

# SPEAKER BOOK

MAGNA   
LEGAL SERVICES  
PRESENTS



# MARCH **CLE** MADNESS

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## **About Magna Legal Services**

Magna Legal Services provides end-to-end legal support services to law firms, corporations, and governmental agencies throughout the nation. As an end-to-end service provider, we can provide strategic advantages to our clients by offering legal support services at every stage of your legal proceeding. It is our mission to ensure that all your legal support needs are delivered to you with the highest quality in a reliable, consistent, and responsive manner.

Magna's court reporters are among the most accomplished in the nation, providing real-time reporting, interactive Internet depositions, rough disks and Web-based transcript and exhibit repositories.

Our trial consultants are experts in their fields and approach every case with the decision-makers in mind. We understand how judges, jurors and arbitrators form decisions and we provide our clients with action items in the form of strategic recommendations, story lines, themes, and graphics to persuade at deposition and trial.

Through every stage of the legal process, Magna's consultants will be there to assist you. We provide:

- Court Reporting
- Record Retrieval
- Language Services
- Litigation Consulting
- Jury Research
- Graphics Consulting
- Trial Presentation Services
- Investigative Services

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**National Managing Director of Jury Consulting**

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**Peter Hecht**  
**Founding Partner & Executive Vice President of Sales**

As a founding partner and Executive Vice President of Sales for Magna Legal Services, Peter Hecht has orchestrated the company's growth from a single office start-up to an industry leader. Mr. Hecht brings to the company significant experience in identifying emerging markets, managing sales professionals and establishing new marketing partners. He has directed the company's national and local sales and marketing initiatives through a period of remarkable growth.

**David Barnard, Ph.D.**  
**Director of Jury Consulting**

Dr. Barnard has a doctorate in psychology from the City University of New York with a concentration in law. His background in psychology and law allows him to combine expertise in statistics and research methodology with cutting-edge data gathering and analytic techniques to assist attorneys in venue analysis, juror profiling, jury selection and the development of effective and resonant communication strategies.

His primary practice area includes civil litigation with a focus on products liability, medical and legal malpractice, personal injury, insurance, libel, and real estate. He has also assisted both plaintiffs and defendants in matters involving complex commercial litigation, intellectual property, contract disputes, antitrust, securities, and fraud. Dr. Barnard has selected juries in Federal and State Court for both plaintiffs and defendants across the country. He has facilitated hundreds of pre-trial research projects and has extensive experience preparing both fact and expert witnesses for deposition and trial testimony.

With 15 years of experience researching juror behavior, Dr. Barnard is highly adept in procedural design, survey construction, and statistical analysis. He has also extensively studied the psychology of persuasion and processes of juror reasoning. This unique blend of the quantitative and the qualitative enables him to provide empirical insight into pre-trial research, and specifically to attitudinal characteristics, juror bias, and issues of juror perception.

Dr. Barnard is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Psychology and Law Society, the American Society of Trial Consultants. He also serves as a Trial Consultant Advisor to the Civil Jury Project at NYU Law School. Originally from California, Dr. Barnard lives in New York City and is an avid racerunner.

**Rachel York Colangelo, Ph.D.**  
**National Managing Director of Jury Consulting**

Rachel York Colangelo has a doctorate in legal psychology from Florida International University and a B.A. in psychology and sociology from the University of Virginia. Her education involved extensive coursework and research training, specifically in jury decision-making.

Dr. Colangelo has over a decade of experience in litigation consulting. She has provided litigation support for a variety of civil and criminal matters across the country in the form of jury research, including focus groups, mock trials, damages assessment studies, and community attitude surveys, as well as other trial preparation strategies such as voir dire consultation, jury selection, witness preparation, shadow juries, and trial monitoring. Dr. Colangelo has consulted on numerous multi-million dollar and high-profile cases, including commercial litigation, property and contract disputes, anti-trust, securities, and intellectual property matters, accounting fraud and malpractice, legal and medical malpractice, negligence, personal injury, and product liability. Dr. Colangelo has a wealth of experience in all aspects of litigation consulting, including pre-trial jury research, case analysis and theme/storyline development, trial strategy, including preparation of opening statements and closing arguments as well as witness preparation and communication training, voir dire and jury selection assistance, in-court assistance via daily trial monitoring or use of a shadow jury, and post-trial juror interviews.

Dr. Colangelo is a member of the American Psychology-Law Society, a division of the American Psychological Association, as well as the American Society of Trial Consultants. In addition to conducting scientific research at the intersection of psychology and law and teaching several undergraduate and graduate courses in psychology, Dr. Colangelo has authored several publications and presented several papers at various research conferences.

