Holiday Season. Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2022.

Zsanique W. Douglass

President

Member Spotlight

Amy Cavanah, Senior Grants & Contracts Administrator

Organization: University of Missouri- Columbia

I am a Research Administration professional who focuses mainly on pre-award grant/contract related activities working within the Office Sponsored Programs Administration. My principal duties include reviewing grant and federal research proposals for compliance, providing customer service to internal and external customers, and negotiating grants and contracts on behalf of the University. I recently completed certification with The FAR Bootcamp in FAR training.

Member Spotlight

Heather Laurentius, Contract Administrator II

Company: General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems

Education: Graduate of Southeast Missouri State University Master of Science Degree Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Science Criminal Justice, Minor Accounting; Certification Contract Management from Saint Louis University.

I've been with General Dynamics-OTS as Contract Administrator since March of 2019. My main workload is supporting Medium Caliber Ammunition contracts for DoD warfighter. Recently, I've been appointed a special project for assisting implementation of enterprise resource planning software known as IFS Applications to support General Dynamics-OTS business units. This appointment is a direct result of prior familiarity with IFS Applications from my prior employment with an aviation company, formerly known as Sabreliner Corporation.



[Heather Laurentius]

Save the Date! 1/20 Program Year Kick-Off & Membership Social

The Chapter's Program Year (PY22) Kick-off and Membership Social has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 20th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. More details on this event to come. We hope to see you there!

Spring NES Training TBA

The annual National Education Seminar (NES) jointly sponsored by the Scott AFB Chapter and the Gateway Chapter is being set for April. More details will be announced in early 2022. The NES is a full day of training with a live speaker presenting on a NCMA NES topic. Attendees receive CPE/CLP credits.

55th Anniversary Celebration

Stay tuned for more information on the Chapter's 55th Anniversary celebration event. The Gateway Chapter was just awarded a HQ grant for funding to assist with the event. More details to come.

Chapter Sponsors Free HQ FAR/DFARS Update Webinar

The Gateway Chapter sponsored a free HQ webinar and received nearly 30 RSVPs. The webinar topic is the most attended webinar of the year, FAR/DFARS Update: End of Year Review Webinar on December 9. Attendees received updates on the latest changes to the *Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)*, *Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)*, and other regulations from presenter Eric Crusius, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP. Participants received 1.5 CPE/CLP credits. Thank you to NCMA HQ for arranging the free code.

Academic Article

What is legal design and contract design?

These are some of the topics that Milva Finnegan, Fellow, CPCM, CFCM, CCCM explored in her Ph.D. dissertation, *User-centered design: A key to contract simplification*.

Contracts are a vital part of business-to-business (B2B) exchanges. They guide the exchange relationship and define its terms. A challenge that companies face is the complexity of contract documents. Traditional documents consisting of black and white text without clear headings or paragraph breaks are difficult to read and comprehend. Contracts are not user-friendly! Consequently, businesses spend extensive time and resources on contract negotiations, drafting, and reviewing.

Design thinking in business is emerging in operational management, especially to improve and optimize user experience for economic gains. Design thinking provides flexibility that can be integrated into any activity, both in society and business. Design thinking opens the door to explore how meet people's needs best. Integrating design thinking is essentially focusing on producing *functional products*.

A novel four-phase user-centered design process (Figure 1.) is proposed in the dissertation to develop a contract with a reader first mindset. The key takeaway from the user-centered design process is that it focuses first on what the contracting parties intend to achieve and the context of the business deal. Second, it explores in detail who are the contract users and stakeholders. Once the context and users are defined, the third phase, the design process can start. Applying information, communication, and graphic design methods, common in other fields, helps simplify complex documents. Illustrations and visual depictions, such as, graphs, flow charts, swim lanes, etc., are excellent ways to communicate information to a diverse audience. A key element in a design process is testing and evaluating if the new solution improved the communication; if it did not, the process is iterated.

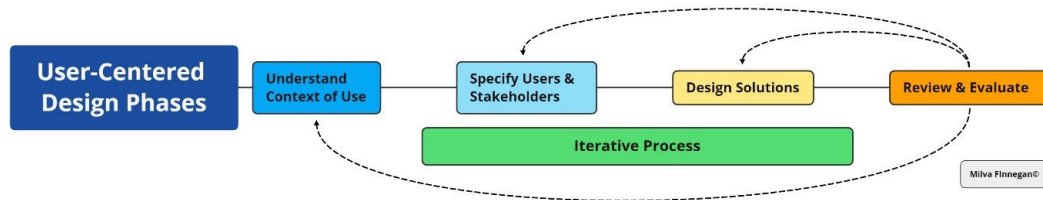


Figure 1. User-centered Design Process

Contract design shares the same principles as the emerging field of legal design that focuses on making the law accessible to everyone. However, one key difference is that contract design focuses on making a contract usable for the *intended audience*; every person does not use every part of a contract. Rather, the design is tailored based on the user or stakeholder’s specific role and the information they rely on to perform their jobs.

The dissertation outlines three specific areas of the contract (Figure 2.) that should be considered during the design process to produce a simplified holistic document. A simplified contract document is structured to help users intuitively navigate it. The language is tailored to the audience. Visualization is incorporated to communicate the information most effectively to a diverse audience.

