



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK



Business Litigation at Midnight:
Strategy and Judgment in the Garden
of Good and Evil



2026 BUSINESS LITIGATION PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR
JUNE 3-5, 2026 | JW MARRIOTT SAVANNAH | SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

www.ALFAInternational.com



Business Litigation at Midnight: Strategy and Judgment in the Garden of Good and Evil

2026 BUSINESS LITIGATION PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR

JUNE 3-5, 2026

JW MARRIOTT SAVANNAH | SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

WELCOME TO JW MARRIOTT SAVANNAH!

Located in the heart of Savannah, Georgia and just 10 miles, a short 20-minute taxi ride, from Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, the JW Marriott Savannah serves as a gateway to the entertainment district along the Riverfront. Once Savannah's iconic power plant, the JW Marriott is one of the most unique and historic Savannah hotels that offers an unparalleled experience in an undeniably beautiful location. Savannah gracefully balances antebellum elegance with modern Southern sophistication. This coastal gem has evolved into a thriving destination celebrated for its moss-draped squares, thriving arts community and innovative dining scene. Wander through the Historic District where cobblestone streets wind past stately townhouses, intimate galleries, cafés and charming boutiques. Whether soaking in the city's legendary hospitality or discovering its storied past through architecture and culture, you'll find yourself enchanted by this timeless Southern treasure.

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 140 member firms throughout the world. Our 70 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.

Business litigation in 2026 often feels less like a straight line from complaint to judgment and more like a long Savannah night in John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Commercial litigators work in a similar place, where AI tools promise efficiency but raise new risks, where regulators and governments change faster than long-term contracts and where decision-makers bring their own stories and biases to every dispute. This seminar is about learning to see that full landscape clearly—and to navigate it deliberately—instead of treating each case like a closed-system puzzle that will be solved on the docket sheet alone.

Today's commercial disputes can be complex narratives that unfold over multiple forums—courts, regulators, investors and social media—while counsel fight not only over law and facts, but over which story becomes “the” story. *Midnight* blurs genres—true crime, travelogue, social portrait—just as modern commercial litigation blurs boundaries between traditional contract disputes, fiduciary duty and derivative claims, consumer class actions and unfair competition lawsuits. When board decisions about technology adoption, pricing, or data use later surface in shareholder suits or consumer claims, the “garden” of corporate governance and risk oversight suddenly becomes the terrain on which liability is fought.

Across all of this seminar's panels, the through-line is simple: commercial litigators no longer practice in a tidy world of clear lines between good and evil, right and wrong, plaintiff and defendant. They practice in something closer to Berendt's Savannah at midnight, where perception, place, technology and strategy intertwine—and where the lawyers who understand that complexity best are the ones their clients trust to lead them through the garden.



John Osgathorpe
Practice Group Chair, ALFA International
Business Litigation Practice Group
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida



Christopher Page
2026 Program Chair, ALFA International
Business Litigation Practice Group
YOUNG MOORE & HENDERSON, P.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina

2024-2026 BUSINESS LITIGATION PRACTICE GROUP LEADERSHIP



P. Douglas Barr
Vice Chair, ALFA International
Board of Directors
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
Lexington, Kentucky



Jennifer Pedevillano
Marketing/Vice-Chair, ALFA
International Business
Litigation Practice Group
HALLORAN SAGE
New Haven, Connecticut



John Osgathorpe
Practice Group Chair, ALFA International
Business Litigation Practice Group
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida



John Newcomer
Chair Emeritus, ALFA International
Business Litigation Practice Group
MORRIS JAMES LLP
Wilmington, Delaware



Christopher Page
2026 Program Chair, ALFA International
Business Litigation Practice Group
YOUNG MOORE & HENDERSON, P.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina



Steve Coffaro
Course Book Editor
KEATING MUETHING & KLEKAMP PLL
Cincinnati, Ohio



Carlos Vera
2026 Program Vice-Chair,
ALFA International Business
Litigation Practice Group
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois



Ross Maddalena
Course Book Editor
MERRICK, HOFSTEDT & LINDSEY, P.S.
Seattle, Washington

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION

Amethyst Pre-Function

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
FACULTY REHEARSAL

Amethyst Ballroom

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
ALL ALFA INTERNATIONAL ATTORNEY MEETING

Citrine Meeting Room

All attending ALFA International attorneys are required to attend.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
CLIENT ONLY SOCIAL

Beethoven's Music Terrace

This event allows client attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas and share best practices in a social setting without ALFA International lawyers present.



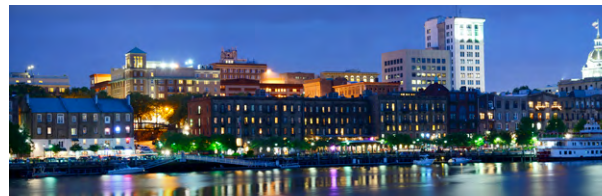
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. WOMEN'S INITIATIVE EVENT
THE ART OF MIXOLOGY

Moon Deck

Unwind and connect with your female colleagues, featuring an interactive cocktail and mocktail-making experience. We will also come together to support Tharros Place, a local shelter dedicated to supporting survivors of human trafficking. Additional details on how you can contribute will be provided.



