



ALFA International
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK



A PORT IN THE STORM

**NAVIGATING SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH A
RAPIDLY CHANGING RISK ENVIRONMENT**

2026 TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR

APRIL 28-30, 2026 | EL CONQUISTADOR RESORT | FAJARDO, PUERTO RICO



WELCOME TO THE EL CONQUISTADOR RESORT!

Perched high above the sparkling Caribbean Sea and nestled foothills of Puerto Rico's El Yunque Rainforest, El Conquistador Resort offers an unforgettable escape where luxury meets natural beauty. This iconic resort, located in Fajardo, spans over 500 acres and features breathtaking ocean views, world-class amenities and a wide range of experiences for every type of traveler. From the private Palomino Island with its white-sand beaches and water sports, to the on-site Coqui Water Park and a championship gold course, El Conquistador delivers adventure and relaxation in equal measure. Guests can indulge in diverse dining options, rejuvenate at the oceanfront spa or nearby bioluminescent bays and coral reefs.

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.

A PORT IN THE STORM

NAVIGATING SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH A RAPIDLY CHANGING RISK ENVIRONMENT

2026 TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR

APRIL 28-30, 2026 | EL CONQUISTADOR RESORT | FAJARDO, PUERTO RICO

The risks faced by the Transportation industry in 2026 are complex and changing more rapidly than ever before. Advances in technology – particularly in AI and onboard driver analytics – have the potential to make the industry safer and more efficient but also present unprecedented new challenges. The evolution of media and social media make a company's response to crises even more critical to avoid public relations mishaps with lasting consequences, and recent legal developments may change how goods move through the U.S. and beyond. Jury trials remain fraught with uncertainty but also present tremendous risk-mitigating benefits in the right cases, and with the right trial strategy.

Change isn't inherently bad unless we as an industry are unprepared to respond to it. Change followed by adaptation and strategy presents opportunity. The 2026 Transportation Practice Group Seminar is designed to help you navigate these currents of change with confidence and create opportunities for a better transportation industry - an industry that is more adept at identifying and mitigating risk than ever before. We look forward to collaborating with you and identifying solutions that can serve as a Port in the Storm, while paying tribute to our island host. Welcome to Puerto Rico!



Lance Eberhart
Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 HALL & EVANS, LLC
 Denver, Colorado



Matt Parsons
2026 Program Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
 Lexington, Kentucky

2025-2026 TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE GROUP LEADERSHIP



Lance Eberhart
Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 HALL & EVANS, LLC
 Denver, Colorado



Misha Logan-Johnson
Third-Party Committee Co-Chair
 LEAKE ANDERSSON
 New Orleans, Louisiana



Lesley Pflieger
Vice Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 LEWIS WAGNER & TRIMBLE, LLP
 Indianapolis, Indiana



Madison Preston
Third-Party Committee Co-Chair
 NAMAN HOWELL SMITH & LEE, PLLC
 Austin, Texas



Matt Parsons
2026 Program Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
 Lexington, Kentucky



Brian Carr
Webinar Co-Chair
 MONACO COOPER LAMME & CARR, PLLC
 Albany, New York



Mary Beth White
Chair Emeritus/Marketing Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 LEWIS THOMASON
 Nashville, Tennessee



Annette Mijanovic
Webinar Co-Chair
 HAIGHT BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP
 Los Angeles, California



Antwan Phillips
2027 Program Chair, Transportation Practice Group
 WRIGHT LINDSEY JENNINGS
 Little Rock, Arkansas



Brian Coolidge
Client Development Committee
 MAYER LLP
 Houston, Texas



Molly Teas
Regional Seminar Program Co-Chair
 HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK LLP
 San Diego, California



Shay Slifka
Course Book Editor
 WHITFIELD & EDDY LAW
 Des Moines, IA



Charlie Kraft
Regional Seminar Program Co-Chair
 BUTT THORNTON & BAEHR PC
 Albuquerque, New Mexico



Jeff Levine
Client Development Committee
 MATHENY SEARS LINKERT & JAIME LLP
 Sacramento, California

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FACULTY REHEARSAL

Grand Atlantic Salon 1

All moderators are encouraged to use this time to set up a meeting with their panelists to review session materials.

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION & HOSPITALITY

Atlantic Foyer

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Siete Mares

Open to members of the Transportation Client Advisory Board & Practice Group Leadership.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES: CLIENT ONLY SOCIAL

Magnolia Ballroom

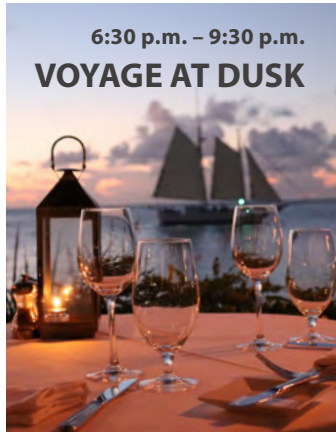
This event allows client attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas and share best practices in a social setting without ALFA International lawyers present.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

ALFA INTERNATIONAL: ALL ATTORNEY MEETING

Grand Atlantic Salon 2-3

All attending ALFA International attorneys are required to attend.



6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
VOYAGE AT DUSK

Dusk" carry you away on waves of exceptional cuisine, company, and the timeless allure of the sea. Welcome to Puerto Rico!

WELCOME RECEPTION, BUFFET DINNER & REGISTRATION

Atlantic Terrace

As twilight descends upon the Caribbean shores, embark on a journey that captures the spirit of coastal exploration. The gentle ocean breeze and the soft glow of lantern light create an atmosphere reminiscent of elegant ship-board dining beneath tropical stars. Let this evening's "Voyage at

9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

HOSPITALITY LOUNGE

Atlantic Foyer

Let the good times continue as you join your fellow attendees for a night cap and a light bite!

Hospitality Lounge Liaisons



Lesley Pflieger
LEWIS WAGNER & TRIMBLE, LLP
Indianapolis, Indiana



Lance Eberhart
HALL & EVANS, LLC
Denver, Colorado

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

SEA & SIP

WOMEN'S INITIATIVE SOCIAL

Hightide Rooftop Bar Terrace

Sea & Sip is the perfect blend of conversation and connection. Join your fellow women attendees for cocktails, seaside views, and a bit of trivia to kick off a memorable few days together!



