

 **ALFA International**

The Global Legal Network
Local Relationships Worldwide



WHEN LEGAL *NIGHTMARES*
BECOME *REALITY*

2017 Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar

October 4-6, 2017

Bacara Resort & Spa

Goleta (Santa Barbara), California

www.alfainternational.com



ALL ABOUT BACARA RESORT & SPA, SANTA BARBARA

Nestled on the bluff and beaches of the Gaviota coast between the Pacific Ocean and Santa Ynez Mountains, Bacara Resort & Spa offers relaxed luxury and stunning natural beauty for an unforgettable getaway on California's Central Coast. Enjoy award-winning accommodations, beautiful event spaces, and luxury spa services at Santa Barbara's finest beach resort, located along California's most spectacular stretch of Pacific paradise. The timeless allure of Bacara continues with beautifully reconceived guestrooms and suites.

Bacara Resort & Spa is located 10 minutes or 6.7 miles from Santa Barbara Municipal Airport and two hours or 111 miles from Los Angeles International Airport. Travel by taxi cab is suggested from the airport to the hotel.

WHAT IS ALFA INTERNATIONAL?

ALFA International is the premier network of independent law firms. Founded in 1980, ALFA International was the first and continues to be one of the largest and strongest legal networks. We have 150 member firms throughout the world. Our 80 U.S. firms represent 95 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas. Our 70 international firms are located throughout Europe, Asia, Australia/New Zealand, Africa, Canada, Mexico, and South America.

ALFA International's mission is to provide high quality, cost efficient legal services wherever our clients need them. The ALFA International model enables our members to use their local expertise to deliver highly effective legal solutions, often drawing upon the collective wisdom and experience of other member firms. ALFA International clients benefit from a geographically comprehensive network of exceptional law firms and accomplished trial and business counsel. Our member firms meet high standards to be part of the ALFA International network and are well respected by their peers in the legal and business community.

WHEN LEGAL NIGHTMARES BECOME REALITY

2017 Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar

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Bacara Resort & Spa

Goleta (Santa Barbara), California

The beautiful Bacara Resort, the lovely seaside town of Santa Barbara, California and the heart of wine country are not things that cause us nightmares; rather they are the spectacular backdrop for the 2017 ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Tort Practice Group Seminar. This is the perfect relaxed atmosphere to offset the legal nightmares presented to you at this seminar based on a singular fact pattern Edgar Allan Poe or Stephen King would embrace.

What keeps you awake at night? How about numerous deaths and catastrophic injuries over multiple states and countries, multi-millions in business interruption and property damage, and the company brand is on the line. Medication and hiding under the covers won't help alleviate these bad dreams, but our crack team of ALFA International attorneys, prominent company leaders, and industry experts will through their prescribed advice and expertise. Issues addressed by our distinguished speakers will include:

- multiple catastrophic failures of a single recalled product line
- class actions
- multi-district litigation
- product cyber hacking
- underinsured and poor contractual terms and conditions including electronic
- crisis communication (internal and external)
- e-discovery (ESI)
- 30(b)(6) depositions
- innovative investigative technologies

This two-day program will include three general sessions and six breakout sessions. Each day we will conclude in the early afternoon to ward off the Bogeyman with some fine social networking events we have set up to keep you entertained, including a farewell dinner on Friday evening.

Welcome again to the 2017 ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Tort Practice Group Seminar.

Matthew J. Stanczyk

Program Chair, 2017 Product Liability & Complex Torts

Practice Group Seminar

PLUNKETT COONEY

Detroit, Michigan

2017 ALFA INTERNATIONAL PLCT SEMINAR FACT PATTERN

Small (\$90 million annual revenue), but highly successful and profitable commercial manufacturer No Leaks, Inc., manufactures, among other products, commercial and consumer natural and LP gas shut-off valves. It has sales throughout the US and Canada and is a subsidiary to Canadian super corporation Gigantor, Inc.

In October 2009, in an undetected manner as a result of No Leaks not beefing up its cyber security due to Gigantor's IT policies, notorious North Korean cyber hacker and trade secrets thief Gyljan Assage hacks No Leaks' computer system. Assage attempts to steal No Leaks' gas valve design (and other data). Assage is unsuccessful and becomes very irate, deciding to deposit super virus Kimjongwiped.exe into the No Leaks computer system.

The Kimjongwiped.exe virus wreaks havoc in the No Leaks system, including making minor modifications in product design programs. One change includes the raw material composition for gas valves.

No Leaks' sister corporation, Cast in the Sand, performs metal casting, forging and other metal work for No Leaks and other Gigantor subsidiaries, including the metal work for gas valves. Cast in the Sand is also networked with No Leaks. While No Leaks, Gigantor, and Cast in the Sand soon discover the virus, the design change is not discovered, again due to cyber protocols at Gigantor. The raw material composition change of the valves, while minor, ultimately results in SOME of the valves being prone to developing cracks. It is noteworthy that No Leaks' shut-off valves (and other manufacturer valves) can crack due to improper installation and other mishandling issues unrelated to the change in material composition.

Seven years of sales of this product occur after the hack (+7000 units). No Leaks learns about the valve design change and defect in January 2017 and issues an immediate recall. Due to distribution to consumers in the US, the No Leaks valves are subject to CPSC oversight.

The 10-story Millennials First building in downtown Chicago is occupied by numerous businesses. The bi-annual mechanical inspection is performed in July 2017 by a large regional mechanical/HVAC firm (multistate contractor) Monkey Wrench Mechanical who does work for the national level building management company Charge Higher Rent (CHR). Monkey Wrench completely misses that a No Leaks shut-off valve in the boiler room is cracked, albeit the crack is not readily apparent. Old maintenance records show Monkey Wrench installed the valve during maintenance work in early 2010 only a few months after the hack.

Monkey Wrench had purchased the valve online and in bulk from No Leaks' distributor, We Sell Everything in December 2009. Even today, We Sell has online sales terms and conditions through a link at the bottom of the page, but

no acknowledgement is required and, in fact, products can be purchased without even reviewing them.

Monkey Wrench denies ever receiving a recall notice even though the No Leaks' recall notice advised all of its distributors to notify their buyers. We Sell did not post the recall on its website but does claim to have notified buyers via e-mail, but failed to maintain a circulation list. Monkey Wrench, however, did have some indirect notice of this recall through industry electronic newsletters received shortly after the January 2017 recall announcement and industry conferences it attended in March 2017.

