ALFA International

THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

RISE TO THE TOP

DISCOVERING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS AND FOSTERING TEAMWORK TO OBTAIN SUCCESSFUL RESULTS

2026 PRODUCT LIABILITY & COMPLEX TORTS PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2026 | STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE | PARK CITY, UTAH

www.ALFAInternational.com

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Success does not always manifest in traditional forms. Simply earning a place among Olympic competitors or receiving a nomination at the Sundance Film Festival is an extraordinary achievement in its own right. The same principle holds true in litigation: you do not have to go the distance and obtain a defense verdict to accomplish a meaningful victory. Defining what success looks like — and assembling the right strategy and team to pursue it — begins long before the first motion is filed.

Our 2026 seminar offers a comprehensive program designed to equip you and your organization for successful outcomes across today's most challenging legal environments. Sessions will address the evolving generational dynamics shaping modern jury pools, novel and effective resolution strategies that drive cost savings from the moment an adverse event occurs, proactive risk management against emerging plaintiff's bar tactics, the strategic use of vendors in evidence presentation and damages disputes, and navigating compliance in a shifting political landscape — examined from multiple perspectives and increasingly indispensable to modern practice. And, of course, no forward-looking legal seminar would be complete without a thorough examination of artificial intelligence — its growing role in litigation, its implications for practice management, and the ethical and strategic considerations that make it not merely relevant, but essential.

Victory in any arena is built on experience, preparation, and teamwork. Those who have stood atop Olympic podiums or accepted awards in Park City rarely did so alone. Litigation is no different. We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful Wasatch Mountains for three days of substantive programming, collaboration, and camaraderie.

Adam Cooper
2026 Program Chair, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
MONACO COOPER LAMME & CARR, PLLC
Albany, New York

ABOUT THE STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE

Situated amid the captivating beauty of Park City, Utah and just 40 miles from Salt Lake City International Airport, the Stein Eriksen Resort emerges as a beacon of luxury and elegance in the embrace of the majestic Rocky Mountains. Renowned for its exceptional service and worldclass amenities, the resort offers an unparalleled experience that seamlessly blends alpine charm with modern sophistication.

The surrounding town of Park City exudes a captivating blend of historic charm and contemporary vibrancy. Once a silver mining town, it has transformed into a cultural hub that boasts a lively arts scene, upscale boutiques and a diverse culinary landscape. As time allows, explore Main Street which is lined with beautifully preserved Victorian buildings, art galleries, cozy cafés and unique shops. Whether indulging in the luxurious amenities of the resort or immersing yourself in the town's rich culture, you are sure to create lasting memories in this idyllic destination.

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 80 U.S. firms represent 95 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas. Our 60 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.

2024-2026 PRODUCT LIABILITY & COMPLEX TORTS PRACTICE GROUP LEADERSHIP

Grace Garcia
Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors
MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
Boston, Massachusetts

Colleen Murnane
Chair, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio

Adam Cooper
2026 Program Chair, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
MONACO COOPER LAMME & CARR, PLLC
Albany, New York

Jill Gerdrum
Marketing Chair, ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
HALL & EVANS, LLC
Missoula, Montana

Megen Sterchi Lammert
Regional Chair, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC
Kansas City, Missouri

David Warnick
Webinar Chair, ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois

Sheila Kerwin
DE&I Liaison, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS, PA
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Beth Rose
Chair Emeritus, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
SILLS CUMMIS & GROSS P.C.
Newark, New Jersey

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
EARLY REGISTRATION
Stein Eriksen C

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
FACULTY REHEARSAL
Silver & Gold
*All moderators are encouraged to use this time to set-up a meeting with their panelists to review their session materials.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Viking
*Open to members of the Product Liability & Complex Torts Client Advisory Board & Practice Group Leadership.

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
ALL ALFA INTERNATIONAL ATTORNEY MEETING
Silver & Gold
*All ALFA International attorneys are required to attend.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Women's Initiative Event: Roll Call—A Bunco Social

Odin Deck

Ditch the CLE and grab some dice—it's time for bunco! We're rolling for prizes, laughs, and the kind of networking that doesn't require a name tag. No bunco experience required, just bring your competitive spirit and prepare to yell "BUNCO!" way too loudly.

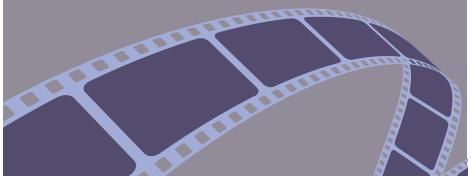
Carla Grabarek
Women's Initiative Liaison
COSGRAVE VERGEER KESTER LLP
Portland, Oregon

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception, Buffet Dinner & Registration

Stein Eriksen A & B

High altitude. Higher ambitions. Join us for an unforgettable welcome dinner set against the breathtaking backdrop of Park City, Utah — where Olympic champions have carved history into the mountain and independent film has ignited the world's imagination.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET
Alpine & Bronze

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
FIRST TIME ATTENDEE BREAKFAST
Alpine & Bronze
*All first time client and attorney attendees are encouraged to attend this breakfast to connect and get to know each other.

