



**ALFA International**  
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

# TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE GROUP REGIONAL SEMINAR



**Indianapolis, IN | August 15, 2024**

# SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## Thursday, August 15, 2024

### PROGRAM AT THE BOTTLEWORKS HOTEL

850 Massachusetts Avenue | Indianapolis, IN | Library Room

1:30 P.M. – 1:55 P.M.

#### REGISTRATION

1:55 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

#### WELCOME

**Speaker:**

**Katie Strawbridge**, *Host Firm & Regional Seminar Co-Chair*,  
LEWIS WAGNER, LLP, Indianapolis, IN

2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

#### ARE WE DRINKING THE KOOL AID? CHECKING YOURSELF WITH A MOCK TRIAL

**Speakers:**

**Dina Cox**, *Host Firm*, LEWIS WAGNER, LLP, Indianapolis, IN

**Ashley Doty**, *Claim Attorney*, NATIONAL INTERSTATE INSURANCE,  
Richfield, OH

**Charlie Kraft**, BUTT THORNTON & BAEHR PC, Albuquerque, NM

Working on a case over a long period of time can result in a loss of objectivity, and a mock trial can provide the reality check the participants need. But they provide tons of other critical information beyond an outside view of the case. Join the panel to discuss the utility of mock trials and other evaluation tools. The panel will cover theory testing, witness evaluation, evidence selection and refinement, case evaluation and more.

3:00 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.

#### THE POWER OF FOCUS GROUPS: EVALUATE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR CASE THROUGH THE EYES OF LOCAL JURORS

**Speaker:**

**Meghan Lewallen**, FRANTZ WARD LLP, Cleveland, OH

Focus groups can be used as a powerful tool to explore jurors' attitudes and beliefs at multiple stages of litigation. This session will discuss the ways in which focus groups can be used to evaluate accident claims, strengthen cases, and provide insight as to how they are being used early and often by the other side.

# SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**3:45 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**BREAK**

**4:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**GROUP DISCUSSION – INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR TESTING CLAIMS AND DEFENSES FOR TRIAL**

***Moderator:***

**Jeff Levine**, MATHENY SEARS LINKERT & JAIME, LLP, Sacramento, CA

After hearing presentations on the use of mock juries and focus groups, attendees will have a moderator-led group discussion about methods for evaluating claims, defenses, and damages exposure at trial. Discussion participants will have the opportunity to share anecdotes from mock trial or focus group experience, and the value of those processes to decision-making leading up to and during trial.

**4:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**EARLY RESOLUTION OF TRUCKING LIABILITY CLAIMS, SMALL AND LARGE**

***Speakers:***

**Max Brusky**, *Director, Claims Management*, BULKMATIC, LLC, Aurora, IL

**Cathy Breitweiser-Hurst**, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Crown Point, IN

Trucking claims don't get better with time. This program will explore early resolution strategies which may vary significantly based on the type and size of the claim. Attendees will hear both outside counsel and client perspectives on effective strategies that are most likely to result in early resolution.

**5:00 P.M.**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

***Speaker:***

**Matt Parsons**, *Regional Seminar Co-Chair*, STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC, Lexington, KY

**5:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.**

**COCKTAILS, DINNER AND SOCIAL EVENT**



# DINNER & SOCIAL EVENT



**ST ELMO**  
STEAK HOUSE

**COCKTAILS & DINNER**  
**5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**  
**127 South Illinois Street**



**PINS**  
MECHANICAL COMPANY  
MIDWEST-MADE

**BOWLING & GAMES**  
**8:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.**  
**856 Carrollton Ave**



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# SPEAKERS



**CATHY BREITWEISER-HURST** is a shareholder at Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois, and Crown Point, Indiana. Cathy works out of the firm's Crown Point, Indiana office and represents clients in the transportation and hospitality industries, handling a variety of matters including personal injury defense, product liability, general liability, and civil rights defense. Prior to her time with Johnson & Bell, Cathy, a U.S. Navy veteran, served as a 10-year prosecutor in Northern Indiana litigating high-level felony cases and leading a task force focused on fighting child exploitation. Cathy's diverse background and litigation experience have been key to securing favorable outcomes for her clients both in and out of court.