Kelly Magnus
Women's Initiative Liaison
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA
Minneapolis, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Atlantic Terrace

Attendees: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Companions: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

FIRST TIME ATTENDEE BREAKFAST

Atlantic Terrace

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. – 12:00 p.m.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

Grand Atlantic Salon 1 - General Session
Grand Atlantic Salon 2 - Breakout Room

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS



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



Jessica Zaroski Bauer
Chief Executive Officer
ALFA INTERNATIONAL
Chicago, Illinois



Matt Parsons
Program Chair, 2026
Transportation Practice
Group Seminar
STOLL KEENON
OGDEN PLLC
Lexington, Kentucky



Lance Eberhart
Chair, Transportation
Practice Group
HALL & EVANS, LLC
Denver, Colorado

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

All Hands on Deck: Managing and Mitigating Risk in a Crisis

This program will explore how transportation companies can mitigate liability exposure and reputational harm from high profile incidents in the first 24 to 48 hours after a crisis. The panel will review effective crisis communication planning, policies, and strategies for use when the worst-case scenario happens. It will also cover preservation of evidence, responding to regulatory investigations, and best practices for managing the investigation and workup in the first critical days.



Christopher G. Keim
Moderator
FRANTZ WARD, LLP
Cleveland, Ohio



Cynthia Paisley
SVP Risk Management
STUDENT
TRANSPORTATION
OF AMERICA
Wall Township,
New Jersey



John Osgathorpe
TAYLOR, DAY,
GRIM & BOYD
Jacksonville, FL



Matt Barkett
SVP & Managing
Director
FALLS & CO.
Cleveland, Ohio

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

BREAK

9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Rough Seas or Caribbean Breeze? The Status of Broker Liability and FAAAA Preemption in the Wake of Montgomery V. Caribe Transport II

The U.S. Supreme Court will resolve the Circuit Court split on federal preemption of tort claims against freight brokers this year. Hear from industry leaders about the process of getting the issue before the U.S. Supreme Court and how a decision (good or bad) may impact the transportation industry.



Jill M. Gerdrum
Moderator
HALL AND EVANS LLC
Missoula, Montana



Chris Ugarte
Senior Legal Counsel
C.H. ROBINSON
WORLDWIDE
Eden Prairie, Minnesota



Annette Mijanovic
HAIGHT BROWN &
BONESTEEL LLP
Los Angeles, California


10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 1**

Choose one of the following:


OPTION A

A GHOST FROM THE DEPTHS: HOW RARE OUTLIER VERDICTS HAUNT OUR CLAIM EVALUATIONS


Outlier jury verdicts create strong availability bias – causing the industry to confuse what is most probable with what is most memorable. In this program, the presenters will move beyond the navel gazing that sometimes accompanies highly publicized large verdicts and examine how availability bias drives settlement decision-making, and how the transportation industry can recalibrate case evaluations from being reactive in response to outliers to evaluations that are based on real data and probabilities.




Brian T. Coolidge
Moderator
MAYER LLP
Houston, Texas



Julie Busch
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois



Jeff Beck
Director Risk Management
REPUBLIC SERVICES
Scottsdale, Arizona




Bryan Currie
Vice President, Claims
NATIONAL INTERSTATE INSURANCE
Richfield, Ohio


OPTION B

DON'T LET INFLATED MEDICAL BILLING AND PROVIDER BIAS TAKE THE WIND OUT OF YOUR SAILS


Testing the validity and reasonableness of medical billing can be a daunting task. Especially in states where juries hear only about billed medical expenses at trial, inflated medical bills can have a dramatic multiplying effect on verdicts. This panel will review effective strategies to rebut inflated medical bills, including third-party discovery to providers, CPT code analysis, discovery on provider bias, and more.




Kelsey Payton
Moderator
FRANDEN | FARRIS | QUILLIN | GOODNIGHT | ROBERTS + WARD
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Todd Fulks
Sr. Associate General Counsel, Litigation
PILOT TRAVEL CENTERS LLC
Knoxville, Tennessee



Curtis Ruwe
Vice President and General Counsel
CRETE CARRIER CORPORATION
Lincoln, Nebraska



Josh Davis
BROWN & JAMES, P.C.
St. Louis, Missouri

10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. **BREAK**


11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 2**

Choose one of the following:


OPTION A

ANCHORS AWAY: COMBATting JURY ANCHORING AND OTHER TRIAL TACTICS BASED ON PSYCHOLOGY, NOT EVIDENCE


It is no secret that the Plaintiff's bar has a natural advantage in using psychology to influence jury selection and behavior to put upward pressure on verdicts, and was ahead of the defense bar in doing so. But that does not mean companies and drivers are defenseless and cannot use similar tactics at trial. In this program, the panel will discuss how defendants can use their own anchoring tactics during voir dire and throughout trial to focus the jury on reasonable numbers – not fantastic numbers. The panel will provide insights into why anchoring is so effective and will explore other concepts from the field of psychology that can be used by defendants in voir dire, jury selection and thematically up until verdict.



Kelly Magnus
Moderator
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Brittany Wooten Cross
Senior Litigation Consultant
MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES
Tampa, Florida




Ryan Funderburg
QUILLING, SELANDER, LOWNDS, WINSLETT & MOSER, P.C.
Dallas, Texas

OPTION B

BEFORE THE STORM BREAKS: PROACTIVE NAVIGATION OF TRANSPORTATION CLAIMS


The presenters in this program will discuss a number of common issues that arise at the outset of a claim long before a lawsuit is filed. What steps should a claim administrator take to ensure that the pre-litigation claim file is protected work product and shielded from discovery? Is pre-suit discovery from a claimant permitted and, if so, what are its limits? What are the company's obligations in responding to a preservation letter? How do you respond to pre-suit demands? Attendees will participate in roundtables to discuss these topics and report out best practices and strategies.




Tierney M. Chadwick
Moderator
WADLEIGH, STARR & PETERS, P.L.L.C.
Manchester, New Hampshire



Gary Martin
Vice President Safety, Compliance and Risk Management
LILY TRANSPORTATION
Needham, Massachusetts



Misti Ramirez
Chief Operating Officer/
Co-Founder
EMA RISK SERVICES
Phoenix, Arizona



Matt McColgan
GERMAN, GALLAGHER & MURTAGH, P.C.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH BUFFET

Atlantic Terrace

12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

GOLF

See optional activities brochure for details. Prior registration is required.