Clementine Uwabera
Women's Initiative Liaison
STAFFORD
ROSENBAUM LLP
Madison, Wisconsin



6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

RIVERSIDE & ROOFTOP WELCOME TO SAVANNAH!

WELCOME RECEPTION, BUFFET DINNER & REGISTRATION

Moon Deck

Join us for an unforgettable evening connecting with colleagues both old and new in the South's most beloved city, Savannah. Set on the rooftop of the iconic Power Plant Building, the Moon Deck provides stunning views of the Savannah River and the historic city skyline.

9:45 p.m.-11:15 p.m.

STEP INTO SAVANNAH'S SHADOWS: THE DEAD OF NIGHT GHOST TOUR

Explore Savannah's ghostly history on the Dead of Night Ghost Tour. This 90-minute walking tour ventures into the historic district's eeriest corners long after sunset. Led by expert local guides, you'll hear unfiltered tales at some of Savannah's most haunted locations. Stops may include Colonial Park Cemetery, Wright Square and hidden burial grounds lost to time. Whether you're a skeptic or a believer, you'll leave with memories that might just keep you glancing over your shoulder long after the night ends.



THURSDAY, JUNE 4

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET

Beethoven's Music Terrace

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
FIRST TIME ATTENDEE BREAKFAST

Beethoven's Music Terrace

All first-time client and attorney attendees are encouraged to attend this breakfast to connect with other people attending their first ALFA seminar.

8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
PROGRAM SESSIONS

Amethyst Ballroom & Citrine Meeting Room

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS



P. Douglas Barr
Vice Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
Lexington, Kentucky



John Osgathorpe
Practice Group Chair, ALFA International Business Litigation Practice Group
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida



Jessica Zaroski Bauer
Chief Executive Officer
ALFA INTERNATIONAL
Chicago, Illinois



Christopher Page
2026 Program Chair, ALFA International Business Litigation Practice Group
YOUNG MOORE & HENDERSON, P.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable discussions will occur throughout the program and will be led by the table captains listed below. Selected tables will report back to the larger group after each discussion period.

TABLE CAPTAINS



Matthew Fisher
STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Christopher Schaefer
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
Louisville, Kentucky



Alichia Grubb
GENTRY LOCKE
Roanoke, Virginia



Steve Schwartz
BROWN & JAMES, P.C.
St. Louis, Missouri



Ross Maddalena
MERRICK, HOFSTEDT & LINDSEY, P.S.
Seattle, Washington



Stan Siegel
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Taylor McMahon
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida



Jordan Stern
BECKER, GLYNN, MUFFLY, CHASSIN & HOSINSKI LLP
New York, New York



John Newcomer
MORRIS JAMES LLP
Wilmington, Delaware



Jay Thompson
MURPHY & GRANTLAND, P.A.
Columbia, South Carolina



8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION WITH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Midnight in the Garden of Law and AI: Where Even the Computer Has Secrets

In Savannah, the line between good, evil and eccentricity is famously thin — and in today’s litigation world, AI fits right in. Much like the characters of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, modern algorithms can be charming, unpredictable and occasionally in need of a lawyer. In this lively session, we’ll explore how even in commercial litigation, AI is reshaping pretrial work, trial strategy and courtroom theatrics. We’ll talk about advanced use of tools that can analyze millions of documents faster than you can say ‘Bless your heart’, and help you with depositions, research, pleadings and trial planning like an experienced associate. We’ll also cover the pitfalls: hallucinating chatbots, biased models, mysterious explanations — all the digital mischief that would make even *The Lady Chablis* raise an eyebrow.



D. Jay Davis
Moderator
CLEMENT RIVERS, LLP
Charleston, South Carolina



Nate Patterson
Associate General Counsel
SIMON PROPERTY GROUP
Indianapolis, Indiana



Jolene Russell
Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer
SHAW INDUSTRIES GROUP, INC.
Enumclaw, Washington



Jesse Conan
BECKER, GLYNN, MUFFLY,
CHASSIN & HOSINSKI LLP
New York, New York

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS WITH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

OPTION ONE – THE SELECTION AND USE OF EXPERT WITNESSES IN COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

From selection to testimony, every decision in working with an expert witness can influence the outcome of a case. This panel will walk through the full expert engagement process in business litigation—how to choose the right type of expert, coordinate report preparation, plan submissions and depositions and prepare for testimony. Panelists will share best practices and common pitfalls, offering real-world examples of how to maximize expert effectiveness and avoid missteps that could undermine your case.



