



***THE  
FUTURE  
NEXT EXIT →***

*Are You Ready? The Future is **NOW!***

**2019 Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar**

**September 25-27, 2019**

**Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain  
Marana, Arizona**

**[www.alfainternational.com](http://www.alfainternational.com)**



### *All About The Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain*

The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain is an unforgettable Tucson luxury hotel set in the high Sonoran Desert. Located northwest of the city, in the scenic town of Marana, this breathtaking hotel features picturesque views of the Arizona desert combined with the majestic backdrop of the nearby Tortolita Mountains. Guests will enjoy a vast array of luxurious amenities, including a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf course and destination spa, plus the added convenience of the city of Tucson less than 30 minutes away. At The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain luxury hotel, guests will be able to enjoy true Southwestern adventure experiences with more than 20 miles of hiking and biking trails winding through spectacular mountain terrain. Terrace fire pits provide a unique setting to take in a desert sunset or sunrise over the Arizona mountains. After an adventurous day exploring the sights and sounds of the Arizona desert, guests can unwind and indulge the senses while reveling in the enchanting views of the Tortolita Mountains and the rich visual history of the surrounding desert. Tucson International Airport (TUS) is 32 miles (42 minutes) from the resort. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) is 103 miles (1.5 - 2 hours) from the resort.

### *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 150 member firms throughout the world. Our 80 U.S. firms maintain offices in 95 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas. Our 70 international firms are located throughout Europe, Asia, Australia/New Zealand, Africa, Canada, Mexico and South America.

ALFA International's mission is to provide high quality, cost-efficient legal services wherever our clients need them. The ALFA International model enables our members to use their local expertise to deliver highly effective legal solutions, often drawing upon the collective wisdom and experience of other member firms. ALFA International clients benefit from a geographically comprehensive network of exceptional law firms and accomplished trial and business counsel. Our member firms meet high standards to be part of the ALFA International network and are well respected by their peers in the legal and business community.

[www.alfainternational.com](http://www.alfainternational.com)

# *Are You Ready? The Future is **NOW!***

## **2019 Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar**

**September 25-27, 2019**

**Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain  
Marana, Arizona**

Are you ready for the changes in technology, discovery practices, and substantive law that impact your business? The beautiful Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain in Marana, Arizona is the perfect venue to prepare yourself for the legal changes that are coming upon us fast and furious. Our cutting-edge presentations will give you the tools to stay one step ahead, and to navigate an ever-changing terrain.

In the past twelve months, we have seen a succession of jaw-dropping jury verdicts against corporations in product liability cases. Given this troubling trend, it seems fitting to kick off our program with a general session addressing why jury verdicts against corporations are through the roof and what can be done to level the playing field.

Conference attendees will then be able to pick and choose among nine breakout sessions addressing current issues in three separate tracks.

- **Technology**  
European data protection laws  
"Smart" interconnected products  
Cybersecurity
- **Discovery**  
Spoliation of physical evidence  
Offensive and defensive use of social media  
Impact of the current administration's policies on your business
- **Substantive Law**  
Post-sale obligation to warn  
Challenges in combatting evidence of a feasible alternative design  
Combatting counterfeit and grey market sales

This year, we are also introducing the following brand-new programs:

- TED-style talks delivered by valued industry leaders
- A hot-topics-in-product-liability session addressing hot-off-the-press new developments you need to know
- An ethics session focusing on best practices to counter plaintiffs' efforts to undermine the attorney-client privilege

Each day, we will conclude early in the afternoon to give conference attendees a break from the classroom and an opportunity to network with colleagues and enjoy the beauty that is Dove Mountain. Be sure to sign up for one of the offered activities on Friday afternoon and join us for a farewell dinner that evening.

Welcome again to the 2019 ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar. We look forward to seeing you in the desert!

#### **Beth Rose**

*Program Chair, 2019 Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group Seminar*  
SILLS CUMMIS & GROSS P.C.  
Newark, New Jersey

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

**2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

### EARLY REGISTRATION

Ballroom Terrace and Lawn

**2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

### FACULTY REHEARSAL

Ritz Carlton Plazas 1 & 2

**3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

### CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Wild Burro Ballroom

**4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

## Client Roundtable

*Wild Mustang*

This is a chance for clients to let outside counsel know what you think about any pressing topic or issue. While a topic outline will be provided to spur discussion, you can offer your thoughts on any issue you think would be useful for outside counsel to know. One or two designated clients will lead the discussion and take notes of the responses. Those designated clients will report to the outside counsel before the final general session on Friday.

**5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

### ALL ALFA INTERNATIONAL ATTORNEY MEETING

*Dove Mountain 1*

**5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

## Women's Initiative Reception

Azura Lawn

Join fellow female counterparts for cocktails and lively chats before the seminar gets into full swing.

**Sheila Kerwin**  
*Women's Initiative Liaison*  
NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

## Welcome Cocktails, Buffet Dinner & Registration

Turquesa Latin Grill

Welcome to Arizona! Reconnect with colleagues and meet new connections while enjoying cocktails and a buffet dinner at the Turquesa Latin Grill & Pool area.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

**7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

### BREAKFAST BUFFET

*Tortolita Lawn*

Attorneys 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Spouses 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

### PROGRAM SESSIONS

Ritz-Carlton Plazas & Dove Mountain Ballroom 1

**8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.**

## Welcome Remarks

*Ritz-Carlton Plaza 1 & 2*

### Kara Stubbs

*Chair, ALFA International  
Board of Directors*  
BAKER STERCHI  
COWDEN & RICE L.L.C.  
Kansas City, Missouri

### Steven Hamilton

*Chair, Product Liability &  
Complex Torts Practice Group*  
HALL & EVANS, LLC  
Denver, Colorado

### Beth Rose

*Program Chair, 2019 Product  
Liability & Complex Torts  
Practice Group Seminar*  
SILLS CUMMIS & GROSS P.C.  
Newark, New Jersey

**8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

## Corporations in the Crosshairs: Strategies to Decrease the Likelihood that Your Company Will be the Next Headline

*Ritz Carlton Plazas 1&2*

In today's world of social media and "fake news," deregulation, and corporate distrust, a defendant corporation faces many new challenges in litigation. In response to this evolution, all players on the defense must take steps to mitigate the risk of becoming the recipient of the next big verdict. While no one can prevent a jury from doing something crazy, this panel will discuss strategies to mitigate the risk that your company will fall victim to an out-of-control jury.

### Adam Cooper

*Moderator*  
CARTER CONBOY  
Albany, New York

### Matt Jorgenson

*Senior Counsel*  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
COMPANY  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Marygrace Schaeffer

*Vice President*  
DECISIONQUEST  
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

### Grace Garcia

MORRISON MAHONEY LLP  
Boston, Massachusetts



9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**BREAK**

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Ritz-Carlton Plaza 3, 4 and Dove Mountain Ballroom 1

## **A** → Don't Get Caught in the Net: The New Rules Affecting All Companies on Privacy, Data Collection and Retention

As the giants of the tech world accumulate (and in many cases share) user information, some jurisdictions are starting to constrain these efforts with laws and regulations. Not surprisingly, these rules are also affecting ordinary manufacturers and retailers who are located, or who do business with individuals who are located, in the affected jurisdictions. While this began with the EU, data protection laws or regulations have now been adopted in a number of other countries and, starting in 2020, in California. This program will address the now-effective EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), as well as other efforts inside and outside the US.