In September 2017, a massive explosion occurs in the Millennials First building, leading to a fire, five deaths, ten catastrophic survivor injuries, and property and business interruption losses.

Following extinguishing of the fire, emergency repair and demolitions services are brought in. Thirty emergency repair personnel who entered the building space with personal protective equipment (PPE) including respirators suddenly become violently ill from inhaling chemicals due to the respirators' failure. The inhaled chemical exposure allegedly causes permanent lung damage. The respirators, widely used in a large variety of industries, contain labeling which is extremely misleading regarding its use.

Within one week, the site is inspected by city and property manager experts for a cause-and-origin analysis, at minimum. Based on the recall and explosion alone, the city and property managers' experts state the valve was likely the cause, even though only small fragments of the valve remain. Property loss, including bodily injury is in the tens of millions.

Unfortunately for No Leaks, within a week's time of this event, 12 more failures occur in other states and Canada, mostly in residential settings leading to 15 more injuries each with damage exposure of over \$1 million. All companies are put on notice within a week of the explosions.

This seminar will focus on some of the major issues running through this pattern that would become large issues in defending the inevitable landslide of litigation. This will include crisis management and communication, investigative technology, litigation holds and electronically stored information (ESI), defense of recalled products, 30(b)(6) depositions, product hacking and cyber security, class actions, multi-district litigation and multi-plaintiff single-event strategies, and contract and insurance hygiene issues.

Enjoy,

Matthew J. Stanczyk

*Program Chair, 2017 Product Liability & Complex
Torts PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR
PLUNKETT COONEY
Detroit, Michigan*

Wednesday, October 4th

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

EARLY REGISTRATION

Ballroom Terrace and Lawn

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FACULTY REHEARSAL

Ballroom C

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Salon 5

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

CLIENT ROUNDTABLE

Salon 2

All clients are invited to an open, off-the-record roundtable discussion, to discuss any and all issues **without outside counsel present**. Issues are your choice, but some examples include ALFA International seminars, including this seminar; ALFA International in general; current issues you face with your outside counsel; outside counsel guidelines; etc. We ask that one or two clients volunteer to address the seminar attendees on Friday with a short (15 minute) recap of issues/comments raised for the benefit of both outside counsel and clients unable to attend the roundtable.

Wine, beer, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

ALL ALFA INTERNATIONAL ATTORNEY MEETING

Screening Room

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Women's Initiative Reception

Ocean Terrace

Join fellow female counterparts for a glass of local wine and lively chats before the seminar gets into full swing.

Christen Blackburn

Women's Initiative Liaison
LEITNER WILLIAMS
DOOLEY NAPOLITAN
Nashville, Tennessee



6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Welcome To Santa Barbara! Welcome Cocktails, Buffet Dinner & Registration

The Bluff

Welcome to California's Central Coast! On the opening night of the seminar we welcome all attendees to join us on The Bluff for our Welcome Cocktail Reception and Dinner. Reconnect with old friends and make some new acquaintances as you take in the breathtaking views from high above the Pacific Ocean.



Thursday, October 5th

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Ballroom Terrace & Lawn BC

Attorneys 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
Spouses 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

Ballroom C, Salons 2-4

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

WELCOME REMARKS

Ballroom C

Gary Bague

Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors
HAIGHT, BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP
Los Angeles, California

William D. Yoquinto

Chair, ALFA Product Liability and
Complex Torts Practice Group
CARTER CONBOY
Albany, New York

Matthew J. Stanczyk

Program Chair, 2017 Product Liability &
Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar
PLUNKETT COONEY
Detroit, Michigan

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

I HEAR YOU KNOCKING, BUT YOU CAN'T COME IN!

Ballroom C

By the time you hear the media knocking on your door, it is too late to develop a crisis communication plan. Keeping the door closed is not an option. What is your plan for addressing media and other inquiries resulting from a catastrophic accident or other event? Media attention to your company and your response to it can shape the impressions potential jurors have of your company and its key employees. This presentation gives you the tools needed so that you are prepared when catastrophe hits. Our panel of in-house counsel and ALFA attorneys will discuss key components of a crisis communication plan such as designation of company spokespeople, management of internal communications relative to potential crises, effective strategies for dealing with media inquiries, retention of media professionals and their interaction with your defense counsel, and other issues relevant to this important topic.

Kevin Owens

Moderator
JOHNSON & BELL
Chicago, Illinois

Sonia Valdes

Vice President - Claims
MEDMARC INSURANCE GROUP
Chantilly, Virginia

Edward Blakemore

Assistant General Counsel
ROCKWELL AUTOMATION
Cleveland, Ohio

Joseph Swift

BROWN & JAMES
St. Louis, Missouri

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

BREAK

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** Salons 2-4

GROUP I

A **Defending Products Involved In Single Catastrophic Incidents or Multiple Incidents In Different States**

This panel will describe strategies for defending product liability lawsuits involving multiple plaintiffs injured in one incident, or products involved in multiple incidents in different states. The panel will additionally discuss circumstances where multi-district litigation ("MDL") should be considered.

Scott Schillings

Moderator
HINKLE LAW FIRM LLC
Wichita, Kansas

Robert Tarozzi

Vice President, Pacific Regional Casualty Claim Leader
CHUBB
San Francisco, California

Mark Van De Voorde

Chief Legal & Administrative Officer
VICTAULIC COMPANY
Easton, Pennsylvania

Beth Rose

SILLS CUMMIS & GROSS
Newark, New Jersey

B **Product Hacking, Cyber Security for Products, and the Internet of Things**

As products get "smarter" they often become more vulnerable to security breaches that result in unauthorized access and disclosure of personal financial, medical, family, or other private information. Products usually become smarter based on constant feedback from the consumer's use of the product and input of information. This session will explore how and why smart products are vulnerable in ways that are difficult to protect from hackers, and the liability issues that can arise for the manufacturers of smart products.