Kevin Holt
Moderator
GENTRY LOCKE
Roanoke, Virginia



Frank Conway
Assistant General Counsel
MEYER CORPORATION, U.S.
Vallejo, California



Matt Haynes
Global Head of Litigation
INDIVIOR
North Chesterfield, Virginia



Robin Alperstein
BECKER, GLYNN, MUFFLY,
CHASSIN & HOSINSKI LLP
New York, New York

OPTION TWO – FEES, FEES AND PHONE CALLS: NAVIGATING MODERN CONSUMER COMPLIANCE RISKS

From payment surcharges and junk fee enforcement to website pixels, data tracking and TCPA claims, this session provides a practical overview of where regulators and plaintiffs are focusing now. Attendees will gain insight into litigation trends, compliance pitfalls and defense strategies across these interconnected risk areas.



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



John Lawler
Vice President & Assistant General Counsel
PENSKE
Reading, Pennsylvania



Matthew Burke
YOUNG MOORE AND HENDERSON, P.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION WITH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Navigating Regulatory Shifts: When Political Change Becomes a Litigation Risk

As governments change, so do the rules that shape how companies operate — and increasingly, how and why business disputes arise. This session explores proactive legal and business strategies to anticipate, manage and strategically respond to regulatory changes in uncertain political environments. Experienced counsel and clients will discuss recent examples of transition-driven regulatory reform across key sectors and examine how such changes often translate into commercial disputes, litigation risk and cross-border conflicts. The panel will outline governance and compliance frameworks that not only address regulatory uncertainty but also enhance litigation readiness and protect business objectives when disputes emerge. Attendees will gain practical insights into risk mitigation, documentation and decision-making strategies, cross-border coordination and advocacy approaches that help companies remain flexible while positioning themselves effectively for the next wave of political and regulatory change.



Cody Cooper
Moderator
PHILLIPS MURRAH P.C.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Caroline Keller
General Counsel
MACROSOURCE LLC
Atlanta, Georgia



Christin Krämer
TIEFENBACHER
Heidelberg, Germany



12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
LUNCH

Beethoven's Music Terrace

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

See optional activities brochure for details.

Prior registration is required.



6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

WHERE CHARM MEETS MYSTERY: A ROOFTOP EVENING IN SAVANNAH STYLE

RECEPTION & DINNER BUFFET

Myrtle & Rose



At the Myrtle & Rose Rooftop Garden, step into a world where Savannah's charm, secrets and rituals unfold beneath the night sky. Overlooking the historic waterfront, this storied rooftop blends refined Southern hospitality with an air of intrigue reminiscent of garden gatherings, whispered conversations and timeless traditions. Named for blooms steeped in symbolism, Myrtle & Rose offers an exceptional setting for networking, spirited celebration and live music—where elegance, eccentricity, and enchantment meet after dark.

9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

EVENING ENCORE AT SAVANNAH SMILES

Savannah Smiles Dueling Pianos

314 Williamson Street

The celebration continues at Savannah Smiles Dueling Piano Bar, located in the historic Power Plant building. After dinner at Myrtle & Rose, join us for an unforgettable evening of live entertainment featuring talented pianists. Whether you're singing along to your favorite songs or simply enjoying the lively atmosphere with craft cocktails in hand, this evening encore promises to be a highlight in your Savannah experience.

Transportation: Savannah Smiles Dueling Pianos is a 1-minute walk from the hotel so we will walk over as a group after dinner.



FRIDAY, JUNE 5

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET

Beethoven's Music Terrace


8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
PROGRAM SESSIONS


Amethyst Ballroom & Citrine Meeting Room


8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
PLENARY SESSION WITH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Litigating to the Decision-Maker: Strategy Across Courts, Juries and ADR

In commercial litigation, the law matters, but the audience dictates delivery. The same case sounds different to a judge, a jury, an arbitrator, or a mediator and each forum rewards different signals of credibility, clarity and persuasion. Advocacy therefore requires deliberate changes in presentation, proof and tone, from how evidence is organized and emphasized to how arguments are framed and paced. This program examines how those adjustments play out in practice. Drawing on real-world experience, it shows the consequences of getting those choices right or wrong and how small shifts in approach can materially affect outcomes.

 **Brian Coolidge**
Moderator
MAYER LLP
Houston, Texas

 **Victoria "Vicki" Policicchio**
Assistant General Counsel
CHAMPION HOME BUILDERS, INC.
Troy, Michigan

 **Collin Moore**
Corporate Counsel and Project Manager
ALLTECH, INC.
Nicholasville, Kentucky

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

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
BREAK


9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.


BREAKOUT SESSIONS WITH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

OPTION ONE – FIDUCIARY DUTIES AND INTERNAL DISPUTES IN CORPORATIONS AND LLCs: LITIGATION STRATEGIES AND DERIVATIVE CLAIMS

Disputes among owners of closely held and publicly traded entities often turn on the nature and scope of fiduciary duties—and those duties differ in meaningful ways depending on whether the entity is a corporation or a limited liability company. This session will explore those differences through the lens of real-world litigation involving shareholder and member disputes. Drawing on recent experience representing corporate officers and shareholders in derivative fiduciary duty claims, enforcing stock purchase and put-option rights, litigating right-of-first-refusal disputes and prosecuting and defending fiduciary duty claims among LLC members, the panel will compare the duties shareholders owe to one another versus the duties owed among LLC members. The discussion will highlight how those distinctions shape litigation strategy, available remedies and defenses.


