



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK



2024 PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY SEMINAR

November 7-8, 2024
Bobby Nashville | Nashville, Tennessee

www.ALFAInternational.com

2024 PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY SEMINAR

**Bobby Nashville | Nashville, Tennessee
November 7-8, 2024**

Join us in Nashville for Hot Chicken and Hot Topics regarding the issues critical to your claims and professional liability matters. Hear from ALFA clients and attorneys on how to identify and respond to plaintiff's common tactics, issues related to the tripartite relationship, legal ethics, and the latest insights on AI. We will deliver cogent and practical information that you can utilize and implement on nearly all of your matters.

Jeffrey S. Hengeveld, *Professional Liability Practice Group Chair*, PLUNKETT COONEY, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Alan E. Brown, *Program Chair*, MORRISON MAHONEY, LLP, P.A., Boston, MA



About Bobby Nashville

Bobby Nashville, a vibrant lifestyle hotel, opened its doors in the spring of 2018 as a captivating immersion into Nashville's thriving creative community. Situated in the heart of Nashville's Art's District and on historic Printer's Alley, Bobby Nashville offers easy access to the lively music scene on Broadway while providing a peaceful retreat for a good night's rest. Guests can indulge in a refreshing swim in the outdoor pool on the hotel rooftop and savor city views while sipping on a drink in the stylish lounge. The excitement doesn't end at sundown – guests can experience a one-of-a-kind party under the stars in a retrofitted 1967 Greyhound bus set up on the rooftop.

What is ALFA International?

ALFA International is the premier global network of independent law firms comprised of accomplished trial and business counsel. Founded in 1980, ALFAI was the first and remains one of the largest and strongest legal networks worldwide. ALFAI member firms meet high standards to be part of the network and are well respected by their peers in the legal and business community. ALFAI has 140+ member firms worldwide, including 80 U.S. firms maintaining offices in 95 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas and 60 international firms. Since ALFAI firms are not in direct competition, ALFAI attorneys build strong, trusted relationships with one another. ALFAI's mission is to utilize these relationships to provide high-quality, cost-efficient legal services wherever clients need them. When necessary, ALFAI attorneys can connect clients to their ALFAI colleagues anywhere worldwide whom they trust will handle their client's legal needs with the same attention and care.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Welcome Dinner at The Twelve Thirty Club

550 Broadway | *Honorary Member Lounge*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.

Breakfast and Registration

Bobby Nashville | The Studio

8:00 A.M. – 8:10 A.M.

Welcome & Introduction

Speakers:

Alan E. Brown, *2024 Program Chair*,
MORRISON MAHONEY, LLP, Boston, MA

Jeffrey S. Hengeveld, *Professional Liability Practice
Group Chair*, PLUNKETT COONEY, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Grace V.B. Garcia, *ALFA International Board of Directors
Chair*, MORRISON MAHONEY, LLP, Boston, MA

Jessica Zaroski Bauer, *Chief Executive Officer*,
ALFA INTERNATIONAL, Chicago, IL

8:10 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Top Plaintiff Tactics & How to Respond to Them

Have you heard of Trial by Human? Dealt with a national plaintiff trial firm seeking to maximize the plaintiff's recovery? Scrambled to respond to a time-limited demand? Join our distinguished panel to discuss the latest strategies employed by the plaintiff's bar and how to best respond.

Speakers:

Dina M. Cox, *Moderator*, LEWIS WAGNER, LLP,
Indianapolis, IN

Jeffrey S. Hengeveld, *Professional Liability Practice
Group Chair*, PLUNKETT COONEY, Bloomfield Hills, MI

9:00 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.

Roundtable Discussion

Led by table captains.

9:15 A.M. – 9:25 A.M.

Break

9:25 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Company or Crowd?: How to Make the Parts of the Tripartite Relationship Work

The tripartite relationship of insurer, insured and attorney is not meant to be a complex puzzle; however, sometimes conflicts and mixed signals can keep the pieces from fitting together as they should. This panel will explore the tripartite relationship in more detail and address how to navigate potential conflicts and other obstacles so that the relationship stays smooth all the way to the end.

