



**ALFA International**  
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

# GIG ECONOMY REGIONAL SEMINAR



**Austin, Texas | February 20, 2025**

# SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## Thursday, February 20, 2025

### Program at JW Marriott Austin | Austin, Texas

110 East 2nd Street | Austin, Texas | Rooms 301-302

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**LUNCH AND REGISTRATION**

Rooms 301-302

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**PROGRAMMING**

Rooms 301-302

2:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

***Speakers:***

**Jessica Zaroski Bauer**, CEO, ALFA INTERNATIONAL, Chicago, IL

**Jason Goodnight**, Program Chair, FRANDEN | FARRIS | QUILLIN |

GOODNIGHT | ROBERTS + WARD, Tulsa, OK

**Stephen Myers**, Client Advisory Board Member, MATCH GROUP, Dallas, TX

**Akeem Williams**, Client Advisory Board Member, INSTACART,

San Francisco, CA

2:15 P.M. – 3:05 P.M.

**REGULATION FIRST, INNOVATION SECOND?**

***Speakers:***

**Sebastian Schneider**, Moderator, TIEFENBACHER, Heidelberg, Germany

**Terrance Pryor**, Counsel, Privacy and Cybersecurity, GENERAL MOTORS,

Atlanta, GA

In the realm of Generative AI, both developers and users agree that this technology comes with inherited risks. That in mind, with the “AI Act,” the European Union (EU) has set out a regulation, before even the first European entrepreneurship made a significant leap in the application of generative AI systems in practice. However, is this slowing down innovation or rather preparing a legal framework that provides legal certainty in a field that has the potential to disrupt almost every field of economy? This panel shall look at which risks will have to be assessed by providing generative AI systems in the EU as well as potential ideas for implementation outside the EU.

# SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

3:05 P.M. – 3:55 P.M.

## DIFFERENT SHADES OF RED

### *Speakers:*

**Julie Busch**, *Moderator*, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Chicago, IL

**Joseph Ballard**, *Corporate Counsel-Litigation, Investigations and Insurance*, SHIPT, INC., Birmingham, AL

**Carson Britton**, *Counsel*, DOORDASH, Chicago, IL

**Kristen Allison**, MAYER LLP, Houston, TX

**Andy Douberly**, DICKINSON & GIBBONS, P.A., Sarasota, FL

**Kimberly Harris**, QUILLING, SELANDER, LOWNDS, WINSLETT & MOSER, P.C., Dallas, TX

A panel of veteran trial lawyers will compare Texas and Florida's contrasting approaches to excessive verdicts, emphasizing Florida's new tort reform legislation and efforts by the Plaintiff bar to bypass its protections. The panel will then focus on the unique risks of litigating cases in one of the most volatile jurisdictions in America, along with a deep dive into how tort reform failed, and a firsthand history of how particular venues in Texas became such frequent homes to some of the largest verdicts in the country.

3:55 P.M. – 4:05 P.M.

## BREAK

Foyer

4:05 P.M. – 4:55 P.M.

## NAVIGATING THE NEW 2025 FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE STATE AND PREDICTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSES

### *Speakers:*

**Brad Reed**, *Moderator*, FRANTZ WARD LLP, Cleveland, OH

**Nick Brauns**, *Chair Emeritus*, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK, LLP, San Diego, CA

**Nick Ruble**, BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC, Kansas City, MO

**Amy Yarbrow**, MORRISON MAHONEY, Boston, MA

This session will address navigating changes in federal regulations under a new administration, focusing on the potential impact of new regulators and increased state and local enforcement. Topics include consumer protection regulations like the right-to-cancel, updates to DOL independent contractor rules, and state-level trends. The panel will explore the effects of California's Proposition 22, its role in litigation following its affirmation by the state Supreme Court, and expected legislative and administrative responses.

