



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

BUSINESS LITIGATION PRACTICE GROUP REGIONAL SEMINAR



Nashville, Tennessee | May 29, 2025

SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Program at Lewis Thomason

424 Church Street, Suite 2500 | Nashville, Tennessee

1:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION

2:00 P.M. – 2:10 P.M.

WELCOME

Speaker:

Carlos Vera, *Regional Seminar Program Chair*, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Chicago, IL

2:10 P.M. – 2:50 P.M.

ROBOPOCALYPSE OR SINGULARITY? A DISCUSSION ON AI AND ITS IMPACT ON IN-HOUSE COUNSEL AND LEGAL PRACTICE

Speakers:

Carlos Vera, *Regional Seminar Program Chair*, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Chicago, IL

Megan Stumph-Turner, BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC, Kansas City, MO

An overview of the legal, ethical and strategic issues surrounding the use of artificial intelligence. Participants will explore key topics such as AI-generated evidence, discovery challenges, bias and reliability concerns and the evolving regulatory landscape. The program will also highlight AI's benefits for data security, including its role in threat detection, anomaly identification and real-time risk mitigation to protect sensitive legal and corporate data.

2:50 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOMS AND COURTROOMS – PREPARING FOR AND AVOIDING LITIGATION IN CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS

Speakers:

Alan Fershtman, KEATING MUETHING & KLEKAMP PLL, Cincinnati, OH

John Osguthorpe, TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD, Jacksonville, FL

This program equips corporate attorneys and in-house counsel with essential strategies to minimize litigation risks in corporate transactions. Covering due diligence, contract drafting, indemnification, liability allocation and dispute resolution, the session provides practical tools to structure deals that reduce the likelihood of disputes. Through real-world case studies, attendees will learn to anticipate conflicts, negotiate protective terms and safeguard clients from costly litigation.

3:30 P.M. – 3:40 P.M.

BREAK

SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

3:40 P.M. – 4:20 P.M.

JUDGMENTS ARE ONLY WORTH THE PAPER THEY'RE PRINTED ON... UNTIL YOU ENFORCE THEM

Speakers:

Annette Mijanovic, HAIGHT BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP, Los Angeles, CA
Amanda Loughmiller, QUILLING, SELANDER, LOWNDS, WINSLETT & MOSER, P.C., Dallas, TX

Congratulations! You have a judgment ordering someone to pay you money. Now what? This session will explore how to lay the groundwork to put yourself in the best possible position to enforce your judgment. From creating enforcement plans to seizing assets, dealing with the bankruptcy or death of a debtor and forcing the sale of real estate, you will walk away from this session with countless tools to ensure that you leave no stone unturned in your quest for recovery.

4:20 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

NAVIGATING TARIFF TENSIONS AND KEY POLICY SHIFTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESSES UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND HOW TO SET YOUR COMPANY UP FOR SUCCESS

Speakers:

Jen Pedevillano, HALLORAN SAGE, New Haven, CT
Jaime Skinner, *Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary*, BRENNTAG NA, Wayne, PA

A roundtable discussion will explore key policy shifts during the Trump administration that in-house corporate attorneys need to consider when advising their companies. Panelists will examine changes in regulatory enforcement, trade policies, antitrust developments and corporate tax reforms, providing insights into their long-term implications for business operations. A special focus will be placed on navigating tariffs and trade restrictions, including how companies can prepare for supply chain disruptions, mitigate financial risks and develop compliance strategies to adapt to evolving trade policies. Attendees will gain practical strategies for risk management and proactive legal planning in a shifting regulatory landscape.

5:00 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS

Speaker:

Carlos Vera, *Regional Seminar Program Chair*, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Chicago, IL

5:15 P.M.

SOCIAL EVENT

SOCIAL EVENT



5:15 - 7:00 P.M. COCKTAILS & DINNER

OPHELIA'S PIZZA + BAR | 401 CHURCH STREET

7:30 P.M. LARKIN POE CONCERT

RYMAN | 116 REP. JOHN LEWIS WAY NORTH



ALFA International
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SPEAKERS



ALAN FERSHTMAN serves as managing partner of Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL, the ALFA International member firm in Cincinnati, Ohio. He represents entrepreneurs in the acquisition, financing and sale of multi-family, affordable housing. In addition, Alan represents closely held companies, particularly entrepreneurs, in equity and private venture transactions, ongoing operations and divestitures, corporate mergers and acquisitions, taxation, estate planning and real estate. He has considerable experience in corporate issues unique to entrepreneurial organizations.