**Steven Getzoff**

*Moderator*  
LESTER SCHWAB KATZ  
& DWYER, LLP  
New York, New York

**Erica Brown**

*Vice President, Assistant  
General Counsel*  
DAWN FOODS, INC.  
Jackson, Michigan

**Matthew Whalen**

*Director of Risk Management*  
INTEX RECREATION  
CORPORATION  
Long Beach, California

**Yves Gogniat**

WICKI PARTNERS LTD.  
Zurich, Switzerland

## **B** → Spoliation of Evidence by Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Experts: What To Do When Critical Evidence is Destroyed, Altered or Discarded

Plaintiffs, their lawyers and experts frequently have exclusive access to critical evidence in a product liability case long before defendants are even notified of an incident, and often continue to have physical control of that evidence during litigation. What happens when critical evidence is destroyed, altered or discarded, either intentionally or unintentionally? And what are the most effective strategies for defendants for preserving critical evidence, both prior to and during litigation?

**Jason Casini**

*Moderator*  
WHITFIELD & EDDY, PLLC  
Des Moines, Iowa

**Chris Schilder**

*Deputy General Counsel  
& Vice President of  
Risk Management*  
BRANDSAFWAY  
Waukesha,  
Wisconsin

**Jolene Wall**

*Deputy General Counsel*  
RECREATIONAL  
EQUIPMENT, INC.  
Kent, Washington

**Colleen Murnane**

FRANTZ WARD  
Cleveland, Ohio

## **C** → Infinity Warns! What is the End Game on the Duty to Warn?

Join our panel of legal superheroes as they discuss considerations and strategies regarding the ever-changing legal landscape of the post-sale duty to warn.

**Scott Schillings**

*Moderator*  
HINKLE LAW FIRM LLC  
Wichita, Kansas

**Amy Decker**

*Senior Litigation Counsel*  
NEWELL RUBBERMAID  
Wichita, Kansas

**Yves St. Arnaud**

*Director of Legal Services*  
BRP INC  
Valcourt, Quebec, Canada

**Robert deRosset**

YOUNG MOORE &  
HENDERSON, P.A.  
Raleigh, North Carolina

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**BREAK**

**10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

*Ritz-Carlton Plaza 3, 4 and Dove Mountain Ballroom 1*

## **A** → Recent Trends in “Smart” Interconnected Products – What Happens If/When Technology Fails?

Every aspect of our lives has become more efficient with connected products. We can control our home security, entertainment, appliances, fitness, and even temperature directly from our smart phones. But has it gone too far? What happens when something goes wrong? During this session, we will discuss the limited legal and regulatory framework that has developed for connected products. What are the liability risks when connected products malfunction either due to product failure or hacking? And what are the privacy concerns for a manufacturer related to its connected products?

**Sheila Kerwin**

*Moderator*

NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Jennifer Rosemark**

*Litigation Counsel*

RESIDEO  
TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
Golden Valley, Minnesota

**Kimberly Kayiwa**

*Director of Complex Claims*

SEDGWICK CLAIMS  
MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES, INC.  
Rochester, New York

**Christen Blackburn**

LEWIS THOMASON

Nashville, Tennessee

## **B** → The Ins and Outs of Social Media in Litigation

Come learn how to use social media both offensively and defensively in litigation. This includes understanding how to ethically obtain social media from the other side and what to do with it once you have it. #disclose? #authenticate? #admissible? Additionally, we will discuss ways to defend against the use of your own company's (or employees) social media sites in litigation.

**Janelle Kilies**

*Moderator*

LEWIS WAGNER  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Kevin Saab**

*Senior Manager,*

*Corporate Risk*  
VULCAN MATERIALS  
COMPANY  
Birmingham, Alabama

**John Chester**

*General Counsel*

VERIDIUM  
New York, New York

**William (Skip) Martin**

HAIGHT BROWN &

BONESTEEL  
Los Angeles, California

## **C** → Substantive Legal Developments: Challenges in Combating “Feasible Alternative Design” Evidence

Virtually every product liability defendant has experienced the frustration of having to respond to a plaintiff's expert with no “hands-on” experience with a subject product hypothesizing about a so-called “better” design that the expert believes would have prevented an accident. This panel will focus on strategies for combating this feasible alternative design evidence while also providing an update of recent developments on the issue.

**Scott Rusert**

*Moderator*

NILAN JOHNSON LEWIS PA  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Jacqueline White**

*Associate General Counsel*

ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC.  
Glenview, Illinois

**William (Bill) Ellison**

*Senior Counsel*

LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC.  
Mooresville, North Carolina

**Sean McDonough**

MORRISON MAHONEY LLP

Boston, Massachusetts

**11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**BREAK**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## GENERAL SESSION: TED TALKS

Ritz-Carlton Plazas 1 & 2

Join a panel of seasoned in-house counsel from varied industries for a spirited discussion of some “ideas worth spreading” as we explore and learn the client perspective on issues equally important to clients and the outside lawyers who represent them in high-stakes litigation. Moderated by past Product Liability and Complex Tort Practice Group Chair Kevin Owens of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., attendees will leave this presentation with fresh perspectives and insights on issues that both clients and their outside counsel sometimes take for granted.

**Kevin Owens**

*Moderator*

JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.  
Chicago, Illinois

## THE TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO TALK TO MY BUSINESS PEOPLE

Outside counsel are accustomed to talking with their in-house counterparts on the details of a pending lawsuit or transactional matter on a “lawyer-to-lawyer” basis. However, outside counsel’s interactions with the client’s non-legal staff can take on an entirely different dimension. Erin Rolstad of Silver Creek Midstream LLC will share her insights on how outside counsel can better serve the client in discussions with the client’s non-legal, business personnel, and how in-house counsel can better facilitate those conversations.

**Erin Rolstad**

*VP, Legal & General Counsel*

SILVER CREEK MIDSTREAM LLC  
Irving, Texas

## THINGS I WISH MY OUTSIDE COUNSEL KNEW BUT THEY NEVER ASK (INNER VOICES OF AN IN-HOUSE COUNSEL)

Even seasoned outside counsel can take for granted considerations that are significant to their in-house counterparts in the law departments of their clients both large and small. Does outside counsel assume that the company is experienced with high-stakes litigation? Is counsel sensitive to the demands on the client’s time, particularly with respect to the client’s business and in-house engineering personnel? Nicole Brunson of Ingersoll Rand will let her inner voice on these issues be heard! Her perspectives will be of value to both in-house counsel and the outside lawyers who serve them.

**Nicole Brunson**

*Associate General Counsel, Litigation*

INGERSOLL RAND  
Davidson, North Carolina

## FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FACING IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: WHAT IT’S LIKE TO BE US

Whether it is a Fortune 50 company or a “mom and pop” operation, in-house counsel are constantly being asked to do more with less. Budgets, restrictions on legal spending, forecasting future legal spending, case evaluations...these issues are now more than ever part of in-house counsel’s daily life. Ed Blakemore of Rockwell Automation will offer his perspective on these challenges in order to help outside counsel better understand those demands, and to help bring them into better focus for in-house counsel.

**Ed Blakemore**

*Assistant General Counsel, Litigation*

ROCKWELL AUTOMATION  
Mayfield Heights, Ohio

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### LUNCH BUFFET

Tortolita Lawn



2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## Afternoon at the Pool

### Adventura Pool & Cabanas

Spend the afternoon enjoying the pool and the shade of the private cabanas while taking in the desert scenery. Enjoy beer, wine and light snacks as you relax and connect with other seminar attendees. No registration is necessary for this afternoon’s event.