Nicholas Wheeler

Moderator
COSGRAVE VERGEER
KESTER LLP
Portland, Oregon

Debra Kuper

Vice President & General Counsel
KUBOTA TRACTOR CORPORATION
Grapevine, Texas

Mike Shufeldt

Vice President and General Manager
BRINK'S INCORPORATED
Dallas, Texas

Robert Smith

LORANCE & THOMPSON, PC
Houston, Texas

C **Protecting Your Brand With Tested Paper and Electronic Swords**

Protection of the company brand occurs at many different levels. One catastrophic claim where the company was underinsured, where indemnity terms and conditions were ambiguous, unenforceable or perhaps cut and pasted from someone else's untested agreement can cause shareholder revolt, affect stock prices, expose corporate assets and ruin a company's reputation. This panel will focus on issues and the nuances involved beyond the product drawing room and courtroom, ones often overlooked that are equally as important in protecting your brand including: the origins of your terms and conditions, electronic purchase requirements, and indemnity provisions; the enforceability of these provisions in all states; electronic sales terms and tracking and preservation of electronic purchases; additional insured provisions properly tracking your indemnity requirements; being an additional insured on a primary and non-contributory basis giving you potential rights to a declaratory action for coverage following a catastrophic claim; and whether you are really affecting profits by not having large enough excess coverage layers.

Christopher Knight

Moderator
FOWLER WHITE
Miami, Florida

Tom Johnson

Director of Litigation & Assistant General Counsel
KAWASAKI MOTORS
Irvine, California

Dawn Wagner

Assistant General Counsel
ZURICH NORTH AMERICA
Schaumburg, Illinois

Brian McCarthy

MCDOWELL KNIGHT
ROEDDER & SLEDGE, LLC
Mobile, Alabama

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

BEYOND THE SMART PHONE

INNOVATIVE USES OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES AND SCIENCE IN INCIDENT AND PRODUCT FAILURE INVESTIGATIONS

Ballroom C

Drones, 3-D scanners, and atmospheric dispersion modeling... the latest bells and whistles. But do lawyers, witnesses and clients know how to make the best use of all this new technology and science? Lawyers and experts will provide real world, practical examples of how new technology can be used in a cost-effective manner. Advancements in computer technology allow the documentation and analysis of scene and product evidence at a level of detail never seen before. Early response coupled with diligence in the careful selection of expert witnesses that can furnish the capabilities required for sophisticated evidence gathering and analysis is often a key differentiator in the long term prospects of defending a lawsuit. Learn not only what some of the latest technologies can do but also what to consider when retaining expert firms and witnesses and how such evidence may be used in court.

Robert F. Chapski

Moderator
LEWIS THOMASON, P.C.
Nashville, Tennessee

Jennifer Rosemark

Litigation Manager
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Robert Scates, Ph.D.

Principal Consultant
RIMKUS CONSULTING GROUP, INC.
Houston, Texas

Dirk Smith, Ph.D., P.E., ACTAR

Senior Vice President
RIMKUS CONSULTING GROUP, INC.
Houston, Texas

Sheila Kerwin

NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS
Minneapolis, Minnesota

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

BREAK

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Salons 2-4

GROUP II (SAME AS GROUP I)

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BREAK

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH BUFFET

Ballroom Terrace & Lawn BC



2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Afternoon Poolside Cabanas

Upper Poolside Cabanas

Spend the afternoon in the shade of the ALFA International private cabanas while overlooking the ocean. Sip regional wines, get active in the water or simply take in the beautiful resort surroundings as you unwind from the day's educational programs and prepare for the evening's festivities.



6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Relax & “Un-Wine” Cocktail Reception & Dinner Buffet

Ocean Lawn

Take in the dazzling setting and stunning views from the Bacara Ocean Lawn featuring panoramic ocean views and the resort's lush landscaping. Reunite with longtime colleagues and become acquainted with new ones while live music and colorful decor create a lovely backdrop for cocktails and a buffet dinner.

Friday, October 6th

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST BUFFET** Ballroom Terrace & Lawn BC

Attorneys 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Spouses 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** Salons 2-4

GROUP III

A Intelligent Ediscovery: Best Practices for Managing Ediscovery Obligations

Everyone knows dealing with ediscovery obligations in litigation can be challenging and expensive. But does it always need to be this way?

This panel of lawyers, in-house counsel, and ediscovery experts will provide best-practices advice to allow you to understand, manage, and meet your ediscovery obligations in an effective and cost-efficient manner. Topics will include: understanding your legal obligations; developing a litigation hold system; and working with outside ediscovery experts.

Michael Parrish

Moderator
FASKEN MARTINEAU
DUMOULIN
Vancouver, Canada

Matthew Jorgensen

Senior Counsel
THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
COMPANY
Cleveland, Ohio

Alan Easterly

LEITNER, WILLIAMS, DOOLEY
& NAPOLITAN, PLLC
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Trent Walton

*National Director of
Litigation Technology*
U.S. LEGAL SUPPORT
Houston, Texas

B Understanding an Unexpected Threat: Recall Compliance and Defending Your Product

The effects of a recall live beyond the decision (or direction), to recall a product. While a recall plan is a necessary starting point, having the right plan will further protect against and account for ensuing litigation costs and exposure related to the recalled product. What about a post-recall plan? When you do not catch all the products in the recall or when consumers ignore the recall, do not receive it in time, or do not receive it at all, disaster strikes. Post-recall litigation management and strategies to defend a recalled product during litigation are necessary considerations throughout the process. This panel will take the audience through the seminar fact pattern to identify the pitfalls which may create exposure for the product manufacturer, offer insights to protect against similar threats, and present approaches to defend the product now that the world knows it is defective.

Adam Cooper

Moderator
CARTER CONBOY
Albany, New York

Yves St. Arnaud

Director, Legal Services
BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL
PRODUCTS INC.
Quebec, Canada

Jennifer Denholm

Attorney
FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Dearborn, Michigan

Dennis Cusack

JOHNSON & BELL
Chicago, Illinois

C You Mean All These People Are After Us?

If you think a class action or mass tort cannot be brought against your company, think again. With class actions and mass torts on the rise, being prepared to respond when such a claim strikes is critical—critical to the defense of the matter and critical to protecting your company's brand. During this session we will discuss class actions and mass torts from three different perspectives:

- Plaintiff's Counsel's Perspective
- Defendant's Counsel's Perspective
- Company's Perspective

Dina Cox

Moderator
LEWIS WAGNER, LLP
Indianapolis, Indiana

Donna Edwards

Vice President of Legal
EXACTECH, U.S.
Gainesville, Florida

Rachel Osting

Associate General Counsel
FORT WAYNE METALS
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Eric Kierkengaard

Assistant Director, Operations
GARDEN CITY GROUP, LLC
Seattle, Washington

Gregory Farkas

FRANTZ WARD
Cleveland, Ohio

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

BREAK

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Salons 2-4

GROUP IV

(SAME AS GROUP III)

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

REPORT FROM CLIENT ROUNDTABLE

Ballroom C

An elected client representative will give a brief report on the topics discussed during the client roundtable that took place on Wednesday.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