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
PROGRAM SESSIONS
Stein Eriksen A & B, Silver & Gold

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Grace Garcia
Chair, ALFA International Board of Directors
MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
Boston, Massachusetts

Colleen Murnane
Chair, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
FRANTZ WARD LLP
Cleveland, Ohio

Adam Cooper
2026 Program Chair, Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
MONACO COOPER LAMME & CARR, PLLC
Albany, New York

Jessica Zaroski Bauer
Chief Executive Officer
ALFA INTERNATIONAL
Chicago, Illinois

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
GENERAL SESSION

Spotlight Shifts—Turning Generational Differences into a Grand Jury Prize Ensemble

Ever feel like your team is working on the same film but reading different scripts? Boomers are directing with classic 35mm, Gen X is holding the storyboards and keeping continuity tight, Millennials are pushing for digital IMAX, and Gen Z is already livestreaming the behind the scenes documentary. You're not alone.

In this lively, interactive session, we'll explore how each generation brings its own cinematic style, communication preferences, values, and work rhythms to today's multi generational law practice. From the courtroom to the conference room, learn how to turn generational contrasts into a compelling ensemble performance that sharpens trial strategy, boosts collaboration, and strengthens your cast dynamic. By the end, you'll be ready to call "Action!" with confidence as you produce your most seamless cross generational blockbuster yet.

Sheila Kerwin
Moderator
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Pete Goss
Global Head of Litigation
PENTAIR
Golden Valley, Minnesota

Jennifer Cuculich
Jury Consultant
JURYCONNECT
Columbus, Ohio

Lindsey Howard Meares
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
Louisville, Kentucky

Agota Peterfy
BROWN & JAMES, P.C.
St. Louis, Missouri

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. BREAK

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. GROUP ONE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

TRACK 1:

STAYING AHEAD OF (AND BENDING) THE EVER CHANGING CURVE

A panel of experts will discuss how manufacturers and retailers can stay atop of, and at times influence, the ever changing regulatory state and federal regulatory landscape, managing supply side issues and the potential use of AI.

Steve Getzoff
Moderator
LESTER SCHWAB KATZ & DWYER, LLP
New York, New York

Chris Maglione
Manager of Legal & Business Affairs
BRADFORD WHITE CORPORATION
Ambler, Pennsylvania

Sonia Valdes
Vice President
MEDMARC INSURANCE GROUP
Chantilly, Virginia

Matt Jacobson
WHITFIELD & EDDY LAW
Des Moines, Iowa

TRACK 2:

FAULT LINES & FRAMEWORKS—A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL PRODUCT LIABILITY REGIMES

How does a single defective product trigger radically different legal consequences across jurisdictions? This panel brings together practitioners from Quebec (Canada), Austria and Louisiana, alongside a Canadian manufacturing CEO and a forensic accountant, to examine how civil law and common law systems allocate risk, quantify damages and structure recourses in product liability disputes. Through practical examples, the discussion will highlight key divergences in strict liability, contractual risk allocation and evidentiary burdens. Attendees will gain concrete insight into how these differences shape litigation strategy, insurance positioning and business decision-making in an increasingly globalized market.

Marc James Tacheji
Moderator
FASKEN MARTINEAU DUMOULIN LLP
Montreal, QC, Canada

Reinhard Krestel
Partner
MDD FORENSIC ACCOUNTANTS
Chicago, Illinois

Greg Guleserian
CEO
BIESSE CANADA
Montreal, Canada

Joshua Trahan
LEAKE ANDERSSON
New Orleans, Louisiana

Rudolf Strele
Head of Corporate Legal and Chief Compliance Officer
DOPPELMAYR
Wolfurt, Austria

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. BREAK

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. GROUP TWO ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

TRACK 1:

FROM TANGIBLE GOODS TO DIGITAL CODE: THE EXPANDING SCOPE OF PRODUCT LIABILITY

In many jurisdictions, product liability law has traditionally been limited to tangible goods. That boundary is now being tested. In a recent appellate decision, a court allowed a wrongful death claim to proceed against a rideshare company, concluding that a mobile application could qualify as a "product" for purposes of product liability law.

This session examines how courts across the country are rethinking what constitutes a product in an increasingly digital economy. We will explore emerging trends, highlight key decisions from multiple jurisdictions, and discuss the implications for companies whose offerings blend software, services, and traditional products.

Join us for a forward-looking discussion on how to evaluate risk, advise clients, and develop effective defense strategies as product liability law continues to expand beyond physical goods.

Tucker Blaser
Moderator
BROWN & JAMES, P.C.
Belleville, Illinois

Melissa Rose-DeMartini
Counsel, Insurance Litigation
DOORDASH, INC.
San Diego, California

Sonya Goykhman
Director, Corporate Counsel
STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY
Seattle, Washington

Megan Sterchi Lammert
BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC
Kansas City, Missouri

TRACK 2:

THE DUTY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT IN AN AGE OF EXPLODING AMOUNTS OF DATA

As sources of data within businesses continue to explode, the need for attorneys and their clients to understand best practices around how to identify, preserve, collect, and analyze relevant information is certainly heightened. Coupled with many states' ethical duty of technical competence, enterprising litigants often engage in a tactic of practicing "discovery on discovery," in an effort to craft spoliation claims that can lead to hefty settlements or verdicts. Join us as we walk through best practices for: scoping and tracking legal holds; identifying and defensibly preserving potentially relevant information; and how to leverage digital forensics not just to collect the data but also to uncover the details if things go wrong.