Speakers:

Ellen Nimaroff, *Moderator*, LESTER SCHWAB KATZ &
DWYER, LLP, New York, NY

Alan E. Brown, *Program Chair*,
MORRISON MAHONEY, LLP, Boston, MA

Alex Tilling, LEAKE & ANDERSSON, L.L.P.,
New Orleans, LA

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Roundtable Discussion

Led by table captains.

10:30 A.M. – 10:40 A.M.

Break

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

10:40 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Keeping the Law in Tune: Managing Lawyer Impairment in a Nashville Legal Honky Tonk

In a bustling Nashville honky tonk, harmony is key, and the same goes for a law firm. When a lawyer has the country blues—be it substance abuse, mental illness, or cognitive decline—it can lead to malpractice claims, damage the firm’s reputation, and drive clients away. Like a band that needs all its members in sync, law firms must have strategies to keep their team on track. Recognizing the signs of impairment, such as missed meetings or erratic behavior, is crucial. Dealing with an impaired lawyer requires firm management, human resources, and sometimes labor law expertise. It’s about striking the right balance between caring for the lawyer and upholding the firm’s ethical obligations to clients. Intervention might involve heart-to-heart conversations, referring the lawyer to assistance programs, or adjusting their workload. Clear policies and promoting wellness are key to preventing bigger issues down the road. By fostering a supportive environment, encouraging self-disclosure, and providing stress management resources, law firms can keep their team in harmony avoid a lot of hurt.

Speakers:

Carlos Vera, *Moderator*, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Chicago, IL and Crown Point, IN

Steven H. Schwartz, BROWN & JAMES, P.C., St. Louis, MO

Garrett Kern, *Chief Claims and Risk Management Officer*, ISBA MUTUAL, Chicago, IL

Stephanie Sarkis, SARKIS MEDIA LLC, Dunedin, FL

11:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

Roundtable Discussion

Led by table captains.

11:45 A.M. – 11:55 A.M.

Break

11:55 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

AI - Accelerating and Improving Litigation

The landscape of the legal field is ever-changing, and legal professionals forecast a new change is coming with the use of AI. This panel will address the advancements of AI, as well as the opportunities that lie ahead by employing AI in legal research and case management. The panel will include an interactive demonstration of some of the latest tools available to legal professionals who wish to use AI in their day-to-day practice. The panel will also discuss the risks associated with lawyers using AI in their daily practices and how those risks may impact malpractice litigation.

Speakers:

Jennifer “JD” Devereaux Segers, *Moderator*, HUIE, FERNAMBUCQ & STEWART, LLP, Birmingham, AL

Claire Adams, *Senior Manager for Customer Product Training*, THOMSON REUTERS, Wichita Falls, TX

D. Jay Davis, Jr., CLEMENT RIVERS, LLP, Charleston, SC

Craig Hamilton, MCDOWELL KNIGHT ROEDDER & SLEDGE, LLC, Mobile, AL

12:45 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Roundtable Discussion

Led by table captains.

1:00 P.M. – 1:05 P.M.

Closing Remarks

Speakers:

Jeffrey S. Hengeveld, *Professional Liability Practice Group Chair*, PLUNKETT COONEY, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Alan E. Brown, *2024 Program Chair*,

MORRISON MAHONEY, LLP, Boston, MA

1:05 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Lunch

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

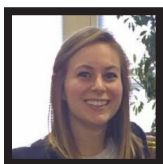


Singer/Songwriter Performance

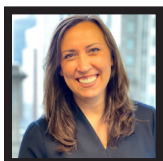
BOBBY'S GARAGE

NOVEMBER 8 | 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

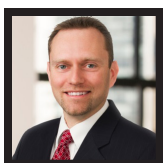
SPEAKERS



CLAIRE ADAMS began her legal career as a criminal prosecutor in New Mexico in 2016 and, in 2020, joined a boutique firm in Tokyo, Japan, where she focuses on international commercial law. As Senior Manager for Customer Product Training for Thomson Reuters, she educates attorneys and legal professionals on the effective implementation of generative AI in their daily practice.