## **About Burger Meyer, LLP**

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**BURGER, MEYER & D'ANGELO, LLP**

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Burger, Meyer & D'Angelo, LLP is an award-winning, full-service law firm with nine offices across the country. We take great pride in providing high-quality, customized, and responsive legal services to our clients. We are able to offer a full range of legal services because our team is both big enough to handle any case size but small enough to personalize every client relationship that comes through our door.

**Charles T. Meyer** has nearly two decades of experience litigating high-stakes matters for a variety of corporate clients in the areas of automobile accidents, premises liability for resorts, amusement parks, and athletic associations, construction defect, and financial services litigation. As the head of Burger, Meyer & D'Angelo, LLP's defense practice group, Mr. Meyer works to stay ahead of national trends and stays closely in tune with the changes in litigation tactics around the country.

Mr. Meyer was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. The son of a trial lawyer, he grew up around his father's firm and the practice of law. After high school, he left Seattle to attend the University of San Francisco to play baseball. After his time on the hilltop in San Francisco, Mr. Meyer ultimately transferred to the University of San Diego to complete his undergraduate degree. Mr. Meyer remains an active alumni and fervent supporter of the University of San Diego. Go Toreros! When not working, Mr. Meyer enjoys playing golf and softball, and spending as much time as possible with his wife Zarah, and two children, Ace and Rose.

For nearly twenty years **Jeremy W. Harris** has served as defense counsel to his clients. Mr. Harris has extensive trial and appellate court experience in complex

litigation, with a special focus on the defense of claims involving wrongful death, paralysis, amputations, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, and other serious injuries. These claims can result from a multitude of alleged causes, such as construction site accidents and collapses, road construction accidents, commercial trucking and car accidents, premises liability, negligent security, and products liability, to name a few.

Mr. Harris's judicial philosophy involves every action being taken only if it is a purposeful step towards a favorable end result for his clients, whether that involves litigating a matter to conclusion or providing the best possible platform for settlement. He believes attention to the plaintiff's claim is paramount, but opportunities for risk transfer must always be fully explored.

He has taken hundreds (if not thousands) of depositions and has attended hundreds (if not thousands) of hearings. Mr. Harris has tried cases before many trial courts throughout the state of Florida and has engaged in oral arguments in front of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Districts of the State of Florida. He obtained favorable results in the vast majority of these trials and appeals.

Mr. Harris was part of his collegiate and high school debate teams-qualifying in college for the prestigious National Debate Tournament. He is a proud husband and father of four boys and enjoys weightlifting in his free time.

## **About DLA Piper**

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DLA Piper is a global law firm capable of taking care of the most important legal needs of clients wherever they do business. With offices throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific, we represent more clients in a broader range of geographies and practice disciplines than virtually any other law firm in the world.

Our lawyers have wide experience in arbitration, banking, competition and trade, as well as corporate crime and corporate finance. We have strong practices in employment, energy, hospitality and leisure, insurance, intellectual property, litigation, mergers and acquisitions and have developed key teams in pensions, private equity, real estate, tax, and technology.

**David Mendelsohn** focuses his practice in the area of insurance and reinsurance transactional and regulatory matters. David has experience representing many insurers, reinsurers, brokers and other clients on a wide variety of transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, complex regulatory and finite, structured risk and reinsurance matters. His practice also includes providing global regulatory and compliance advice to Fortune 500 and other international companies in a range of industries. David is a member of DLA Piper's Executive Committee.

## **About Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.**

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**QUINTAIROS, PRIETO,  
WOOD & BOYER P.A.**

Over the past 25 years, QPWB is one of the fastest-growing law firms in the US. Though a strategy hinged upon providing the best legal problem-solvers throughout the country, the firm has brought in different and unique talent and, as a by-product, has become the largest minority-owned firm in the nation. They offer a comprehensive range of legal services to both public and private companies, insurance carriers, professionals, entrepreneurs, and individuals. With access to a network of 500 attorneys nationally, their areas of practice cover a wide spectrum and include focuses in over 130 different areas of law for their clients.

QPWB is known for its ability to defend businesses in various liability and tort actions such as premises liability, products liability, construction claims, and more. They also have a robust professional liability practice representing healthcare providers, legal professionals, and other service providers. The firm also handles complex securities and broker-dealer matters, including public offerings and SEC representations.

**Gene A. Pinkus** is the Managing Partner of the Merrillville Hub for Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Mr. Pinkus focuses his practice on representing insurance carriers in first-party fraud litigation defense and consumer fraud matters. He has conducted thousands of examinations under oath in fire, homeowners, and auto claims for many of the nation's leading insurers. His practice also includes handling complex business fraud investigations.