David Warnick
Moderator
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois

John Unice
CEO
BIT-X-BIT
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Josh Humphries
Senior Counsel
SMURFIT WESTROCK
Atlanta, Georgia

Woods Parker
HUIE, FERNAMBUCQ & STEWART, LLP
Birmingham, Alabama

Brett Creasy
President and Director of Digital Forensics
BIT-X-BIT
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. BREAK

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
GENERAL SESSION

Product Enhancements in the Age of Nuclear Verdicts

Outside of the litigation context, product enhancements are almost universally considered beneficial. They may provide improved features or safety for customers, may allow consumers to purchase less expensive models, and can help to differentiate a manufacturer's products from competitor products. But product enhancements can also provide talking points - or worse - for plaintiff lawyers, who often argue that manufacturers should have implemented enhancements more quickly, universally, or both. This panel will explore techniques for addressing products that are not equipped with an enhancement and products on which an enhancement was optional. Panelists will discuss discovery and trial strategies that mitigate typical arguments from plaintiffs about product enhancement timing or implementation across a product line.

Ray Moore
Moderator
MURPHY & GRANTLAND, P.A.
Columbia, SC

Rita Castro
Associate General Counsel
UNITED RENTALS, INC.
Modesto, California

Randy Reavis
Vice President–Legal, Litigation
VOLVO GROUP NORTH AMERICA, LLC/MACK TRUCKS, INC.
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dinora Smith
Litigation Counsel
SUNGROW USA CORPORATION
Costa Mesa, California

Ryan Clark
LEWIS THOMASON, P.C.
Nashville, Tennessee

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
LUNCH BUFFET
Alpine & Bronze

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

See social activity brochure for additional information.

Advance registration is required.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Reception & Dinner Buffet

Odin Deck, Glitretind, Odin, Valhalla

Step into the glamour and grit of the Sundance Film Festival with a themed dinner that brings the magic of independent cinema straight to your table. Bold flavors, cinematic décor, and the electric energy of one of the world's most iconic film festivals make this a dinner worth a standing ovation.

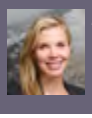
10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Hospitality Suite

Champions Club & Plaza

Feel like a night cap or a snack before turning in for the evening? Join attendees at the after-hours hospitality suite to finish catching up at the end of day.

HOSPITALITY SUITE LIAISON



Jill Gerdrum
HALL & EVANS, LLC
Missoula, Montana

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET
Alpine & Bronze

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
CLIENT ROUNDTABLE BREAKFAST
Silver

*This is a chance for clients to discuss issues that keep them up at night and what outside counsel can do for them. This ALFA International clients-only session is a great opportunity to network and share candid thoughts about your business and how ALFA International can better serve you. While a topic outline will be Provided to spur discussion, attendees can offer their thoughts on any issue. One or two designated clients will lead the discussion and take notes of the responses. Those designated clients will provide a summary of their discussions to the ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Torts Strategic Committee before the final general session on Friday.

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
PROGRAM SESSIONS
Stein Eriksen A & B

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
GENERAL SESSION

Hot Topics

This session will consist of three separate 20-minute presentations discussing current hot topics that impact organizations' business operations and litigation strategies.

Mark Hayes
ROBINSON & MCELWEE PLLC
Charleston, West Virginia

Jennifer Goodwin
VP of Legal
VICTAULIC COMPANY
Easton, Pennsylvania

Jason Daywitt
COSGRAVE VERGEER KESTER LLP
Portland, Oregon

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ALFAI HEADQUARTERS?

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

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
BREAK

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
GENERAL SESSION

Defective by Design, Is AI a Product or Service?

Product liability claims involving AI may arise when sellers, manufacturers, or other persons place a product that is somehow defective into the distribution chain. How are the traditional theories of liability such as manufacturing defects, design defects, and failure to warn being applied to AI. Is AI a product or a service? This session will address how the "stream of commerce" analysis becomes considerably more complex with AI, the product-service classification of AI and emerging trends, and how companies can limit their exposure with the integration of AI.

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

Tammy Reno
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA
Minneapolis, Minnesota

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
REPORT FROM CLIENT ROUNDTABLE

An elected client representative will give a brief report on the topics discussed during the client roundtable that took place on Thursday.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
GENERAL SESSION

Going for the Gold—Best Practices in Mediation

As the number of jury trials continues to fall, the use of mediation as a tool to resolve disputes has grown exponentially. Learn from an experienced mediator and in-house counsel about the do's and don'ts of mediation and what techniques/approaches increase the likelihood of success.

Beth Rose
Moderator
SILLS CUMMIS & GROSS P.C.
Newark, New Jersey

Soo Lin
AVP, Assistant General Counsel, Product Liability Claims Division
TM CLAIMS SERVICE
Pasadena, California

Vanessa Mason
Counsel, Corporate Product Integrity
THE TORO COMPANY
Bloomington, Minnesota

JK Leonard
Attorney-Mediator
LEONARD RESOLUTION SERVICES PLLC
San Antonio, Texas

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LUNCH BUFFET
Alpine & Bronze

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

See social activity brochure for additional information.