**Suggested Attire:** Swim attire, sunglasses and sunscreen.



6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

## Cocktail Reception & Dinner Buffet

### Cayton’s Grill

Tonight’s cocktail reception & buffet dinner is taking place on-site at Cayton’s Grill by the golf course. We will have buses shuttling guests over from 6:30-7:00 pm for the short, 5 minute transfer, so please arrive at your leisure during that time frame. Fun Fact: Tucson is one of the best spots in the world for star gazing, and tonight you’ll be able to experience it for yourself.

**Suggested Attire:** Feel free to dress casually this evening, jeans are encouraged.



## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

**7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

### BREAKFAST BUFFET

*Tortolita Lawn*

Attorneys 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Spouses 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

**8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### PROGRAM SESSIONS

*Ritz-Carlton Plazas &  
Dove Mountain Ballroom 1*

**8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

### GENERAL SESSION

## Hot Topics in Product Liability

*Ritz Carlton Plazas 1&2*

Product liability litigation is constantly changing. As courts sort through innovative arguments from both sides, product liability attorneys and clients must be prepared to utilize and address these new theories and interpretations. Come learn the Good, the Bad and the Ugly during this session highlighting the Hot Topics in Product Liability.

#### Pat Haggerty

*Moderator*  
FRANTZ WARD LLP  
Cleveland, Ohio

#### Sarah Spencer

CHRISTENSEN & JENSEN  
Salt Lake City, Utah

#### John McLeod

BROWN & JAMES  
Saint Louis, Missouri

#### Monica Garcia

BUTT THORNTON & BAEHR  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

### BREAK

**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*Ritz-Carlton Plaza 3, 4 and Dove Mountain Ballroom 1*

## A → Corporate Cybersecurity: Best Practices for Companies to Protect Business and Client Data

Data is an extremely valuable asset that must be protected for both business reasons and regulatory compliance. Cybersecurity is much more than requiring a password to access a system or information; it is an evolving system of digital and physical protections that are documented in a written plan that is tested, implemented through regular training, updated regularly, and insured appropriately. This session will explore some of the current best practices used by companies and law firms to provide cybersecurity for their own data as well as information entrusted to them by clients and business partners.

#### Robert Smith

*Moderator*  
LORANCE  
THOMPSON  
Houston, Texas

#### Randy Reavis

*Senior Products Counsel*  
VOLVO GROUP NORTH  
AMERICA, INC.  
Greensboro, North  
Carolina

#### Chris Harden

*Director, Risk  
Management*  
AGCO CORPORATION  
Duluth, Georgia

#### Michael Ward

MCCANDLISH HOLTON  
Richmond, Virginia

## B → Outside Influences on Your Business and Litigation—Including Tort Reform, Governmental Policies and Shifting Political Priorities

Every successful business has to nimbly anticipate or react to changes in conditions, and some of the most dramatic of those changes in recent years have come from sources other than target consumers: Tort reform efforts around the country have changed litigation playing fields and require informed analysis by trial counsel. Governmental policies – particularly at the national level – create challenges for businesses trying to anticipate regulatory reform, as well as for their advising counsel. Tariffs, immigration reform, real or perceived diplomatic crises, and other ‘news of the day’ have very real effects on day to day business decisions. This panel will discuss and explore the influence of outside forces on business and litigation, both in the short and long term, and what companies and their outside counsel can do to cope with those changing winds and choppy seas.

#### Mark Hayes

*Moderator*  
ROBINSON &  
MCELWEE  
Charleston, West Virginia

#### Everett Smith

*General Counsel  
& Secretary*  
ICON HEALTH  
& FITNESS  
Logan, Utah

#### Anna Early

*Head of Legal,  
North America*  
BRITAX CHILD SAFETY  
Charlotte, North Carolina

#### Clark Aspy

NAMAN HOWELL  
SMITH & LEE  
Austin, Texas

## C → Combatting Counterfeit and Gray Market Sales

Nothing is more frustrating than seeing the value of your brand and good will diminished by counterfeit, gray market, and other unauthorized sales of your product. How can a company effectively combat these sales without breaking the bank? What strategies work best to eliminate or at least reduce this pervasive form of unfair competition? Get the legal angle from ALFA International lawyers; and, hear from business leaders in a wide variety of industries – health care, fitness, beauty and fashion – on what has worked, and not worked, for them.

#### Dina Cox

*Moderator*  
LEWIS  
WAGNER, LLP  
Indianapolis,  
Indiana

#### Justin McCarthy

*Vice President,  
Deputy General  
Counsel and  
Assistant Secretary*  
DENTSPLY  
SIRONA  
York, Pennsylvania

#### Jonathan Gelfand

*Chief Legal Officer*  
BEACHBODY, LLC  
Los Angeles,  
California

#### Mark Dely

*Chief  
Administrative &  
Legal Officer*  
VERA BRADLEY,  
INC.  
Fort Wayne,  
Indiana

#### Doug Halijan

BURCH PORTER  
& JOHNSON  
Memphis,  
Tennessee

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**BREAK**

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## Report from Client Roundtable

*Ritz-Carlton Plazas 1 & 2*

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

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Ethics Closing General Session: Erosion of Attorney Client Privilege

*Ritz-Carlton Plazas 1 & 2*

This panel will cover a variety of topics related to the attorney-client privilege, including: properly asserting it, avoiding waiver, multi-party joint-defense scenarios, and related protections such as the work-product doctrine. The scope of the privilege is primarily defined and controlled by state law, and thus, the panel will also discuss best practices for maintaining privilege across multiple jurisdictions. Finally, the panelists will discuss recent attempts to erode the protections afforded by the privilege.

**Nicholas Wheeler**

*Moderator*  
COSGRAVE VERGEER KESTER LLP  
Portland, Oregon

**Eric Sarner**

*Associate General Counsel &  
Chief Litigation Counsel*  
LINDE  
Danbury, Connecticut

**John Exner**

*General Counsel*  
SENECA FOODS  
Janesville, Wisconsin

**Chilton (Chad) Goebel, III**

*GERMAN GALLAGHER  
& MURTAGH, P.C.*  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**LUNCH BUFFET**

*Tortolita Lawn*

1:30 p.m. – 6:30 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

Advance registration is required.

## FACULTY BIOS

**Clark Aspy** is a member of the Austin, Texas office of ALFA International member firm Naman Howell Smith & Lee. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law, is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell, and has frequently been recognized by Texas Lawyer publication as a "Super Lawyer". He devotes a substantial portion of his practice to products litigation defense and writes and speaks frequently on related topics. He obtained his BBA from Baylor University in 1981 and J.D. from the University of Tennessee in 1984.

**Christen Blackburn** is an attorney at the Nashville, Tennessee ALFA International firm of Lewis Thomason. Christen's practice focuses on defending businesses and individuals in complex transportation and products liability matters. A significant portion of her practice is devoted to the defense of local and national transportation companies and commercial motor vehicle drivers in high exposure cases. She also represents product manufacturers and retailers, including manufacturers of appliances, heavy equipment, automotive and food products, in investigating and defending products liability claims. Christen is active in

ALFA International where she serves on the Steering Committee of the Products Liability, Transportation and Vice Chair of the Women's Initiative Practice Group.

