

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONA: TRUCKING REDEFINED

Date & Time:

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

3:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. CENTRAL (ALL TIMES NOTED IN CENTRAL TIME)

Agenda:

3:00 P.M. – 3:05 P.M.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Christy Comstock
*Chair, ALFA International
Transportation Practice Group*
WALES COMSTOCK
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Robert R. Foos, Jr.
2021 Co-Program Chair
LEWIS WAGNER, LLP
Indianapolis, Indiana

Cameron Beck
2021 Co-Program Chair
MCCANDLISH HOLTON PC
Richmond, Virginia

3:05 P.M. – 3:55 P.M.

DON'T GET HAMSTRUNG BY YOUR HANDBOOK

When presenting a client to a jury in a hotly contested trial a written handbook outlining how the company deals with safety training, preventability designations, driver discipline, post-accident drug testing, and other issues can be a very compelling exhibit. Unfortunately, the handbook is all too often a very compelling exhibit for the plaintiff. Will the client/company present as a well-prepared, safety-conscious member of the community, or a callous enterprise disregarding public safety in pursuit of corporate profit? Our panel will take a comprehensive look at how strict compliance with the handbook in the aftermath of a serious accident can and will create difficult company decisions. We will talk through real-life situations that may cause you to rethink corporate policies and perhaps even get rid of the handbook altogether.

Rob Foos
Moderator
LEWIS WAGNER, LLP
Indianapolis, Indiana

Jane Stahl
General Counsel
SHAW INDUSTRIES GROUP, INC.
Dalton, Georgia

Vallie Dugas
Associate General Counsel
MELTON TRUCK LINES, INC.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Katie Wollfarth
LEAKE & ANDERSSON, L.L.P.
New Orleans, Louisiana

3:55 P.M. – 4:05 P.M.

BREAK

4:05 P.M. – 4:55 P.M.

DRIVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Over the last year, nearly every aspect of our lives and every industry have been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Trucking companies had to pivot during a massive industry disruption to keep food and supplies available around the world. Hear from industry experts about how motor carriers navigated the hurdles posed by the pandemic and learn how the pandemic might reshape the future of both the trucking industry and the legal profession.

Jay Skolaut

Moderator

HINKLE LAW FIRM LLC

Wichita, Kansas

Sandy Brownell

Vice President of Safety

BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE

Englewood, Colorado

Nicole Spellecy

Senior Liability Claims Adjuster

CANAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Greenville, South Carolina

Antwan Phillips

WRIGHT, LINDSEY & JENNINGS LLP

Little Rock, Arkansas

4:55 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

EDUCATIONAL SESSION WRAP-UP

Cameron Beck

2021 Co-Program Chair

MCCANDLISH HOLTON PC

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Robert R. Foos Jr.

2021 Co-Program Chair

LEWIS WAGNER, LLP

Indianapolis, Indiana

5:00 P.M. – 5:10 P.M.

BREAK

5:10 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

THE WORLD OF WHISKEY

Whiskey Tasting & Cocktail Class

The educational sessions have ended but the fun continues! Join your fellow attendees for a virtual whiskey tasting and cocktail class.

Presenters:

SANDY BROWNELL is Vice President of Environmental, Health and Safety for BMC. Founded in 1987, BMC has become the second largest distributor of lumber and building materials in the United States. Sandy previously served as the Senior Director- Risk Management for Performance Food Group, a nationwide food distributor with approximately 2,700 power units in service. Ms. Brownell has years of experience in risk management both as an adjuster, claims consultant, and for the past twelve years in Corporate Risk Management. Ms. Brownell is an integral part of the management and defense of transportation claims. She received her BA in education from California State University, Los Angeles and has received her Associate in Claims and Associate in Risk Management Designations. Ms. Brownell is a frequent speaker on transportation and risk management issues.

VALLIE DUGAS attended Loyola University School of Law and the University of Arizona Law School before becoming licensed to practice in 1997. She began her career as a lawyer defending maritime lawsuits. Later, Vallie worked at a respected Plaintiff firm where she prosecuted catastrophic, multijurisdictional suits until leaving to start a family. When she returned to work, Vallie began working as the Claims Manager for an insurance holdings company who owned several insurers nationally. In that capacity, she managed claims personnel and monitored claims to minimize exposure, assisted in the preparation of trial and resolution strategies both pre-suit and in litigated claims, and managed panel counsel. Vallie's past work experience complimented Leake & Andersson's transportation team and she joined the firm in 2014. During her tenure, she litigated claims for trucking transportation and logistics companies. Following a career in private practice, Vallie joined the ranks of in-house counsel with Melton Truck Lines, Inc., a flatbed trucking company that operates in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Vallie manages the litigation department and is Director of Safety. She is licensed in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma.

