

## Geotechnical Engineering Aspects of Construction Defect Litigation: Landslides and Retaining Walls MCLE Credit 1.5 hrs



*Slope and retaining wall failure in Culver City*

The instructor, Dr. Daniel Pradel, is a Professor in the Civil Engineering Department at UCLA, and a California licensed engineer. He has over 25 years of experience in the geotechnical engineering field, and was part of the state wide committee that produced the report "Guidelines for Analyzing and Mitigating Landslide Hazards in California." Dr. Pradel has been deposed approximately 75 times as an expert and has testified in approximately 25 trials as an expert witness, including *Domenigoni vs. MWD*, *Alvis vs. La Conchita*, and *Alvarado vs. MTA*.

This MCLE course will highlight some common topics encountered by the speaker as an expert consultant in litigation involving residential and commercial properties. Landslides and retaining wall failures are well-known geotechnical hazards in California. Topics that will be covered in this seminar include:

- ❑ A brief introduction on the interaction between geologists and geotechnical engineers, and an explanation of what geotechnical engineering is.
- ❑ A discussion of common geotechnical hazards that have resulted in major litigation in California;
- ❑ Common causes for the landslides and retaining wall failures will be discussed, as well as typical repair alternatives;
- ❑ Examples of failures that have resulted in major litigation;
- ❑ A discussion of the type of consultants typically used and/or encountered in litigation related to landslides or retaining walls.



*Landslide failure in Laguna Niguel*