



# ALFA International

THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK



Once Upon  
a Time...

## THE ART AND POWER OF STORYTELLING

2022 INTERNATIONAL CLIENT SEMINAR

MARCH 3 – MARCH 6, 2022 | HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES | CEDAR CREEK, TEXAS

[www.alfainternational.com](http://www.alfainternational.com)



## WELCOME TO CEDAR CREEK!

A short drive from Austin, nestled on 405 acres along the Lower Colorado River, the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines is in Texas' hill country. The resort offers ample opportunities to explore the area including horseback riding and kayaking. Or enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the spa, or poolside.

Texas Hill Country forms the southeast part of the Edwards Plateau and is home to many caves and caverns including Jacob's Well, one of the longest underwater caves in Texas. Outdoor activities abound in the region offering views of meandering rivers to fields of Texas bluebonnets, the state flower. For those looking for a bit more relaxing experience, the region boasts over 100 wineries, breweries and distilleries. Not to mention barbecue!

## 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.

# Once Upon a Time...

## THE ART AND POWER OF STORYTELLING

### 2022 INTERNATIONAL CLIENT SEMINAR

March 3 – March 6, 2022  
Hyatt Regency Lost Pines  
Cedar Creek, Texas

Stories define us. Stories change us. Stories enthrall us. Stories inspire us. We make the most critical decisions in our lives based on responding to, and building upon, stories. Our parents told us stories before we could read, and we told stories to our children from the day they were born. Before the written word was created and to the present day, people have told stories to each other. They told stories to pass history on, to educate, to persuade and to entertain. Stories bind us to each other and to our ancestors like the fabric of whole cloth.

Storytelling is an art. It has been said that "stories constitute the single most powerful weapon in a leader's arsenal" and that "storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world." Storytelling embodies creativity, imagination, connecting to an audience, and building and nurturing relationships. To an attorney, storytelling is the key to winning any case. To a business, good storytelling is the key to developing and evolving successfully with its investors, its employees and the public.

During ALFA International's 2022 International Client Seminar, held at the beautiful Lost Pines Resort in Cedar Creek, Texas, we will explore the art and power of storytelling. We will begin and end our program by exploring the techniques, intuitive art, and the ethics of how to open and close the story of a client at a jury trial. Along the way, we will hear other stories, and explore other aspects of storytelling as it applies to our legal and business and personal lives. So, prepare to be enlightened and entertained by some of the world's finest attorneys and storytellers. We hope the advice they provide helps you build upon the stories in your life.

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players..." *William Shakespeare, As You Like It*



**Chris Page**  
Program Chair, 2022 International Client Seminar  
YOUNG MOORE AND HENDERSON P.A.  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**FACULTY REHEARSAL**

*Lost Pines Ballrooms 4-5*

All moderators are encouraged to use this time to set-up a meeting with their panelists to review their session materials.

**12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**REGISTRATION & HOSPITALITY SUITE**

*Litton House*

Take a moment to relax from traveling and have a drink and a snack with other arriving attendees prior to the start of the program.

*Attire:* Come as you are.

**5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**ALL ALFA INTERNATIONAL ATTORNEY MEETING**

*Lost Pines Ballrooms 6-7*

All ALFA International attorneys are required to attend.

**5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**WOMEN'S INITIATIVE RECEPTION**

*Shady Grove*

The Women's Initiative Practice Group would like you to join them prior to the welcome reception to enjoy cocktails and conversation. Dr. Seuss encourages the reader to dream big in his classic book, *Oh, The Places You'll Go*. During this reception, you will be asked to share what childhood passions or interests may not have led to your career but remain a part of your life.



**Christin Krämer**  
*Women's Initiative Liaison*  
TIEFENBACHER  
Heidelberg, Germany

*Oh, The Places  
You'll Go*

**6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

**WELCOME RECEPTION, BUFFET DINNER & REGISTRATION**

*Riversong Lawn*

Any good story begins with a full belly. Tonight's dinner welcomes attendees from near and far to gather, feast and be merry! Join us on the Riversong Lawn for a cocktail reception and buffet dinner with a jazz singer and band and special local residents you will not want to miss.

*Attire:* This evening's meal is on a lawn outdoors so casual attire, including flat shoes and light layers, are suggested.

*Foreword  
Feast*



*After-Hours  
Hospitality Suite*

**9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.**

*Litton House*

Feel like a night cap or a snack before turning in for the evening? Join attendees at the after-hours hospitality suite for networking, guitars and a local musician as we enjoy fire pits and great conversation.

**2022 International Client Seminar Committee Members**

**Chris Page**

*Program Chair, 2022 International Client Seminar*  
YOUNG MOORE AND HENDERSON P.A.  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Schaun Henry**

*Vice Chair & Presentation Consultant,*  
*2022 International Client Seminar*  
MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Kevin Owens**

*Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors*  
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.  
Chicago, Illinois

**Eddy Hayes**

*Vice Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors*  
LEAKE & ANDERSSON, L.L.P.  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Cate Huff**

*Course Book Editor,*  
*2022 International Client Seminar*  
GENTRY LOCKE  
Roanoke, Virginia

**Tim Peebles**

*Assistant Course Book Editor,*  
*2022 International Client Seminar*  
DANIEL COKER HORTON & BELL, P.A.  
Oxford, Mississippi

**Dina Cox**

LEWIS WAGNER  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Bonnie Dixon**

ATSUMI & SAKAI  
Tokyo, Japan

**Joe Fortner**

HALLORAN & SAGE LLP  
Hartford, Connecticut

**Joel Hlavaty**

FRANTZ WARD LLP  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Marta Rodrigues**

L.O. BAPTISTA ADVOGADOS  
São Paulo, Brazil

**Tom Singer**

HALL & EVANS, L.L.C.  
Denver, Colorado

**John Tarpley**

LEWIS THOMASON  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Kate Whitlock**

HAWKINS PARNELL & YOUNG, LLP  
Atlanta, Georgia

7:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

**BREAKFAST BUFFET***Riversong Lawn*

Attendees: 7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Spouses: 7:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

8:15 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.

**CHAPTER ONE: PROGRAM SESSIONS***Lost Pines Ballroom*

8:15 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.

**PROLOGUE**

8:35 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

**FIRST ACT: "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears!": The Art of the Opening Statement**

You never get a second chance to make a first impression: telling a persuasive story in opening statements is critical. From time immemorial, storytelling has been a way to persuade and inform. Great speakers dating back to Aristotle used the ideas of ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade their listeners. The same is true of modern-day lawyers. This panel of trial-experienced outside counsel and in-house counsel will explore the essentials of effective opening statements in this interactive and entertaining session.



**Anthony Livoti**  
 Moderator  
 MURPHY & GRANTLAND, P.A.  
 Columbia, South Carolina



**Mary Haefer**  
 Chief Claims Officer  
 CAPSPECIALTY  
 Madison, Wisconsin



**Trevor Uffelman**  
 General Counsel, Chief  
 Claims Officer and  
 Corporate Secretary  
 AMERICAN TRUCKING  
 AND TRANSPORTATION  
 INSURANCE COMPANY  
 (ATTIC)  
 Missoula, Montana



**David Ortega**  
 NAMAN HOWELL  
 SMITH & LEE, PLLC  
 San Antonio, Texas

9:35 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Introductory Remarks**

**Kevin Owens**  
 Chair, ALFA International  
 Board of Directors  
 JOHNSON & BELL, LTD  
 Chicago, Illinois



**Chris Page**  
 Program Chair, 2022  
 International Client Seminar  
 YOUNG MOORE AND  
 HENDERSON P.A.  
 Raleigh, North Carolina

9:45 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

**INTERMISSION**

10:05 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

**Breakout Sessions**
**BREAKOUT 1 AND THEN THERE WERE NONE:  
 HOW TO INVESTIGATE THE AGATHA CHRISTIE WAY**

Complaints by employees, customers, vendors, officers, directors and third parties have increased in recent times and undoubtedly will continue to increase going forward. Whether it's a discrimination/harassment complaint, a retaliation complaint, a SOX complaint, a whistleblower complaint, or another type of complaint, employers struggle with how best to investigate allegations of improper and illegal conduct brought to their attention. Our panel will challenge attendees to think like an investigator in a murder mystery as we discuss different ways and techniques for investigating claims. Put on your deerstalker hat, bring your magnifying glass and join the panel as it does the same and engages you in what will be an entertaining and interactive presentation on the do's and don'ts and best practices of investigations!



