P. Douglas Barr
Chair
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
Lexington, KY



Melanie R. Cheairs
Vice-Chair
MAYER LLP
Houston, TX



Christopher J. Mueller
Secretary
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, FL



Grace V.B. Garcia
Chair Emeritus
MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
Boston, MA



Kelly M. Hoffman
Board Member
NORMAN HANSON & DETROY, LLC
Portland, ME



Jennifer A. Pedevillano
Board Member
HALLORAN SAGE
New Haven, CT



Antonella Penta
Board Member
FASKEN MARTINEAU DUMOULIN LLP
Montréal, Canada



Carlos Vera
Board Member
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, IL



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

ALFA International Announces New Board Leadership at 2026 Annual Business Meeting in Chicago

ALFA International (ALFAI) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of its Annual Business Meeting (ABM), held October 28-30, 2026, in its hometown of Chicago. The event brought together 150 attorney members from across ALFAI's worldwide network to strengthen relationships, experience the local food and culture, and set the stage for the year ahead.

As ALFAI looks to the future, it is proud to announce a new Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and four Board Members who will help guide the network in the coming years.

P. Douglas Barr of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, is ALFAI's new Chair of the Board of Directors and will lead the organization into its next chapter. He succeeds **Grace V.B. Garcia** of Morrison Mahoney LLP in Boston, Massachusetts, who remains on the Board as Chair Emeritus, taking over that role from **Edward T. Hayes** of Leake Andersson in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Melanie R. Cheairs of Mayer LLP in Houston, Texas, steps into the role of Vice-Chair, previously held by Doug, and will also help shape ALFAI's future. Current Board member **Christopher J. Mueller** of Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boyd in Jacksonville, Florida, has been elevated to Secretary, succeeding **Mackenzie C. Monaco** of Monaco, Cooper, Lamme & Carr, PLLC in Albany, New York.

In addition, ALFAI is delighted to welcome four outstanding attorneys to the Board of Directors for three-year terms:

- **Kelly M. Hoffman**, Norman Hanson & DeTroy, LLC, Portland, Maine
- **Jennifer A. Pedevillano**, Halloran Sage, New Haven, Connecticut
- **Antonella Penta**, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Montréal, Canada
- **Carlos Vera**, Johnson & Bell, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois

ALFAI extends its sincere thanks and best wishes to its departing Board Members. Their leadership and vision have laid a solid foundation for what comes next for the network:

- **Alan S. Fershtman**, Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL, Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Cees-Frans Greeven**, BUREN, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- **Byrona J. Maule,** Phillips Murrah P.C., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ALFAI's continued success rests on the commitment of all these dedicated attorneys. The Board's collective leadership will drive innovation and exceptional client service worldwide and will help the network evolve and grow.