**Edward Blakemore** is Assistant General Counsel with Rockwell Automation, where he has primary responsibility for the management of all product liability litigation, commercial litigation, environmental liability litigation, and toxic tort litigation filed against the Fortune 500 Company. Prior to joining Rockwell Automation, Mr. Blakemore was Counsel-Litigation for Eaton Corporation where he managed the defense of product liability, commercial, employment, and intellectual property disputes for 7 years for the Fortune 500 Company. Mr. Blakemore is the President of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Board of Trustees and is a member of the Applewood Centers Board of Trustees. He earned his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and his J.D. degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in Dayton, Ohio.

**Erica Brown** is the Vice President, Assistant General Counsel for Dawn Foods, Inc., where she leads the privacy, labor and employment and litigation legal function in addition to other responsibilities. Dawn Foods, headquartered in Jackson, Michigan, is a global bakery supplier with manufacturing and distribution facilities throughout United States, Europe, Canada and Mexico. Prior to joining Dawn, Erica served in in-house counsel and compliance roles with Kellogg's Company, McDonald's and Walmart. She clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. She is a graduate of Duke University Law School and the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

**Nicole M. Brunson** is Associate General Counsel with Ingersoll Rand. In this role, Nicole practices general tort litigation, product liability, construction and commercial litigation. She also advises on various corporate matters dealing with contracts, fleet and collections. Nicole is a 2006 graduate of Indiana University School of Law- Bloomington (n/k/a/ Maurer School of Law) and a 1998 graduate of



Xavier University of Louisiana where she received a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. Nicole also obtained an MBA in Marketing and Management from Christian Brothers University in 2002. Before joining Ingersoll Rand in 2012, Nicole worked for Swanson Martin & Bell, LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Chicago, Illinois where she practiced tort litigation in the areas of medical malpractice, nursing home litigation and asbestos litigation.

**Jason M. Casini** is a member of Whitfield & Eddy, PLC law firm, ALFA International's member firm in Des Moines, Iowa. Jay's practice focuses primarily on product liability and commercial litigation. He has served as national counsel for a major sporting goods retailer and represented a wide variety of product manufacturers and retailers, including cases involving motor vehicles and accessories, sporting goods and outdoor products, manufacturing and processing equipment, industrial safety equipment and lawn and garden equipment. He frequently represents clients in high stakes commercial litigation, including cases involving shareholder actions, partnership disputes, insurance coverage, non-compete agreements and misappropriation of trade secrets. Jay also provides clients with valuable insight on minimizing their litigation exposure through proactive approaches to product safety issues, risk management strategies and early case evaluation. Jay is a member of his law firm's Executive Committee and the chairperson of its Strategic Planning Committee and also serves as Special Counsel to the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc., representing the organization in a variety of matters such as animal abuse and neglect litigation. Jay is admitted to practice in the State of Iowa, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District and Southern District of Iowa, and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has also been admitted pro hac vice in several other federal district courts nationwide.

**John Chester** is General Counsel for Veridium, an international software company offering biometric-authentication solutions to help organizations increase security and convenience while reducing fraud and costs associated with passwords and traditional multifactor authentication. John has expertise in commercial, corporate, software-licensing, employment, privacy, consumer-fraud, and product-liability law, as well as regulatory compliance. John received his BA from the University of Texas at Austin and his JD

from Rutgers Law School. Prior to joining Veridium, John was in private practice at Porzio, Bromberg & Newman for many years, where he represented and counseled a range of clients from small business to international Fortune 500 companies.

**Adam H. Cooper** is a member and a managing partner of the Albany, New York, ALFA International firm of Carter Conboy, P.C., concentrating 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.

**Dina Cox** is a legal strategist and trial attorney who honors responsive client service as a top priority. Dina has served as lead counsel in numerous lawsuits and bet-the-company litigation involving multi-million dollar claims ranging from breach of contract, false advertising, unfair competition, unfair commercial practices, consumer fraud, and breach of warranty to claims of serious injury caused by products liability and professional negligence. Dina is an aggressive yet civil trial lawyer who has significant jury trial experience in state and federal and courts and substantial appellate experience. Dina defends class actions, mass torts, government enforcement actions, drug and medical device cases, toxic tort and chemical exposure cases, and professional liability lawsuits including legal malpractice. Dina also counsels clients during government investigations and assists professionals facing disciplinary grievances and licensing issues. Dina's mass tort and class action defense work is national in scope and has included lawsuits filed in numerous states from New York to California as well as lawsuits consolidated as part of multi-district litigation. Dina is a regular faculty member

for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy in its learn-by-doing trial advocacy courses. She received her J.D. degree, cum laude, from Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis in 1995. For many years, Dina has been heavily involved in managing Lewis Wagner, the ALFA International member firm in Indianapolis, IN, and she currently chairs the firm's 3-lawyer executive committee along with the chief administrative officer.

**Amy Decker** is Litigation Counsel for Newell Brands Inc. She manages claims and litigation for several of Newell's various brands in its Writing, Appliance & Cookware, Outdoor & Recreation, Baby, Home Fragrance, Food, and Connected Home & Security Divisions. Amy began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable J. Thomas Marten, U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. Amy then went into private practice where she represented manufacturers of consumer products on a national basis. She began her in-house career in 2010 at Jarden Corporation, which was acquired by Newell in 2016. Amy is a 1998 graduate of The University of Kansas School of Law.

**Mark C. Dely** is the Chief Administrative & Legal Officer, as well as the Corporate Secretary for Vera Bradley, Inc., a publicly traded leading designer and retailer of women's handbags, luggage and travel items, fashion and home accessories and unique gifts. Mr. Dely oversees the legal, compliance, human resource, information technology, and distribution functions for the Company. Recently, Mr. Dely has helped develop and implement the Company's Vision 20/20 plan to lay the foundation for growth, a more profitable future and continued strong cash flows. Mr. Dely is a graduate of the NYU School of Law and has a degree in Business Administration with high honor from the Michigan State University Honors College.

**Robert deRosset** serves clients primarily in the fields of construction, business, and product liability law. He is licensed to practice law in both North Carolina and South Carolina and assists clients in both states. He is certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission to conduct mediated settlement conferences in Superior Court cases and uses his perspective as a seasoned litigator to assist parties to voluntarily resolve their disputes through mediation. Robert has also completed collaborative law training and advanced collaborative law training and he is part of the effort in North Carolina to

expand collaborative law into construction and business law. He is recognized in North Carolina Super Lawyers (2019) in the area of Construction Litigation and holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Prior to joining Young Moore in 2001, Robert practiced law for two years in Columbia, South Carolina and served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in León, Nicaragua. When he is not working for his clients, Robert enjoys trail running and is a marathoner and novice ultra-marathoner who has not yet run one too many races.

**Anna Early** is the Head of Legal for North America at Britax Child Safety Inc., a manufacturer of juvenile products, with its headquarters in Fort Mill, South Carolina. She is a true generalist in her current role with responsibility for all areas of legal and compliance. Prior to serving as counsel at Britax, she was in-house at Duke Energy Corporation and worked at a boutique employment law firm.

**William "Bill" Ellison** is Senior Counsel for Lowe's Companies, Inc., a home improvement company, with its headquarters in Mooresville, North Carolina. Bill leads the general liability team responsible for general tort litigation, product liability and construction litigation. Prior to joining Lowe's Companies, Inc., Bill worked for a boutique firm in Davidson, North Carolina, where he practiced commercial and tort litigation.