 **James Niehaus**
Moderator
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio


 **Bill Decaire**
General Counsel
PIP GLOBAL SAFETY
Latham, New York


 **John Osgathorpe**
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida


OPTION TWO – UNFAIR COMPETITION LAWSUITS TEST YOUR FULL GAME: INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS, TRADE SECRETS AND MORE

Unfair competition claims sit at the intersection of contract law, intellectual property and equitable remedies—and they continue to evolve rapidly in state and federal courts. This session offers a practical, litigation-focused examination of unfair competition disputes, with a particular emphasis on three core battlegrounds: securing and opposing injunctive relief, enforcing and challenging non-competition agreements and protecting trade secrets.

 **Jennifer Pedevillano**
Moderator
HALLORAN SAGE
New Haven, Connecticut

 **Ben Gross**
Principal & General Counsel
CORLISS MOORE
Park City, Utah

 **Janice Matson**
Vice President of Litigation
BLOOMIN' BRANDS
Tampa, Florida

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

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
BREAK

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
ALFA INTERNATIONAL HQ UPDATE

This session will provide an overview of many new and some improved offerings available at ALFAI as well as resources and opportunities available to our clients.



Jessica Zaroski Bauer
Chief Executive Officer
 ALFA INTERNATIONAL
 Chicago, Illinois

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
PLENARY SESSION WITH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

General Counsel 101: What You Don't Know (YET)

In-House counsel juggle a growing range of responsibilities—often without the time or resources to identify the unseen risks and evolving challenges shaping their organizations. This practical and candid session explores the critical areas where in-house counsel “don’t know what they don’t know,” offering insight into the questions worth asking and the pitfalls to anticipate. Topics include navigating the legal and operational complexities of remote and hybrid work environments, building sustainable privacy and data compliance frameworks, preserving attorney–client privilege in an era of digital communication and managing supply chain disruptions and risk allocation. The discussion will also uncover what in-house teams truly need—and should expect—from outside counsel partnerships to maximize efficiency, protect privilege, and achieve business goals.



Edward Hayes
Moderator
 LEAKE ANDERSSON
 New Orleans, Louisiana



Jennifer Davis
Executive Vice President
 LEGGETT & PLATT INC.
 Carthage, Missouri



Jaime Skinner
Vice President & General Counsel
 BRENNTAG NA
 Reading, Pennsylvania



Christopher Schaefer
 STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
 Louisville, Kentucky

12:15 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
CLOSING REMARKS

12:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LUNCH

Beethoven's Music Terrace

2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
SAVANNAH SCAVENGER HUNT

See optional activities brochure for details.

Prior registration is required.

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
DINNER AT OLDE PINK HOUSE

See optional activities brochure for details.

Prior registration is required.



2026 BUSINESS LITIGATION SPEAKER BIOS

ROBIN ALPERSTEIN is a litigation partner in Becker, Glynn, Muffly, Chassin & Hosinski LLP, the New York City ALFA International transactional and business litigation member firm. She represents domestic and international clients on a range of complex commercial disputes, including contract claims, RICO violations, fraud and other business torts; corporate governance matters; shareholder, partner and limited liability company member disputes; securities fraud including class action defense; fraudulent conveyance; and unfair competition matters, including theft of trade secrets and non-competition agreement violations. Robin handles civil cases in federal and state court as well as domestic and international arbitrations, represents clients before various federal and state regulatory bodies (including FINRA and the Securities and Exchange Commission), conducts internal investigations, and advises boards of directors, majority and minority shareholders, management, and individual directors on corporate governance issues. Robin’s approach to dispute resolution is to listen carefully to the needs and goals of her clients, understand the business and other contexts and constraints under which they operate, and work with them to develop and implement creative, efficient, effective litigation, as well as litigation risk mitigation, strategies tailored specifically to meet those needs and goals. Robin has been recognized as a Super Lawyer in the business litigation category in New York City every year since 2014.

P. DOUGLAS BARR is the Managing Director and Chairman of the Board of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC (SKO), ALFA International’s member firm in Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky. Doug is responsible for all operations, including the Firm’s strategic direction. In his more than 8 years, Doug has led the firm through significant growth and transformational change in technology, information management, professional development, legal service delivery, generational succession, and cultural development, including SKO’s multiyear certification under the Mansfield Rule. Doug’s law practice has focused on Complex Business Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation. He has been lead trial counsel in numerous high-stakes, bet-the-company cases in many U.S. jurisdictions. His IP experience includes patents, trademarks, and trade secrets. Most recently, he has authored legal articles and been a frequent public speaker in Sports Law,

specifically on the evolving issues in Name, Image, and Likeness rights in collegiate athletics. Doug has hosted and been a guest speaker on SKO’s podcast, “SKO Unmuted” (“Chaos: The State of the NCAA’s Compensation Rules for Student Athletes after Alston,” June 2021). Doug is a Member of the Board of Directors of Commerce Lexington and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and is a past Board Member of ALFA and currently serves as chair of ALFAI’s Marketing Committee. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and the Ohio State University College of Law.