JESSICA ZAROSKI BAUER joined ALFA International (ALFAI) in 2004 as a Coordinator of Events & Member Services. She then worked for several years as a Marketing Manager, Chief Events Officer and Chief Operating Officer. After 17 years with the association, she accepted her current role as Chief Executive Officer. In this position she is the strategic thought leader of the organization, working closely with the Board of Directors and the various ALFAI committees. She manages headquarters staff and maintains constant communication with association members. Jessica oversees the member recruitment, development and retention programs as well as the marketing and business development initiatives for the organization. Prior to joining ALFA International, she worked in the marketing department of the Chicago-based law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas, LLP (now Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath). She is a graduate of the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business (Go Hawkeyes!) and is an avid college football fan. In her spare time Jessica can be found enjoying family time with her husband Harry and her two young daughters, Greta and Vivian. She also enjoys swimming in Lake Michigan, playing beach volleyball and watching Oscar nominated movies.

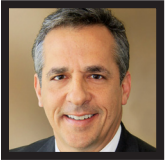


ALAN E. BROWN is a partner with Morrison Mahoney LLP, ALFA International's member firm in Boston, Massachusetts, where he specializes in the defense of non-medical professionals (including lawyers, accountants, real estate brokers, appraisers, home inspectors, insurance agents and others) in civil lawsuits and disciplinary matters. Prior to joining Morrison Mahoney LLP in 2006, he served for five years in the office of the Bar Counsel at the Massachusetts Board of Bar overseers, where he investigated and assisted in the prosecution of attorney misconduct cases.



DINA M. COX is a partner with Lewis Wagner, LLP, ALFA International's member firm, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She 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 product liability and professional negligence. Dina is an aggressive yet civil trial lawyer who has significant jury trial experience in state and federal courts and substantial appellate experience. Dina defends mass torts, class actions, government enforcement actions, drug and medical device cases, toxic tort and chemical exposure cases, 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 and is a frequent speaker on product and professional liability topics.

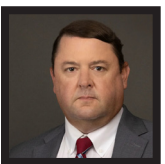
SPEAKERS



D. JAY DAVIS, JR. is a partner with Clement Rivers, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Charleston, South Carolina. Jay is chair of the firm's Professional and Medical Liability practice groups and the firm's Business Litigation practice group. Jay is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers®, is rated AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated Judicial of Martindale Hubbell and has been selected as a member of Super Lawyers® in the areas of Professional Liability defense and Best Lawyers in America® for commercial litigation. Jay is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates ("ABOTA"). Jay grew up in Charleston and earned a master's degree from the University of South Carolina in 1993. Jay then graduated cum laude from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he was also an associate editor of the South Carolina Law Review.

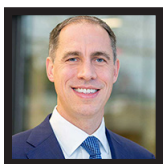


GRACE V.B. GARCIA, Managing Partner of the Massachusetts ALFA International member firm Morrison Mahoney LLP, concentrates her practice in the areas of product liability, construction law - including personal injury, construction defect, and contractual - OSHA, commercial litigation, employment litigation, premises liability and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cases. Grace currently serves as Chair of ALFA International's Board of Directors, and is a former Chair of both ALFA International's Construction Practice Group and Women's Initiative Practice Group. Grace has an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale Hubbell and in 2020 she was honored by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly with its "Circle of Excellence" after being honored in 2013 as a "Top Women of Law." Grace has over 25 years of trial practice and litigation experience and has obtained successful outcomes on behalf of her clients in both state and Federal Court trials. She also has successfully argued before the Appeals Court. Beyond ALFA, she is actively involved in many professional groups, and is the Immediate Past-President of the Massachusetts Bar Association and past President of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association. She is a routine lecturer on defending brain injuries, risk transfer and indemnity issues, best discovery practices and deposition techniques, and OSHA.

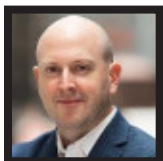


CRAIG HAMILTON is a partner with McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge, LLC, the ALFA International member firm based in Mobile, Alabama, where he is also on the firm's Executive Committee. He is an experienced trial lawyer who handles high-stakes litigation in a broad range of matters, including product liability, professional liability, construction and trucking, among others. He is a sustaining member of the Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC) and has been named to the Mid-South Super Lawyers in Product Liability since 2018. Craig is on the steering committees for ALFA's Product Liability & Complex Torts and Professional Liability Practice Groups. He is also a member of the Professional Liability Defense Federation.