**John D. Exner** has been General Counsel of Seneca Foods Corporation since 2006 and Assistant Secretary since 2007. He was Legal Counsel/Vice President from 1991-2002 and Legal Counsel/President from 2002 to 2005 of Midwest Food Processors Association, Inc. He also has experience in food production management. He received a B.A. from Northwestern University and a J.D. from Marquette University Law School. Seneca Foods Corporation is North America's leading provider of packaged fruits and vegetables, with facilities located throughout the United States. Its high quality products are primarily sourced from over 2,000 American farms. Seneca Foods Corporation holds the largest share of the retail private label, food service, and export canned vegetable markets, distributing to over 90 countries.

**Grace V.B. Garcia**, a Partner in the Boston office of the 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 is a former member of the ALFA International Board of Directors, is Chair of the Construction Practice Group, and is the former Chair of the Women's Initiative Practice Group. Grace has an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale Hubbell and in 2013, and was honored by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly as a "Top Women of Law." Grace has 20 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 in North American Specialty Ins. Co. v. Payton Construction Corp., 80 Mass. App. Ct. 367 (2011). Beyond ALFA, she is actively involved in many professional groups, and is Past President of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association and is a member of the Executive Management Board of the Massachusetts Bar Association. She is a routine lecturer on defending brain injuries, risk transfer and indemnity issues, best discovery practices and deposition techniques, and OSHA.

**Monica R. Garcia** is a Shareholder at the ALFA International member law firm of Butt Thornton & Baehr PC (BTB), which she joined in 1998. Ms. Garcia litigates matters in federal and state courts of New Mexico in the areas of products liability, premises liability, trucking and transportation, wrongful death, consumer law, employment law, and general defense liability matters. Prior to joining BTB, she was an associate at Montgomery & Andrews PA, in Santa Fe.

**Jonathan Gelfand** has over 22 years of experience representing clients involved in complex transactions, entertainment, new media and emerging technologies, advertising, privacy and marketing, and intellectual property matters with a focus on direct response marketing, multi-level marketing, and electronic retailing. Jonathan has been Chief Legal Officer for Beachbody, LLC for over 13 years, an industry leading health and wellness company focused on home-based workouts and premium supplements, encompassing internationally recognized brands such as P90X®, Insanity®, Focus T25®, 21 Day Fix®, Beachbody on Demand, and Shakeology®. Jonathan additionally serves as the Senior Vice President, Business Development exploring new business opportunities and distribution models for the company, as well as heading

up the company's Government Affairs Department and Security Steering Committee. Jonathan lives in Los Angeles with his amazing wife, two daughters, and very spoiled dog.

**Steven B. Getzoff** is a senior litigation partner at the ALFA International firm of Lester Schwab Katz & Dwyer, focusing 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 the 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. Mr. Getzoff has substantial experience with regard to manufacturer issues before the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. He has frequently served on CLE Programs addressing product liability law issues.

**Chilton (Chad) Goebel** is a partner with the ALFA International member law firm of German Gallagher and Murtagh in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where his practice is primarily focused on defense of product liability and medical malpractice lawsuits. He has litigated cases through jury verdict in both state and federal courts in Pennsylvania. In addition, Chad has extensive experience handling professional liability, premises liability and toxic tort matters. He participates on the ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Steering Committee. Chad has been recognized as a super lawyers rising star.

**Yves Gogniat** is an expert in information and technology law with a focus on data protection and IT, contract and corporate law. Besides being admitted to the Swiss Bar, he holds an LL.M in information technology law and is a CIPP/E certified privacy expert. Additionally, Yves Gogniat acts as external DPO for clients. He also has a broad knowledge of blockchain technology and primarily counsels Fintech companies in this area. He has gained experience in various law firms and public administration.

**Pat Haggerty** is Chair of Frantz Ward LLP's Litigation Practice Group. He serves as national coordinating and national trial counsel for companies facing significant risks and is often retained by excess insurers to participate in pending matters. He has extensive

experience in designing and coordinating defense strategies and investigation efforts for clients ranging from closely held corporations to Fortune 100 companies. Pat is regularly named to The Best Lawyers in America and Ohio Super Lawyers lists, and is consistently rated AV Preeminent, the highest ranking, for attorney professional and ethical excellence by Martindale-Hubbell. Frantz Ward is the ALFA International member firm in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Douglas F. Halijan** is a member of Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC, the ALFA International member firm in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has practiced since 1994. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and intellectual property matters, with a particular emphasis on trade secret, trademark, copyright, information technology, and franchise-related issues. He has represented plaintiffs and defendants in trade secret cases involving a wide range of confidential business information, software, manufacturing processes, information technology, and systems design and testing. He also regularly litigates trademark and copyright infringement matters, and advises clients on licensing matters and dealer/ distributor issues. He is listed in Best Lawyers® in America in the areas of Intellectual Property, Commercial Litigation, and Bet-the-Company Litigation, and was named 2017 Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year” for Bet-the-Company Litigation in Tennessee. He has moderated U.S. Department of Commerce programs on U.S. intellectual property in Ukraine and in the Republic of Georgia. He also serves as an adjunct professor of Intellectual Property Law at the University of Memphis School of Law, where he was named Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2015. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rhodes College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as Articles Editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review.

**Steve M. Hamilton** is a litigation attorney and member with the ALFA International law firm of Hall & Evans, LLC in Denver, Colorado, with a diverse practice, but he mainly focuses on product liability defense. His experience in the product liability field is national in scope and covers a wide spectrum of insured and self-insured manufacturers of automobiles, bikes, machinery, and infrastructure components. He is a Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated attorney and has been recognized in the product liability practice area by Super Lawyers.

He is the Chair of the ALFA International Product Liability and Complex Torts Practice Group. He received his B.S. from Montana State University in 1994 and his J.D. from the University of Montana in 1997.

**Chris Harden** is the Global Director of Risk Management for AGCO Corporation. Since joining AGCO in 1991, Chris has been a part of the management team that grew AGCO from a \$200m startup farm equipment company into a \$14 billion corporation that is a global player in the farm equipment industry. AGCO's brands include Massey Ferguson, Challenger, VALTRA, GSI and FENDT. The MF tractor was the 2019 Machine of the Year, and the FENDT IDEAL combine was the 2018 Machine of the Year at SIMA. Prior to joining AGCO, Chris was the Risk Manager for the City of Athens and Clarke County Georgia. He was responsible for managing the merger of the two individual governments into one operating City/County government. Prior to joining Athens Clarke County, Chris worked in the finance and risk management department of Texas Instruments Inc. in Dallas Texas. He is an honors graduate of the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia and has an advance degree as a Certified Public Manager from the Carl Vincent Institute of Government at UGA.

**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 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.

**Matt Jorgensen** serves as Senior Litigation Counsel, Co-Chair of the Litigation Group for The Sherwin-Williams Company, the largest producer of paints and coatings in North America. In this role, Matt leads a team of professionals and support staff to manage the litigation function, e-discovery process, various corporate governance and compliance issues and their associated

operational costs for a Fortune 500 company. Matt also directly manages the litigation and claims for the Company's Global Finishes and Global Supply Chain Divisions. Matt started at Sherwin-Williams in 2003 as a Litigation Attorney and has been promoted to increasing levels of responsibility. He has supported all business units and been chosen to manage a wide variety of high-level matters, including those involving product liability, anti-trust, commercial disputes, environmental, trucking accident and construction issues. Prior to joining Sherwin-Williams, Matt was an active commercial litigator focusing on consumer claims, product liability, construction and insurance coverage claims. A 1992 graduate magna cum laude of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, Matt earned his law degree in 1996 from The Ohio State University College of Law. He is a member of Association of Corporate Counsel, Defense Research Institute and certified by the National Association of Coatings Engineers International as a Level I Coatings Inspector.