4:55 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

## THANK YOU AND CLOSING REMARKS

### *Speakers:*

**Brooke Churchman**, *Practice Group Chair*, HALL & EVANS, LLC, Denver, CO

**Jason Goodnight**, *Program Chair*, FRANDEN | FARRIS | QUILLIN | GOODNIGHT | ROBERTS + WARD, Tulsa, OK



# SOCIAL EVENT



## BOAT CRUISE ON LADY BIRD LAKE

5:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Join us for an unforgettable evening on Lady Bird Lake as we cruise beneath the stunning skyline of Austin! Indulge in a delicious Texas smokehouse dinner paired with refreshing cocktails, all while enjoying the vibrant sounds of live music. This exclusive boat cruise promises breathtaking views and a lively atmosphere, making it the perfect way to connect with new and old friends.



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# SPEAKERS



**KRISTEN ALLISON** is an attorney with Mayer LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Houston, Texas. Kristen provides services in personal injury litigation, including auto accidents, premises liability, Dram Shop (liquor liability), wrongful death and industrial workplace injuries, products liability, and construction defect.



**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.



**NICK BRAUNS** is an attorney with Higgs Fletcher & Mack, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in San Diego, California. Nick's practice includes assisting with the investigation and defense of industrial accidents, personal injuries or other catastrophic losses for various companies in the transportation industry (trucking, auto and vertical transportation manufacturers, escalators and elevators). Nick has successfully represented clients through trial and arbitration in commercial and catastrophic loss matters in Southern California. His work on behalf of commercial clients includes counseling and representation for regulatory issues that impact the trucking and transportation industries. Nick is on standby as part of HFM's 24/7 Rapid Response Hotline, staffed by a live operator around the clock.

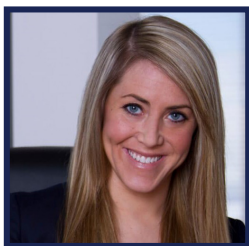


**CARSON BRITTON** is in-house counsel at DoorDash and is a member of its Insurance Litigation Team. He oversees a docket of matters arising in the Midwest, Great Plains, and Southwest regions of the United States, including product liability, personal injury, and interpersonal disputes. Carson manages all aspects of outside counsel relationships, including litigation strategy, work product, and budgets. Prior to joining DoorDash, Carson was a trial attorney at State Farm, defending insureds in automobile and premises liability lawsuits. He is licensed to practice in the State of Illinois and resides in Chicago. Carson is currently a member of the LCLD Pathfinders Program.





# SPEAKERS



**JULIE BUSCH** is a shareholder of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois. Julie concentrates her practice in general negligence, as well as transportation and retail litigation. She has assisted with all aspects of litigation, mediation, settlement, and jury trials for large, complex disputes in transportation litigation, complex brain injury, and retail litigation. Her clients include transportation companies, refuse and recycling companies, food companies and retailers.



**BROOKE CHURCHMAN** is a member of Hall & Evans, LLC, ALFA International's member firm in Denver, Colorado. Brooke's practice focuses on defending personal injury matters, including commercial transportation litigation, auto claims, premises claims, and employment matters. Brooke also represents niche businesses that operate app-based technology and marketplace platforms in the gig economy. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.S. in Zoology and earning her J.D. Before entering private practice, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Raymond Moore in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado and as assistant general counsel with the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. Brooke was named by 5280 Magazine as a top lawyer in Transportation and has been (and is) selected for inclusion in Colorado's "Rising Stars." Brooke is a member of ALFA's Future Leaders, Transportation, Gig Economy and Hospitality & Retail Practice Groups.



**ANDY DOUBERLY** is a shareholder of Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Sarasota and Tampa, Florida. Andy is a trial attorney with a focus on auto, trucking, premises liability, and product liability defense. He handles the defense of claims from pre-suit through trial and has tried numerous multi-day civil jury trials in jurisdictions throughout Florida.



**JASON GOODNIGHT** is a partner with Franden | Farris | Quillin | Goodnight | Roberts + Ward, the ALFA International member firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jason primarily litigates matters in state and federal court in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas. He focuses his practice on product liability, transportation, oil & gas litigation and subrogation matters.



**KIMBERLY HARRIS** is an attorney with Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett & Moser, P.C., the ALFA International member firm in Dallas, Texas. Kimberly represents clients in a variety of litigation matters. During her career, Kimberly gained extensive experience in commercial and civil defense litigation, including premises liability and non-subscription defense, trying cases in both Texas state and federal courts. She also defends companies on general liability and non-subscriber claims of premises liability, wrongful death and product liability.