Advance registration is required.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL DINNER

See social activity brochure for additional information

Advance registration is required.

2026 SPEAKER BIOS

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. She also enjoys swimming in Lake Michigan, playing beach volleyball and watching Oscar nominated movies.

TUCKER BLASER is a principal with Brown & James, P.C., ALFA International's member firm in Belleville, Illinois. He has over fifteen years of experience representing a variety of clients, including insured individuals, medical professionals, corporations – local and global, and insurance companies in a broad range of cases, including mass toxic torts, medical malpractice, construction liability, shareholder derivative actions, premise and product liability, and insurance defense. Currently, Tucker's practice is primarily focused on defending mass toxic tort (asbestos, talc, flavoring chemicals, organic/solvents and others); health care liability; and insurance defense cases. His mass toxic tort practice includes serving as managing partner of the firm's Belleville toxic tort litigation team, which handles more than 1,500 cases for contractor, premises, and product liability defendants in state and federal venues across Illinois and Missouri. He is recognized by Best Lawyers for Product Liability Litigation and Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions. He earned his bachelor's degree from Monmouth College before graduating cum laude from the John Marshall School of Law.

RITA M. CASTRO is employed by United Rentals, Inc., the largest rental company in the world with an integrated network of approximately 1,500 locations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. She acts as the Company's Associate General Counsel & Director (Claims & Risk Management). She is based in Modesto, California, and oversees the handling of the Company's auto, general liability, property and workers' compensation claims. After graduating from U.C.L.A. School of Law in 1993, Ms. Castro was in private practice where she gained substantial expertise in the handling of construction coverage disputes, construction defect litigation and general business matters.

RYAN CLARK is a shareholder at Lewis Thomason, P.C., the ALFA international member firm in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a trial lawyer who focuses his practice in the defense of manufacturers of a wide variety of products in product liability and warranty matters. Ryan has served as national, regional, and local counsel and handles matters from pre-suit investigation through discovery, trial, and appeal. Outside of work, Ryan spends far too much time watching all levels of sports and also enjoys cooking, travel, and board games.

ADAM COOPER is a member of Monaco Cooper Lamme & Carr, PLLC, ALFA International's member firm, in Albany, New York. Adam concentrates his practice in the fields of product liability, food law and liability, professional liability, personal liability and premises liability. His clients include commercial retailers, industrial manufacturers, food producers and processors. He also represents professionals before administrative licensing boards in the context of investigations and disciplinary hearings. He has achieved successful results for his clients at the trial and appellate levels and has extensive experience in motion practice. He has an "AV" rating from Martindale Hubbell and is listed as a New York "Super Lawyer." He is past president of the Federation of Bar Associations for the Fourth Judicial District

of New York and Past President of the Defense Research Institute of Northeastern, New York. Mr. Cooper obtained a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University and his law degree from the Albany Law School of Union University.

BRETT CREASY directs bit-x-bit's overall operations in digital forensics, eDiscovery, cybersecurity and incident response. An expert in digital forensics, Brett has conducted hundreds of forensic examinations for matters involving intellectual property theft, unauthorized use of computer systems, harassment, computer hacking, criminal and white collar crimes, and employment class action cases, as well as arbitration proceedings and internal investigations. He has been designated as an expert in state and federal courts throughout the country, and has testified in scores of cases on a variety of topics and matters, most notably in cases involving the theft of confidential and trade secret information. Brett has more than a decade of experience in information security, and in handling a wide variety of cybersecurity and incident response matters, including hacking attacks, malware, PII and PHI breaches, and other fast-paced engagements.

GRACE V.B. GARCIA, Managing Partner of the Massachusetts ALFA International member firm Morrison Mahoney LLP, concentrates her practice in the areas of product liability, construction law - including personal injury, construction defect, and contractual - OSHA, commercial litigation, employment litigation, premises liability and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cases. Grace currently serves as Vice Chair of ALFA International's Board of Directors, and is a former Chair of both ALFA International's Construction Practice Group and Women's Initiative Practice Group. Grace has an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale Hubbell and in 2020 she was honored by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly with its "Circle of Excellence" after being honored in 2013 as a "Top Women of Law." Grace has over 25 years of trial practice and litigation experience and has obtained successful outcomes on behalf of her clients in both state and Federal Court trials. She also has successfully argued before the Appeals Court. Beyond ALFA, she is actively involved in many professional groups, and is the Immediate Past-President of the Massachusetts Bar Association and past President of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association. She is a routine lecturer on defending brain injuries, risk transfer and indemnity issues, best discovery practices and deposition techniques, and OSHA.