1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

See optional activities brochure for details. Prior registration is required.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

PUERTO RICAN RUM & CIGAR VINTAGE NIGHT

COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND BUFFET DINNER

South Pool & Trellises

Step into an evening of old-world Caribbean elegance at our Puerto Rican Rum & Cigar Vintage Night! This relaxed yet refined experience invites guests to enjoy a cocktail reception followed by a buffet dinner, complemented by curated Puerto Rican rums and premium cigars!




10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

HOSPITALITY LOUNGE


Atlantic Foyer

The fun's not over yet! Join your fellow attendees for a night cap or a light bite before turning in for the evening.

Hospitality Lounge Liaisons



Antwan Phillipps
WRIGHT LINDSEY JENNINGS
Little Rock, Arkansas



Mary Beth White
LEWIS THOMASON
Nashville, Tennessee

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET

Atlantic Terrace

Attendees: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Companions: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

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

Grand Atlantic Salon 1 - General Session
Grand Atlantic Salon 2 - Breakout Room

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
BREAK

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Treasure or Trap for the Unwary?

BEST PRACTICES FOR USING AND MAINTAINING DRIVER BEHAVIOR DATA ANALYTICS TO PROMOTE SAFETY WITHOUT SINKING YOUR DEFENSE

Driver behavior analytics can be an invaluable resource for monitoring, training, and promoting safe driving behaviors for your drivers. However, they can just as easily be used as a cudgel in litigation to paint your driver as habitually unsafe, and your fleet oversight as unresponsive or indifferent to problem drivers. The presenters will discuss the types of driver behavior data available on sophisticated onboard monitoring systems and the benefits and risks of maintaining that data. The program will also review and discuss preservation policies and strategies to use in discovery and depositions to mitigate introduction of past driving behavior analytics to show a pattern of alleged negligence.

David Chapman
Moderator
LEWIS THOMASON, P.C.
Nashville, Tennessee

Mehdi Arradzadeh
SVP of Risk and Safety
ANDERSON TRUCKING SERVICE, INC
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Richard Pacheco
Director of Health and Safety
UPS
San Antonio, Texas

Travis Stewart
Assistant General Counsel
LYTX, INC.
San Diego, California

Sean McDonough
MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
Boston, Massachusetts

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

AI AI, Captain! Practical Applications of AI That Can Be Used Today to Improve Claim and Litigation Outcomes

Powerful AI applications are in use today that can help risk managers and claims team identify, categorize, and triage claims into risk categories for more sophisticated decision-making in the very early stages of claims. AI tools and enhancements are in use today by outside counsel to provide better and more efficient service to clients and aid in case evaluation and workup. The panel will discuss practical, real-world applications for these tools and the communication between client and counsel that should be happening to understand how and when they are being used.

Andrew Douberley
Moderator
DICKINSON & GIBBONS, P.A.
Sarasota, Florida

Sara Miemiec
Litigation Director
SCHNEIDER NATIONAL CARRIERS, INC.
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Madison Preston
NAMAN HOWELL SMITH & LEE, PLLC
Austin, Texas

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. BREAK

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Choose one of the following:

OPTION A
LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND TRADITION ON THE ISLAND OF PUERTO RICO

To honor our host – a U.S. Territory since 1898 – and with the help of a local expert – this program will explore culture, history, and legal traditions that have shaped Puerto Rico. After giving some background on the island, the panelists will discuss how U.S. federal law impacts trade and commerce in Puerto Rico, including unique localized applications of the Jones Act and other maritime laws, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, and more.

Christopher Knight
Moderator
FOWLER WHITE BURNETT P.A.
Miami, Florida

Alberto J. Castaner-Padro, Esq.
CASTANER & BAELLA LLC
San Juan, Puerto Rico

OPTION B
MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES ARISING FROM TRANSPORTATION COLLISIONS

When a truck overturns, a train derailed, or a vessel runs aground, the consequences can ripple far beyond the immediate accident site. Whether hazardous chemicals or seemingly harmless substances are involved, environmental damage can trigger a cascade of liability and regulatory scrutiny. This panel will cover important legal strategies to manage those environmental risks after a catastrophic accident, including navigating federal and state environmental law responsibility and best practices for resolving liability claims before they become a widespread problem. Through case studies and forward-looking insights, attendees will gain practical tools for navigating complex claims, understanding evolving regulations, and managing risk surrounding environmental accountability.

Garrett L. Boehm, Jr.
Moderator
JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.
Chicago, Illinois

Matthew Rengel
Chief Legal Officer
WATCO COMPANIES, L.L.C.
Overland Park, Kansas

Joshua Morris
Senior Manager, North America Claims
CIRCLE K
Raleigh, North Carolina

Jay Skolaut
HINKLE LAW FIRM LLC
Wichita, Kansas

10:40 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

TABLE CAPTAINS REPORT BACK

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. - 11:30 a.m.

BREAK



11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Shifting TIDES: Turning Generational Differences into Success

Ever feel like your team is sailing through choppy waters—where Boomers prefer anchors, Gen X is trying to keep the compass steady, Millennials want speedboats, and Gen Z is already building a hovercraft? You're not alone. In this lively, interactive session with roundtable discussions, we'll explore the changing tides of communication, values, and work styles that shape today's multigenerational workplace. From the courtroom to the conference room, learn how to turn generational differences into your secret weapon for sharper trial strategy, smoother collaboration, and a stronger team dynamic. By the end, you'll be steering your ship with confidence.