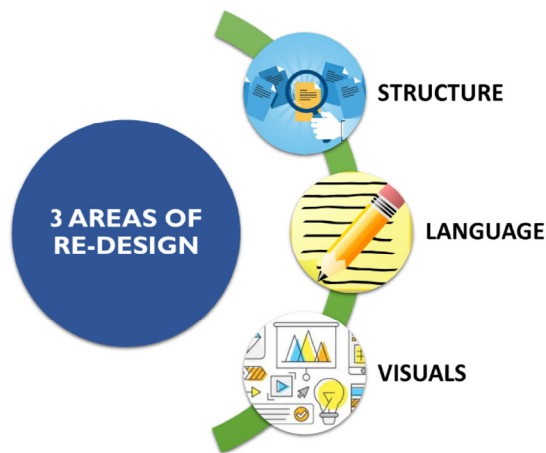


Figure 2. Areas of Contract Redesign

A well-designed contract that serves as a roadmap throughout execution provides contract management efficiencies, helps avoid disputes, and ultimately creates economic value to businesses.

To learn more visit karhuconsulting.com or to read the entire dissertation go online to University of Vaasa publications at:

<https://osuva.uwasa.fi/handle/10024/12480>

NCMA HQ News

Certified Contract Management Associate™ Certification is now ANSI-Accredited

NCMA announced that accreditation from The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) was granted for the [Certified Contract Management Associate™ \(CCMA™\)](#) certification.

New Communities of Practice

The new Communities are chaired by at least one NCMA member and are groups of members with a common interest in a particular area with dedicated discussion threads. **These are the new online communities to join: Agile/Innovative Contracting, Cybersecurity and Sustainable U.S. Procurement.** [Learn More and Join Today](#)

HQ Upcoming Webinars

Topic: [Selecting the Best Team Arrangement for Your Program](#)

Time: January 13, 2022, 11:00 AM—12:30 PM CDT (60-minute presentation + 30 minutes of Q&A)

Speaker: Jeff Shen, President, Red Team Consultants

1.5 CPE/CLP

Cost: \$50 member/\$63 non-member

More info: <https://ncmahq.org/Web/Learning/Learning%20Catalog/Live.aspx>

NCMA has many webinars open for registration, including free webinars. All registrants receive a recording for future access. More [info](#).

Download the New Journal of Contract Management

The latest version of the 2021 Edition of the Journal of Contract Management is free and now available for download. In this edition, four articles discuss a variety of contract management topics. [Download today](#).

NCMA's Mentor Match

The Mentor Match program helps members find, connect, and share experiences with others in the field. It is an online tool with a searchable database that facilitates finding mentoring relationships. [Learn more](#).

4th Edition of the CFCM Study Guide

The *NCMA's Certified Federal Contracts Manager Study Guide* has been updated to include all 53 FAR Parts, through FAC 2021-06 and includes new summary sections for each FAR Subchapter. [Get your copy today.](#)

NCMA Prep Courses for CPCM™ or CFCM™ Exam

Be ready to take the certification exam in 10 weeks and earn 40 Continuing Professional Education (CPE/CLP) hours. Participants of the course can use the CPE/CLP hours earned toward the credits needed to sit for the exam. The interactive course is accessible by web browser anytime. [Download the brochure](#) for more information.

- [Certified Professional Contract Manager™ \(CPCM™\)](#)
- [Certified Federal Contract Manager™ \(CFCM™\)](#)
- [Certified Commercial Contract Manager™ \(CCCM™\)](#)
- [Certified Contract Management Associate™ \(CCMA™\)](#)

For specific questions about the certification program email certification@ncmahq.org.

HQ NCMA Job Flash™

Subscribe now to receive information from NCMA HQ on Contract Management jobs at:

http://jobflash.informz.net/JobFlash/pages/NCMA_23603

Other Training

PCI Institute

Public Contracting Institute advertised the below free webinars which can viewed free by typing **NoCreditFree** in the Discount Code box and selecting APPLY (example below). More info at:

<https://publiccontractinginstitute.com/premier-series-and-academies/free-popular-topics-webinar-series/>. Recent webinars from December:

- [PCI's Executive Exchange: Subcontracts](#)
- [Figuring Out FOIA](#)
- [Subcontract Management](#)
- [Price Negotiations 101](#)

Thompson Coburn LLP

Free webinar recordings are available

at: <https://www.thompsoncoburn.com/insights/tcle/presentation/library>

Stay Connected

Chapter Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/pg/ncmastl/posts/?ref=page_internal

Chapter Webpage: <http://ncma-stl.org/>

Chapter on LinkedIn: Upcoming events on LinkedIn - [click here](#) and click the follow button.

NCMA LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/feed/hashtag/ncma>

NCMA Collaborate

NCMA has a forum available to members as a networking tool to help you connect with thousands of members. Click [here](#).

Volunteer on a Chapter Committee

Behind every great chapter are hardworking committees! Volunteering is a great way to get involved at the local level. Reply to this email (ncmastl@gmail.com) to find out more.

Questions or Comments? Email ncmastl@gmail.com



Copyright © 2021 St. Louis Gateway Chapter - National Contract Management Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