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 role, she serves as the organization’s strategic thought leader, 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 enjoys family time with her husband, Harry, and her two young daughters, Greta and Vivian. She also enjoys swimming in Lake Michigan, playing beach volleyball, and watching Oscar-nominated movies.

MATTHEW C. BURKE is a shareholder with Young Moore and Henderson, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. Matt is a trial lawyer and litigator who helps individuals and businesses of all sizes with litigation, pre-litigation, and risk management needs. Matt’s major practice areas include commercial litigation, non-competition and related restrictive covenant disputes, insurance coverage and related litigation, and claims involving employment, construction, products liability, and premises liability. Matt is also a part of the firm’s team that services rural

electric cooperatives in North Carolina. Matt is listed in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law (2024-2026), Litigation – Labor and Employment (2026), and Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2026). He is also named in the 2025 North Carolina Rising Stars list published by Super Lawyers® and recognized among Business North Carolina's Legal Elite™ in the Young Gun's category (2024, 2025). Prior to joining his firm, Matt clerked with the Honorable Cheri Beasley on the Supreme Court of North Carolina. He also served as a fellow in the North Carolina Solicitor General's Office, where he represented North Carolina in significant civil and criminal appeals pending in the Fourth Circuit and North Carolina appellate courts.

JESSE CONAN is a partner with Becker, Glynn, Muffly, Chassin & Hosinski LLP, the ALFA International member firm in New York. Jesse's practice concentrates on complex commercial litigation in both state and federal courts at the trial and appellate levels. He represents domestic and international clients in connection with complex business disputes and class actions involving contract claims, fraud, products liability, RICO violations, unfair competition, theft of trade secrets, and other business torts. Jesse regularly counsels clients in connection with employment related matters. He also represents clients pursuing takings claims against the United States in the Court of Federal Claims.

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.

BRIAN T. COOLIDGE is a partner with Mayer LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Houston, Texas, and is a board-certified trial attorney with a focus on complex transportation and employment litigation. He represents motor carriers, logistics companies, and commercial drivers in high-stakes cases involving wrongful death, catastrophic injury, and significant liability exposure. His experience spans a range of commercial vehicles, including semi-trucks, buses, and specialized equipment. In addition to his transportation practice, Brian advises employers on workplace disputes and compliance with evolving labor regulations, offering litigation and strategic guidance across jurisdictions. His dual focus provides unique value to clients facing driver-related employment claims. Known for his courtroom skill, technical knowledge of accident reconstruction and FMCSA regulations, and strategic insight, Brian consistently delivers effective results in complex, high-risk matters.

CODY COOPER is a director with Phillips Murrah P.C., the ALFA International member firm in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Cody is an experienced litigator and a licensed patent attorney who represents individuals and companies in a wide range of business litigation and intellectual property matters. His practice primarily concentrates on complex, commercial litigation in state and federal courts as well as intellectual property, including litigation and patent, trademark and copyright prosecution, and cybersecurity and privacy matters.

D. JAY DAVIS, JR. is a partner with Clement Rivers, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Charleston, SC. Jay is chair of the firm's Professional and Medical Liability practice groups and the firm's Business Litigation practice group. Jay is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers®. Jay is rated

AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated Judicial of Martindale Hubbell. Jay has also been selected as a member of Super Lawyers® in the areas of Professional Liability defense and Best Lawyers in America® for commercial litigation. Jay is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates ("ABOTA"). Jay grew up in Charleston and earned a Master's Degree from the University of South Carolina in 1993. Jay then graduated cum laude from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he was also an associate editor of the South Carolina Law Review.

JENNIFER DAVIS was appointed Executive Vice President – General Counsel at Leggett & Platt, Inc. effective January 1, 2024. She previously served as Vice President – Deputy General Counsel from 2020 to 2023, as Deputy General Counsel from 2015 to 2020, as Associate General Counsel & Chief Litigation Counsel from 2012 to 2022 after joining the Company's Legal Department in 2006. Prior to joining the Company, she practiced law at Stinson LLP in Kansas City for six years. Ms. Davis holds a bachelor's degree from Wichita State University and a law degree from Washburn University.