**Joel Hlavaty**  
 Moderator  
 FRANTZ WARD LLP  
 Cleveland, Ohio



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



**Michelle Harper**  
 VP General Counsel  
 & Secretary  
 STEEL TECHNOLOGIES, INC  
 Louisville, Kentucky



**Kim Campion**  
 CHARLES RUSSELL  
 SPEECHLYS  
 Paris, France

**BREAKOUT 2 STAND UP AND LISTEN! LESSONS  
 FROM THE GREAT COMEDIANS ABOUT INTERACTIVE  
 STORYTELLING**

The best stand-up comedians are story tellers. Those who excel do not just repeat their sketches each evening; instead, they observe and listen to their audience, and develop, embellish, or curtail depending on how the listeners react, all while keeping the overarching theme or story line in mind. It is a skill that is readily transferable to what occurs at trial, oral argument, negotiations and even day-to-day business relationships. To help our audience gain this expertise, five lawyers will "walk into a bar." Using clips from stand-up comics who have perfected this art, our panelists will explore using similar techniques in various settings that are part of all of our professional lives. We will offer examples of how to enhance your story-telling skills by being mindful of your audience, drawing in your business counterpart, judge, jury, or other listeners, and keeping them engaged and receptive, even when circumstances force a change in your original "story."



**Joe Fortner**  
 Moderator  
 HALLORAN SAGE LLP  
 Hartford, Connecticut



**Kelly Hoffman**  
 NORMAN, HANSON &  
 DETROY, LLC  
 Portland, Maine



**Stacey S. Constas**  
 Associate General  
 Counsel, Labor &  
 Employment  
 XL FLEET  
 Boston, Massachusetts



**Bill Ireland**  
 HAIGHT BROWN &  
 BONESTEEL LLP  
 Los Angeles, California



**Justin McCarthy**  
 Vice President, Deputy  
 General Counsel &  
 Assistant Secretary  
 DENTSPLY SIRONA INC.  
 Charlotte, North Carolina

10:05 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Breakout Sessions (CONT'D)

**BREAKOUT 3 HUMANIZING THE WIZARD OF OZ: CHANGING A JUDGE AND JURY'S PERCEPTION OF THE CORPORATE DEFENDANT BY REVEALING ITS INNER SELF THAT'S BEHIND THE CURTAIN**

Best phrased by the rock band The Who: "Well who are you? Who are you? Who, who, who who? I really wanna know, Who are you? Who, who, who, who..." Even the largest and best-known companies face this issue before a jury regardless of whether the opposition is an individual or another company. Often, all the jury (or judge) has seen or knows is product advertising and poor press (since the press often does not write about the good things you do). Are you equipped to be able to show them (and can you) who you are, and that you are made of people, often just like them? Except, you are a legal fiction. Dorothy, Cowardly Lion, Tin Man, Scarecrow and Glinda the Good Witch of the North will help you navigate the yellow brick road on such issues as transforming you into people the jury can relate to, mining your social media, advertising and community involvement and creating admissible information to use before a judge and jury about your people and culture. Your story as people, individually and collectively, can and needs to be told.

**Matt Stanczyk**  
Moderator  
PLUNKETT COONEY  
Detroit, Michigan

**Bill Kanasky**  
Senior Vice President of  
Litigation Psychology  
COURTROOM  
SCIENCES, INC.  
Irving, Texas

**Sonya Goykhman**  
Corporate Counsel,  
Litigation, Law &  
Corporate Affairs  
STARBUCKS COFFEE  
COMPANY  
Seattle, Washington

**Sonia Valdes**  
Vice President  
MEDMARC INSURANCE  
COMPANY  
Chantilly, Virginia

**Kara Stubbs**  
BAKER STERCHI  
COWDEN & RICE L.L.C  
Kansas City, Missouri

**BREAKOUT 4 WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? TELLING YOUR COMPANY'S ESG STORY**

Companies are making strides in environmental, social and governance initiatives, but many struggle with how to share their efforts in an authentic and relatable way. The key to inspiring employees and stakeholders is developing a narrative focused on ESG goals including Diversity Equity and Inclusion efforts that reflects the company's purpose, aligns the leadership team and inspires the organization's efforts toward its goals. This program will focus on the development of your company's ESG story, which will engage company and firm leaders, encourage employee behavior, and mobilize individual and organizational efforts toward the company's strategic goals. Speakers will walk through the key steps for successful ESG and DEI messaging—with a clear and strategic approach—that will build trust, credibility and loyalty among employees, investors and customers.

**Christen Blackburn**  
Moderator  
LEWIS THOMASON  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Caren Ries**  
Associate Counsel &  
Assistant Secretary  
SKYLINE CHAMPION  
CORPORATION  
Troy, Michigan

**Erik Lindseth**  
Senior Vice President  
and General Counsel  
LIFE TIME, INC.  
Chanhassen,  
Minnesota

**Sheila Kerwin**  
NILAN JOHNSON  
LEWIS PA  
Minneapolis,  
Minnesota

11:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

INTERMISSION

11:25 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.

SECOND ACT: Choose Your Own Adventure: Exploring Creative Solutions to Resolving Complex Disputes (and What You Can Take Away From the Journey)

As business becomes more complex, so do the disputes that companies may encounter and must anticipate. While traditional paths of litigation (including mediation and arbitration) may provide the best path to resolution, sometimes the circumstances require the parties to go off-script and explore creative solutions to achieve the same or better results. Through audience participation and interaction, this panel will guide you through the issues to consider when crafting innovative solutions to complex disputes and share insights into evaluating and capturing risks going forward. Bring your imagination and be prepared to enjoy the journey of many paths up (and down) the same mountain.

**Michael Gibson**  
Moderator  
HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK, LLP  
San Diego, California

**Monica Garcia**  
BUTT THORNTON & BAEHR PC  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Michael Berman**  
CEO  
NCONTRACTS  
Brentwood, Tennessee

**Rossi Maddalena**  
MERRICK, HOFSTEDT &  
LINDSEY, P.S.  
Seattle, Washington

**Britney Prince**  
Legal Counsel  
COMMERCIAL METALS COMPANY  
Dallas, Texas

**John Sykes**  
CHARLES RUSSELL SPEECHLYS  
London, England

12:35 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH BUFFET

Riversong Lawn

1:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Hospitality Suite

Litton House

If you decide not to participate in an optional afternoon activity, feel free to relax in the hospitality suite or grab a snack and a drink mid-afternoon. It's also a good gathering place for those attendees out for the afternoon to regale their friends with a lively review of the afternoon's explorations once returning to the resort.

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Optional Activities

See *Optional Activity brochure for more information. Prior Registration is required.*

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION & BUFFET DINNER

LBJ Pavilion

Friday Night Lights - A Texas Evening

Pull on your cowboy boots and get to steppin'! Join us for a Texas Friday night featuring a live band and local Texas fare.

*Attire:* Elevated western attire including cowboy boots and hats are encouraged. The LBJ Pavilion & Deck is an outdoor space, light layers are recommended.



After-Hours Hospitality Suite

10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Litton House

Those who aren't quite ready for the party to end are welcome to join their colleagues after-hours for some special late-night activities you won't want to miss!

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

Riversong Lawn

Attendees: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  
Spouses: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**CLIENT ROUND TABLE BREAKFAST**

TBD

We encourage all attending clients to make time to attend this special client round table where you can discuss pressing issues with your fellow client colleagues without ALFA International attorneys present.



**Nicole Brunson**  
Head of Litigation & Disputes  
ARRIVAL  
Charlotte, North Carolina



**Michael Freeman**  
Group Vice President, Litigation and Regulatory Law  
WALGREEN CO.  
Deerfield, Illinois

8:30 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

**CHAPTER TWO - PROGRAM SESSIONS**

Lost Pines Ballroom

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

**Round Table Sessions**

Attendees Choose One Option from the list below

**1 WHOSE CASE IS IT ANYWAY? THE ROLE OF IMPROVISATION IN STORYTELLING IN AND OUT OF THE COURTROOM**

Nothing ever goes as planned in the courtroom, and attorneys must be agile in both mind and communication as they craft their story for the jury. Channel your inner Drew Carey or Wayne Brady and join the panel for an interactive series of improv scenes where things do not go as originally planned in the courtroom. Participants will use improv to work through scenarios to help increase agility and the ability to pivot on the spot.