JILL GERDRUM, a member of ALFA International firm Hall & Evans, LLC's Missoula, Montana office, is a civil litigator with a practice focused on product liability, transportation, premises liability and professional liability. She represents an array of clients, including manufacturers, distributors, retailers, transportation companies, insurers, and professionals. Jill has successfully represented her clients in all phases of litigation, including motions practice, trial, and appeal. She regularly practices in the state and federal courts and administrative agencies in several Western states and serves as regional contact counsel for a Fortune 50 package delivery company. In her appellate practice, Jill has argued and prevailed in the Montana Supreme Court and has prevailed on briefing in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Jill is also often called upon for early accident scene investigations and serves as an independent investigator for entities facing potential claims. She is admitted to practice in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, state and federal courts, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

STEVE GETZOFF is a senior litigation partner with Lester Schwab Katz & Dwyer, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in New York, New York. Steve focuses his practice in product liability, with an emphasis on consumer and recreational products. His clients include manufacturers, distributors and national trade associations. For years, he has represented manufacturers seeking to clarify and comply with federal and state product and safety legislation, including the new CPSIA and the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. He regularly serves as national and regional coordinator for multi-state litigations on behalf of nationally known product manufacturers. Steve has substantial experience in regard to manufacturer issues before the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. He has frequently served on CLE programs addressing product liability law issues.

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

PETE GOSS is global head of litigation at Pentair, a leading manufacturer of products for moving, improving, and enjoying water. Before joining Pentair in 2020, Pete practiced in mass tort/product liability litigation for 24 years at Blackwell Burke and the firm now known as Faegre Drinker. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and three sons.

SONYA GOYKHMAN is the Director, Corporate Counsel in the Litigation group at Starbucks Coffee Company, where she leads the company's general liability portfolio and oversees complex commercial, real estate, discrimination, and ADA litigation throughout the Americas. In this role, Sonya serves as strategic advisor to senior business leaders, partnering closely with crossfunctional teams to proactively mitigate risk, manage enterprise-level exposure, and protect and strengthen the Starbucks brand. Sonya is the former Co-Chair of the Law & Corporate Affairs Diversity & Inclusion Committee, helping shape initiatives focused on equity, sponsorship, and leadership development within the legal organization. Prior to joining Starbucks, Sonya practiced as a civil litigator, representing clients through all phases of litigation.

MARK H. HAYES is a member of the West Virginia ALFA International member law firm of Robinson & McElwee. Mark's practice is focused on the defense of product liability claims, including asbestos, chemical exposure, and other serious and mass tort actions. He represents a variety of clients across several industries including large and small manufacturers, oil and gas companies, distributors, service providers and trucking companies, and has been named a "Best Lawyer" for mass tort, class action and product liability defense. He is a member of the steering committee for ALFA's Product Liability & Complex Torts practice group, and currently serves in 2020/21 served as President of the Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia - an organization of nearly 500 West Virginia lawyers who defend corporations and individuals in civil litigation.

JOSH HUMPHRIES serves as Associate General Counsel for Smurfit Westrock. In that role, he is responsible for all general litigation and asbestos matters in the United States, and he was previously responsible for all employment, general litigation, and business litigation that arose within the boundaries of the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits for a predecessor entity, WestRock. Smurfit Westrock is a multinational provider of sustainable, fiber-based paper and packaging solutions that was formed in July 2024 and is estimated to have approximately $34 billion in revenue produced by one hundred thousand team members working in approximately five-hundred and sixty-three facilities around the world. Prior to joining WestRock, Josh served as Senior Counsel for Jack Cooper Holdings Corp., a North American transportation and logistics provider, where he was responsible for customer and vendor contracts, litigation, and real property.

At Jack Cooper, he also assisted with M&A transactions, corporate debt restructurings, as well as corporate governance matters. Before moving in-house, Josh was a securities litigation associate with the law firm now known as Hunton Andrews Kurth in its Charlotte then Atlanta offices after clerking for one year for Judge Stan Birch with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Josh received his law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law, graduating cum laude, and received his AB in History from Princeton University. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia and enjoys everything.

MATTHEW D. JACOBSON is a Member in the Des Moines, Iowa ALFA International law firm of Whitfield & Eddy, PLC. Matt's litigation practice includes representing product manufacturers at state, regional and national levels. His practice also includes consulting with product manufacturers on issues relating to accident prevention, including formation of safety committees, performance of hazard analyses and composition of safety labels and manuals. For the past 18 years, Matt has spoken to a group of product manufacturers on a biannual basis to address issues relating to production liability prevention and defending product liability lawsuits. Matt is admitted to practice in both Iowa and Illinois, including the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa and the Northern, Central and Southern Districts of Illinois. He has also represented clients on a pro hac vice basis in Wisconsin, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Alabama, New York, Michigan, Louisiana, West Virginia, Oklahoma, California, Kentucky, Kansas, South Carolina and Colorado. Matt earned his B.S. from the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts (1990) and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law (1993).

SHEILA KERWIN is a shareholder of Nilan Johnson Lewis PA, the ALFA International member firm in Minneapolis, MN, and has led the product liability practice group for over a decade. Sheila is a catastrophic injury trial lawyer defending product liability and truck accident claims and litigation nationwide. She is a member of PLAC, the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC), serving as an active member of the Product Liability and Chair of the Transportation Sections. Sheila is on the steering committees of the ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts and Transportation Practice Groups, is a former chair of the Women's Initiative Practice Group, formerly served on the marketing committee, and was formerly the chair of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. She is also a member of the Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA) and Women in Trucking. She serves as national and regional coordinating counsel for manufacturers defending product liability cases across the country.