Misha Logan-Johnson
Moderator
LEAKE ANDERSSON
New Orleans, Louisiana



Carlye Stelle
Liability Litigation Manager
PEPSICO
White Plains, NY



Alan Easterly
LEITNER, WILLIAMS,
DOOLEY &
NAPOLITAN, PLLC
Chattanooga, Tennessee



Lori Baggett
Senior Vice President, CLO
PODS
Clearwater, Florida



Philip Davidson
HINKLE LAW FIRM LLC
Wichita, Kansas



Joseph Ballard
Senior Corporate Counsel
- Litigation and Insurance
SHIPT
Birmingham, Alabama



Molly Teas
HIGGS FLETCHER
& MACK, LLP
San Diego, California

12:30 p.m. – 12:35 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

12:35 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH BUFFET

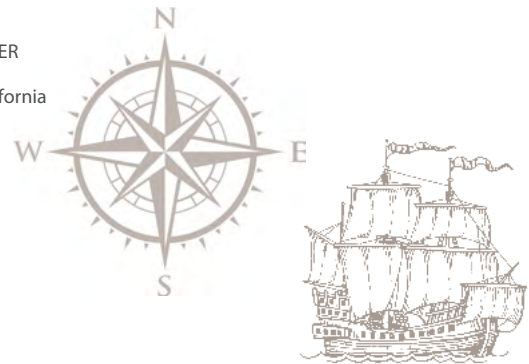
Atlantic Terrace

1:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES & OPTIONAL DINNER

If you are staying over on Thursday evening, please see the optional activities brochure for events taking place throughout the afternoon and evening.

Prior registration is required.



2026 TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE GROUP SEMINAR - SPEAKER BIOS

MEHDI ARRADIZADEH is the Senior Vice President of Risk Management & Safety at Anderson Trucking Service, Inc., a leading national motor carrier headquartered in St. Cloud, Minnesota. In this role, Mehdi oversees all aspects of claims management—including mediations, arbitrations, and trials—and directs the company's Safety Department. His leadership ensures a comprehensive approach to risk mitigation and operational safety across the organization. He also directs the development and enforcement of safety and compliance programs within ATS operations, giving him a unique perspective on both claims and operational needs. With more than two decades of experience in trucking, insurance, and safety, Mehdi has built deep expertise through hands-on involvement in litigation and claims handling. Mehdi began his career at Schneider National in the claims department, advancing to Director of Claims. In 2009, he joined Covenant Trucking as Director of Risk and Security before assuming his current role at ATS in 2010. A hallmark of Mehdi's career is his creation of a blueprint for fair, efficient, and transparent claims resolution—grounded in empathy and honesty. He is a strong advocate for proactive driver behavioral intervention as a strategy to reduce accident severity, emphasizing modification over termination.

Mehdi believes that focusing on behavior, rather than punitive measures alone, leads to safer outcomes for motor carriers and drivers alike.

JEFFREY BECK serves as the Director Risk Management for Republic Services, Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona. His 20-year career includes experience in risk management, claims, and legal roles across numerous states with leading transportation and industrial companies. He is a licensed Texas attorney, but long ago found his niche in risk management and claims. Jeff finds respite from his work riding dirt bikes in the desert and volunteering in his wife's classroom.

LORI BAGGETT is Chief Legal Officer at PODS Enterprises, LLC, where she oversees legal, risk management and insurance, safety, and internal audit functions. She serves as a strategic advisor to the CEO and senior leadership team on complex business matters, regulatory compliance, corporate governance, and enterprise risk management across the transportation and logistics industry. With deep expertise in labor and employment law and workplace safety and health (OSHA) issues, Lori thrives on solving complex operational challenges and driving business efficiencies. Prior to joining PODS in May 2021 as Vice President, Associate General Counsel, she spent 17+ years at Carlton Fields,

advancing from associate attorney to shareholder, and subsequently to managing shareholder of the Tampa office. As a former Division I basketball player, Lori believes in the power of teamwork. She takes a collaborative, partnership approach that drives stakeholder buy-in and builds consensus. She is committed to serving the Tampa Bay community and giving back to the legal profession through strategic initiatives and leadership efforts in nonprofit fundraising and public service.

JOSEPH BALLARD serves as Senior Corporate Counsel at Shipt, Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Target based in Birmingham, Alabama. Shipt is a retail technology company that connects independent contractor shoppers and drivers with customers that are in need of products to be delivered the same day or next day from local retailers. Joseph manages Shipt's national litigation portfolio and oversees the company's insurance and claims management teams. Additional responsibilities at Shipt include responding to governmental investigations and audits and working with cross-functional business teams to assess growth opportunities and associated risks. Prior to joining Shipt, Joseph defended companies and individuals with a focus on auto, class action, premises liability, product liability, and workers' compensation.

MATT BARKETT leads the corporate communications practice as part of the executive team at Falls & Co. Matt's specialties include crisis communications, labor relations, change management, media relations, executive transitions, corporate transactions, litigation PR and cyber security. Matt's extensive network of legal, corporate, insurance and private equity professionals, plus his experience working with some of this region's most well-known companies, make him a go-to communications resource for the corporate community. Through Matt's relationships with major insurance companies, he also has counseled clients on many high-profile engagements, including more than a dozen NTSB investigations into air, rail and pipeline accidents. Aviation is both a passion and an area of expertise for Matt as he has extensive experience working for airlines, airports and private jet operators as a senior crisis and corporate communications counselor.

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.

GARRETT L. BOEHM, JR., is a Shareholder and General Counsel for Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFAI member firm based in Chicago, Illinois. Garrett co-chairs Johnson & Bell's environmental and appellate practice groups. As to construction law matters, primarily on appeal, Garrett has represented clients in disputes related to high rise construction and highway construction. In addition, Garrett serves as the chair of ALFAI's environmental practice group. Garrett is a lifelong Chicagoan and now lives northwest of Chicago with his wife, three kids, and two dogs.

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

ALBERTO CASTAÑER is a maritime and admiralty attorney with a practice focused on complex shipping, marine insurance, port operations, and maritime commercial disputes. He holds an LL.M. in Admiralty and Maritime Law from Tulane University Law School and has been certified as a Proctor in Admiralty by the Maritime Law Association of the United States. Mr. Castañer represents a broad range of maritime industry participants, including marine insurers, ocean carriers, vessel owners and operators, terminal operators, stevedores, freight forwarders, logistics companies, and U.S. Customs brokers, in both federal and Puerto Rico courts. His practice regularly involves matters arising under general maritime law, marine insurance coverage, port and terminal operations, cargo claims, pilotage, regulatory compliance, and maritime contractual disputes. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and currently serves as Chair of the Association's Stevedores, Marine Terminals, and Vessel Services Committee, where he works closely with maritime practitioners and industry stakeholders on issues affecting port operations and vessel services nationwide. Mr. Castañer is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico (B.A., cum laude, College of Arts and Sciences), Inter American University School of Law (J.D., cum laude), and Tulane University Law School (LL.M., Admiralty and Maritime Law). He founded his law firm in 2008 to provide specialized maritime and commercial litigation services to clients in Puerto Rico and internationally. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Admiralty and Maritime Law at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law.