**Tim Peeples**  
Moderator  
DANIEL COKER HORTON & BELL, P.A.  
Oxford, Mississippi



**Nicole Brunson**  
Head of Litigation & Disputes  
ARRIVAL  
Charlotte, North Carolina



**Lindsey Hazelton**  
HANCOCK ESTABROOK, LLP  
Syracuse, New York

**2 ONE-SIZE-FITS-NONE: PRACTICAL TIPS FOR NATIONAL EMPLOYERS ON DEVELOPING AND ENFORCING A NATIONAL NON-COMPETE PROGRAM**

Whether you're an international company seeking to protect its U.S. labor pool, a multi-state employer enforcing restrictive covenants across multiple locations, or a single-state company that sources national or international candidates, you need an understanding of the evolving national non-compete landscape. This interactive round-table session will provide concrete guidance for all employer types and give real life examples of what does not work and what does. We will review recent Biden Administration proposals limiting non-competes, state law changes, and anti-trust concerns, and provide take-with-you advice both on how to revise your agreements to ensure enforceability nationally, and what to look for in candidates' agreements to avoid tortious interference claims.



**Joel Andersen**  
Moderator  
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



**Bruce Gelting**  
General Counsel  
RENTOKIL NORTH AMERICA, INC  
Whyomissing, Pennsylvania



**Sarah Lamar**  
HUNTER MACLEAN  
Savannah, Georgia

**3 HOW TO MAKE YOUR APPEAL APPEALING: TELLING A GOOD POST-TRIAL STORY**

Litigators know that a case needs a theme, and a trial needs a story. But does your appeal? And, if it does, should it be the same theme and storyline you have developed through the prior history of the case? Or should you take a new approach before the appellate court? Perhaps the story should now be the story of the trial, not the story of the case. What will appellate judges find compelling? This round table will discuss how to best present your case on appeal from the perspective of an appellate attorney, in house counsel, and an appellate judge.



**Kandice Hull**  
Moderator  
MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



**Heather Demyan**  
Attorney  
CLAYTON HOMES  
Birmingham, Alabama



**Honorable Patricia O'Connell Alvarez**  
Justice  
4TH COURT OF APPEALS  
San Antonio, Texas

**4 CANDYLAND— AN IP PROTECTION ADVENTURE GAME!**

Join us in a Candyland Adventure game as we demonstrate how to use different types of intellectual property for protecting all aspects of products and services – from trade secrets, to trademarks, trade dress, copyrights, and patents! On our journey, we will also explore how to implement a winning brand protection strategy, and the possible avenues available through unfair competition law. Learn how color, trade dress and product designs can be used to provide cost-effective brand protection. Candy, of course, will be our centerpiece as we together traverse the interactive and competitive game. Bring your current perceptions of IP, and bring your sweet tooth!



**Scott Stimpson**  
Moderator  
SILLS CUMMIS & GROSS P.C.  
New York, New York



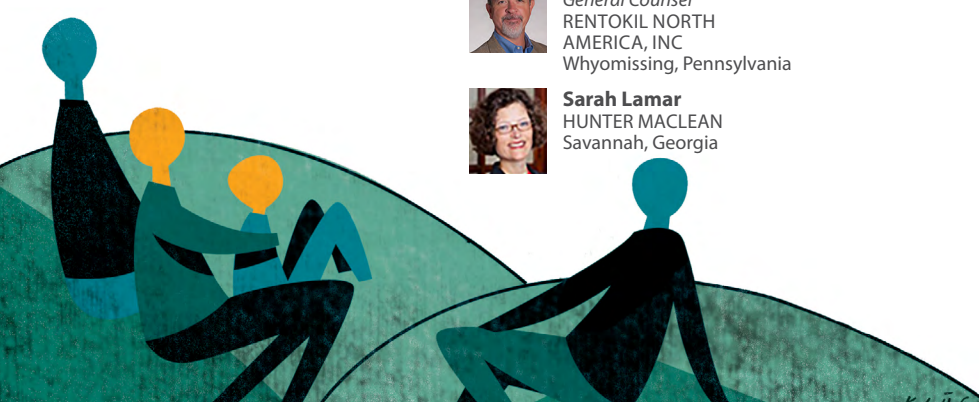
**Kevin Reid**  
General Counsel  
STURM, RUGER & COMPANY, INC.  
Southport, Connecticut



**Ako Shimada**  
Vice President,  
General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary  
USHIO AMERICA, INC  
Cypress, California



**Doug Halijan**  
BURCH, PORTER & JOHNSON, PLLC  
Memphis, Tennessee



8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Round Table Sessions (CONT'D)

**5 TELL IT TO THE JUDGE ... OR THE JURY ... OR THE ARBITRATOR? BEFORE YOU TELL YOUR STORY ... KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE!**

Your audience is critical to your success when telling your side of the story in a dispute. A jury can be spontaneous and unpredictable. A judge might focus on the law, at the expense of a good story. An arbitrator could fashion a result from whole cloth that, in his or her own mind, achieves equity. When presented with a choice, how do you pick the right audience to tell your story when faced with a high stakes litigation? And in a post-pandemic world, where courts are dealing with significant backlogs, when does it make sense to waive a jury trial or go to arbitration so that you can get your case heard before a judge or arbitrator? If you have no choice, how can we as storytellers present our case most effectively to a judge, jury, or arbitrator? Or worse, what if we need to (gulp) continue to try cases and tell our stories over Zoom? This program will explore how to evaluate your audience to give you the best chance to succeed and tell your story in any medium and before any audience. We will also focus in particular on arbitration and how we as attorneys can most effectively tell our stories in the world of arbitration.



**Kevin Dwight**  
Moderator  
MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP  
San Francisco, California



**Francis Conway**  
Assistant General Counsel  
MEYER CORPORATION  
San Rafael, California



**Carlos Vera**  
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.  
Crown Point, Indiana

9:15 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

INTERMISSION

9:35 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Round Tables – Encore Presentation

Repeat of Round Tables – Attendees Choose One Option

10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

INTERMISSION

**6 LOST IN TRANSLATION? LET MILLENNIALS CRAFT THE MESSAGE FOR MILLENNIAL JURORS**

Storytelling as a method of persuasion at trial is an art and knowing and understanding the demographics of your audience is essential to crafting your message. More than half of Americans are now millennials, and they will soon dominate jury pools. Do you “speak millennial” or understand what may impact their reception of your story? If not, it only makes sense to look in-house and collaborate with a millennial partner or associate to craft and deliver your message. This session will include an introduction to “speaking millennial” with the primary focus being advice and feedback from ALFA International firms and client millennials on development of the best strategies for communicating with millennial jurors.



**Allen Sydnor**  
Moderator  
HUIE FERNAMBUCQ & STEWART, LLP  
Birmingham, Alabama



**Jennifer Lankford**  
Senior Corporate Counsel  
CRACKER BARRELL OLD COUNTRY STORE, LLC  
Lebanon, Tennessee



**Barath Raman**  
LEWIS WAGNER, LLP  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**7 THE STORY'S ALREADY BEEN TOLD: HOW NEWS REPORTING CAN IMPACT DEFENSE AND TRIAL STRATEGY**

In the Steven Spielberg movie, Amistad, the character playing John Quincy Adams says, “When I was an attorney a long time ago, I realized after much trial and error, that in a courtroom, whoever tells the best story wins.” Lawyers as storytellers are as prevalent and necessary today as they were in 1841. But storytelling at trial often occurs years after the fact. And in the case of local, regional, or nationally significant incidents, stories are often told first by news reporters or pundits in an industry where speed often trumps accuracy. This panel will use real-life scenarios, particularly the 2021 Seaside, Florida condominium collapse story, to discuss how trial lawyers, in house counsel, and risk managers need to appreciate and consider how news reporting – stories told long before trial – can impact claims and cases both prior to and during trial.