BILL DECAIRE is General Counsel for PIP Global Safety, a leading global provider of personal protective equipment and safety solutions with operations spanning more than 100 countries, a broad portfolio of trusted safety brands, and a robust international manufacturing, sourcing, and distribution network serving customers across industrial, construction, and retail sectors. He leads legal strategy across the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand, advising on complex, multi-jurisdictional matters including commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory and product compliance, employment issues, litigation oversight, and corporate governance. Prior to joining PIP, Bill served as General Counsel and Vice President of Business & Legal Affairs at Fleetworthy, a high-growth technology company, where he played a key role in strategic transactions, private equity investments, and scaling legal operations to support rapid expansion. Earlier in his career, he spent more than 16 years in private practice as a partner at a former ALFA International law firm, representing clients ranging from individuals and nonprofits to Fortune 500 companies in litigation, labor and employment, and complex commercial matters. He earned his J.D. from Albany Law School and is admitted to practice in New York and Massachusetts.

BEN GROSS is a seasoned executive with over 25 years of leadership experience in the retail, consumer goods and real estate industries. He has led legal and human resources functions for multinational and large, complex consumer-focused organizations. Throughout his career, Ben has successfully steered business turnarounds, mergers and acquisitions, integrations and buyouts – consistently delivering maximum value to stakeholders. His strategic insight and cross-functional expertise make him a leader in driving organizational transformation and growth.

DOUG 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. He has served as lead counsel in trade secret and unfair competition cases involving a wide range of subject matter, including manufacturing processes, software, apparel, information technology, systems design and testing, and confidential business information. He also regularly litigates trademark and copyright infringement cases, and counsels clients on trademark selection, licensing and dealer/distributor issues. He has moderated U.S. Department of Commerce programs on U.S. intellectual property law in Ukraine and in the Republic of Georgia. He has also served since 2007 as an adjunct professor of Intellectual Property Law at the University of Memphis School of Law. In 2016, he was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to the Tennessee Rules Commission, and is presently chair of the subcommittee on the rules of civil procedure. 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. Following law school, he clerked for Hon. Julia S. Gibbons, then-chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee.

EDDY HAYES is a partner with Leake Andersson, the ALFA International member firm in New Orleans and Lafayette, 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. Eddy also maintains an active international public policy and government relations practice, advising businesses and local governments on international trade capacity and economic development issues, including the business implications of international multilateral and regional free trade agreements. In January 2014, the country of Ukraine appointed Eddy to serve as the Honorary Consul to Ukraine for the State of Louisiana. Eddy is charged with promoting and preserving the interests of Ukraine and her citizens throughout the State of Louisiana. He serves on ALFA International's Board of Directors as ALFAI's Chair.

KEVIN HOLT is a partner with Gentry Locke, the ALFA International member firm in Virginia. Kevin represents companies and individuals in business and contract disputes, including complex financial and real estate matters. He also represents clients with cases involving intellectual property rights. He represents employers, insurance carriers and plan fiduciaries defending ERISA claims involving life, accident, and disability benefits. Since 2012 he has consistently been named to Best Lawyers in America in Commercial Litigation. Kevin is a past President of the Roanoke Bar Association and currently serves on Bar Council, the governing body of the Virginia State Bar.

CHRISTIN KRÄMER is a partner with Tiefenbacher, the ALFA International member firm in Heidelberg, Germany. Christin co-heads Tiefenbacher's International Division and is the leading partner of its corporate and commercial practice. Christin advises both German and international clients in all fields of corporate and commercial law, with a particular focus on cross-border transactions. From 2019, she is entitled to use the specification Bar-Certified Specialist in Commercial and Corporate Law. Christin is well experienced not only in transactional law but in all ramifications of corporate law, such as disputes between shareholders, litigation and directors' and officers' liability. She currently serves as the Women's Initiative Practice Group 2024 Program Chair and Chair-Emeritus of ALFAI's Future Leaders Practice Group.

CAROLINE BELL KELLER is the Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for MacroSource, LLC. MacroSource is one of the largest wholesale distribution companies for bulk dry and liquid fertilizers in the industry. Through international trading, vessel chartering and the MacroSource terminals and warehouses in North America, South Africa, Peru, Mexico, and Hong Kong the company covers supply and trading in all major fertilizer markets. Prior to joining MacroSource, Ms. Keller was with General Dynamics Corporation for over fifteen years. In her last role at General Dynamics, Ms. Keller was the Vice President and General Counsel of General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems (GD-OTS), located in St. Petersburg, FL. She was the chief attorney and a member of the Senior Leadership Team reporting to the President of GD-OTS. Previously, Ms. Keller was the Vice President and General Counsel of General Dynamics' European-based business unit, General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS), headquartered in Madrid, Spain and with facilities in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Romania, Spain and Switzerland. In this position, Ms. Keller was the chief attorney for GDELS and the head compliance, ethics and insider threat officer. Before joining GDELS, Ms. Keller was Deputy General Counsel for Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, a General Dynamics Company based in Savannah Georgia. At Gulfstream, Ms. Keller was responsible for advising Gulfstream senior leadership and the business on a wide range of international and US legal matters. Ms. Keller earned her Juris Doctorate in 1997 from Georgetown University School of Law. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in 1989. Ms. Keller currently lives in Savannah, Georgia with her husband Jeff and their two children.