THE LIZARD AT THE BOARDROOM DOOR

Ballroom C

One of the most terrified looks any general counsel or risk manager receives is when she tells the in-house engineer that he has been designated to speak on behalf of the company in a 30(b)(6) – corporate representative – deposition. The Plaintiffs’ bar has developed techniques to turn what used to be a system of obtaining basic information from a company into performance art designed to enrage the jury against the company. While this presentation will not teach you how to perform CPR on that unfortunate employee, it will give you a practical approach from both client and counsel perspectives to manage the most perilous six hours of a lawsuit. The panel will share techniques for limiting and defining areas of inquiry upon receipt of the deposition notice, the client’s role in selection of appropriate witnesses that can best represent the company, the risks of treating an overbroad notice lightly, preparing the witness for a ‘Reptile’ deposition, and the teamwork required of everyone to turn a potential liability for the corporation into an opportunity for persuasive advocacy on behalf of the company at trial.

Charles Stewart, III

Moderator
BRADLEY
Birmingham, Alabama

Mark Fuchs

Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
LOUISIANA PACIFIC CORPORATION
Nashville, Tennessee

Peggy Allen

Claims Supervisor
DAWN FOODS
Jackson, Michigan

Marnie Suma

Assistant General Counsel
TK HOLDINGS
Detroit, Michigan

Jason Goodnight

FRANDEN, FARRIS, QUILLIN,
GOODNIGHT & ROBERTS
Tulsa, Oklahoma

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH BUFFET

Ballroom Terrace & Lawn BC

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

OPTIONAL AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

See social activity brochure for additional information.

Advance registration is required.

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

OPTIONAL DINNER

Advance registration is required.

Faculty Bios

Peggy Allen has more than two decades of experience in every phase of claims management relating to worker’s compensation, auto liability, product liability and general liability. Peggy joined Dawn Foods in 2004 and is currently Dawn’s Claims Supervisor with responsibility for managing all aspects of the company’s current claims. Peggy is Dawn’s primary liaison with outside legal counsel and third party administrators on litigated matters involving any of its 57 locations worldwide. She is also responsible for managing determinations of compensability of injuries, medical treatment and medical case management of claims of its 5000 employees. Peggy also assists field personnel in accident investigation training.

Edward Blakemore is Assistant General Counsel with Rockwell Automation, where he has primary responsibility for the management of all product liability litigation, commercial litigation, environmental liability litigation, and toxic tort litigation filed against the Fortune 500 Company. Prior to joining Rockwell Automation, Mr. Blakemore was Counsel-Litigation for Eaton Corporation where he managed the defense of product liability,

commercial, employment, and intellectual property disputes for 7 years for the Fortune 500 Company. Mr. Blakemore is the President of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Board of Trustees and is a member of the Applewood Centers Board of Trustees. He earned his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and his J.D. degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in Dayton, Ohio.

Bob Chapski is an equity shareholder in the Nashville office of Lewis, Thomason, King, Krieg & Waldrop P.C. and serves on the firm’s Board of Directors as well as chair of the firm’s product liability practice group. Mr. Chapski regularly advises and represents businesses and individuals in a variety of litigation-related practice fields including product liability, tort, commercial/business litigation and employment law. He represents various national clients in complex, high-exposure federal and state court matters, and he has served as both lead trial counsel and appellate counsel. Mr. Chapski frequently speaks on topics related to business, personal injury and product liability litigation and, in addition to holding various bar memberships, he is a member of the International Association

of Defense Counsel and the Product Liability Advisory Council. Mr. Chapski has been honored by numerous organizations including Best Lawyers, Mid-South Super Lawyers and has an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Tennessee College of Law, graduating first in his class at both institutions.

Adam Cooper is a member of the Albany, New York, ALFA International firm of Carter Conboy, P.C., concentrating his practice in the fields of product liability, food law and liability, professional liability, personal liability, and premises liability. His clients include commercial retailers, industrial manufacturers, food producers and processors. He also represents professionals before administrative licensing boards in the context of investigations and disciplinary hearings. He has achieved successful results for his clients at the trial and appellate levels and has extensive experience in motion practice. He has an “AV” rating from Martindale Hubbell and is listed as a New York “Super Lawyer.” He is Past-President of the Federation of Bar Associations for the Fourth Judicial District of New York and Past-President of the Defense

Research Institute of Northeastern, New York. Mr. Cooper obtained a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University and his law degree from the Albany Law School of Union University.

Dina Cox is a legal strategist and trial attorney who honors responsive client service as a top priority. Dina has served as lead counsel in numerous lawsuits and bet-the-company litigation involving multi-million dollar claims ranging from breach of contract, false advertising, unfair competition, unfair commercial practices, consumer fraud, and breach of warranty, to claims of serious injury caused by products liability and professional negligence. Dina is an aggressive yet civil trial lawyer who has significant jury trial experience in state and federal court and substantial appellate experience. Dina defends class actions, mass torts, government enforcement actions, drug and medical device cases, toxic tort and chemical exposure cases, employment matters, and professional liability lawsuits including legal malpractice. Dina also counsels clients during government investigations and assists professionals facing disciplinary grievances and licensing issues. Dina's mass tort and class action defense work is national in scope and has included lawsuits filed in numerous states from New York to California as well as lawsuits consolidated as part of multi-district litigation. Dina is a regular faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy in its learn-by-doing trial advocacy courses. She received her J.D. degree, cum laude, from Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis in 1995. For many years, Dina has been heavily involved in managing the firm, and she currently serves on the firm's 3-lawyer executive committee along with the chief administrative officer.

Dennis Cusack is a Shareholder at the Chicago, Illinois ALFA International member firm of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., where he co-chairs the firm's General Negligence group. He concentrates his practice in general liability, premises liability and complex/catastrophic litigation. Additionally, his practice focuses on nursing home, pharmacist and paramedic malpractice. His success as a trial attorney has been recognized by his peers, who have nominated him with an AV-rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest available rating for professional abilities and ethics. Mr. Cusack has been selected to the Leading Lawyers Network for the following practice areas: Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury Defense and Products Liability. He is a member of the ALFA Products Liability Group and has spoken on topics related to his practice including 'Legacy Liability' and 'Company Web Sites: Are We Inviting Product Liability Litigation?' He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and past president of the Fenwick Bar Association. Mr. Cusack earned his B.A. at St. John's University (MN) in 1981 and his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1985.