**Chris Mueller**  
Moderator  
TAYLOR DAY, P.A.  
Jacksonville, Florida



**Jennifer Goodwin**  
Senior Counsel  
VICTAULIC COMPANY  
Easton, Pennsylvania



**Ian Frank**  
FRANTZ WARD LLP  
Cleveland, Ohio

**8 SCIENCE DOESN'T SELL ITSELF; IT NEEDS A STORY**

Scientific and technical evidence is often necessary to prove claims and defenses in product liability cases (and causation or damages in most cases). Many people do not understand science, do not like it, and may avoid it. You may not know a story about the physical properties of building materials, but you probably know The Three Little Pigs. This round table session will help you use technical scientific evidence to create a compelling story.



**Robert Smith**  
Moderator  
LORANCE THOMPSON  
Houston, Texas



**Ed Blakemore**  
Assistant General Counsel, Litigation  
ROCKWELL AUTOMATION, INC.  
Mayfield Heights, Ohio



**Grace Garcia**  
MORRISON MAHONEY LLP  
Boston, Massachusetts



10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

What's Happening at ALFAI Headquarters?

Although the impact of the pandemic meant live programming was put on hold, 2020 and 2021 were busy years for ALFA International, its member attorneys and client partners. This session will provide an overview of many new and some improved offerings available on the ALFA International website as well as resources and opportunities available to our clients.



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

10:50 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

## THE FINAL ACT: Closing Argument: Ethos and Ethics

As advocates and counselors, whether we are closing deals or making closing arguments, our job is to persuade clients, mediators, courts, and opposing attorneys and parties. One key to persuasion, according to Aristotle, is Ethos, which means demonstrating character and credibility, or “appealing to ethics.” But surprise, surprise, some stories are lies. Some lawyers can seem credible – and appeal to ethics – even though they (or their clients or experts) are making stuff up. Is that OK? Is it actually part of our job? And whether it is or not, what is the best way to respond? Please help our panel grapple with the enigma of Ethos and ethics in some real-world scenarios.



**Tom Singer**  
Moderator  
HALL & EVANS, L.L.C.  
Denver, Colorado



**Lauren Hulbert**  
Senior Claims Examiner & Administrative Supervisor  
MEDMARC INSURANCE COMPANY  
Chantilly, Virginia



**Jasmine Kingsley**  
General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Legal & People  
HUDL  
Lincoln, Nebraska



**Rudy Rivera**  
Chief International Counsel  
FIDELITY NATIONAL FINANCIAL, INC.  
Jacksonville, Florida



**Tom Bazemore**  
HUIE FERNAMBUCQ & STEWART, LLP  
Birmingham Alabama



**Christin Krämer**  
TIEFENBACHER  
Heidelberg, Germany



**Annette Mijanovic**  
HAIGHT BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP  
Los Angeles, California



**Andre Webb**  
GERMAN, GALLAHER & MURTAGH, P.C.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

11:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

## Epilogue



12:05 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

## LUNCH BUFFET

Riversong Lawn

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## Optional Activities

See *Optional Activity brochure* for more information. *Prior Registration is required.*

1:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## Hospitality Suite

*Litton House*

The seminar is nearly complete and an afternoon of relaxation awaits you in the hospitality suite.

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*Pecan Canopy*

Meet the  
Internationals  
Wine Tasting

A unique opportunity to meet international (non-U.S.) attorneys and sample wines from around the world. If you are a client who has needs outside of the United States, we encourage you to attend this event!



7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

## COCKTAIL RECEPTION & BUFFET DINNER

*Pecan Court, Terrace & Baron's Ballroom*

Close out this year's International Client Seminar with a quintessentially Austin evening. Upon arrival at tonight's reception, you will have the opportunity to don an alter ego at the Coco Coquette Wig Bar. While cocktailing, watch as a local artist creates custom graffiti art before your eyes. Dinner will be hosted by Henry and his Invisible Band who will also emcee a groovin' dance party after dessert. The night is sure to entertain and delight as the 2022 International Client Seminar comes to an end.

*Attire:* Fun and funky – tonight's the night to step out to get a little weird!

10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

*Litton House*

After-Hours  
Hospitality Suite

The seminar has come to a close and hopefully you've made some new friends and re-connected with old ones. Say your final good-byes in the after-hours suite where guitars and live music will remind you of why people love Austin.



## Faculty Bios

**JOEL ANDERSEN** is a Shareholder at Nilan Johnson Lewis PA, the ALFA International member firm in Minnesota, where he defends his clients nationwide in all types of employment and wage-and-hour litigation, and helps clients enforce restrictive covenants against former employees. He handles both individual and class litigation throughout the country. He also counsels clients in complying with discipline and discharge, wage-and-hour, workplace leave, and employment and severance agreement issues. Joel received his law degree from the University of Michigan.

**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.

**TOM BAZEMORE** is a partner with ALFA International member firm, Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart LLP (Huie), in Birmingham, Alabama. Since joining Huie in 1996, Tom has successfully defended clients in various trial venues at both the State and Federal level and in both rural and urban court settings. Tom works tirelessly to represent his clients' interests and relishes the opportunity to present cases to a jury. The willingness to take on trial challenges and to deliver the clients' message is an aspect of the legal profession that Tom particularly enjoys. His commitment to creating value for clients has led to his admission to the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, which is composed of recognized leaders in the legal community who have achieved professional distinction. Tom is also a member of the American Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and Defense Research Institute. Additionally, he is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been consistently listed by The Best Lawyers in America since 2016 for Insurance Law, Litigation - Insurance, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants. Tom earned his BS from The University of Alabama and his JD from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.

**MICHAEL BERMAN** is the founder and CEO of Ncontracts, a leading provider of risk and compliance management solutions. His extensive background in legal and regulatory matters has afforded him unique insights into solving operational risk management challenges and drives Ncontracts' mission to efficiently and effectively manage operational risk. During his legal career, Mr. Berman was involved in numerous regulatory, compliance, and

contract management challenges and assisted in the development of information systems to better manage these efforts. Prior to founding Ncontracts, he was General Counsel for Goldleaf Financial Solutions, Tecniflex, Inc. and Imagic Corporation. Mr. Berman is a well-regarded speaker on risk management at financial institution conferences and the author of *The Upside of Risk: Transforming Complex Burdens into Strategic Advantages* for Financial Institutions, which is available on Amazon.

**CHRISTEN C. BLACKBURN** is an attorney with ALFA International member firm, Lewis Thomason, in Nashville, Tennessee. Christen focuses her practice on defending businesses and individuals in complex transportation, products liability and premises liability matters throughout Tennessee. A portion of her practice is also devoted to defending employers against allegations of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. In 2021, Christen was named as one of Nashville's "40 Under 40" by the Nashville Business Journal and as Best Lawyers' 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation/Insurance Law in Nashville, Tennessee. Christen is active in ALFA International where she serves in the leadership of the Hospitality & Retail Practice Group, as the 2022 Program Chair for the Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group, as Chair Emeritus of the Women's Initiative Practice Group, and on ALFAI's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee.

**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 Past President of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Board of Trustees and is Vice President of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Northeast Ohio Chapter. 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.

**NICOLE M. BRUNSON** is Head of Litigation & Disputes with Arrival. In this global role, Nicole practices general litigation, product liability, and commercial litigation with a focus on risk mitigation. She also advises on various corporate matters. Nicole is a 2006 graduate of Indiana University School of Law- Bloomington (n/k/a/ Maurer School of Law) and 1998 graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana (BS Biochemistry). Nicole obtained an MBA in Marketing and Management from Christian Brothers University in 2002. Before joining Arrival in 2021, Nicole served as Associate General Counsel with Trane Technologies and an associate at Swanson Martin & Bell, LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Chicago, Illinois.

**KIM CAMPION** leads Charles Russell Speechlys' Employment team, the ALFA International member firm in Paris. Kim advises companies on all aspects of French employment law relating to their French operations (whether on individual or collective matters), and in particular, in connection with restructurings or

M&A. He advises mostly international companies or groups of companies on all aspects of French employment law relating to their French operations (whether on individual or collective matters), and in particular, in connection with restructurings or M&A. Kim represents his clients in their in-court and out-of-court proceedings (litigation and settlement negotiations). He has recognised expertise concerning collective employment issues including negotiations with trade unions, works councils and staff representatives, definition and implementation of collective redundancies, and negotiation of collective agreements. He assists his clients in connection with their day-to-day human resources issues, such as recruitment, employment contracts and dismissals, staff representative elections or drafting of collective agreements.