J.K. LEONARD is an attorney-mediator and the principal of Leonard Resolution Services PLLC, a San Antonio, TX based provider of mediation services. Mr. Leonard has served as a mediator throughout the state of Texas for a broad range of civil disputes, including commercial litigation, business valuation, buy/sell agreements, international and cross-border commercial and ownership disputes, eminent domain, HOA litigation, trade dress/copyright, executive separations, wrongful death and serious personal injury matters, among others. He is a Credentialed Advanced Mediator, as established by the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association, a member of the Association of Attorney-Mediators and an officer with the San Antonio Bar Association's ADR Section. He was previously a trial attorney and firm President with the ALFA International firm of Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee, PLLC., with a heavy emphasis on product liability defense, where he served as regional and national counsel for major manufacturers and distributors of recreational, consumer and industrial products. While in the active practice of law, Mr. Leonard was a two-time Chairman of ALFA International and was active in its Product Liability Practice Group. He obtained a BBA-Finance from the University of Texas at Austin and was graduated with highest honors from St. Mary's University School of Law.

SOO LIN is the Assistant Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, Corporate Secretary at TM Claims Service, Inc., where she manages a wide variety of defense litigation for Tokio Marine insureds including numerous Japanese-based product manufacturer clients. In this role, she helps retain appropriate outside counsel and experts, coordinate the investigation and defense of claims and lawsuits, and support reaching the best possible resolutions or outcomes in each matter. Prior to joining TM Claims Service, Soo worked for 13 years as a trial attorney handling product liability matters nationwide in automotive, pharmaceutical and medical device product liability litigation. She is married with three kids and lives in the suburbs of Southern California and enjoys traveling, hiking and cooking.

CHRISTOPHER MAGLIONE has over 20 years of insurance industry experience and is responsible for managing product-related litigation, risk management, and subrogation activities for Bradford White Corporation and its subsidiaries. Since joining the company in 2011, he has held positions of increasing responsibility and has led these functions in his current role since 2021.

VANESSA MASON is an attorney for The Toro Company, focusing on corporate product liability matters. In her current role, she leads the organization's Early Mediation Program, delivering a proactive approach that seeks early case resolution while balancing thorough investigation with a strategic, yet empathic approach to engaging claimants. Additionally, she manages product liability litigation, and also provides internal training and product safety support across Toro's diverse product portfolio, which spans construction, turf and landscape maintenance, snow removal, and irrigation systems. Vanessa began her career at Toro in 2020 as a Senior Paralegal on the Product Integrity team where she supported the investigation and resolution of product liability and safety claims. Vanessa's professional career also includes a role in law enforcement as a sworn peace officer in Southeastern Minnesota. As the first sworn African American officer in the department, she excelled in community relations and criminal investigations. Vanessa holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Mitchell Hamline School of Law, awarded in 2018; a Bachelor of Arts Magna Cum Laude in Professional Studies from Winona State University in 2011, and an Associate of Science in Law Enforcement in 2002.

LINDSEY H. MEARES is a Member of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Louisville, Kentucky, where she serves as co-chair of the firm's Kentucky Litigation Practice Group. Lindsey concentrates her practice in various areas of complex litigation, including product liability matters, class action disputes, environmental law, and construction litigation. She regularly defends corporations and insurers in high-exposure litigation involving explosions, severe workplace injuries, and catastrophic motor vehicle incidents, and is frequently called upon to conduct early accident-scene and injury investigations. She also has extensive experience advising clients on hazardous-waste disposal regulations and issues involving EPA Superfund sites. Lindsey is an active member of ALFAI's Product Liability & Complex Torts and Future Leaders Steering Committees, and has been honored with several notable distinctions, including selection as a Rising Star by Kentucky Super Lawyers® for seven consecutive years. Prior to joining SKO, she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law in 2014 and spent two years in private practice at another regional law firm. Lindsey currently lives in Louisville, Kentucky, with her husband, Rich, and their two small children.

RAY MOORE is a Shareholder of Murphy & Grantland, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Columbia, South Carolina. He is a litigator with 25 years of experience defending product manufacturers, retailers, and sellers and other parties involving significant and catastrophic injuries allegedly caused by defective products, ranging from appliances, batteries and candles all the way to ziplines. He is AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been annually recognized on the "Super Lawyers" list in South Carolina since 2016. Ray obtained his BA from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in 1993, where

he served as the Corps' Regimental Commander and Honor Court Chair. He earned his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1996 and served on the editorial board of the South Carolina Law Review. Ray is also a certified mediator and arbitrator. In his personal life, Ray loves his family and sports, preferably together, with a son finishing his college football career and three daughters involved in high school sports. Ray recently began a late-in-life enjoyment of obstacle course racing as a new way to stay fit.

COLLEEN MURNANE is a partner with Frantz Ward LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Cleveland & Columbus, Ohio. Colleen counsels clients on anticipating and avoiding liabilities and managing their business risks in the areas of product liability, business torts, commercial contract, construction, class actions and beer and alcohol operations. She has extensive experience litigating product defect cases involving all ranges of products, from home appliances to commercial tools to industrial bearings and other equipment. She has obtained defense verdicts in catastrophic injury and property damage cases in both state and federal court. Her approach involves building strategic partnerships with her clients to develop efficient game plans to avoid disputes prior to litigation and to implement tactical defense strategies to prevail at trial and minimize losses when litigation arises. She has represented craft breweries in all facets of their business. Colleen is a trusted advisor to companies of all sizes, from closely held family businesses to Fortune 500 companies. She delivers the answers, support and results they require in the manner best tailored to their needs. Colleen practices law because of her desire to defend and protect what people value most—their principles and reputations.