Thomas Davis, with more than two decades of experience as an accomplished attorney and fraud prevention and regulatory compliance expert, oversees a team of over 45 attorneys and 70 other professionals working on the hundreds of cases handled by GCG's West Coast Operations team in Seattle. In his role, Mr. Davis manages many of GCG's high-profile class action settlement administrations, mass tort settlement programs and data breach response programs. Based on his experience, he serves as an important resource to current and prospective clients on the design and execution of case administrations and provides strategic guidance to GCG's Operations team to implement client programs effectively and efficiently. Under his leadership, GCG has built a mass tort team with industry leading credentials and experience.

Alan Easterly is a Member of the ALFA International law firm of Leitner, Williams, Dooley & Napolitan, PLLC. He practices out of its Chattanooga, Tennessee, office. His practice concentrates in transportation, products liability, complex/mass torts, insurance, premises liability, auto liability, construction, and general negligence matters. He has managed, tried or otherwise successfully defended significant product liability, transportation, toxic tort, and complex tort cases, among others. Mr. Easterly is a Martindale Hubbell AV-rated attorney, the highest available rating for professional abilities and ethics, and is listed in "Best Lawyers in America." He is a Rule 31 Listed Mediator in the State of Tennessee. He is active in the ALFA International Transportation, Hospitality, and Products Liability and Complex Torts Practice Groups. He received his BA from the University of Tennessee in 1985, and his J.D. from the University of Memphis in 1988.

Donna Edwards serves as the Vice President of Legal for Exactech. Exactech is a medical device company that focuses on innovative solutions for hip, knee, shoulder, and spine surgery. Donna has also served Exactech as its Legal Coordinator, Corporate Attorney, Interim Compliance Officer, and Regulatory Affairs Coordinator. Donna received her B.S. degree from Duke University and her J.D. degree from the University of Alabama.

Gregory Farkas is a partner with the law firm of Frantz Ward LLP. Greg's practice encompasses a variety of litigation matters, including the litigation of lender liability, insurance coverage and consumer fraud claims. He has represented parties in numerous class actions in state and federal courts and has authored several articles concerning class action practice and privilege issues.

Mark Fuchs joined LP in 2001, coming from Bullivant Houser Bailey, a West Coast regional law firm where he represented directors and officers, corporate boards, insurance companies and product manufacturers in various litigation matters. When he first joined LP, Mr. Fuchs managed the corporation's litigation caseload

and was named General Counsel effective January 1, 2003. He was named vice president in February 2007. Mr. Fuchs participates in a number of building products industry organizations as well as legal groups. Mr. Fuchs holds a B.S. in Biology from Lewis and Clark College, an M.B.A. from Portland State University, and a J.D. from Willamette University.

Jason Goodnight is a shareholder at the Tulsa, Oklahoma law firm of Franden, Farris, Quillin, Goodnight + Roberts. Jason has spent the last 15 years primarily defending corporations in product liability and catastrophic personal injury case across the country. Jason graduated with a B.A. in History from the University of Arkansas and liked Fayetteville enough to stick around for his J.D. as well.

Steve Hamilton is a litigation attorney and member with the ALFA International law firm of Hall & Evans, LLC in Denver, Colorado, with a diverse practice, but he mainly focuses on product liability defense. His experience in the product liability field is national in scope and covers a wide spectrum of insured and self-insured manufacturers of automobiles, bikes, machinery, and infrastructure components. He is a Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated attorney and has been recognized in the product liability practice area by Super Lawyers. He is an active member of the ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Torts Practice Group Steering Committee and is the current Vice-Chair. He received his B.S. from Montana State University in 1994 and his J.D. from the University of Montana in 1997.

Thomas Johnson is the Director of Litigation and Assistant General Counsel for Kawasaki Motors Corp. U.S.A. Tom began his legal career in 1992 as a trial lawyer in Los Angeles. In 2008, he joined Kawasaki Motors Corp. U.S.A. as a Staff Attorney, handling products cases involving all terrain vehicles, side-by-sides, motorcycles, and personal water craft. In 2015, Mr. Johnson was named Director of Product Litigation. Later that same year, Tom was named Director of Litigation. In this capacity, he oversees all litigation involving Kawasaki in the United States, Canada, and Latin America, and serves as Kawasaki's legal representative for regulatory matters and industry organizations.

Matt Jorgensen is Senior Counsel, Co-Chair Litigation Group for The Sherwin-Williams Company. The Sherwin-Williams Company is a Fortune 500 global leader in the development, manufacture and sale of paints, coatings and related products headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. Matt began his legal career in 1996 as a trial lawyer and joined The Sherwin-Williams Company in 2003. In 2014, he was named Co-Chair of the Litigation Group and is directly responsible for managing all litigation, claims and related matters arising from the business operations of the Global Finishes Group and Global Supply Chain Divisions

in the U.S. and Canada. In this capacity, he regularly manages claims and lawsuits arising from products liability, large construction claims, catastrophic injuries, transportation, UCC and general commercial litigation. Matt earned his B.A. summa cum laude from The Ohio State University in 1992 and his J.D. from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1996.

Sheila Kerwin is a catastrophic injury trial lawyer defending product liability and truck accident claims and litigation throughout the country. Sheila is a shareholder at the Nilan Johnson Lewis firm in Minneapolis, Minnesota and sits on the firm's Board of Directors after having led the product liability practice group for over a decade. She is a member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC) serving as active members of the Product Liability and Transportation Sections. Sheila is on the steering committees of the ALFA International Product Liability and Transportation Practice Groups and is a member of the Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA) and Women in Trucking. She serves as national and regional coordinating counsel for manufacturers defending product liability cases across the country. Sheila has been selected as a Rising Star or Super Lawyer in Minnesota since 1998.

Eric Kierkegaard has spent the past decade at GCG handling more than 150 consumer, wage and hour, product recall, data-breach, discrimination, and antitrust settlement administrations. Based on his extensive experience, he is often called upon by the organization to work on settlements involving government entities, financial institutions, prominent companies, complex and often confidential data scenarios, and high-value/high-volume distributions. During his tenure at GCG, he has worked on dozens of high-profile cases involving discrete sub-classes, media campaigns, large-volume email notice campaigns, complex claim processing, and specialized distribution scenarios. Based on his experience, he serves as an important resource to current and prospective clients on the design and execution of case administrations, and provides strategic guidance to implement settlement programs effectively and efficiently. The numerous landmark cases he's handled include: *In re Classmates.com Consolidated Litigation*, *Pacific Bell Late Fee Litigation*, *AT&T Wireless Class Action Settlement*, *In re Air Cargo Shipping Services Antitrust Litigation*, *Schlesinger v. Ticketmaster Class Action Settlement*, *Ebarle et al. v. LifeLock, Inc.*, *Corona v. Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.*, and *Arthur, et. al. v. Sallie Mae, Inc.*

Christopher Knight is a managing shareholder of Fowler White Burnett and leads the firm's largest civil litigation group. With 30 years of experience as a civil litigator in both state and federal courts, Mr. Knight focuses his practice on matters dealing with product liability, medical malpractice, commercial litigation and insurance.