**MELANIE CHEAIRS** is a shareholder with ALFA International member firm, Lorance Thompson P.C., in Houston, Texas. Her litigation and trial practice focuses on the hospitality and transportation industries where she represents a broad array of regional and national hotel and restaurant chains and transportation companies in their liability and employment matters. Melanie was recently awarded the prestigious ALFA International Nate Fishbach Attorney of the Year Award for outstanding service to ALFA International. She served a three-year term on the ALFA International Board of Directors from 2013–2016. She is a Chair Emeritus of the Hospitality & Retail Practice Group. Melanie currently serves ALFA International as the Chair of the ALFA International Marketing Committee. Melanie is also active on the Steering Committees of both the Transportation and Women's Initiative Practice Groups and participates in the National Association of Professional Women. Melanie is a frequent author and speaker on matters of importance to her industry clients. Melanie received her Juris Doctor in 1989 from South Texas College of Law-Houston at which she currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. She is a Fellow with the Texas Bar Foundation. Melanie received her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University, where she was an All-American Swimmer and was chosen to the Southwest Conference Women's All-Decade Team. As an avid Aggie, she served on the Board of Directors of the Texas A&M Women Former Student's Network and was WFSN President in 2012. Melanie currently serves as president of the Advisory Board of Youth For Christ- Houston, on the National Board of United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth-(UM ARMY), and as the director for Kingwood United Methodist Church, UM ARMY Youth Camp.

Since February 2022, **STACEY CONSTAS** has been Associate General Counsel/Labor and Employment at XL Fleet (NYSE: XL), a provider of electric and hybrid commercial vehicle and infrastructure solutions headquartered in Boston, MA. Prior thereto, for 24 years Stacey was Associate General Counsel at Standex International Corporation, a global manufacturing company operating in 10 states and 26 countries. Stacey also served as Chief Governance Officer, and General Counsel of the Electronics Group within Standex. She also created and led the first community/employee engagement program in Standex's 70 year history, creating volunteer and partnership opportunities for employees to support neighbors in need in their communities. Stacey specializes in labor and employment, acquisitions and divestitures, and product liability. Stacey also serves on ALFA International's client advisory board.

**FRANK CONWAY** is Assistant General Counsel for Meyer Corporation, U.S. and its global affiliates with more than 7,000 employees

worldwide. Meyer is the second largest cookware and kitchenware manufacturer and distributor in the world with factories in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America, and sales and marketing arms in eleven countries including Australia, China, Canada, England, Japan, India, and the U.S. Well-known Meyer brands in the U.S. include Anolon, Circulon, Farberware, Rachael Ray, KitchenAid, and Hestan. Meyer also owns Blue Mountain Enterprises, LLC, which develops residential communities, provides general contracting and HVAC services, and owns and operates assisted living facilities. From a nimble legal department based in Northern California, Frank supervises worldwide litigation, supply-chain compliance, contract and license negotiation/preparation, regulatory compliance, and a robust IP portfolio. Prior to joining Meyer in 2015, Frank was a trial lawyer with Northern California firms representing defendants in disputes involving employment, contract, personal injury, and class action claims. Frank received his JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law and a BS in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**DINA M. COX** is a partner with ALFA International member firm, Lewis Wagner, in Indianapolis, Indiana and is the Program Chair for the 2021 International Client Seminar. Dina is a legal strategist and trial attorney who honors responsive client service as a top priority. She 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 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. 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 Lewis Wagner and she currently chairs the firm's 3-lawyer executive committee along with the chief administrative officer.

**HEATHER DEMYAN** is Associate General Counsel for Clayton Homes, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. Clayton Homes is headquartered in Maryville, Tennessee and is the largest builder of manufactured housing and modular homes in the United States. The company operates 40 manufacturing facilities and over 365 retail locations across the nation. Heather handles a wide range of litigation matters for the company, primarily involving breach of contract and warranty claims. She received her BA from the University of Florida and a JD and MBA from Samford University. She is licensed in Alabama and Florida. Heather joined Clayton Homes

in 2021. Prior to that she was National Outside Counsel for the company and worked in private practice representing businesses.

**BONNIE DIXON** is a partner at ALFA International member firm Atsumi & Sakai in Tokyo, Japan. In 2005, when Ms. Dixon joined Atsumi & Sakai (formerly, Atsumi & Partners) she became the first non-Japanese attorney to become a partner of a domestic Japanese law firm, pursuant to legislation that for the first time allowed law partnerships between Japanese lawyers and lawyers licensed elsewhere. Bonnie Dixon is licensed to practice law in the State of New York and is registered in Japan as a Foreign Registered Lawyer. She has extensive experience in international transactions, cross border litigation, labor and employment, structured finance, banking transactions, investment funds, etc. Ms. Dixon speaks fluent Japanese and has worked in Tokyo for more than 20 years in the aggregate. Before returning to Tokyo in 2002, Ms. Dixon practiced law in New York City, where she became a partner of Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, and later of Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP.

**KEVIN DWIGHT** is a partner at ALFA International (ALFAI) member firm, Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP in San Francisco, California. Kevin is an experienced trial attorney and represents clients across the United States in complex commercial litigation and arbitration. He has extensive trial and litigation experience in a broad range of industries, including real estate, franchising, trusts and estates, employment, and financial services. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and earned his law degree from UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco.

**JOSEPH G. FORTNER, JR.** is co-chair of the Commercial Litigation Practice Group of the ALFA International member firm of Halloran Sage, in Hartford, Connecticut. He is the chair emeritus of ALFA International's Business Litigation Practice Group and chaired its 2017 Seminar. Joe is an experienced business litigator and trial lawyer in a wide range of business, intellectual property and related commercial matters in state and federal courts, ranging from trade secret claims, contract disputes, business fraud and other commercial torts, technology-related matters, trade regulation, unfair trade practices, employee termination, and product-related commercial disputes. Joe represents clients in trademark and trade dress, copyright, patent, cyber defamation, domain name, licensing and other intellectual property matters. Among the market segments in which he works are financial services, chemical processing, construction, information technology, marketing, firearms, music, and other manufacturing and services industries. Joe uses his experience to counsel clients regarding intellectual property issues and other business relationships, prosecutes trademark matters at the Patent & Trademark Office and negotiates licenses, assignments and other intellectual property agreements. He has written and lectured on trademarks and trade dress, trade secrets, trademark dilution, antitrust issues and e-commerce, including authoring the Connecticut portions of several ALFAI compendiums regarding trade secrets. He is a graduate of Duke University and received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law. When not practicing law, he works on his blues, jazz and country guitar skills and performs with his wife (also an attorney) in their vocal and guitar duo, "Blind Date."

**IAN H. FRANK** is a partner with the ALFA International member firm of Frantz Ward, LLP in Cleveland, Ohio, where his practice is dedicated to construction and surety law. Ian is a former Chair of

ALFA International's Construction Practice Group and is currently the Chair of the ALFA International Marketing Committee. His clients comprise construction managers, EPC contractors, owners, developers, sureties, specialty trade contractors and manufacturers of every size, from closely-held small businesses to Top 10 ENR companies. Ian is frequently involved in large, technically complex construction projects around the country and overseas, whether developing contract documents to manage risk, counseling clients on claim management and performance disputes, acting as project counsel, or arbitrating and litigating claims. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, a Charter Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and has been recognized as a "Leading Lawyer" in Construction by Chambers USA since 2006. In August 2021, The Best Lawyers in America named Ian the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" in Construction Law in Cleveland.

**GRACE V.B. GARCIA**, a Partner in the Boston office of 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 is the current Chair for the ALFA International Construction Practice Group, and is the former Chair of the Women's Initiative Practice Group and a former member of ALFA International's Board of Directors. 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 almost 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 currently serves as President-Elect of the Massachusetts Bar Association. Grace is also a past President of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association and past DRI State Representative for Massachusetts. She is a routine lecturer on defending brain injuries, risk transfer and indemnity issues, best discovery practices and deposition techniques, and OSHA.

**MONICA R. GARCIA** is a Shareholder at the ALFA International member law firm of Butt Thornton & Baehr PC (BTB) in Albuquerque, NM, which she joined in 1998. Ms. Garcia litigates matters in federal and state courts of New Mexico in the areas of products liability, premises liability, trucking and transportation, wrongful death, consumer law, employment law, and general defense liability matters. Prior to joining BTB, she was an associate at Montgomery & Andrews PA, in Santa Fe, where she primarily practiced in the employment law arena.