TIERNEY CHADWICK is a Member of Wadleigh, Starr & Peters, P.L.L.C. the ALFA International member firm in New Hampshire. Her practice covers a broad spectrum of litigation areas including medical malpractice defense, product liability, transportation, toxic tort litigation, legal malpractice and construction defect litigation. She also has experience in first party insurance coverage litigation, representing insurers in connection with bad faith claims. Tierney has represented physicians and other medical professionals before their respective licensing boards in matters of professional

liability. Tierney has tried multiple cases to verdict and has extensive experience in using alternative dispute resolution to resolve cases in a cost-effective manner for her clients.

DAVID CHAPMAN is a shareholder of Lewis Thomason, ALFA International's member firm in Knoxville, Tennessee. He focuses primarily on the defense of local and national transportation companies and commercial motor vehicle drivers, including medical and liability expert retention and discovery, accident investigation and evaluation, and pre-trial, trial and appellate litigation. He has also worked with multiple motor carriers and transportation companies regarding post-accident protocols and FMCSA compliance. David has also represented motor carriers in the course of NTSB investigations. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Carson Newman College and his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

BRIAN COOLIDGE is a board-certified trial attorney at Mayer LLP, the ALFAI member firm in Houston, Texas, 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.

BRITTANY WOOTEN CROSS has assisted attorneys nationwide with the development of trial strategies for civil and criminal matters from a social science perspective since 2010. While at Magna since 2018, Brittany has consulted on over 275 cases. She has experience in all aspects of litigation consulting including jury selection, voir dire, online and in-person focus group and mock trial research, exploratory and arbitration studies, juror profiling, SJQ evaluation, damages assessments, community attitude surveys, trial monitoring, and theme development. It is critical to employ an empirical research design and methodology in jury research, and Brittany regularly applies a data-driven approach to cases. She is actively involved in Magna's early intervention approach to litigation to help clients anticipate possible pitfalls and proactively solve for those dangers early in the litigation process. Brittany also oversees Magna's vast on-going databases with tens of thousands of mock

jurors across multiple jury research platforms. Brittany has presented at conferences and CLE's throughout the country about jury selection strategies, the impact of COVID-19 on juries, the science of storytelling, and juror decision-making. Acquainted with high-exposure matters, she has been quoted in publications such as the USA Today about jury selection strategies for high-profile cases. Brittany uses her understanding of jury decision-making processes to help clients translate complex issues into clear, persuasive messages to jurors, starting in voir dire and throughout the case. She has extensive involvement with personal injury, professional negligence, medical negligence, pharmaceutical company matters, commercial litigation, product liability, oil and gas, insurance coverage, construction, securities, property and contract disputes, antitrust, white-collar disputes, as well as criminal matters. Prior to joining Magna, Brittany was a litigation consultant at a nationwide consulting firm in Oakland, California, and opened a branch in Chicago, Illinois. She received her M.A. in Criminology from the University of South Florida and her B.S. from Florida State University. She has published articles on juvenile abnormal behavior, mental health courts, and substance abuse. When not in the courtroom, she is usually outdoors hiking or on the golf course with her husband, Brian, and their young son.

BRYAN CURRIE is an Assistant Vice President of Claims for National Interstate with responsibility for all bodily injury personnel and claims within the organization. He began his insurance career at North Carolina Farm Bureau as a multi-line adjuster and since his move to National Interstate in 2007, has held several adjusting and management positions within its claims department. He's a graduate of Elon University in North Carolina, and currently resides in LaGrange, Ohio.

JOSH DAVIS is a principal with Brown & James, the ALFA International firm in St. Louis, Missouri. Josh is a trial attorney with nearly all his cases rooted in insurance litigation, including third-party defense, first-party litigation, and insurance coverage. Clients entrust him with work regarding personal and commercial lines dealing with property, casualty, and liability matters. He routinely defends clients in catastrophic injury and property damage cases. Accident scene management and inspection, handling expert retention and analysis, and the related litigation tasks from inception through trial are all aspects Josh handles as part of his litigation practice. He has been recognized by Super Lawyers Missouri & Kansas since 2013 and is a graduate of Saint Louis University School of Law.

ANDREW DOUBERLY is a partner with Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Sarasota, Florida. Andy's practice focuses on defending personal injury matters, including commercial transportation litigation, auto claims, and premises claims. Andy has tried numerous cases throughout the state of Florida. Andy graduated from the University of Florida with a B.A. in English, earned his J.D. from Florida State University, and is a member of ALFA's Future Leaders Forum, Transportation and Hospitality & Retail practice groups.

ALAN EASTERLY is a Managing Member of the ALFA International member firm Leitner, Williams, Dooley & Napolitan, LLC, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His practice focuses on transportation, products liability, complex/mass torts, insurance, premises liability, auto liability, construction, and related matters. Mr. Easterly is a Martindale Hubbell AV-rated attorney and is recognized by "The Best Lawyers in America" in the areas of Transportation Law, Products Liability Law - Defendants, Insurance Law, and Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants. He has been named by Best Lawyers as the "Lawyer of the Year" in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in Transportation Law for 2020, 2022, and 2025, and in Insurance Law for 2021 and 2024. He is a Rule 31 Listed Mediator in Tennessee, and active in the ALFA International Transportation, Hospitality and Retail, and Products Liability and Complex Torts Practice Groups. He is a frequent presenter on issues of compliance and liability for motor carriers and transportation brokers. He received his BA from the University of Tennessee in 1985, and his J.D. from the University of Memphis in 1988.