JOHN LAWLER is currently the Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Penske Transportation Solutions, a Pennsylvania based multi-billion-dollar transportation company with approximately 500,000 vehicles on the road at nearly 1500 locations across the United States and Canada. John is a graduate

of Jay College of Criminal Justice and Villanova University School of Law. John joined Penske in 2007 after several years in a law firm practicing commercial litigation and has progressed through roles of Corporate Counsel, Senior Corporate Counsel, Associate General Counsel and now Vice President and Assistant General Counsel. At Penske, John is primarily responsible for large scale contract negotiations and drafting for all product lines and purchases and for managing commercial litigation and other legal disputes throughout the United States and Canada.

JANICE MATSON is Vice President of Litigation at Bloomin' Brands, Inc., a company of founder inspired restaurants including Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Bonefish Grill, and Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar. Bloomin' Brands is headquartered in Tampa, FL and is one of the world's largest casual dining companies with approximately 82,000 Team Members and more than 1,450 restaurants worldwide. Janice leads the team responding to US based legal matters involving Bloomin' Brands and its related entities, to include matters of commercial disputes, employment law, public liability, workers' compensation, property and lease disputes, agency investigations and critical incident responses. She is a strategic business partner, monitoring legal and regulatory trends in order to provide sound advice and counsel to help best meet company goals.

COLLIN MOORE is Corporate Counsel and Project Manager for Alltech, Inc. with responsibility for litigation and ADR management, construction and EPC contracts globally, intellectual property, EHS, and commercial contract negotiations. Before joining Alltech in 2012, Collin worked in project management and research and development for Martek Biosciences Corporation and DSM. Alltech is a leading privately owned global biotechnology company whose mission is to improve the health and performance of people, animals, and plants through natural nutrition and scientific innovation. Based in Lexington, Kentucky, Alltech has over 6,000 employees worldwide. They have 100 production facilities strategically positioned across the globe and three bioscience centers. Alltech also collects data from 144 countries and nearly 30,000 feed mills to compile its annual Alltech Global Feed Survey.

JAMES NIEHAUS is a partner with the ALFA International member firm, Frantz Ward LLP, in Cleveland, Ohio. James focuses his practice on litigation and competition law - resolving disputes and managing the relationships among businesses at all levels of the distribution chain. He counsels clients on distribution, antitrust, intellectual property, franchising, and licensing matters. James has particular experience handling cases in the alcoholic beverages, motor vehicle, and telecommunications industries, as well as disputes involving claims of unfair competition, misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of non-compete agreements, breach of franchise agreements, and infringement of intellectual property rights. James assists clients as national distribution counsel, counseling clients on how to establish new distribution networks, both domestic and international, and how to restructure dealer networks in compliance with various state and federal dealer and franchising laws.

JOHN OSGATHORPE is a shareholder, and serves as the president and managing partner, of Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boyd, the ALFAI 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. His practice includes most types of business and commercial disputes including breach of contract claims, shareholder disputes, corporate governance disputes, misappropriation of trade secrets and UCC matters while his torts practice includes products defects cases, truck and auto accidents, defamation and premises liability. He also handles disputes regarding real estate and wills & trusts. John is currently the Chair for ALFA International's Business Litigation Practice Group. He is an active member of ALFAI's Complex Torts & Products Liability Steering Committee as well as Transportation Steering Committee. He has presented at several ALFA International Client Seminars, Business Litigation seminars, and Complex Torts & Products Liability seminars. John previously served on ALFAI's Board of Directors and as its Treasurer, along with several other ALFAI committees.

CHRISTOPHER PAGE is a partner with Young Moore and Henderson, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. Chris is an experienced trial attorney specializing in the representation of clients in the hospitality and retail industries. He represents several national clients with all their legal needs, including claims relating to employment, business disputes, trademark infringement, false advertising, premises accidents, and construction defects. After graduating summa cum laude from Duke University, Chris earned his law degree from Yale Law School, where he served as senior editor for the Yale Law Journal. Chris is a frequent speaker at ALFA seminars and has created many presentations on a variety of litigation and management topics.

NATHAN P. PATTERSON currently serves as Associate General Counsel at Simon Property Group. He holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Indiana University, complemented by a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Computer Science from Miami University.

JENNIFER PEDEVILLANO is a partner with ALFA International member firm, Halloran Sage, in New Haven, Connecticut. She focuses her practice in the areas of Construction, Labor & Employment, and Litigation, and has extensive experience in contract disputes, products liability, complex commercial and corporate litigation matters as well as representing employers in all areas of labor and employment law. Jen's clients range from large corporations to individuals. She has experience trying cases before arbitrators, judges, and juries, and frequently handles large complex matters involving significant electronic discovery. Jen uses technology to the client's benefit in the preparation of a case for litigation as well as during trial/arbitration. She earned her BA, magna cum laude, from DeSales University and her JD, magna cum laude, from Quinnipiac University School of Law.