**BRUCE GELTING** has served as General Counsel of Rentokil North America since March, 2012, with responsibility for the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. Prior to joining Rentokil, Bruce worked as a litigator and employment law specialist with several Philadelphia-area law firms, and then as General Counsel for the largest American-owned security guard company. He is a graduate of Penn State University and Villanova University Law School, and served as a United States Army Infantry officer before becoming an attorney. Rentokil, the world's largest pest control company, also provides services to commercial and residential customers in the areas of lawn care,

hygiene, interior landscaping, brand protection auditing, lake and water management and specialty chemical distribution.

**MICHAEL R. GIBSON**, a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in San Diego, California, focuses his practice on commercial litigation in the real estate, construction and hospitality industries. Outside of the courtroom, Michael assists clients with their construction and real estate contracts, and provides advice and counsel on risk management and liability prevention. A certified mediator, Michael also utilizes his over two decades of litigation experience when assisting parties find solutions to their disputes. A graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of San Diego School of Law, he is a frequent speaker on current legal topics and trends.

**JENNIFER GOODWIN** is Senior Counsel at Victaulic Company, the leading producer of mechanical pipe joining solutions with over 50 global facilities and 4,000 employees worldwide. Jennifer is responsible for international business transactions, including distribution relationships and employee matters, management of the global real estate portfolio, commercial transactions and select international and domestic product liability litigation. Prior to joining Victaulic, Jennifer served as Senior Section Counsel at Olympus Corporation of the Americas. She received a B.A. in political science from Bloomsburg University, and her J.D. from Villanova University.

**SONYA GOYKHMAN** serves as Director, Corporate Counsel in the Litigation group for Starbucks Coffee Company. In her role, Sonya oversees and manages general liability, commercial, real estate, discrimination, and ADA litigation for retail stores in the Americas, provides legal advice and counsel to internal clients, and works with cross-functional teams in order to reduce risk and elevate the Starbucks global brand. Sonya is committed to DEI efforts and sits on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for the Law & Corporate Affairs department at Starbucks, and is the immediate past co-chair of the Starbucks D&I Mentorship Program. Prior to joining Starbucks, Sonya worked as a civil litigator, where she defended cases from inception through trial and resolution.

**MARY P. HAEFER**, JD, CPCU is Chief Claims Officer-Property & Casualty for CapSpecialty located near Madison, WI. Mary has been with CapSpecialty since 2010. Previously, Mary spent 16 years at General Casualty Companies (now QBE) as senior claims counsel overseeing complex litigation including complex commercial litigation. Mary has experience as a litigator in private practice and spent two years as a judicial clerk to the Honorable John C. Shabaz, Western District of Wisconsin. Mary is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Indiana University and received her JD at Marquette University cum laude. She completed her CPCU designation in the insurance industry in 2001. Mary has three children and is a huge sports fan. She also enjoys reading, yoga and travel.

**DOUGLAS F. HALIJAN** is a member of Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC, the ALFA International member firm in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has practiced since 1994. His practice focuses on intellectual property matters and complex commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on trade secret, trademark, copyright, information technology, and franchise-related issues. He has served as lead counsel to both plaintiffs and defendants in trade secret and unfair competition cases involving a wide range of

confidential business information, software, manufacturing processes, information technology, and systems design and testing. He also regularly litigates trademark and copyright infringement cases and counsels clients on licensing and dealer/distributor issues. He has moderated U.S. Department of Commerce programs on U.S. intellectual property law in Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia. He also serves as an adjunct professor of Intellectual Property Law at the University of Memphis School of Law, where he was named Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2015. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rhodes College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as Articles Editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review.

**MICHELLE M. HARPER** is Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary of Steel Technologies LLC, a leader in flat-rolled steel processing for automotive, appliance and other industries with over 1,800 employees in 24 facilities across the United States, Canada and Mexico. She joined Steel Technologies in 2008 as Assistant General Counsel and was promoted to General Counsel in 2017. Prior to joining Steel Technologies, Michelle practiced commercial litigation at Woodward, Hobson & Fulton and the Hume Law Office in Louisville, Ky. Prior to practicing law, Michelle was a commercial loan officer at the Bank of Louisville. Michelle serves as a Director on The Steel Technologies Foundation and is active in her community. She is a past recipient of University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law Distinguished Alumna Award, Families for Effective Autism Treatment's Contributing Peace Award, and Business First's Forty Under 40 Award. She earned her Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration from the University of Louisville and her Bachelor of Business Administration in finance and management with honors from the University of Kentucky.

**EDWARD T. HAYES** is a partner at Leake & Andersson, L.L.P. the ALFA International member firm in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he leads the firm's international trade and business practice. The firm's international trade and business practice focuses on a wide variety of international issues, including customs matters; import/export transactions; international sales of goods and services; disputes under bilateral investment treaties; antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings before the Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission; and World Trade Organization dispute settlement. Mr. Hayes also maintains an active international public policy and government relations practice, where he advises businesses and local governments on international trade capacity and international economic development issues, including the business implications of international multilateral and regional free trade agreements. In January, 2014 the country of Ukraine appointed Mr. Hayes to serve as the Honorary Consul to Ukraine for the State of Louisiana. Mr. Hayes is charged with promoting and preserving the interests of Ukraine and her citizens throughout the State of Louisiana.

**LINDSEY HAZELTON** is a partner with the Syracuse, New York ALFA International law firm of Hancock Estabrook, LLP and a member of the firm's Labor & Employment, Healthcare, Education and Municipal & Public Entities practice groups. She counsels both private and public sector clients on a variety of employment issues, including discrimination and harassment, wage and overtime matters, hiring and termination strategies, leaves of absence, benefit management and other human resource policy

issues. Her practice includes assisting employers in responding to investigative audits and complaints, and the frequent defense of employment litigation claims before state and federal agencies and in the courts. Lindsey regularly represents management, municipalities and school districts in labor matters, such as collective bargaining, contract management, grievance administration, labor arbitrations and unfair labor practice proceedings. She has been selected as a Super Lawyer for Upstate New York and named to The Best Lawyers in America list. Lindsey is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Buffalo Law School and presently serves as a Trustee for the Crouse Health Foundation.

**SCHAUN D. HENRY** is a member in the Labor & Employment Group at ALFA International firm, McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He provides representation and counseling to employers on a wide range of labor and employment matters, including employment discrimination cases under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and other federal, state and local issues. Schaun provides guidance for employers on unfair labor practices and other labor relations issues, as well as providing representation for employers at labor arbitrations and negotiations. He advises employers on a wide variety of personnel issues including hiring, termination and revision of policies. He also provides training on a variety of issues for employees and managers and assists employers with Affirmative Action Planning, I9 compliance and the Migrant Seasonal Workers Protection Act and Schaun graduated from West Chester University and received his law degree from Dickinson School of Law. Before undertaking the practice of law, Schaun served in the Armed Forces. He is a retired Major of U.S. Army Special Forces.

**JOEL HLAVATY** is one of the founding partners of Frantz Ward LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Cleveland, Ohio, and is a member of its Management Committee. Mr. Hlavaty focuses his practice on the representation of management in all phases of labor relations and employment litigation, and regularly appears in federal and state courts and administrative agencies of all jurisdictions on claims arising under federal and state labor and employment laws. Joel graduated from John Carroll University with honors with a double major in philosophy and psychology and a minor in mathematics, and he received his law degree with honors from the University of Akron. Prior to entering private practice, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Alice M. Batchelder on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Mr. Hlavaty focuses his practice on the representation of management in all phases of labor relations and employment litigation. Joel routinely advises employers on all aspects of their relationships with employees, as well as with respect to matters concerning litigation prevention and human resources management, and he regularly defends them in federal and state courts of all jurisdictions on claims arising under the various federal and state labor and employment laws. He additionally represents employers with respect to complaints and charges filed with the EEOC and OCRC, NLRB and SERB, and with OSHA and the DOL, as well as with health care and ERISA issues and complaints, and collective bargaining issues and strike disputes. Joel is also a frequent presenter at seminars and management training programs on a wide variety of topics. Joel is a member of the Ohio Bar Association and Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and is the past Chair

of the Labor & Employment Law Section of the Cleveland Bar Association. In 2010 and continuing, Joel was named one of Ohio's Super Lawyers and is listed in U.S. News Best Lawyers in Cleveland.