In addition, Mr. Knight has been named as lead counsel for the defense in federal multi district matters, as well as class action products liability matters. He currently serves as lead counsel in the State of Florida to numerous Fortune 500 companies, several airlines and the University of Miami. An AV rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell, Mr. Knight received his J.D. degree from the University of Florida College of Law. He is a member of The Florida Bar, Dade County Bar and American Bar Associations. He is also a past board member of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association and a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel and ALFA International. Mr. Knight has been listed in the South Florida Legal Guide – Top Lawyers for Civil Litigation, Florida Trend Magazine – Florida Legal Elite and Florida Super Lawyers.

Debra Kuper is the Vice President & General Counsel for Kubota Corporation. As a member of the Executive Team reporting to the CEO & President, she oversees all of the activities, matters and personnel of the Legal, Tax, Treasury and Finance Departments. She also presides over Kubota's corporate governance, regulatory/compliance, data security, corporate business strategies, accounting, insurance and compliance matters. Kubota is a \$16 billion marketer and distributor of Kubota-engineered and -made machinery and equipment, performance-matched implements, compact and utility-class construction equipment, consumer lawn and garden equipment, hay tools and spreaders, commercial turf products and utility vehicles. The Japanese-based company has its U.S. headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

Brian McCarthy is a member of the Mobile, Alabama ALFA International Firm of McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge, LLC. He has tried scores of significant cases in a variety of areas of the law, including aviation, admiralty and maritime, product liability, railroad, wrongful death and personal injury, commercial litigation, professional malpractice, and racial discrimination. Brian is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and also a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He has been listed by Super Lawyers as one of the Top 10 Lawyers in the State of Alabama, and also has achieved recognition from Chambers and Partners USA and The Best Lawyers in America. Brian is a member of the Steering Committees of the Products Liability and Complex Torts and the Transportation Practice Groups of ALFA. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law.

Rachel Osting is the Associate General Counsel of Fort Wayne Metals, a manufacturer of precision metal wires, cables, bars, and assemblies. Fort Wayne Metals primarily supplies the medical device industry, worldwide, with manufacturing operations in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Castlebar, Ireland. Ms. Osting oversees the day-to-day operation of the legal department and handles various legal matters for Fort Wayne Metals,

including contractual matters, compliance matters, and litigation. Prior to joining Fort Wayne Metals, Ms. Osting commenced her legal career with Burt, Blee, Dixon, Sutton, & Bloom, LLP in 2007 where she handled business litigation matters, including contractual disputes and product liability matters. She transitioned her practice after several years, applying her litigation background and experience to the areas of corporate and business transactions, where she continued to counsel for the majority of her private practice. Ms. Osting received her B.A. in Political Science from The University of Toledo and her J.D. from Capital University (Columbus, Ohio). She is licensed to practice law in Indiana and Ohio.

Kevin Owens is a senior shareholder in the Chicago law firm of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., and is co-chair of the firm's Product Liability Practice Group. His trial practice includes the defense of catastrophic injury, consumer, industrial, medical device, and other product liability actions, construction and general negligence actions, and the litigation of commercial disputes in state and federal courts. His experience also includes the defense of construction product defect actions, and litigation of contract actions at law and equity. He is also a certified mediator, having completed intensive mediation training and certification through Chicago's prestigious Center for Conflict Resolution. As a complex case mediator, Mr. Owens focuses his mediation practice on civil and commercial disputes involving product liability, complex and catastrophic injury cases, and construction matters. He is a graduate of Marquette University and DePaul University College of Law. Johnson & Bell, Ltd. is the Chicago member of the global legal network ALFA International. Mr. Owens is past Chairman of ALFA's Product Liability and Complex Litigation Practice Group, and is presently a member of its Steering Committee.

Michael Parrish is a partner at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP in Vancouver, Canada. His practice focuses on product liability, transportation, construction, insurance and complex tort litigation. Michael regularly defends and advises manufacturers and their insurers in a wide variety of industries and claims. He also routinely advises manufacturers on regulatory, commercial and risk management matters. Michael has appeared before all courts of British Columbia and the Federal Court of Canada and has significant courtroom, mediation and arbitration experience. He regularly writes and speaks on topics related to product liability, insurance and civil litigation.

Beth Rose is a member of Sills Cummis & Gross, where she chairs the Product Liability Practice Group and is a Co-Chair of the Litigation Practice Group. She has tried complex product liability cases to verdict in state and federal courts throughout the country. Ms. Rose has almost 30 years of experience successfully defending complex product liability matters for a variety of regulated products including

pharmaceuticals, medical devices, consumer products, foods, chemicals and construction/industrial machines. She also has experience defending product liability cases which arise from clinical trials and catastrophic workplace accidents. During her career, Ms. Rose has served as national counsel to several companies, including those in the pharmaceutical, medical device and contract research organization spaces, defending mass tort litigation. She has also served as New Jersey counsel to entities defending complex product liability claims in New Jersey's Multi-County Litigation system. Since 2008, she has been recognized in the Chambers USA® Guide to America's Leading Lawyers for Business. Since 2014, she has been named in Benchmark's Top 250 Women in Litigation: the Definitive Guide to the Leading Female Attorneys in the U.S.® Ms. Rose received her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Jennifer Rosemark is the Litigation Manager for Honeywell International Inc.'s Home and Building Technology and Safety and Productivity Solutions Businesses. Prior to joining Honeywell, Jenny was outside counsel for 20 years for Honeywell and other manufacturers defending them across the country against fire, explosion, carbon monoxide, and scald claims, involving products ranging from gas valves to alarm systems to temperature controls. She joined Honeywell in 2012 and is responsible for coordinating litigation in the United States and Canada for the HBT and SPS divisions of Honeywell, including product liability claims and commercial disputes.