ROB FOOS is an equity partner at the ALFA International member firm in Indianapolis, Indiana, Lewis Wagner, LLP, where he focuses his practice on the representation of commercial carriers and commercial drivers in catastrophic injury, wrongful death and general litigation matters. Rob represents several national carriers and a host of local, inter and intrastate transportation companies. A frequent speaker at national seminars, Rob also works closely with clients, insurers and reinsurers to provide case law updates and presentations on the latest tactics in defending trucking related claims. Rob is licensed to practice in both Indiana and Illinois, has tried numerous cases in both venues, and has been inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates. A graduate of The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois, Rob has been involved in the defense of transportation companies and their insurers for more than 16 years. Rob is an active member of ALFA International Transportation Practice Group's Steering Committee and Chair of the Transportation Group's Publications Committee. Rob is also an active member of TIDA, the Indiana Motor Truck Association, DRI, ABA and ALFA International.

ANTWAN PHILLIPS is a partner at the ALFA International member firm Wright, Lindsey and Jennings, in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he has practiced law for over a decade. He has a trial-oriented practice which includes trucking litigation, but he also practices personal injury defense, premises liability, products liability, and dental malpractice. In 2017, Phillips was named to Arkansas Business' inaugural "Arkansas 200" as one of the 200 most influential Arkansans. In 2013, Arkansas Business included Phillips in the annual "20 in their 20s" issue. Mid-South Super Lawyers has recognized him as a "Rising Star" in the area of Civil Litigation Defense since 2014. In 2012, Phillips graduated as a Fellow of the American Board of Trial Advocates Trial College, after completing intensive trial training at Harvard Law School in Boston, MA. In November 2020, Phillips was elected to the City of Little Rock's Board of Director (its Little Rock's version of city council). In other community oriented activities, Phillips is an alumnus of the Arkansas Commitment program and is the past President of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas Board of Directors. He is also the President of the Public Education Foundation of Little Rock and a member of the Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholders Group as appointed by the State Board of

Education. Phillips was also selected as one of the co-chairs for Think Big Little Rock, a group established by Fifty for the Future and the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, which is charged with strategizing ways to enhance life in Little Rock and the surrounding communities.

JAY SKOLAUT is a member of ALFA International member firm, Hinkle Law Firm LLC in Wichita, Kansas. He supports the firm's litigation and insurance defense practice group in a full range of property and casualty matters, insurance coverage issues, and critical occurrence investigations for motor vehicle accidents, fires, explosions, and other large value losses. In the transportation arena, Jay frequently responds to catastrophic loss events involving the firm's motor carrier/transportation industry clients as part of the transportation practice group's Critical Occurrence Response Team. Jay has an active litigation and trial practice, often handling these same catastrophic losses from the date of the accident through trial and appeal. Jay is admitted in Kansas and Missouri and has participated in presentations to the ALFA Transportation Practice Group, the American Trucking Association, Arkansas Trucking Seminar, the Kansas Motor Carriers Association, and other industry groups.

NICOLE SPELLECY is currently a Senior Liability Claims Adjuster for Canal Insurances Company. Nicole earned her Bachelors in Science for Accounting and Information System from Goldey -Beacom College in Delaware. Nicole started investigating injury claims in 2006, while working for Nationwide Insurance, handling personal lines claims. In 2011, she joined Employers Mutual Insurance Company where she was a Multi lines adjuster. In 2015 she moved to Great West Casualty Company and then to Canal in 2017, where she continued to specialize in the investigation of trucking and bodily injury claims, and the litigation process.

JANE STAHL currently serves as Deputy Chief Counsel of Shaw Industries Group, Inc. Jane's day to day responsibilities include developing, implementing and managing the provision of legal services to support all business units within Shaw. Her primary responsibilities include the management of litigation, including employment litigation, commercial litigation and general liability litigation and advising management and Human Resource professionals on a broad range of employment issues including: recruiting; hiring; employee relations; discipline and terminations; layoffs; internal investigations ; employment issues related to mergers and acquisitions; leaves of absence; wage and hour compliance; contingent worker issues; separation agreements; benefits issues; and compliance with applicable state and federal employment laws and regulations.

KATIE WOLLFARTH is a partner with the ALFA International member firm of Leake & Andersson LLP, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her civil litigation practice focuses on the defense of transportation, casualty, and insurance claims. She also has an extensive background in medical malpractice, medical board administrative procedure, and toxic tort defense. Katie is admitted to practice before all Louisiana State Courts as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Western and Middle Districts of Louisiana. She is currently a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, and the St. Thomas More Inn of Court. She was previously a board member for the Young Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association. Katie received her undergraduate degree from Tulane University in New Orleans and then obtained her juris doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans – College of Law. While in law school, Katie was a member of the Law Review Board, as a comment/case note editor and was a member of the First Amendment Moot Court Team (Vanderbilt University) and the Intellectual Privacy Law Moot Court Team (John Marshall Law School), placing second and first, respectively at those competitions. She also received numerous scholarships, awards, and memberships, including the Order of the Barristers and the St. Thomas More Inn of Court. Recently, Katie developed a keen interest in litigation finance companies. She has also investigated medical providers and the legitimacy and/or illegitimacy of the billed medical services. Presentations include: "Third Party Litigation Funding," presented on November 2019; December 2019 and January 2020. Recently, Katie co-authored "Medico-Legal Funding: The Winners and Losers," The Transportation lawyer, October 2020, Volume 22, Number 2.