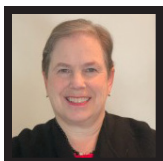
SPEAKERS



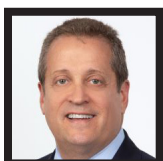
JEFFREY S. HENGEVELD is a shareholder of Plunkett Cooney, ALFA International's member firm in Michigan, and is a member of the firm's Board of Directors. He is a trial attorney who primarily focuses his practice in the areas of professional liability, class actions and consumer litigation. He serves as co-leader of the firm's Professional Liability Practice Group and regularly defends attorneys, accountants and other professionals in malpractice actions. He also regularly advises attorneys and accountants on ethical issues and licensing matters, including answering a legal and ethical hotline for the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. He is a published author on the issue of accounting standards and fraud deterrence and on professional liability insurance coverage. He was awarded an AV-rating from Martindale- Hubbell and named a Top Lawyer in Legal Malpractice Law by *dbusiness Magazine* and a "Super Lawyer" by Michigan Super Lawyers. He received his BA from Michigan State University and his JD magna cum laude from Michigan State University College of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review.



GARRETT KERN has been a licensed attorney in Illinois since 2001. Garrett was a partner at Foran Glennon in Chicago before joining the insurance industry in 2013 where he provided professional liability claim handling and risk management services to lawyers and other professionals in Illinois and across the nation. Garrett serves the claim and risk management needs of lawyers insured as the Chief Claims and Risk Management Officer of ISBA Mutual.

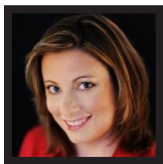


ELLEN NIMAROFF is a partner with Lester Schwab Katz & Dwyer, LLP, ALFA International's member firm in New York, New York. Her practice is focused in the areas of professional liability and insurance coverage. She represents professionals in liability litigation, including real estate managers, insurance brokers and agents, security companies, staffing consultants, software developers, title agents, medical professionals, travel agents and hair salons. She represents national insurers in complex insurance coverage disputes. She analyzes insurance coverage issues, renders opinions for insurers and defends and prosecutes declaratory judgment actions. She received her BA from Wellesley College and her JD from Brooklyn Law School.

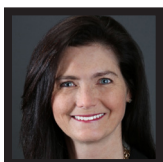


STEVEN H. SCHWARTZ is a shareholder of Brown & James, P.C., ALFA International's member firm in St. Louis, Missouri. He has represented lawyers and other professionals for over 35 years and has obtained several defense jury verdicts in professional liability cases. In addition to lawyers, Steve has represented accountants, insurance agents and brokers, real estate brokers, title companies, appraisers, debt collectors and other professionals. He also defends director and officer claims and advertising injury claims for public and private companies and non-profit companies in various cases, including trademark and copyright disputes, vendor disputes, construction disputes, disputes with competitors and homeowner association claims. He received his JD with Honors from George Washington University and his BA with Distinction from Indiana University.

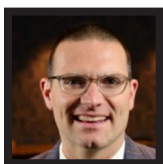
SPEAKERS



STEPHANIE SARKIS PhD NCC DCMHS LMHC is a psychotherapist specializing in anxiety, gaslighting, narcissistic abuse, and ADHD. She is the author of several books, including the best-selling *Gaslighting: Recognize Manipulative and Emotionally Abusive People - and Break Free and Healing From Toxic Relationships: 10 Essential Steps to Recover from Gaslighting, Narcissism, and Emotional Abuse*. Dr. Sarkis is a National Certified Counselor, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, American Mental Health Counselors Association Diplomate, and a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family and Circuit Mediator. She has been in private practice for over 20 years. She is a senior contributor for *Forbes*, and is also a contributor to *Psychology Today*. She is the host of the *Talking Brains* podcast. Find her website at www.stephaniesarkis.com.