LANCE EBERHART is CEO at the ALFA International law firm Hall & Evans, LLC in Denver, Colorado where he also serves as the practice group Chair in Transportation and Hospitality and Retail. Mr. Eberhart's trial practice focuses on complex civil litigation, with an emphasis on trucking, hospitality, premises liability, and excess claims. Mr. Eberhart has represented individuals and businesses in the defense of claims for personal injury and property damages as a result of accident or other casualty. Mr. Eberhart has significant trial experience defending railroads, trucking companies, restaurants, hotels, gig-economy businesses, property management entities, and insurers in civil matters. Prior to joining Hall & Evans Mr. Eberhart had significant trial and appellate experience in the field of criminal defense. Mr. Eberhart is in numerous professional organizations and is a member of both the ALFA International Hospitality & Retail and Transportation Steering Committees. He was the 2016 ALFA International Hospitality & Retail Law Practice Group Chair and is the

current Vice-Chair of the Transportation Practice Group. Mr. Eberhart is a 1997 graduate of the Washington University School of Law.

TODD FULKS is Sr. Associate General Counsel, Litigation for Pilot Travel Centers in Knoxville, Tennessee. Since joining Pilot in early 2024, Mr. Fulks has managed litigation in the US and Canada, including employment, general liability/premises liability, real estate, construction, and collections and bankruptcy matters. Mr. Fulks previously served as General Counsel for Red Stag Fulfillment, LLC, a third-party fulfillment and logistics company in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to joining Red Stag in February 2021, Mr. Fulks spent 16+ years managing litigation and other legal matters nationwide for one of the nation's largest home building conglomerates. In addition, Mr. Fulks practiced law for three years at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz, P.C. and spent one year in the Office of the General Counsel for the Tennessee Valley Authority in Knoxville, TN. Mr. Fulks earned his B.S. from Milligan University in Johnson City, Tennessee and his J.D. from the University of Memphis.

GRACE 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 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, Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

MATT JOHNSTON – TBD

CHRISTOPHER KEIM is the Managing Partner of ALFA International member firm Frantz Ward in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to his Managing Partner and Management Committee responsibilities, Chris' legal practice focuses on civil litigation matters, including general business disputes, product liability claims, transportation law, employment litigation, and corporate investigations. He has extensive experience in successfully defending businesses through trial and arbitration throughout the U.S., with over seventy-five bench and jury trials to date. This includes representing closely held and publicly traded companies and their insurers in routine and catastrophic litigation.

CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT is a managing shareholder of ALFA International member firm Fowler White Burnett in Miami, Florida and leads the firm's largest civil litigation group. With 30 years of experience as a civil litigator in both state and federal courts, Mr. Knight focuses his practice on matters dealing with product liability, medical malpractice, commercial litigation, and insurance. In addition, Mr. Knight has been named as lead counsel for the defense in federal multidistrict matters, as well as class action products liability matters. He currently serves as lead counsel in the State of Florida to numerous Fortune 500 companies, several airlines, and the University of Miami. An AV rated attorney by Martindale- Hubbell, Mr. Knight received his J.D. degree from the University of Florida College of Law. He is a member of The Florida Bar, Dade County Bar and American Bar Associations. He is also a past board member of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association and a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel and ALFA International. Mr. Knight has been listed in the South Florida Legal Guide – Top Lawyers for Civil Litigation, Florida Trend Magazine – Florida Legal Elite and Florida Super Lawyers.

MISHA LOGAN-JOHNSON is a partner at ALFA International member firm Leake Andersson where she is a member of the transportation and casualty practice. Her practice focuses on commercial transportation litigation, catastrophic losses, insurance defense, premises liability, and products liability. In addition to the transportation practice, has continued to expand her skills and experience working in areas such as intellectual property, energy, and construction. In 2024, Misha was named as one of Louisiana's "Rising Stars" and has received this distinguished honor again for 2025. Misha received her B.A. in Communications from Arizona State University and her J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans – College of Law. received her J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans – College of Law. She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) – Diversity Committee, the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Additionally, Misha serves as a mentor in the Legal Education Advancing Diversity Mentorship Program for pre-law students who attend the New Orleans area HBCUs.

KELLY MAGNUS is an experienced litigator from ALFA International member firm Nilan Johnson Lewis PA in Minnesota, focused on representing product manufacturers and distributors across the country in the transportation, micromobility, consumer goods, industrial, and medical device industries. She is passionate about the companies and products she represents and approaches every client relationship as a partner and fierce advocates for their success. She possesses deep practical and technical knowledge about the companies and products she represents and applies this knowledge to drive legal strategy. Comfortable in the courtroom, Kelly effectively connects with jurors by conveying complex information using language that is clear and approachable. Kelly also helps manufacturers maximize their business objectives by focusing on risk management and preventative measures, including product safety issues, on-product warning and labels, and regulatory compliance. In her spare time, Kelly enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends and attending Twins games.

GARY MARTIN is the Vice President of Risk Management. He brings to Lily 35 years of transportation industry experience. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA., and his master's in business administration from the Questrom School of Business at Boston University. Gary is responsible for ensuring the implementation of practices and procedures

for minimizing corporate risk and exposure as well as the well-being, growth & development of the company's human resources.

MATTHEW MCCOLGAN is a partner with the ALFA International member firm of German, Gallagher & Murtagh, P.C. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Matt is a key player in the firm's transportation practice, defending trucking and transportation companies in cases ranging from catastrophic injuries to property damage and cargo claims. He also handles product and premises liability, as well as other casualty matters. Matt's practice consists not only of defending transportation matters in suit but also of providing 24/7 support to investigate accidents and losses when they occur and counseling clients about how to manage losses pursuit. His practice covers all of New Jersey and Pennsylvania at both the state and federal level. Beyond the billable hour, Matt is a member of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel's Executive Committee and participates on the steering committees for both ALFA's Transportation and Insurance practice groups. Matt is also a member of ALFA's Future Leaders

SEAN MCDONOUGH has been a partner at Morrison Mahoney since 2002. He has been practicing law in Massachusetts since 1993. His practice is focused on the defense of companies in personal injury and property damage cases in the areas of product liability, transportation liability and premises liability, and the defense of professionals, including lawyers, real estate appraisers, agents and brokers, home inspectors, engineers and architects in malpractice cases and board related matters. Sean also specializes in defending construction companies in lawsuits alleging construction defects, non-profit entities in claims arising out of allegations of abuse and defending municipalities and governmental entities. He also defends insurance companies in contract and coverage disputes and advises small to medium size corporations regarding organization, real estate transactions, litigation and employment issues.