Dr. Robert Scates has Bachelor of Science and Doctoral degrees in Chemical Engineering, from Texas A&M University and the University of Houston, respectively. He has 30 years' experience as a practicing engineer. His consulting practice focuses on legal, insurance, and industrial customers. Dr. Scates' areas of specialization include the forensic analysis and prevention of industrial fires and explosions, gas dispersion analysis, spontaneous combustion, autocatalytic chemical reactions (sometimes polymerization) leading to catastrophic vessel rupture, or explosion, or fire. Further, he has performed crude oil/chemical spill volume estimation and causation analysis, hydraulic (water) hammer analysis, fate-and-transport analysis of chemicals in the environment, and dynamic and static pipe flow network analyses.

Scott Schillings is member of Hinkle Law Firm LLC, where he chairs the Product Liability and Complex Tort Litigation Practice Group. Scott focusses his practice on representing clients in matters involving product liability, commercial disputes, mass torts and construction defects. With more than 20 years of litigation experience, Scott has additionally represented clients in matters involving will and trust disputes, medical malpractice, insurance coverage, and other complex litigation. A substantial

portion of Scott's practice involves direct client representation of manufacturers and distributors of consumer products and industrial machinery on a national basis. Scott has represented corporate clients in more than 35 states. Scott also counsels his manufacturing clients regarding claims handling and risk management.

Dr. Dirk Smith completed his Ph.D. in 1993 at Purdue University, where his research area was vehicle dynamics and control. He continued his research and teaching in mechanical design and vehicle dynamics as an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University. In 1997, Dr. Smith joined Rimkus and now is responsible for the Forensic Division. Dr. Smith's research, engineering, and consulting backgrounds have provided him with experience in machine design, vibration analysis, vehicle dynamics, accident reconstruction (including cars, trucks, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, and construction vehicles), and event data recorders. He has also worked on product liability cases involving, vehicle systems, motorcycles, scaffolds, ladders, forklifts, aerial lifts and many different machine components. Dr. Smith plays a large role in evaluating and selecting the technology Rimkus uses to assist their clients.

Robert Smith, Jr. is a member/owner of the firm Lorange & Thompson, PC, the ALFA firm in Houston, Texas. He is on the steering committee for the ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group. His practice concentrates on the defense of product liability and medical malpractice litigation, as well as negotiating and drafting contracts and other commercial matters. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Louisiana State University, and his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center. Licensed for over 20 years, he is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He is also active in the Product Liability, and Medical Defense and Health Law Committees in the International Association of Defense Counsel.

Matthew Stanczyk is a partner in the Michigan ALFA law firm Plunkett Cooney where he serves as a member of the Board of Directors and is the managing partner of the firm's Product Liability Practice Group. Mr. Stanczyk concentrates his practice in various areas of complex litigation, including product liability, fire-related litigation, toxic torts, construction litigation and commercial warranty litigation. In his over 30 years of practice he has also routinely counseled clients on risk shifting and risk management issues, including contracts, product literature and warranty development. His clients include product manufacturers and distributors, general contractors, construction managers and transportation firms. Mr. Stanczyk is a member of the ALFA Product Liability and Complex Torts Practice Group Steering Committee, its current Program Chair, past Marketing Chair and is also a member of the DRI Products Liability

Committee. He is a Michigan Super Lawyer in Product Liability and AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and law degree from the University of Detroit.

Yves St-Arnaud practised law with the law firm of Desmarais, Picard, Garceau and Pasquin in the area of litigation with emphasis in product liability and insurance law before joining Bombardier Inc. He is currently Director, Legal Services with Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "BRP") in charge of managing all product liability, product quality, commercial, intellectual property, and employment litigation cases worldwide. In addition, he also provides product liability and safety advice to the engineering department. He is involved in numerous industry committees that deals with regulatory issues. In 2010, he became in charge of Product Safety function at Head Office for all products. BRP is a Canadian corporation manufacturing motorized recreational products. BRP's products are distributed worldwide. Mr. St-Arnaud is a member of PLAC, DRI, Canadian Bar Association, as well as both the Quebec and Montreal Bar. He was involved in numerous committees with each of the Canadian, Quebec and Montreal Bar. He lectured at both the University of Montreal and the Quebec Bar. In addition, he was invited to attend as a guest speaker at ABA meetings, American Law Firm Association (ALFA) meetings, DRI meetings, PLAC Meetings and at Les Entrepreneurs Jacques Cartier in Lyons, France, as well as several professional meetings in the industry.

Charles "Chuck" Stewart III is a founding partner of the Montgomery, Alabama office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. Mr. Stewart has over 30 years of experience defending major litigation involving business disputes, product liability, and employment cases have equipped him with the ability to develop successful strategies for companies to defend against high-stakes litigation. A veteran of numerous trials and litigated matters from one end of the country to the other, he has represented all sectors of industry. Mr. Stewart graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of the South ("Sewanee"), and earned his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law. Chuck is listed in Alabama Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2008-2015; Mid-South Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2016; The Best Lawyers in America®, Best-of-Company Litigation, 2009-2017, and Commercial Litigation, 2007-2017, Labor & Employment Litigation 2015-2017, and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants 2015-2017; Lawyer of the Year,® Montgomery, Employment Law-Management, 2017. Chuck is also listed in Benchmark Litigation as a "Litigation Star," Alabama 2015, 2017. He is listed in The Best Lawyers Montgomery Litigation as the Labor & Employment Lawyer of the Year, 2015, and in The International Who's Who Legal, Products Liability Defense Lawyers, 2011-2017. Chuck is a

Past President of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (1989-1990), a Past Director of DRI's Board of Directors (2002-2005), and he was Chair of ALFA's and DRI's Product Liability Committees.

Marnie Suma is Assistant General Counsel for TK Holdings, a subsidiary of Takata Corporation in Japan, involved in the manufacture and sale of airbags, seatbelts, steering wheels and other automotive products. TK Holdings is most widely known for its involvement in the largest recall in history related to a number of airbag recalls. Ms. Suma is responsible for all litigation, and coordinates with National Airbag Counsel; National Seatbelt counsel; and local counsel in various states to manage the company's litigation in the Multi District Litigation as well as individual state and Federal litigation. She started her career in private practice litigating medical and commercial matters, and began her in house career at Chrysler Corporation managing a national product liability litigation caseload. While at Chrysler she was project manager for the development of the company's first corporate wide Record Management Program and was responsible for labor and employment advice and litigation as an executive for the then fortune 5 company. After transitioning in 2009 to a Michigan automotive supplier, she was responsible for managing litigation as well as launching a Corporate Ethics and Compliance Program. Ms. Suma joined TKH in February 2016 where, in addition to managing litigation and providing employment advice, she coordinates with the Chief Compliance Officer in the revision of corporate policies and is a member of the company's Compliance Committee. Ms. Suma received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a master's degree from Oakland University and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University Of Detroit School Of Law.