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.

WOODS PARKER is a partner at Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP, an ALFA International member firm in Birmingham, AL. Woods is a member of the firm's Discovery Practice and Procedure, Products Liability, and Automotive Litigation practice groups. Much of his practice is devoted to assisting manufacturing clients with complex discovery disputes and compliance issues arising from those disputes. In his practice, Woods serves as national coordinating discovery counsel for a major automotive client. He also serves an international automotive manufacturer as a seconded attorney in the Controversies group of their in-house legal department, where he assists with discovery issues relating to products liability and commercial transactions.

AGOTA PETERFY is a principal in the ALFA International St. Louis firm of Brown & James. She focuses her practice on product liability and toxic tort. She has represented major manufacturers in asbestos claims and national real estate companies in premises liability matters. Agota serves as the chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and is on the board of directors for the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers. She is ranked by Best Lawyers in the area of insurance law. She graduated from Brigham Young University magna cum laude before attending Southern Illinois University School of Law.

RANDY REAVIS is Vice President, Legal - Litigation for Volvo Trucks and Mack Trucks. He advises the companies on all litigation related matters and manages a team of lawyers and engineers responsible for handling product liability and warranty claims throughout North America. Prior to joining Volvo Trucks and Mack Trucks, Randy was in private practice for over twenty years, handling a broad range of civil and commercial litigation with an emphasis on products liability and construction contracts and disputes Randy is a certified mediator and regularly mediates significant tort and contract claims across the United States. A graduate of Catawba College and the University of North Carolina School of Law, Randy has been selected to Best Lawyers in America and has an AV Preeminent rating. Outside work, Randy is an avid car nut and an aspiring beach bum. He enjoys restoring, repairing, and driving cars, and is a high-performance driving instructor with several organizations. When he doesn't have a wrench or steering wheel in his hands, he is content to sit on a beach holding a cold drink and a good book.

TAMMY RENO is senior counsel in Nilan Johnson Lewis's Product Liability and Complex Torts practice group, where she defends manufacturers, distributors, and other clients in product liability matters spanning consumer goods, industrial equipment, and other regulated products. Over 23 years of practice, she has managed high-volume litigation portfolios from intake through trial and appeal, handling depositions, expert development, case strategy, and motion practice, and has resolved numerous matters through arbitration and mediation. Beyond product liability, Tammy's practice includes commercial litigation, construction litigation, premises liability, professional malpractice, insurance coverage, and other complex civil matters — experience that gives her a broad view of risk across client industries. A frequent CLE lecturer, Tammy is past president of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association (MDLA), where she has been active in the defense bar community for years.

BETH S. ROSE is a member of Sills Cummis & Gross P.C., the ALFA International member firm in Newark, New Jersey, where she chairs the Product Liability Practice Group and co-chairs the Litigation Practice Group. She has tried complex product liability cases to verdict in state and federal courts throughout the country. Beth has over 25 years of experience successfully defending complex product liability matters for consumer products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, foods, chemicals and construction/ industrial machines, to name a few. During her career, she has served as national counsel to several companies, including those in the pharmaceutical, medical device and contract research organization spaces, defending mass tort litigation. She has also served as New Jersey counsel to entities defending complex product liability claims in New Jersey's Multi-County Litigation system. Since 2008, she has been recognized in the Chambers USA® Guide to America's Leading Lawyers for Business. Since 2014, she has been named in Benchmark's Top 250 Women in Litigation: The Definitive Guide to the Leading Female Attorneys in the U.S. ® Beth received her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

MELISSA ROSE-DEMARTINI is Counsel, Insurance Litigation at DoorDash, Inc., where she oversees a range of litigated and pre-litigation matters in jurisdictions across the country. She manages outside counsel and works closely with insurance partners to direct case strategy and drive consistent, effective outcomes across her docket. Melissa also collaborates cross-functionally within DoorDash to help the company understand and navigate legal risk. Before joining DoorDash in 2024, Melissa spent her career in private practice defending large corporations in complex litigation. She most recently worked at Perkins Coie LLP in the product liability practice group, where she served as national coordinating counsel for a global retailer and advised consumer product and tech clients on product warnings and

regulatory compliance. Melissa graduated cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law and from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is based in San Diego, California, where she lives with her husband, son, and cat.