**MAX BRUSKY** is currently Director, Claims Management for Bulkmatic, LLC, the largest dry bulk goods carrier in the U.S. Based in Griffith, Indiana, Bulkmatic, LLC operates in 20 states from the upper Midwest to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey and south to Texas, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Florida. In this role, Max is responsible for managing the variety of claims exposures to the company, including auto liability, workers' compensation, equipment physical damage and cargo/freight, as well as the implementation of the company's insurance, safety, compliance and risk management programs. He is also currently a vice chair in the Transportation Section of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC), an advisory board member of ClaimsXchange, and an immediate past Client Advisory Board member of ALFA International. Prior to joining Bulkmatic, Max was an Assistant Branch Manager of Gallagher Bassett Specialty's Transportation Practice Major Case Unit following its establishment in 2020. Prior to joining GB, he was the Director, Claims Management for Hub Group's Trucking subsidiary for 4.5 years. Before joining Hub Group, Max owned and operated a solo litigation practice specializing in insurance defense, subrogation, and coverage for nearly eight years, and was an associate with two Chicago defense firms before that. Max began his legal career with the Chicago Transit Authority Law Department's Tort Section, where handled trials and appeals.



**DINA COX** is a legal strategist and trial attorney with Lewis Wagner, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Indianapolis, Indiana, who honors responsive client service as a top priority. Dina has significant jury trial experience in state and federal court 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.



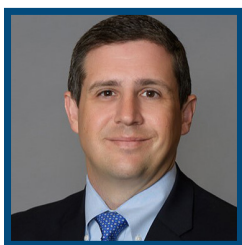
# SPEAKERS



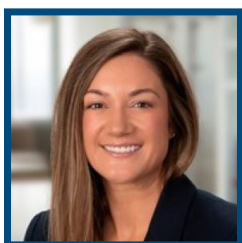
**ASHLEY DOTY** joined National Interstate Insurance in 2023, bringing with her years of experience as a paralegal and then as an attorney with a civil defense firm. Ashley is part of the Critical Claims Unit of National Interstate, a dedicated team of experienced claim examiners and attorneys specializing in handling the most complex and/or litigated claims. Ashley works to resolve complex and high exposure bodily injury claims over the contiguous United States.



**CHARLIE KRAFT** is a shareholder and director with Butt Thornton & Baehr PC, the ALFA International member firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Charlie's practice generally encompasses the areas of trucking and transportation, catastrophic personal injury/wrongful death matters, product defect/liability, professional malpractice and regulatory/licensure matters. Charlie is a member of ALFAI's Future Leaders Practice Group and is on the Steering Committee for ALFAI's Transportation Practice Group.



**JEFF LEVINE** is a partner at Matheny Sears Linkert & Jaime, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Sacramento, California. Jeff has represented individuals as well as international, national, and local companies. He focuses his practice on trucking and transportation, product liability and premises liability. He regularly litigates cases in California State Court and Federal District Court. He has been lead trial counsel in several trials to verdict and has also litigated several appeals.



**MEGHAN LEWALLEN** is an associate with Frantz Ward LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Cleveland, Ohio, and is a member of the firm's Litigation Practice Group. Meghan focuses her practice on general business disputes, transportation law, real estate, professional liability defense and employment litigation. Meghan began her career serving the plaintiffs' bar, which presents a unique perspective and distinct advantage when identifying and analyzing risks and developing strategies and solutions for her clients. She is licensed to practice in Ohio state and federal courts and regularly represents clients throughout the entire state of Ohio. Meghan is a member of ALFAI's Future Leaders Practice Group.

# SPEAKERS



**MATT PARSONS** has been a member of Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC, ALFA International's member firm in Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky, since 2008. His practice focuses on civil litigation, with experience in the areas of trucking litigation, product liability, business negligence and business litigation. Matt has represented clients across a broad range of industries, including transportation logistics, manufacturing and distribution and professional and financial services. Matt is a graduate of the Indiana University Kelley School of Business (B.S.) and the University of Kentucky College of Law. Matt formerly served as Chair of ALFAI's Future Leaders Practice Group and currently serves as regional programming co-chair for the Transportation Practice Group. He is also currently the vice president of the Fayette County Bar Association and has been honored as a Kentucky Super Lawyers Rising Star.



**KATIE STRAWBRIDGE** is a partner with Lewis Wagner, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Indianapolis, Indiana. As a member of the firm's Transportation Practice Group, she devotes a substantial amount of her practice to representing commercial carriers and drivers in litigation involving wrongful death, catastrophic injury and property damage claims. She frequently litigates in both state and federal court and assists clients in pre-suit investigation, including 24/7 state-wide emergency accident investigation. Katie is actively involved in all phases of the litigation process to protect the interests of motor carriers and their drivers; she zealously advocates on their behalf to reach the best possible outcome, whether it be through alternative dispute resolution or trial. She serves on ALFAI's Transportation and Women's Initiative Steering Committees.