AMANDA LOUGHMILLER is an attorney with Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett & Moser, P.C., the ALFA International member firm in Plano, Texas. She represents financial institutions in DTPA and creditors' rights in consumer bankruptcy. Represents and advises debt collectors and financial institutions regarding FCRA, FDCPA, TCPA, DTPA, TDTA and creditors' rights in consumer bankruptcy cases.



ANNETTE MIJANOVIC is an attorney with Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Los Angeles, California. She centers her practice on complex commercial litigation, including business torts, real estate litigation, and contract and collection disputes. Her experience includes an emphasis on residential and commercial unlawful detainers as well as representing lender institutions, title service entities, and property management companies in foreclosure litigation filed in all state and federal courts throughout California. She also has significant experience defending against consumer warranty claims and defending creditors against unfair debt collection and unfair credit reporting claims.



JOHN OSGATHORPE currently serves as president and managing partner of Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boyd, the ALFA International member firm in Jacksonville, Florida. In his business litigation and complex torts practice, he protects the interests of companies, management teams, business owners, and stakeholders in a diverse array of commercial and torts disputes. He litigates in state and federal court, as well as before arbitrators, throughout Florida. John's practice includes most types of business and commercial disputes ranging from breach of contract claims, shareholder disputes, corporate governance disputes, misappropriation of trade secrets, "business divorces", defense of fair debt collection and other consumer protection acts as well as UCC matters while his torts practice includes products liability cases, fire loss cases, truck and auto accidents, defamation and premises liability, including personal injury and wrongful death matters. He also handles disputes regarding real estate and wills and trusts.



SPEAKERS



JEN PEDEVILLANO is an attorney at Halloran Sage, the ALFA International member firm in New Haven, Connecticut. She handles construction matters, contract disputes, products liability, complex commercial and corporate litigation matters, and represents employers in all areas of labor and employment law, including employer counseling, training, and the litigation of employment disputes, such as discrimination claims, unemployment compensation claims, and claims for wrongful termination. She also has significant experience assisting medical providers subpoenaed for records and testimony. Jen has served clients who range from large corporations to individuals. Jen has experience trying cases before arbitrators, judges, and juries. She was the lead associate on a large commercial contract dispute early in her career and a key team member in the litigation of the matter at arbitration. In addition, Jen has spent time on several construction law cases relating to product liability, contract interpretation and payment disputes. She obtained a desirable outcome on a building defect case through in-depth photograph, deposition, witness and expert information analysis. She also has handled a lengthy trade secrets case. She frequently handles discovery in large complex matters, including electronic discovery, and uses technology to the client's benefit in the preparation of a case for litigation and during trial/arbitration.



JAIME SKINNER is Vice President of Legal and General Counsel for Brenntag NA, the North American subsidiary of the global market leader in chemicals and ingredients distribution. She began her career in private practice at law firms in Dallas, where she focused on litigation, complex restructuring transactions, and bankruptcy. She then went in-house and joined Caterpillar's legal team in 2007, where she had management responsibility and experience worldwide for a wide range of commercial, financial, regulatory, and litigation matters, including government investigations, class actions, and financing transactions. After over a decade at Caterpillar, she became Associate General Counsel at a publicly traded government contractor, where she provided support to the executive office, managed the company's eDiscovery and policy management programs, and led a wide variety of legal matters involving corporate governance, litigation, data privacy and data breach response, and government investigations. Jaime holds an undergraduate degree from Columbia University and a J.D. from Washington University School of Law.



SPEAKERS



MEGAN STUMPH-TURNER is a civil and commercial litigator with Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC, the ALFA International member firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Her civil litigation practice includes creditors' rights, financial services, real estate, construction and commercial litigation. Megan has successfully represented clients in thousands of cases throughout all stages of litigation, including bench and jury trials. While financial services and real estate litigation remain her primary area of focus, Megan's litigation practice has also included the representation of defendants in commercial disputes, construction cases, employment litigation and product liability claims.



CARLOS VERA is an attorney with Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois. He concentrates his practice in general and complex commercial litigation, particularly in the areas of business torts, professional liability, white collar defense and contractual disputes. Carlos has represented individuals and business entities in state and federal court dealing with issues concerning breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, trade secrets, unfair competition, shareholder rights, commercial development disputes and UCC disputes. Carlos recently defended a client in a UCC/Food Recall jury trial where the purchaser of recalled goods claimed \$25 million in damages. Carlos has also represented clients in regulatory matters before the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations, and the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission. Prior to joining Johnson & Bell, Carlos worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County where he gained vast trial experience from prosecuting over 200 bench trials and seven jury trials to verdict. Carlos' skills as a trial attorney have been recognized by his peers in civil practice. Carlos was named as one of the "Forty Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch" for 2020 by Law Bulletin Publishing Company, publishers of *Chicago Lawyer* and the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*.