**Kimberly Kayiwa** is the Director of Complex Claims for the product liability program at Sedgwick Claims Management, where she manages product liability claims programs on behalf of manufacturers, distributors and insurance carriers. She has particular expertise in the life sciences space (pharmaceuticals, medical devices and dietary supplements). In addition, Kim coordinates litigation strategy, manages claim expenses, supervises claims teams, conducts reviews/audits of claim files and assesses claim reserves. Kim prepares coverage letters and manages coverage litigation. She is a former practicing attorney with over fifteen years of experience in the product liability area.

**Sheila Kerwin** is a catastrophic injury trial lawyer defending product liability and truck accident claims and litigation throughout the country. Sheila is a shareholder at the Nilan Johnson Lewis firm, the ALFA International member firm in Minneapolis, MN, and led the product liability practice group for over a decade. She is a member of PLAC, the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC) serving as active members of the Product Liability and Transportation Sections. Sheila is on the steering committees of the ALFA International Product Liability and Transportation Practice Groups and is the chair of the Women's Initiative Practice Group. She is also a member of the Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA) and Women in



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**Janelle Kilies** is a partner in Lewis Wagner's complex litigation group who defends class actions and mass torts in state and federal courts around the country. Janelle has litigated products liability, consumer protection, false advertising, deceptive marketing, and unfair business practices claims. She also has experience representing clients in government investigations and enforcement proceedings, including investigations by the Federal Trade Commission and state Attorneys General. Janelle has been instrumental in preparing and presenting several mock trials and focus group presentations in complex and serious injury cases. In the mass tort context, Janelle helped design, develop and maintain a sophisticated online platform for the creation of a meaningful settlement matrix. Janelle earned her J.D. cum laude from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, where she served as the Notes Development Editor for the Indiana Law Review. Lewis Wagner is the ALFA International member firm in Indianapolis, IN.

**William O. Martin** (known as Skip) is a Senior Partner in the Los Angeles, California ALFA International firm of Haight Brown & Bonesteel. He is a member of the Product Liability and Professional Liability Practice Groups, and serves as the leader of the Elder Care Practice Group. His practice is national in scope and focuses on the litigation and trial of product liability actions. He serves as national trial counsel for APV North America, Inc. and its various divisions, having successfully defended the company's products in over 30 states, and has represented other clients on both a regional and national basis. Products in which Skip has significant experience include: all-terrain vehicles, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, conveyors, pneumatic conveyors, turbo expanders, nitrogen generators, film winders, wire winders, rotary cutters, rotary molders, packaging equipment, mixers, fabric-treating machines, printing presses, gear cutters, saws, diesel locomotive bearings, brakes on railroad cars, sporting equipment, automotive parts, plate heat exchangers, refrigeration equipment such as compressors and condensers, valves, freezers, air compressors, construction equipment such as back hoes, front end loaders and skid steer loaders, farm equipment, distillation systems, plastic

blowmold machines, homogenizers, ovens, plastic extrusion equipment, traffic signals, asbestos, artificial turf, asphalt and the hard facing placed on the interior of valves. Mr. Martin has also successfully represented clients in fire cases, serious motor vehicle accidents, including automobiles, motorcycles and semi-tractor trailers, construction accidents, railroad crossing collision cases, FELA and Safety Appliance Act cases, asbestos cases and some commercial litigation involving his clients' products.

**Justin H. McCarthy II** is Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary at DENTSPLY SIRONA Inc., the world's largest professional dental products company. Mr. McCarthy directs the activities for the company's global legal team. Before the merger creating DENTSPLY SIRONA Inc., Mr. McCarthy was General Counsel and Secretary for DENTSPLY International Inc. He received a B.A. in economics from Franklin & Marshall College, and his J.D. from Villanova University.

**John McLeod** is a principal in the St. Louis ALFA International member firm of Brown & James. He practices in the areas of product liability, transportation, and insurance defense. He regularly handles cases in both state and federal courts in Missouri. He works on cases through all stages of litigation, from initial investigation through trial. He is also the chair of the firm's Associate Training Committee. John has been recognized as an Up & Coming attorney by Missouri Lawyers Weekly. He is a graduate of the Saint Louis University School of Law and frequently conducts presentations for the insurance, risk management, product liability, and transportation industries on Missouri and Illinois law.

**Sean F. McDonough** is a partner in the Boston office of ALFA International member firm Morrison Mahoney LLP. Mr. McDonough's primary area of practice is civil litigation defense. Specifically, the majority of his practice focuses on defending companies in transportation, premises and product related suits. Mr. McDonough is admitted to practice in the courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Federal District Court for the District of Massachusetts and the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. McDonough is a 1993 graduate of the New England School of Law, 1989 graduate of the University of Hartford and a 1985 graduate of St. John's Preparatory School. Mr. McDonough is an active member of the ALFA International Transportation Practice

Group and Product Liability Practice Group. Mr. McDonough is also a member of the Defense Research Institute, Claims Litigation Management Alliance, Trucking Industry Defense Association and Massachusetts Bar Association. Mr. McDonough resides in North Andover, Massachusetts where he is active in town affairs as a member of town committees.

**Colleen Murnane**, partner at Frantz Ward, 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.

**Kevin Owens** is a senior shareholder in the ALFA International Chicago member law firm of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., and is co-chair of the firm's Product Liability Practice Group. His trial practice includes the defense of catastrophic injury, consumer, industrial, medical device, and other product liability actions, construction and general negligence actions, and the litigation of commercial disputes in state and federal courts. His experience also includes the defense of construction product defect actions, and litigation of contract actions at law and equity. He is also a certified mediator, having completed intensive mediation training and certification through Chicago's prestigious Center for Conflict Resolution. As a complex case mediator, Mr. Owens focuses his mediation practice on civil and commercial disputes involving product liability, complex and catastrophic injury cases, and construction matters. He is a graduate of Marquette University and DePaul University

College of Law. Mr. Owens is past Chairman of ALFA International's Product Liability and Complex Litigation Practice Group, and is presently a member of its Steering Committee. He is also currently Vice-Chair of the ALFA International Board of Directors.

**Randy Reavis** is Senior Products Counsel for Volvo Group North America. Since joining Volvo in 2011, Randy has represented Volvo Trucks, Mack Trucks and other brands within the Volvo Group in product liability and warranty matters throughout the United States and Canada. Prior to joining Volvo, Randy spent 22 years in private practice, first with Patton Boggs (1989 – 1999) and then with Adams Kleemier/Nexen Pruet (1999 – 2011). In his 30-year career he has handled all types of litigation, including claims involving products liability, breaches of contract, breaches of warranties, commercial disputes, insurance coverage, and construction disputes. Randy graduated with honors from Catawba College and attended law school at UNC Chapel Hill where he was on the Moot Court National Team. He was first selected to Best Lawyers in America in 2010. Randy has been a Certified Mediator since 2011.