ANNETTE MIJANOVIC is a partner at the ALFA International member firm Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP, in Los Angeles, California, where she began her career as a summer associate nineteen years ago. She is a member of the firm's Transportation, Business Solutions and Products Liability practice groups. She has served as lead counsel in trials involving transportation and commercial litigation disputes in state and federal court. She is a member of the firm's Immediate Response Team. She is admitted to practice law in all California state and federal courts.

JOSH MORRIS is the Senior Manager of North American Claims in Circle K's Risk Management Department. Circle K has become one of the most widely recognized convenience store brands, known worldwide for quality products and great customer service. Josh has been with Circle K for 12 years in various positions and is currently responsible for overseeing Circle K's premise liability and transportation claims in North America. Josh is a graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in Business Management.

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 product 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.

RICHARD PACHECO is working on his 31st year at UPS. His career started in 1995 as a manual part-time employee in Austin, TX. Held multiple non-management positions before moving into management. Those positions included unloading trailers, sorting packages, loading, and package car driving. After moving into management, Richard was an operations Supervisor for inside operations, on-road operations, and transportation operations. After 10 years in operations, Richard moved in safety. Richard's first role in safety was in compliance. Richard was responsible for federal, state, and local compliance. Those responsibilities included OSHA, EPA, DOT, EEOC, FMLA, Hazardous Materials response/Responders and waste disposal, and local fire standards. Later Richard moved into Health and Safety. In addition to the previous compliance responsibilities, Richard became responsible for injury and crash prevention, employee onboarding, data analysis, forecasting, implementing predictive analytics, ergonomics, hearing conversation, and training at the micro and macro level.

Richard master level trainer in the Smith System of Defensive Driving, not only did Richard train drivers, but Richard was also responsible for training trainers. Richard is a master level trainer for hazardous materials responders and Safe Work Methods. Richard's other areas of expertise include automation project management (prevention through design), driver/vehicle telematics, and passive driver-crash mitigation systems. As Richard's career matured at UPS, Richard went back to school and received a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University and is currently working on a bachelor's degrees in organizational leadership and a master's degree in industrial organization psychology. Richard has completed course work at Texas A&M Engineering Extension School (TEEX), the University of Texas at Austin (UT), Columbia Southern University (CSU), with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP), and Harvard University. Richard is OSHA certified for General Industry, a Board-Certified Safety Professional, and holds bachelor's degree in occupational safety. Richard is a member of the ASSP, BCSP, and a practicing CSP in good standing. It was during Richard's time at CSU that he became fascinated with the psychology of Behavior Based Safety, which has put him on his current path of Industrial-Organizational psychology and its impact on employee motivation or rather the lack of employee motivation. Once Richard became a Staff.

CYNTHIA PAISLEY is a seasoned Senior Risk Management Executive with over 30 years of leadership experience spanning transportation, infrastructure, and insurance sectors. Currently serving as Senior Vice President of Risk Management for Student Transportation of America, she oversees a large captive insurance program across the U.S. and Canada, including liability, auto, property, excess, cyber, directors & officers (D&O), management liability, and project-specific lines. Her role also encompasses oversight of the surety bond program, leadership of an in-house subrogation team, and the design of a ground-up claims management culture anchored in state-of-the-art metrics and KPIs. Cynthia has a proven record of mitigating high-exposure litigation risk, including the successful defense against reptile theory tactics and nuclear verdict threats. At ProSight Specialty Insurance, she directed a team of 110 professionals and reshaped claims operations through innovative litigation protocols, telematics-driven insights, and cross-functional collaboration with underwriting and actuarial teams. Earlier, she built the enterprise risk management function for DBi Services' global operations and guided complex claims resolution as a litigation paralegal with Latona Law. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Penn State University and a Master of

Science in Metaphysical Science from the University of Metaphysical Sciences in Sedona, Arizona. Cynthia also maintains multiple industry designations and is an active member of leading industry associations. Cynthia brings deep expertise in enterprise risk, insurance innovation, litigation management, and cultural transformation in claims organizations. Her career reflects a consistent commitment to protecting organizations from catastrophic loss while enabling safe, sustainable growth.

MATT PARSONS is a member of the ALFA International firm Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky. He serves as the 2026 ALFAI Transportation Seminar Program Chair and is a former chair of the ALFAI Future Leaders Practice Group. Matt's practice focuses on defense of transportation and general liability claims against motor carriers and private fleet operators, public utilities, and other businesses. Matt also represents businesses and insurance carriers in a variety of commercial and insurance disputes, including first and third-party insurance litigation, real estate and construction disputes, and breach of contract claims. Matt is the current President of the Fayette County Bar Association and serves as co-leader of his firm's Kentucky Litigation practice group. He spends his free time traveling with family and friends and, most recently, following the Indiana University Hoosiers Football Team to their first-ever national championship.

EVAN PATTERSON is a member of Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee, PLLC, ALFAI's member firm in Austin, San Antonio and Waco, Texas. He focuses his practice on civil litigation, primarily personal injury defense in commercial transportation and products/premises liability cases. Prior to joining Naman Howell, Evan worked as an Assistant District Attorney at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted all manner of cases, including DWIs, fraud cases, murders, and just about everything else in between. While representing Bexar County, Evan tried over 25 cases to verdict. Apart from his courtroom experience, Evan's prosecutorial background gives him a leg up in handling investigations, and clients have found this experience particularly valuable when it comes to handling initial investigations of major incidents. Evan excels in identifying and preserving the crucial pieces of evidence that will protect his client's interest in any later litigation. He attended Baylor University as an undergraduate and received his JD from Boston College Law School.

KELSEY PAYTON is a partner with Franden, Farris, Quillin, Goodnight, Roberts + Ward, the ALFA International member firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her practice focuses on general civil litigation, with an emphasis on transportation litigation, personal injury, premises liability, and medical

malpractice. Kelsey has a particular interest in medical billing practices and CPT codes and uses her medical malpractice background to provide detailed, incisive analysis of medical records to challenge causation and damages. Outside of her legal practice, Kelsey is passionate about animal rescue and volunteers as a foster with Puppy Haven Rescue in Bixby, Oklahoma. She was honored as a member of Oklahoma Magazine's 40 Under 40 Class of 2025. Kelsey is also an active member of the ALFA's Transportation Steering Committee.