**KELLY M. HOFFMAN** is a partner in the Portland, Maine ALFA International law firm of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC. Her practice focuses on litigation, including insurance defense and subrogation, employment and discrimination matters, and professional liability defense. Since 2013, she has been listed in New England Super Lawyers as a Rising Star. In 2018 and 2019, she was recognized by "Best Lawyers in America" for her work in Labor and Employment Litigation as well as Professional Malpractice Defense Law. She frequently acts as a continuing legal education presenter on both a national and state level, lecturing on employment law concerns of individuals, businesses, and counsel; evidentiary issues and challenges facing businesses and counsel during workplace investigations; and ethical dilemmas presented in litigation. Prior to joining Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC, Ms. Hoffman was an associate at the law firm of Hausmaninger Kletter in Vienna, Austria. She is authorized to practice in both Maine and New York. Ms. Hoffman earned her B.A. degree from Johns Hopkins University; her M.A. degree, summa cum laude, from Seton Hall University; and her J.D. degree, cum laude, from the University of Maine School of Law. In 2008, she was named by the U.S. Women's Olympic Field Hockey Committee to its traveling team and, last summer, represented Team USA in the position of goalkeeper during the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Masters World Cup held in Europe.

**CATHERINE J. HUFF** is a partner with ALFA International law firm, Gentry Locke, in Roanoke, VA. Cate focuses her practice on labor and employment, professional liability and workers' compensation. She also advises businesses in the restaurant and hospitality industry on employment matters. Cate has tried a number of cases in both state and federal trial courts and has extensive experience with motions practice. Cate regularly speaks and conducts training on a variety of employment and workers' compensation issues in and outside of Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and her J.D. from Liberty University.

**LAUREN HULBERT** is a Senior Claims Examiner & Administrative Supervisor at Medmarc Insurance Group. She partners with insureds and brokers to creatively and efficiently investigate and analyze life science products liability exposures from pro se claimants to mass tort litigation. After spending a decade of handling these claims, Lauren believes this is key to achieving successful claim resolutions. Lauren earned a BS degree in Mathematics, with a concentration in Actuarial Sciences, from Louisiana State University. During her 16-year tenure with Medmarc, Lauren was conferred the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), the Associate in Claims (AIC) and the Associate in Insurance Services (AIS) designations from The Institutes.

**KANDICE K. HULL** of ALFA International's member firm, McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is a member of the Litigation Group and is a member of her firm's ALFAI Committee. She focuses her practice on the representation of corporate clients in business litigation, handling both federal and state claims. She has represented businesses in cases involving contract disputes, eminent domain, land use matters, and property rights claims, among others. In addition to her work in the trial courts, she also handles

appellate litigation matters before the Pennsylvania State and Federal appellate courts and is the co-chair of her firm's Appellate & Post Trial Practice Group. Kandice is also a member of McNees' Ethics Committee. Kandice is a 2000 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, and a summa cum laude graduate of Franklin and Marshall College. She has been honored as one of the Best Lawyers in America in the field of Appellate Law since 2010.

**WILLIAM IRELAND** is a partner and a member of the Business Solutions Practice Group at the Los Angeles ALFA International firm, Haight, Brown & Bonesteel. He is a past Chair of the ALFA International Business Litigation Practice Group. He is a commercial litigator with extensive experience in commercial, real property, employment and environmental matters. His clients include real property developers, public entities, property managers, financial services companies, importers, marketing and promotional companies, produce wholesalers, and public entities. His highest profile representation was successfully representing Beverly Hills Unified School District in the mass litigation arising from the operation of an oil well on District property next to Beverly Hills High School. When not practicing law, he volunteers for his local Presbyterian Church; Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico; and as a part-time masters swim coach.

**DR. BILL KANASKY, JR.** is Senior Vice President of Litigation Psychology for Courtroom Sciences, Inc. and a nationally recognized expert, author, and speaker in the areas of advanced witness training and jury psychology in civil litigation. He consults on more than 200 cases annually in the areas of defendant witness training, jury decision-making research, and jury selection strategy. His empirically based consulting methods are specially designed to defeat plaintiff "Reptile" strategies, which have resulted in billions of dollars of damage awards across the nation. He earned his B.A. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Florida.

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**SARAH H. LAMAR** is a partner in the Savannah, Georgia ALFA International law firm of HunterMaclean, and she is a former Chair of ALFA International. Ms. Lamar has experience representing employers in state and federal courts with respect to claims under Title VII, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act. She also represents employers with respect to breach of contract and tort claims, and conducts in-house training for employers and advises clients on a variety of human resource issues including immigration and affirmative action matters. Ms. Lamar is admitted to the bars of Georgia and the District of Columbia and all federal courts in Georgia. She was also the long-time chair of the Georgia Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management Government Affairs Committee. Ms. Lamar received her B.A. in History from Yale University in 1988, and her J.D. from Emory University in 1991. She has been selected for Best Lawyers in America in Employment Law - Management Side for the last 12 years and in Chambers USA for Employment Law. She was named by Best Lawyers as 2022 "lawyer of the year" for employment law in her area.

**JENNIFER M. LANKFORD** is Senior Corporate Counsel for Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, Inc., where she handles all matters related to employment litigation. Ms. Lankford manages the legal litigation team, which in addition to handling employment claims company-wide, supervises compliance measures and manages the company's ADR program. Ms. Lankford also oversees the Employee Relations department, which ensures Title VII and Title II compliance related to employees and guests, respectively, through training and investigations. With over 650 stores in 45 states, Ms. Lankford's role additionally includes advising on employment law matters affecting the store's 70,000 plus employees. Prior to joining Cracker Barrel, Ms. Lankford was a partner with Thompson Burton, PLLC, in Franklin, Tennessee, where she practiced employment defense litigation and provided compliance training and advice to companies operating nationwide. In 2017, Ms. Lankford was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Board of Appeals, the appeals panel for state employees seeking to appeal a demotion, suspension, or termination by the State of Tennessee.

**ERIK LINDSETH** is Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Life Time, Inc. As a wellness pioneer, Life Time is reshaping the way consumers approach their health by integrating where we move, work and live – digitally and physically – all with the

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**ANTHONY W. LIVOTI** is a shareholder with ALFA International member firm, Murphy & Grantland, P.A., in Columbia, South Carolina. Anthony concentrates his practice in the areas of personal injury defense. As a certified circuit court mediator, much of his practice is also dedicated to alternative dispute resolution and mediations. He has presented numerous continuing legal education seminars on mediation and leadership. Prior to joining the firm, Anthony served for four years in the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer with several overseas deployments. He is a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association (SCDTAA), and Defense Research Institute (DRI). He also currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the SC Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and is a Past-President of the SCDTAA. In 2019, Anthony was named the recipient of the Fred. H. Sievert Award in honor of his work in developing the Emerging Leaders Program for the SCDTAA. This nationwide award is presented by DRI to an individual who "has made a significant contribution towards achieving the goals and objectives of the organized defense bar." All nominees "must be the current or past president of a state and local defense organization, who have initiated innovative projects for the betterment of the organization and exercised strong leadership." Anthony attended The Citadel, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in political science and graduated cum laude with his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. While in law school, he was the articles editor of the South Carolina Law Review and was also a member of the Order of Wig and Robe and Order of the Coif.

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**JUDGE PATRICIA O'CONNELL ALVAREZ** serves as a justice in the 4th Court of Appeals. She was born and raised in Mexico. In 1979, she came to the United States with her son, Eduardo. Judge O'Connell Alvarez graduated from UT School of Law, practiced law in the border and tried many cases. In 2013, she became a justice and in 2019, a yoga teacher! Presently, she is a student at Duke School of Law, where she is pursuing a masters degree (LLM) in judicial philosophy. In addition, she is an avid scuba diver, traveler, reader, and loves the freedom she feels when riding a motorcycle with her husband, Paul!