**Erin Rolstad** is Vice President of Legal and General Counsel at Silver Creek Midstream. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Silver Creek Midstream is a private midstream company focused on providing crude oil pipeline, transportation, and storage services in Wyoming. The Company's existing crude assets serve the Powder River, Big Horn, and Wind River Basins. Prior to Silver Creek Midstream, Erin served as General Counsel for SHV Energy USA, LLC. Her career spans 10+ years with escalating degrees of legal responsibilities associated with natural gas pipelines, crude oil midstream, oil and gas exploration, crude oil trucking, and refined products. Her experience in litigation, contracts, real estate and commercial spans projects and operations in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Montana & Wyoming. Mrs. Rolstad holds Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University, M.Ed. from Milligan and B.A. in Political Science from Lakehead University. Erin has been recognized by Fort Worth Magazine as a Top Attorney in Oil & Gas.

**Beth Rose** is a member of ALFA International member firm Sills Cummis & Gross, where she chairs the Product Liability Practice Group and is a Co-Chair of the Litigation Practice Group. She has tried complex product

liability cases to verdict in state and federal courts throughout the country. Ms. Rose has almost 30 years of experience successfully defending complex product liability matters for a variety of regulated products including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, consumer products, foods, chemicals and construction/industrial machines. She also has experience defending product liability cases which arise from clinical trials and catastrophic workplace accidents. During her career, Ms. Rose 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. © Ms. Rose received her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Jennifer Rosemark** is Litigation Counsel for Resideo Technologies, Inc., a leading global provider of home comfort and security solutions that spun off from Honeywell International Inc. in 2018. Prior to joining Honeywell, Jenny was outside counsel for 20 years for Honeywell and other manufacturers defending them across the country against fire, explosion, carbon monoxide, and scald claims, involving products ranging from gas valves to alarm systems to temperature controls. She joined Honeywell in 2012 and Resideo in 2018. She is responsible for overseeing and managing all of Resideo's litigation, including product liability matters and commercial disputes.

**Scott Rusert** is a shareholder at the ALFA International Minneapolis firm, Nilan Johnson Lewis PA. He is a board-certified civil trial specialist who has handled cases as lead counsel in state and federal courts in 34 different states. Scott has served as national product liability counsel to two different Minnesota-based Fortune 500 manufacturers, and is currently national coordinating counsel on asbestos cases for a subsidiary of an Illinois-based Fortune 200 manufacturer. Scott is Vice-Chair of the Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, a

member of the Minnesota Civil Trial Specialist Certification Board, and a Qualified Neutral under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. He is also a past Board Secretary for the Hennepin Health Foundation and a member of the Board of Governors for the Minnesota State Bar Association. When not working or volunteering with various community or professional organizations, Scott cherishes time spent with his wife of twenty-nine years, his adult children, and his over-active golden retriever. An avid athlete, Scott plays amateur baseball and organized hockey, albeit with a passion that exceeds his fading abilities.

**Kevin Saab**, AIC, is the Senior Claims Manager, Corporate Risk for Vulcan Materials Company. Vulcan Materials is the nation's largest supplier of construction aggregate materials and a major supplier of asphalt and concrete. Vulcan Materials Company has facilities in 20 States, Mexico and the Bahamas with its headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. As the Senior Claims Manager of Corporate Risk, in addition to numerous other Risk Management and insurance-related duties and oversight of the Company's claims operations, Kevin is responsible for litigation management of all the Company's construction defect cases, asbestos cases, silicosis cases, and warranty cases. Kevin is also responsible for vehicular accidents involving automobiles and trucks owned by the company. Kevin has been employed with Vulcan Materials for 20 years. He began his insurance career in commercial claims with Aetna Property & Casualty, working and training with Aetna for several years. He was the Director of Corporate Risk Management for HealthSouth, largest healthcare provider in the United States at the time. Kevin uses social media to obtain information about adverse parties.

**Eric S. Sarnier** is Associate General Counsel and Chief Litigation and Regulatory Counsel of Linde, the largest industrial gas company in the world. His responsibilities cover a broad range of areas, including litigation and dispute resolution, employment law, product safety and liability, risk management, healthcare, FDA, and a wide variety of regulatory and financial matters. He supervises a team of attorneys responsible for human resources, labor, benefits, export-import, treasury, environmental law, safety, procurement, and commercial matters, as well as the manager of legal services. Eric also has an extensive background in commercial and contract

matters, and previously served as counsel to several business units. Eric joined the company in November 2005 from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York. During his career as an outside lawyer he litigated in a wide variety of areas across the country. He specialized in the defense of nationwide products liability and tort litigation, constitutional law, and government regulation. In addition to litigation, he counseled clients on a broad array of state and federal regulatory matters, including work before federal agencies and dealings with state attorneys general. Eric received his J.D. *cum laude* from the Harvard Law School in 1987 and his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Queens College of the City University of New York in 1984. He is Authorized House Counsel in Connecticut and a member of the New York, Massachusetts, and District of Columbia Bars; in addition, he is a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court and a number of other federal courts. Eric frequently chairs and presents at seminars on a variety of topics, including litigation management and costs, alternative fee arrangements, effectively managing the outside counsel relationship, alternative dispute resolution, and products liability.

**Marygrace Schaeffer** is a vice president with DecisionQuest. Ms. Schaeffer has been a trial consultant for over twenty years, providing jury research and trial consulting on hundreds of civil and criminal cases across the country. Ms. Schaeffer's expertise includes strategy and theme development, mock trials, witness evaluation and preparation, shadow juries, post-trial interviews and visual communications. She is a frequent speaker on these topics. In addition Ms. Schaeffer has provided voir dire and jury selection assistance in hundreds of venues throughout the United States.

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**Scott Schillings** is member of ALFA International member firm Hinkle Law Firm LLC, where he chairs the Product Liability and Complex Tort Litigation Practice Group. Scott focusses his practice on representing clients in matters involving product liability, commercial disputes, mass torts and construction defects. With more than 25 years of litigation experience, Scott has additionally represented clients in matters involving will and trust disputes, medical malpractice, insurance coverage, and other complex litigation. A substantial portion of Scott's practice involves direct client representation of manufacturers and distributors of consumer products and industrial machinery on a national basis. Scott has represented corporate clients in more than 35 states. Scott also counsels his manufacturing clients regarding claims handling and risk management.

**Everett Smith** is General Counsel and Secretary for ICON Health & Fitness, Inc., a leading developer, manufacturer and marketer of fitness equipment. Everett provides legal advice and guidance in all areas of ICON's operations including domestic and international litigation, protection of intellectual property, product liability, contracts, human resources, and cybersecurity. He received his J.D. from the University of Idaho School of Law, and his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. He has a MACC from Brigham Young University and is a licensed certified public accountant.

**Robert G. Smith** is a shareholder of Lorraine Thompson PC, the ALFA International member firm in Houston, Texas. Rob is a member of the Product Liability, Business Litigation, and Medical Defense & Health Law Committees of the International Association of Defense Counsel. He is on the steering committee for the ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group. Rob's clients include manufacturers (heavy equipment, durable medical equipment, sporting goods), health care providers, and other corporations. Rob graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in mathematics from Louisiana State University and attended law school at the University of Houston College of Law. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal

Specialization and has tried a wide variety of cases during his 23+ years of practice.