# SPEAKERS



**STEPHEN MYERS** is a Director & Senior Counsel of Litigation at Match Group, where he handles consumer, business and employment litigation matters for Match Group's global portfolio of brands, including, among others, Tinder®, Match®, Hinge® and OkCupid®. Prior to joining Match Group, Stephen worked as a litigation and labor and employment attorney for Southwest Airlines, and, before that, as a litigation associate at the international law firm Norton Rose Fulbright. Stephen received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.



**TERRANCE PRYOR** is currently in-house counsel at General Motors where he focuses on Data Privacy, Cybersecurity, AI Technology and Legal Analytics. Terrance's work consists of guiding the company on compliance with new and emerging privacy regulations as well as the implementation of innovative features such as in-vehicle applications and enterprise technology solutions. Originally from Chicago IL, Terrance attended the University of Iowa for his undergraduate studies, where he received his bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Japanese and played Division 1 college football for the Hawkeyes. He then continued his studies at Clark Atlanta University where he obtained his M.A. in criminal justice while also playing football for the Panthers. He sits on the Executive Committee of the Georgia State Bar's Privacy and Technology section as Vice Chair, Pro Bono and Community Engagement and is a member of the LCLD Pathfinder's Program.



**BRAD REED** is a partner with Frantz Ward LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Cleveland, Ohio. Brad works on a wide range of corporate, transactional, regulatory, data privacy/cybersecurity and employee benefits matters. Specifically, his practice focuses on working with hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare providers regarding complex regulatory and compliance issues. Brad regularly advises clients with respect to HIPAA compliance, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, health care fraud and abuse regulations, and medical staff management issues. He also works on a wide range of various data privacy and cybersecurity issues, financial services regulations, ERISA compliance, service provider and vendor agreement negotiations, and other commercial contracts for clients in numerous industries and sectors. Additionally, he has experience handling ERISA, general litigation and intellectual property matters. He assists in investigating data security incidents and regularly prepares breach risk assessments and notifications under HIPAA and various state data breach notification laws.



**NICK RUBLE** is a member of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC, the ALFA International member firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Nick represents companies of all sizes and industries in employment and labor, personal injury, creditor's rights, and commercial disputes at all stages of litigation or alternative dispute resolution. Throughout his career, Nick has employed creative tactics to reach positive outcomes for his clients in mediation, arbitration, and in state or federal court.



# SPEAKERS



**SEBASTIAN SCHNEIDER** is partner with Tiefenbacher, the ALFA International member firm in Germany. Tiefenbacher offers full-service legal advice for both corporate advice and litigation. Sebastian's practice focuses on corporate, M&A and similar transactions, including real estate portfolio acquisitions and, therefore real estate, construction and rental law. In addition, Sebastian is a key contact for the startup advice center at Heidelberg University, and his clients include promising start-up companies from the technology sector. As common in this field, he advises both investors and entrepreneurs on navigating the gig economy with its challenges and disruptions to the classic labor law environment.



**AKEEM WILLIAMS** earned his JD at Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon, in 2011 and his BA in May 2008 at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, majoring in American Government. He focused on medical malpractice and product liability at Hart Wagner LLP in Portland, Oregon, from September 2012 to November 2014, and at Lindsay Hart LLP, starting in 2014 as an associate attorney and later becoming partner. In 2019, Akeem then served as Corporate Counsel for Daimler Trucks North America LLC in Portland, Oregon before becoming Litigation Counsel at Instacart in 2023.



**AMY YARBRO** is a partner with Morrison Mahoney LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Boston, Massachusetts. Amy is practicing civil defense litigation with a focus on employment law, professional liability, and directors and officers (D&O) liability in Massachusetts. She defends nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care agencies, medical and real estate professionals, businesses, and individuals in a wide range of matters involving medical malpractice, wrongful death, condominium disputes, landlord-tenant matters, premises liability, and transportation. She represents clients in employment discrimination and retaliation claims as well as wage and hour disputes. Amy is also the founder and chair of the firm's Wellness Committee.