**DAVID ORTEGA** is a bilingual native of San Antonio, Texas and is an attorney with the ALFA International member firm, Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC. He routinely handles complex litigation for national and international companies. Mr. Ortega's trial practice involves a diverse array of cases, but his primary focus is in the areas of business litigation, transportation, oil & gas, and product liability. Mr. Ortega has tried a variety of cases and he serves as

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**KEVIN OWENS** is Chair of ALFA International's Board of Directors and an equity shareholder in the ALFA International Chicago member law firm of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., where he 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. In a career spanning over thirty years, Mr. Owens has successfully tried numerous multi-million dollar cases to verdict. His trial and appellate successes include the trial to a defense verdict in favor of the manufacturer of an industrial pressure vessel which experienced an explosion resulting in the death of one worker and serious injury to another, the trial to verdict of the action brought against the installer of the retractable roof at Milwaukee's Miller Park resulting from the collapse of one of the world's largest mobile cranes into the stadium, and a jury verdict in favor of a consumer lender sued by a borrower who claimed that the lender's revocation of credit caused millions of dollars in damages to the borrower's business. 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. Mr. Owens is past Chairman of ALFA International's Product Liability and Complex Litigation Practice Group, and is presently a member of that group's Steering Committee.

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**BARATH RAMAN** is a partner with ALFA International's member firm, Lewis Wagner, LLP's litigation group in Indianapolis, Indiana. Barath's practice area includes the defense of personal injury, product liability, construction accident and defect, and environmental insurance coverage cases. Before law school, utilizing his B.S. from Purdue University in Construction Engineering, Barath worked as a field engineer for Mass Electric Construction Company on projects in Houston, Texas and Los Angeles, California. Barath embarked on his legal career in 2011 by enrolling at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, where he hoped to leverage his engineering background to develop a law practice including construction and environmental law. Prior to joining the firm in 2014, Barath worked as a summer associate for Lewis Wagner, LLP and the Marion County Public Defender Agency in the Major Felony and Appeals Divisions. Since joining the firm, Barath has been involved in the preparation of several pleadings, responding to discovery, successfully arguing motions before the court, and has been involved in several jury trials. In 2020, Barath was awarded the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana's Young Lawyer of the Year title, and he was selected as a "Rising Star" by his peers. Barath also is the Co-President of Friends of Riley, a local young professional fundraising organization for the Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

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**KARA TROUSLOT STUBBS** is a Member in the Kansas City ALFA International law firm of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, L.L.C., and has extensive experience in the areas of products liability, particularly the defense of pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. She has defended pre-suit claims and individual cases and served the role of local, regional and national counsel, particularly assisting with the retention and development of expert and company witnesses, developing the defense theme and participating in mock jury trials. The depth of her product liability practice also encompasses the defense of manufacturers of construction equipment, flavorings, prepared foods, commercial fireworks, various consumer products, and children's products.

Her practice is also committed to the defense of premises liability matters for several restaurant chains and various other commercial matters, including the defense of class action matters in Missouri and Kansas. Kara currently serves Chair Emeritus of the Board of Directors for ALFA International. She is recognized in Best Lawyers® in America, Kansas City Metropolitan Area for Product Liability Litigation – Defendants; Who's Who Legal: Life Sciences; Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers®; and is a recipient of the Missouri Lawyers Media Women's Justice Award (Litigation Practitioner).

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**JOHN SYKES**, a partner at Charles Russell Speechlys, the ALFA International member firm in London, specializes in corporate and commercial litigation, arbitration and mediation and much of his work is international in nature. He is a specialist in corporate dispute resolute currently working with companies and individuals in shareholder and joint venture disputes, director duties, Share Purchase Agreement claims, partnership and claims of corporate fraud. International work this year has included work in the USA, Italy, Zambia, West Africa, Russia, Chile, France, and the Middle East. Additionally, John acts for global technology firms in complex technology development disputes. John's work in international trade includes arbitrations involving trading agreements concerning oil and gas, mining, shipping and technology. John works for early and successful resolution of client's disputes using the most cost effective tools of litigation and mediation.

**JOHN R. TARPLEY** is a shareholder residing in the Nashville office of Lewis Thomason, an ALFA International member firm. John has practiced in Nashville since graduating from the University Of Tennessee College Of Law. He joined the firm in 1989 after clerking with an appellate judge and serving as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee. He is a leader in the firm's Commercial Transportation and Complex Litigation Practice Group. As a certified mediator, he is called on a regular basis to mediate and arbitrate a wide range of disputes. He has been inducted into the Tennessee Academy of Mediators. In addition, John is a

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**TREVOR UFFELMAN** is General Counsel, Chief Claims Officer, and Corporate Secretary for the American Trucking and Transportation Insurance Company, a Risk Retention Group headquartered in Missoula, Montana providing liability insurance to mid and large fleet motor carriers. In this role, Mr. Uffelman oversees the company's claims operations and legal affairs, which has him involved in an array of corporate, contract, insurance, and reinsurance matters. Prior to joining ATTIC, Mr. Uffelman was the General Counsel for Watkins and Shepard Trucking, Inc., a 1200 employee transportation company based in Missoula and Helena, Montana. Before that, he spent many years litigating complex tort, commercial, insurance coverage, and employment cases.

**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 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.

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Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission, and the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Carlos is a former prosecutor, and has tried hundreds of bench trials and several jury trials to verdict.

**ANDRE J. WEBB** is an experienced trial attorney with a demonstrated history of success. Andre concentrates his practice on the defense of insured and self-insured entities in a variety of litigation matters, including premises liability, dram shop/liquor liability cases, motor vehicle accidents (inclusive of UM/UIM claims), and professional liability matters. Andre also manages the investigation, litigation, and defense of numerous high-impact, complex cases involving catastrophic injury or death. Prior to joining German, Gallagher & Murtagh, the ALFA International member firm in Philadelphia, PA, Andre was Trial Counsel for a large Insurance Company where he led an expansive range of cases in both state and federal courts. The diverse nature of Andre's practice, along with his background and expertise, provides him with a unique perspective when advising and counseling clients towards attaining the best and most cost-effective resolution. Andre's professional activities extend beyond the courtroom as he is very active in the legal community. Andre was named one of Pennsylvania Legal Award's "2021 Lawyers on the Fast Track" by The Legal Intelligencer and recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer "Rising Star." Andre is an elected member of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Board of Governors; he serves as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Division ("YLD") and is an Executive Committee member of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel ("PADC"). Andre is also active with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, where he serves in the House of Delegates.

**KATE WHITLOCK**, a senior partner at ALFA International's Atlanta, Georgia firm Hawkins Parnell & Young, LLP, has spent her entire professional liability, products liability, and premises liability career defending people who are accused of not doing their jobs right. Clients include lawyers, insurance claims handlers, product designers, construction professionals, property managers and others in cases with claims of malpractice, sexual misconduct, design defect and more. She takes the complex and makes it simple; the confusing, understandable. Almost all of Kate's cases come to her with complicated underlying transactions and she works hard to untangle those early on so the matter can be brought to conclusion as efficiently as possible. Kate works tirelessly for her clients, appearing in state and federal trial courts, courts of appeal, and alternative dispute forums. She has tried more than 60 cases to verdict and taken many cases all the way through appeal. Embracing pandemic realities, she has tried a virtual bench trial and argued to the Georgia Supreme Court virtually, bringing home the win in the Supreme Court case. She has received several professional honors, speaks and writes on numerous subjects, and is active in multiple professional and civic organizations. She has been married to her lawyer-husband for over 30 years, has three grown children (none of whom is a lawyer), and two dogs.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### MEETING LOCATION

HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES RESORT AND SPA  
575 Hyatt Lost Pines Road  
Cedar Creek, Texas 78612  
Tel: (512) 308-1234

[Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Website](#)

### REGISTRATION

Please contact ALFA International Headquarters 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 is business casual. Resort casual attire is appropriate for the social events and casual attire for the optional activities. Thursday and Friday nights receptions and dinners are outdoors so layers are recommended. Saturday's reception and dinner will begin outdoors before moving inside for dinner.

### SEMINAR CONTACT

Aria Trombley Wolf  
awolf@alfainternational.com

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### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

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

### SAFE RETURN TO LIVE MEETINGS PROTOCOL

The health and safety of all attending ALFA International clients, member attorneys, guests, vendors and staff are of the utmost importance to ALFA International. Please review the [Safe Return to Live Meetings Policy](#) on the ALFA International website for current protocols in place for live meeting attendance. Please note, this policy may change as CDC guidelines are updated so, please check back as the program approaches.



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