Joseph Swift is a shareholder of the St. Louis, Missouri ALFA International law firm of Brown & James, P.C. He is a graduate of Luther College (B.A. 1984 cum laude) and Creighton University School of Law. (J.D. 1987 cum laude). Mr. Swift's practice emphasizes transportation cases and product liability cases. He is a frequent lecturer on transportation law to various industry groups. He is a long standing member of the ALFA International Transportation Practice Group Steering Committee and is has Chaired the Transportation group. He is also active in the ALFA International Product Liability Group. He has served on the ALFA International Board of Directors. He has a busy trial practice and has tried over sixty trials to verdict.

Robert Tarozzi has been an executive at Chubb for over 20 years. He is currently the Vice President, Pacific Regional Casualty Claim Leader. In this position, he is responsible for the management of Chubb casualty claims (for both Chubb and Ace). He has experience managing multi-plaintiff claims including class actions arising from both single and multiple catastrophic events. Mr. Tarozzi received his J.D. from Western

States University of Law, his B.A. in Business Administration from the California State University Fullerton, and is a member of the California Bar.

Sonia Valdes is the Vice President-Claims, Medmarc Insurance Group. Ms. Valdes is responsible for managing a team of dedicated claims professionals as well as overseeing technical and administrative issues within Medmarc's Claims Department. Her responsibilities include directing mass tort litigation, training and developing staff, assisting with policy development, advising underwriters on risk management, and expanding Medmarc's litigation management services. Ms. Valdes joined Medmarc in August of 2013. Prior to Medmarc, Ms. Valdes was Assistant Vice President with Chubb & Son, Inc., in its headquarters in Warren, New Jersey, for 14 years. She had worldwide responsibility for managing Chubb's Life Sciences Claims Core. Ms. Valdes has extensive experience in evaluating coverage and liability issues in environmental, mass tort, and health science litigation. She has been an admitted attorney in New Jersey since 1992 and is and a member of the IADC and CLM. She received her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Rutgers University in 1984 and her law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1991.

Mark Van De Voorde is chief legal and administrative officer and corporate secretary of Victaulic Company, Victaulic LLC, and Victaulic International Sarl, a global manufacturer of mechanical joining solutions. Mr. Van De Voorde earned his BBA and JD at the University of Iowa, and his MBA at the University of Chicago. Mr. Van De Voorde has global responsibilities for all legal and administrative matters of Victaulic. Prior to joining Victaulic, Mr. Van De Voorde worked in a similar position for Olympus Corporation, and as an Investment Banker.

Dawn Wagner is Assistant General Counsel for Zurich North America, a property and casualty insurance company and resides in Illinois. In her current role at Zurich, she is primarily responsible for corporate litigation management. She originally joined Zurich North America in 2002 and has held several roles within the Specialty Claims organization including management of the Excess Casualty Claims team. Prior to joining Zurich, Dawn worked in private practice in Chicago, Illinois as a litigator and trial attorney handling primarily tort-related matters including transportation liability, medical malpractice and dental malpractice losses. Dawn received her law degree cum laude from Northern Illinois University - College of Law and her undergraduate degree in Communications from Western Illinois University.

Trent Walton is the National Director of Litigation Technology for U.S. Legal Support. With more than 15 years of experience in litigation support, Trent has been involved at an expert level in nearly all aspects of litigation discovery: computer forensics, eDiscovery, project management, programming and more. He has created two well-known legal

software products that are currently being used by customers in the Am Law 100, Fortune 500 and U.S. government. Trent advises law firms and corporations regarding projects ranging from comprehensive, case assessment, large-scale data preservation and internal investigations to customized technological solutions. He has a wealth of experience in executing projects involving data collection, processing, analyzing massive amounts of data, and assisting firms with electronic discovery legal strategy.

Nicholas Wheeler is a partner at Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP in Portland, Oregon, where he chairs the firm's Product Liability & Medical Device Practice Group. He defends manufacturers and resellers of a wide range of industrial and consumer products, with an emphasis on mechanical and electrical failures. In addition to his product liability work, he also defends legal malpractice, railroad/transportation and other property damage, personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits. Within ALFA International, he serves on the steering committee of the Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group. Locally, he is a member of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, where he currently serves as Vice Chair of the Product Liability Practice Group and regularly contributes articles to their quarterly publication "The Verdict." He also is a member of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel and the Multnomah Bar Association. Prior to entering private practice, he graduated from Oregon State University, the University of Oregon School of Law and served as an intern to Ancer L. Haggerty, then-Chief District Judge of the District of Oregon.

William Yoquinto is a shareholder and a member of the Executive Committee at the Albany, New York, ALFA International firm of Carter Conboy, focusing in product liability, complex litigation and professional liability defense. His clients include manufacturers, distributors and retailers of consumer and industrial products. Mr. Yoquinto has substantial experience in all phases of defense, including trial and appeal and in counseling clients relating to claims and exposure. He has received annual recognition in Best Lawyers in America®, Super Lawyers, and Martindale-Hubbell with its "AV"® Preeminent™ rating. He was named "Lawyer of the Year – Personal Injury Defense" in 2016 by Best Lawyers in America. He serves as the Chair for the ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Tort Practice Group and earned his law degree from the Fordham University School of Law.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION

Bacara Resort & Spa
8301 Hollister Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
Tel: (805) 968-0100
www.bacararesort.com

REGISTRATION

Please contact your ALFA International Attorney to register.

ATTENDANCE IS OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS OF ALFA INTERNATIONAL AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS AND IS LIMITED TO AGES 21+.

ATTIRE

The attire for the educational sessions throughout the conference, and for the dinners on Wednesday and Thursday night, is business casual. The attire for the optional activities on Thursday and Friday afternoon is casual, as is the dinner on Friday night.

CLE CREDIT

ALFA International certifies that this program has been approved for 7 hours of General CLE credit in the States of Illinois and California. If you need credit in another state, please contact that state bar regarding the necessary requirements to obtain CLE credit. ALFA International staff are available to assist in any way possible but you must apply individually to obtain credit in your particular state.

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