**Sarah Spencer** is a shareholder at the ALFA International member firm Christensen & Jensen, P.C. in Salt Lake City, Utah. Sarah defends complex tort and commercial cases in Utah and Colorado state and federal courts. She is also an experienced appellate advocate. She regularly represents both appellants and appellees in appeals in Utah and Colorado appellate courts and in the Ninth and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal. She is a 2004 graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

**Matthew J. Stanczyk** is a partner in the Michigan ALFA International law firm Plunkett Cooney where he serves as a member of the Board of Directors and is the managing partner of the firm's Product Liability Practice Group. Mr. Stanczyk concentrates his practice in various areas of complex litigation, including product liability, fire-related litigation, toxic torts, construction litigation and commercial warranty litigation. In his over 30 years of practice he has also routinely counseled clients on risk shifting and risk management issues, including contracts, product literature and warranty development. His clients include product manufacturers and distributors, general contractors, construction managers and transportation firms. Mr. Stanczyk is a member of the ALFA International PL&CT Steering Committee, its current Vice Chair, 2017 Program Chair, past Marketing Chair and is also a member of the DRI Products Liability Committee. He is a Michigan Super Lawyer in Product Liability, Dbusiness magazine Top Lawyer in Product Liability and AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and law degree from the University of Detroit.

**Yves St-Arnaud** practiced law with the law firm of Desmarais, Picard, Garceau and Pasquin in the area of litigation with emphasis in product liability and insurance law before joining Bombardier Inc. He is currently Director, Legal Services with Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "BRP") in charge of managing all product liability, product quality, commercial, intellectual property, and employment litigation cases worldwide. In addition, he also provides product liability and safety advice to the engineering department. He is involved in numerous industry committees that deals with regulatory issues. In 2010, he became



in charge of Product Safety function at Head Office for all products. BRP is a Canadian corporation manufacturing motorized recreational products. BRP's products are distributed worldwide. Mr. St-Arnaud is a member of PLAC, DRI, Canadian Bar Association, as well as both the Quebec and Montreal Bar. He was involved in numerous committees with each of the Canadian, Quebec and Montreal Bar. He lectured at both the University of Montreal and the Quebec Bar. In addition, he was invited to attend as a guest speaker at ABA meetings, American Law Firm Association (ALFA) meetings, DRI meetings, PLAC Meetings and at Les Entrepreneurs Jacques Cartier in Lyons, France, as well as several professional meetings in the industry.

**Kara Trouslot Stubbs** is a Member in the Kansas City ALFA International law firm of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, L.L.C., where her civil litigation practice is primarily focused on the defense of product liability matters, including the defense of manufacturers of medical devices, pharmaceutical products, construction equipment, children's products, commercial grade fireworks, diacetyl containing products, and various consumer products. Her practice also includes general personal injury, commercial litigation, employment, and consumer fraud. She has served as national and regional counsel to various clients in mass tort litigation. She is a member of the Kansas, Missouri, and American Bar Associations, International Association of Defense Counsel, and DRI. She is a frequent lecturer and author on issues related to product liability litigation. She currently serves as the Chair to the Board of Directors of ALFA International. She received her B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1989 and her J.D. from the University of Kansas in 1992. Prior to joining the firm she served as law clerk to the Honorable Thomas C. Clark of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri.

**Jolene Wall** is Deputy General Counsel at REI, a national retail cooperative providing quality outdoor gear and apparel. Jolene supports the organization by providing legal review and advice in all aspects of the company's business. Responsibilities include providing legal support to the Human Resources and Merchandising Departments and the Coop Brands Division of the company, which designs, develops, and sources REI-branded gear and apparel. She also facilitates the company's Enterprise Risk Management program and oversees

corporate compliance programs including the Code of Conduct, Records Management, Trade Compliance, Product Regulatory Compliance and Employment Practices as well as provides support to the Board of Directors. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Washington State University and her Juris Doctorate from Texas A&M University School of Law. She is licensed to practice in Washington and Texas.

**Michael R. Ward** is a shareholder of ALFA International member firm McCandlish Holton in Richmond, Virginia. He is on the steering committee for the ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group. Mike devotes his practice to civil litigation including the defense of manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in the defense of products liability and other complex cases. He has defended a wide variety of products including construction equipment, vehicles, industrial machinery, and consumer products. His practice includes the defense of trade secrets and employment non-compete agreements. He has an active trial practice, and has tried cases throughout Virginia. Mike graduated from Tulane Law School in 1995, where he graduated with honors. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in America for product liability litigation (since 2013) and personal injury litigation (since 2011).

**Matthew Whalen** is the Risk Manager at Intex Recreation Corp. Intex is a world leader in designing and producing high quality, innovative products for indoor and outdoor recreation, including but not limited to pools and accessories. Matthew is responsible for all matters relating to risk including issues concerning IP rights, standards compliance and quality control. He oversees all litigation, including the investigation of product liability claims for his company. He has extensive experience in regards to standards compliance including with the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**Nicholas Wheeler** is a partner at Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Portland, Oregon, where he chairs the firm's Product Liability & Medical Device Practice Group. He defends manufacturers and resellers of a wide range of industrial and consumer products, with an emphasis on mechanical and electrical failures. In addition to his product liability work, he also defends legal malpractice, railroad/transportation and other property damage, personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits.

Within ALFA International, he serves on the steering committee of the Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group. Locally, he is a member of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, where he currently serves as Vice Chair of the Product Liability Practice Group and regularly contributes articles to their quarterly publication "The Verdict." He also is a member of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel and the Multnomah Bar Association. Prior to entering private practice, he graduated from Oregon State University, the University of Oregon School of Law and served as an intern to Ancer L. Haggerty, then-Chief District Judge of the District of Oregon.

**Jacqueline A. White** is Associate General Counsel for Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW), providing legal counsel to ITW's decentralized businesses and managing the company's litigation, with a particular focus on product liability, toxic tort and complex civil litigation. Ms. White is also Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Hobart Brothers Company. In this role, she manages the company's toxic tort litigation and represents Hobart Brothers on an executive committee comprised of current and former welding consumable manufacturers who manage and direct welding litigation nationwide. Prior to joining ITW, Ms. White was a partner at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago. Ms. White is a graduate of Harvard Law School and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from New York University. Ms. White is a member of the American Bar Association and the Minority Corporate Counsel Women of Color. She is a former board member of the Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms and The Hyde Park Suzuki Institute. Currently, Ms. White is on the Board of Trustees of the McCormick Theological Seminary and serves as an advisory committee member to "Forward"—an organization whose mission is to accelerate the advancement of diverse corporate counsel and other business professionals in the Chicago area.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### MEETING LOCATION

**The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain**  
15000 North Secret Springs Drive  
Marana, Arizona 85658  
Tel: (520) 572-3000  
Fax: (520) 572-3012  
[www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)

### REGISTRATION

Please contact your ALFA International Attorney to register for this program and reserve your hotel room. ATTENDANCE IS OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS OF ALFA INTERNATIONAL AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS. ALL EVENTS ARE FOR AGES 21+.

### ATTIRE

The attire for the educational sessions throughout the conference is business casual. Casual, resort wear is encouraged for the evening events.

### CLE CREDIT

This program has been approved for a total of 7 hours of CLE credit in the states of Illinois & California, which includes 1.0 hour of ethics credit for the final general session. If you need credit in another state, please contact that state bar regarding the necessary requirements to obtain CLE credit. A packet of CLE information, along with a CA certificate of attendance will be distributed at the seminar which should help you apply individually to your state.

### PROGRAM CONTACT

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