ANTWAN PHILLIPS is a partner with Wright Lindsey Jennings, the ALFA International member firm in Little Rock and Rogers, Arkansas, where he has practiced law for over a decade. He has a trial-oriented practice which includes trucking litigation, but he also practices personal injury defense, premises liability, products liability and dental malpractice. In 2017, Phillips was named to Arkansas Business' inaugural "Arkansas 200" as one of the 200 most influential Arkansans. In 2013, Arkansas Business included Phillips in the annual "20 in their 20s" issue. Mid-South Super Lawyers has recognized him as a "Rising Star" in the area of Civil Litigation Defense since 2014. In 2012, Phillips graduated as a Fellow of the American Board of Trial Advocates Trial College, after completing intensive trial training at Harvard Law School in Boston, MA. In November 2020, Phillips was elected to the City of Little Rock's Board of Director (its Little Rock's version of city council). In other community-oriented activities, Phillips is an alumnus of the Arkansas Commitment program and is the past President of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas Board of Directors. He is also the President of the Public Education Foundation of Little Rock and a member of the Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholders Group as appointed by the State Board of Education. Phillips was also selected as one of the co-chairs for Think Big Little Rock, a group established by Fifty for the Future and the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, which is charged with strategizing ways to enhance life in Little Rock and the surrounding communities.

MADISON PRESTON is a member of Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC, the ALFA International member firm in Austin, Texas. Her practice focuses on civil and commercial litigation, including transportation, personal injury, wrongful death, premises liability, employment disputes, property disputes, construction defect, and general defense liability matters. Madison represents clients in both state and federal courts across Texas.

CURT RUWE joined the Crete Carrier Corporation family of carriers in 2013. Founded in 1966, Crete Carrier Corporation, along with operating division Shaffer Trucking and wholly owned subsidiary Hunt Transportation, Inc., offer a full

range of national transportation services to its customers. As general counsel, Curt oversees Crete's claims department, traditionally known as Transportation Claims, as well as supervising all aspects of the corporate legal department. While he has no evidence to back it up, his instinct is that he is the only Motor Carrier General Counsel to have been a radio- morning show personality in his younger years.

JAY SKOLAUT focuses on civil litigation and transportation law at Hinkle Law Firm LLC. Jay assists members of the transportation practice group's Critical Occurrence Response Team, responding to events involving the firm's motor carrier/transportation industry clients. Prior to coming to the firm, Jay served as a clerk for Union Pacific Railroad Company. In support of the firm's insurance defense practice group, Jay is involved in the full range of property and casualty matters, insurance coverage issues, and critical occurrence investigations for fires, explosions, and other large value losses.

SHAY SLIFKA is an associate attorney with Whitfield & Eddy, the ALFA member firm in Iowa. She is active in the firm's litigation, transportation, labor and employment, estates, wills and trusts, and construction practice groups. Shay received her J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2025 with high distinction, and was a Van Oosterhout-Baskerville Competition finalist and member of the Organization of Women Law Students and Staff. She received Jurisprudence Awards for Academic Excellence in mass tort litigation and principles of contract drafting and a Dean's Award for Academic Excellence in wildlife and habitat conservation law. Shay also gained legal experience while externing with the State Public Defender's Office in Cedar Rapids. Shay earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Philosophy summa cum laude from the University of Northern Iowa in 2021. She was President of Beta Gamma Sigma honors business fraternity, member of the UNI Business Presidents' Council, Co-President of the Philosophy Club, and Vice President of Fundraising for Women in Business. Shay spent one of her summers interning with the Iowa Attorney General's Office in the Consumer Protection Division. She was also selected to have her economic research paper published on the topic of higher education promise programs.

CARLYE STELLE has been with PepsiCo for 12 years, currently as Liability Litigation Manager. She has oversight of auto, property, and product liability programs for all company sectors and subsidiaries, including but not limited to Pepsi, Frito Lay and Quaker. She works in collaboration with their TPA on claims and incident management, data and analytics, and governance, leading programs focused on optimizing claims processes to deliver

measurable results, leveraging predictive modeling to improve outcomes and cost savings, while enhancing customer experience. Carlye's work aligns with PepsiCo's global scale, where products are enjoyed over one billion times daily across more than 200 countries. In 2024, PepsiCo generated \$92 billion in net revenue, supported by iconic brands like Lay's, Doritos, Cheetos, Gatorade, Pepsi-Cola, Mountain Dew, Quaker, and SodaStream.

TRAVIS STEWART leads the Corporate and Contracts team at Lytx, Inc., which includes responsibility for a diverse range of commercial deals, as well as assisting internal teams on matters related to data security, licensing and addressing the changing legal landscape of internet connected devices. Lytx is a global leader in video safety and video telematics, harnessing the power of video to empower drivers and fleets to be safer and more efficient, productive, and profitable so they can thrive in today's competitive environment. Using the world's largest driving database of its kind, along with proprietary machine vision and artificial intelligence technology, Lytx helps protect and connect thousands of fleets and 3.4 million drivers in more than 85 countries. Prior to joining Lytx, Travis was Corporate Counsel at FTD, Inc. (formerly, Provide Commerce, Inc.), where he assisted with a wide variety of legal matters including mergers and acquisitions, commercial contract review and negotiation, litigation management, privacy and data security, marketing guidance and intellectual property matters. Travis received his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law and his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship from the University of Southern California. Travis also received a certificate in Interactive Multimedia from the School of Engineering at the University of Southern California

CHRIS UGARTE serves as the Deputy General Counsel for C.H. Robinson, a global leader in logistics and supply chain management. He is an experienced attorney who focuses on dispute resolution, risk management, employment law, contract review, and counseling business leaders. Chris is a relentless problem solver who is passionate about helping organizations grow and succeed. Prior to joining C.H. Robinson, Chris worked at a law firm in Minneapolis and a judicial law clerk for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. When not providing legal counsel, Chris spends time coaching local youth in a variety of sports, including football, baseball, and basketball. Chris has a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University and a law degree from Loyola University Chicago.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION

El Conquistador Resort
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[HOTEL 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 "resort casual" attire. Khaki pants and polo shirts are acceptable for men and dresses, skirts or pants for women. No jackets are necessary at any evening events but all events are outdoors, so layers are recommended.

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 International staff in advance of the meeting and we will ensure that necessary accommodation is provided.

SEMINAR CONTACT

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