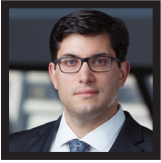


JENNIFER "JD" DEVEREAUX SEGERS is a partner with Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP (Huie), ALFA International's member firm in Birmingham, Alabama. JD joined Huie in 1995 and, since then, has successfully litigated on behalf of numerous companies. She has built a successful practice focusing on medical malpractice, dental malpractice, insurance litigation, long-term care and nursing home liability, pharmaceutical liability, professional liability and professional license defense. She also frequently lectures on medical malpractice and related topics for private insurance firms. JD has been listed by *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2015 for Litigation – Health Care, listed since 2015 for Insurance Law and Litigation and listed since 2020 for Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants. She has been recognized as a *B-Metro Magazine Top Attorney* since 2017 and was named Litigation Insurance "Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers* in 2017. JD is an active member of many industry organizations, including the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, Alabama Nursing Home Defense Lawyers Association, Birmingham Bar Association, Defense Research Institute and International Association of Defense Counsel.



ALEX TILLING is a partner with Leake & Andersson, L.L.P., ALFA International's member firm in New Orleans, Louisiana. His insurance practice spans bad faith, construction defect, disability, EPL, errors and omissions, executive liability/D&O, life and health, casualty, occupational accident, professional liability and property litigation. He is also involved in the consulting and compliance/regulatory side, dealing with issues involving securities, customs and border patrol, federally qualified health centers and non-profit organizations. He has been a member of the American Health Lawyers Association since 2016 and is on the Board of the New Orleans Association of Defense Counsel. Alex graduated from Ohio State University in 1999 and obtained his law degree from Temple University in 2002. He also has a biology degree from the University of New Orleans.

SPEAKERS



CARLOS VERA is an attorney with Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois, and Crown Point, Indiana. He concentrates his practice in general and complex commercial litigation, particularly in the areas of business torts, professional liability, white-collar defense and contractual disputes. Carlos has represented individuals and business entities in state and federal court dealing with issues concerning breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, trade secrets, unfair competition, shareholder rights, and commercial development disputes. Carlos has also represented clients in regulatory matters before the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations and the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission. Prior to joining Johnson & Bell, Carlos worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County, where he gained vast trial experience from prosecuting more than 200 bench trials and seven jury trials to verdict. Carlos' skills as a trial attorney have been recognized by his peers in civil practice. Carlos was named one of the "Forty Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch" for 2020 by Law Bulletin Publishing Company, publishers of Chicago Lawyer magazine and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. In addition to being an active member of ALFA International, Carlos is also an active member of the Illinois State Bar Association ("ISBA"), a member of the ISBA Civil Practice & Procedure Section Counsel, and the ISBA Assembly, which is the policy-making body of the ISBA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Bobby Nashville

230 4th Ave North, Nashville, TN 37219

(615) 782-7100

[Hotel Website](#)

REGISTRATION

Please contact ALFAI Headquarters to register.

ATTENDANCE IS OPEN ONLY TO ALFAI MEMBERS AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS AND IS LIMITED TO AGES 21+.

ATTIRE

The attire for the educational sessions and social event is "business casual." Khaki pants and polo shirts are acceptable for men and dresses, skirts or pants for women.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

If you need any special accommodations, including a nursing room, special dietary meals, ADA access or other needs, please reach out to ALFAI staff in advance of the meeting and we will ensure that necessary accommodations are provided.

CLE CREDIT

ALFA International is an approved CLE provider in Illinois, California & Pennsylvania and certifies this program has been approved for three hours of general CLE and one hour of ethics in these states. However, seminars are designed to meet CLE requirements, regardless of jurisdiction. To receive CLE credit outside of these states, attorneys should apply directly to their state's governing CLE board. Helpful links and information on how to apply for course credit are available on the ALFA International website and staff are available to assist with any concerns.

CE CREDIT

ALFA International is an approved CE provider in Texas and certifies this program has been approved for four hours of CE credit. In order to receive credit, you will be asked to sign in for each course and complete a program survey. You will receive a certificate of completion following the event. ALFA International staff are available to assist with any concerns.

SEMINAR CONTACT

Arielle Aaron

aaaron@alfainternational.com