VICKI POLICICCHIO is a seasoned legal professional with over 20 years of experience in litigation management, regulatory compliance, and trial advocacy. Currently serving as Associate Counsel for Champion Home Builders, Inc., she manages civil litigation across the U.S. and Canada, oversees regulatory matters and claims against the company, and advises management, subsidiaries, and the Board on legal rights and obligations. Her work focuses on minimizing legal risk, ensuring compliance, and supporting business strategy across a publicly traded S&P 600 company. Before moving in-house, she built a distinguished career as Assistant Prosecuting Principal Trial Attorney with the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, where she led the Domestic Violence Unit, prosecuted capital cases including homicides, and partnered with senior leadership and public agencies to strengthen community trust and case outcomes. Recognized as a collaborative, pragmatic, and solutions-oriented counsel, she leverages her litigation expertise, regulatory insight, and business acumen to deliver practical, results-driven legal strategies.

JOLENE RUSSELL is the Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Shaw Industries, one of the world's largest, privately held, global flooring manufacturers specializing in designing and manufacturing virtually every category of flooring, including carpet, resilient, hardwood, laminate, and ceramic floors. Jolene has broad governance and oversight responsibility throughout the enterprise for maintaining compliance with regulatory and legal obligations, Shaw's Code of Business Conduct, and related policies. Prior to joining Shaw, Jolene was the Deputy General Counsel for Recreational Equipment, Inc. where she provided legal and compliance advice on regulatory and compliance matters, including the Code of Conduct, Records Management, Trade Compliance, Product Regulatory Compliance and Employment Practices as well as provided support to the Board of Directors and oversaw the Litigation function of the department. Jolene began her legal career at RadioShack Corporation, where she served as in-house counsel and Senior Director of Ethics and Compliance. As a corporate attorney at RadioShack, her primary areas of responsibility included advertising and marketing, product safety and compliance, supply chain management, and privacy matters. In her ethics and compliance role, Jolene was responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring an enterprise-wide ethics and

compliance program. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Washington State University and her Juris Doctorate and LLM from Texas A&M University School of Law.

CHRIS SCHAEFER is a Member with Stoll Keenon Ogden, the ALFA International member firm in Louisville, Kentucky. He focuses primarily on Business Litigation and Class Action cases, but he brings his substantive problem-solving expertise to multiple practice groups at SKO. Chris has served as lead counsel in disputes involving companies and owners over fiduciary obligations. He has also obtained favorable verdicts in actions brought against land owners, franchisees, and government clients in Kentucky and throughout the Midwest. For his successes on behalf of clients and his service to the legal professional community, Chris has been honored with several notable distinctions, including a Rising Star designation by Kentucky Super Lawyers® for four consecutive years. Prior to joining SKO, he graduated as the valedictorian of his class at the University of Kentucky College of Law.

JAIME SKINNER is 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 undergraduate degrees from Columbia University and a J.D. from Washington University School of Law.

MEGAN STUMPH-TURNER is a member at ALFA International member firm Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, LLC, in its Kansas City, Missouri office. Megan is an experienced trial attorney and has successfully represented clients in a variety of civil litigation matters, including financial services, real estate, construction and other commercial matters. In addition to her civil litigation practice, Megan has been a speaker for a variety of conferences and educational seminars. She has also served as an expert witness in cases involving financial services legal issues. Megan is also the incoming president of the Earl O'Connor Inn of Court, which focuses on achieving excellence, community outreach and civility in the practice of law. A lifelong Kansas Citian, Megan is a die-hard Chiefs fan. When not working or spending time at Arrowhead Stadium, Megan enjoys dancing, attending concerts, practicing yoga, paddleboarding and traveling.

CARLOS VERA is an attorney with Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois, and Crown Point, Indiana. 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, and commercial development disputes. 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 magazine and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. In addition to being an active member of ALFA International, Carlos is also an active member of the Illinois State Bar Association ("ISBA"), a member of the ISBA Civil Practice & Procedure Section Counsel, and the ISBA Assembly, which is the policy making body of the ISBA.

Proudly Sponsored by



GENERAL INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION

JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District
500 West River Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
Tel: (912) 373-9100
[JW Marriott Savannah 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. The dinners on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening are smart casual attire. No jackets are necessary at any evening events, but the dinners on Wednesday and Thursday are outdoors, so layers are recommended. The attire for the optional activities on Thursday and Friday afternoon is casual.

CLE CREDIT

ALFA International is an approved CLE provider in Illinois, California & Pennsylvania, and certifies this program has been approved for 6 hours of CLE. However, seminars are designed to meet CLE requirements, regardless of jurisdiction. To receive CLE credit outside of these states, attorneys should apply directly to their state's governing CLE board. Helpful links and information on how to apply for course credit are available on the ALFA International website and staff are available to assist with any concerns.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

If you need any special accommodation, 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 accommodation is provided.

SEMINAR CONTACT

Aria Trombley Wolf
awolf@alfainternational.com

STAY CONNECTED WITH ALFA INTERNATIONAL



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

980 N. Michigan Ave.
Suite 1180
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: (312) 642-ALFA (2532)
www.alfainternational.com