M. DINORA SMITH is Litigation Counsel at Sungrow USA Corporation, a leading supplier of solar inverters and energy storage systems to commercial solar projects throughout the United States. She oversees Sungrow USA's general liability claims and provides counsel to senior business leaders regarding commercial dispute resolution, risk management, and employment litigation matters. Prior to joining Sungrow, she worked as an associate practicing in both state and federal courts throughout New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, focusing in products, premises, and construction liability litigation. During her time spent at German, Gallagher & Murtagh, Philadelphia's ALFA International member firm, she prevailed on numerous occasions before the New Jersey Superior Court - Appellate Division. She began her career practicing employment discrimination litigation in New York City. She earned her M.A. from the University of St Andrews and her J.D. from Yeshiva University, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

MEGAN ("MEG") STERCHI LAMMERT is a member of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice L.L.C., ALFA International's member firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Meg's practice is concentrated in defending personal injury, premises liability and product liability matters. Meg has focused on advocating for and obtaining successful outcomes for numerous clients, including those within the pharmaceutical and medical device, manufacturing, trucking, and insurance industries. She has been selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch, Kansas City Metropolitan Area for Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants and recognized as a Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers: Rising Star in the practice area of Personal Injury General: Defense. Meg is a member and Regional Chair of ALFA's Product Liability & Complex Torts Steering Committee. At her firm, Meg is a co-chair of Baker Sterchi's Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee, co-editor of the firm's Drug / Device Law Blog and active with the firm's Retention and Website Committees.

JAY THOMPSON is a shareholder with Murphy & Grantland, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Columbia, South Carolina. He also serves as President-Elect of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association, although his greatest achievement is being a "girl dad" to three high-achieving college-age daughters. Jay represents businesses in complex litigation matters involving business commercial litigation, product liability, toxic torts. His experience in business and commercial litigation includes a deep and broad array of commercial matters for a variety of businesses, including professional practices, financial advisors, private equity, commercial and consumer product manufacturers, retail and hospitality businesses, non-profit organizations, developers and contractors, property managers, timber companies, commercial and residential real estate firms, software services and IT consultants, heavy equipment operators, insurance brokers, and many others. He has litigated numerous commercial disputes involving contract claims, deceptive and unfair trade practices, unfair competition, shareholder disputes, breach of fiduciary duties, and intellectual property. Prior to practicing law, Jay's background was in computer science. He worked as a systems analyst and programmer for Michelin Tire Corporation before law school.

JOHN UNICE directs the business, strategic and overall operations of bit-x-bit. Providing exceptional high-level expertise and guidance to bit-x-bit's clients, John draws on two decades of experience as chief corporate counsel and as a trial lawyer in major corporate and large law firm settings. John's wide-ranging portfolio includes litigating sophisticated cases, utilizing complex electronic evidence and leading digital risk-mitigation initiatives, both in the U.S. and internationally. Before joining bit-x-bit, John was Assistant Secretary and a senior legal advisor at the Pittsburgh headquarters of Covestro LLC and, prior, at Bayer Corporation, advancing his clients' interests in highly regulated industries. At Covestro, he oversaw legal affairs for the company's U.S.-based polycarbonate business and held global responsibility for the company's litigation docket. John also led and collaborated on a range of strategic e-discovery, cybersecurity and digital records management initiatives to mitigate corporate risk and win cases. As an associate with the Trial Practice Group at Jones Day (Pittsburgh), John's savvy use of e-discovery and digital forensics helped him secure favorable outcomes in numerous multi-million-dollar cases for both the defense and the prosecution.

SONIA VALDES is the Vice President-Claims, Medmarc Insurance Group. Sonia is responsible for managing a team of dedicated claims professionals as well as overseeing technical and administrative issues within Medmarc's Claims Department. Her responsibilities include directing mass tort litigation, training and developing staff, assisting with policy development, advising underwriters on risk management, and expanding Medmarc's litigation management services. Sonia joined Medmarc in August of 2013. Prior to Medmarc, she was Assistant Vice President with Chubb & Son, Inc., in its headquarters in Warren, New Jersey, for 14 years. Sonia had worldwide responsibility for managing Chubb's Life Sciences Claims Core. Sonia has extensive experience in evaluating coverage and liability issues in environmental, mass tort, and health science litigation. She has been an admitted attorney in New Jersey since 1992 and is and a member of the IADC and CLM. She received her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Rutgers University in 1984 and her law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1991.

DAVID WARNICK is a trial lawyer and shareholder at Johnson & Bell, the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois. David's practice focuses on products liability, and he acts as National Coordinating Counsel for a commercial lighting distributor and manufacturer. As NCC, David navigates the complexities of various state and international jurisdictions. He also defends companies and excess liability carriers in high-exposure litigation, including cases involving explosions, fires, or catastrophic motor vehicle incidents resulting in multiple fatalities. Additionally, he is experienced in the areas of handling cases involving public utilities, insurance coverage matters, construction defects, and environmental claims. David graduated from the University of Dayton in 2008 and earned his J.D. from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio, in 2012. He is an active member of the Chicago Bar Association, DRI, and an editor and frequent author for the peer-reviewed Illinois Defense Counsel Quarterly. He has also authored articles for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin on the latest updates from Illinois and related federal court opinions. David completed cybersecurity coursework at Harvard and is preparing for the Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) exam.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION:

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7700 Stein Way
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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 each evening are casual. Western attire including denim, boots and hats is encouraged!

CLE CREDIT:

ALFA International certifies that this program has been approved for 7 hours of General CLE credit in the States of Illinois, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and California. If you need credit in another state, please contact that state bar regarding the necessary requirements to obtain CLE credit. ALFA International staff is available to assist in any way possible but you must apply individually to obtain credit in your particular state.

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