Mr. Pinkus brings extensive trial experience across a broad range of litigation matters, including first-party fraud, consumer fraud involving auto dealerships, product liability, premises liability, construction disputes, civil rights claims, employment discrimination, professional contract disputes, real estate E&O and agency matters, and general business litigation. He is frequently selected by

insurers to serve on arbitration panels. Earlier in his career, he focused on workers' compensation and managed intricate claims for insurance carriers and self-insured entities.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Pinkus plays an active leadership role in firm operations and client relationships across Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan. He regularly advises on litigation management strategies and alternative billing solutions. He is also a frequent speaker on topics such as bad faith claims and first-party insurance fraud at national conferences, including the Annual NSPII Advanced Insurance Fraud Seminar.

Mr. Pinkus is a long-standing contributor to the Northern Indiana legal and business community. He has been featured in Indiana Lawyer for his leadership during challenging economic times and was recognized in Building Indiana magazine's "Who's Who in Northern Indiana" (2009 & 2010) for his role in advancing regional business and community initiatives. Outside the office, Mr. Pinkus has dedicated many years to coaching youth basketball, soccer, and baseball, and has provided pro bono support to local sports organizations throughout Northwest Indiana.

## **About New Era**

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New Era Technology is a trusted global managed technology solutions provider with offices around the world, in the Americas, EMEA, and APAC. With over 4,500 employees, New Era is comprised of the finest team of Engineers, Designers, Installers, Technicians, and Sales Professionals, who provide hands-on collaborative consultation backed by industry training and certification, to deliver dynamic solutions for our customers.

More than 20,000 customers worldwide rely on Collaboration & Unified Communication, Data Networking, SecureBlu Security Services, CloudBlu Cloud Services, Digital Transformation Services, Physical Security & Life Safety, Managed and Professional Service Solutions from New Era to work faster, smarter, and more securely, increase productivity, and create a better workplace and learning experiences.

## **About Cole, Scott & Kissane P.A.**

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Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. ("CSK") is Florida's largest and leading trial defense law firm and consists of approximately 600 attorneys, 65 paralegals/nurses, professional litigation managers and information systems personnel. CSK has 12 offices strategically positioned throughout the State of Florida. One of the components of CSK that helps to distinguish itself from other firms is its ability to develop a litigation game plan and stick to that game plan in order to ensure, to the extent possible, a highly efficient and prompt resolution. Of course, the majority of claims are indeed resolved and they are resolved highly efficiently and to a great benefit to CSK's valued clients. However, if cases cannot be resolved, CSK has some of Florida's finest trial attorneys. In fact, CSK tries more cases than any other defense firm in the State of Florida, which has an added value as Plaintiff attorneys recognize that CSK attorneys are willing to try cases if they are not resolved at an acceptable number at a very early stage.

**Joseph J. Goldberg** is a Partner in the firm's Miami and Key West offices. Mr. Goldberg practices in the areas of Personal Injury Litigation, Trucking Accident Defense, Negligent Security, Sex Trafficking/Human Trafficking Defense, Condominium & Homeowners' Association Law and Vehicle Negligence. Mr. Goldberg attended the University of Florida where he received a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. While at the University of Florida, Mr. Goldberg served as the Student Body President. During that period, he also served on the University of Florida Board of Trustees, and on the board of directors of the University of Florida Alumni Association, University of Florida Foundation, and the University Athletic Association. Additionally, he was elected chairman of the Florida Student Association and served as the only student member on the Florida Board of Governors. Mr. Goldberg was inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame, is a member of Florida Blue Key Honorary, and was chosen as an Outstanding Male Graduate.

Mr. Goldberg also served as the President of the Florida International University College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors; was a member of the University of Florida board of directors of the University of Florida Alumni Association; Member of the University of Florida Foundation; and Member of the University Athletic Association Board of Directors. Mr. Goldberg was inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame and is a member of Florida Blue Key Honorary. He is a Member of the Transportation Industry Defense Association (TIDA) and has been recognized as 2021-2023 'Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch' – Insurance Law, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants and Transportation Law.

## **About Ringler**

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# RINGLER

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A structured settlement from Ringler should be your FIRST CHOICE. You have many choices for investing in your settlement. Only structured settlements were created exclusively to secure your future. Only a Ringler consultant can best collaborate with all parties to find a solution that's a perfect fit for you, and only Ringler Associates write more structures than anyone else in the country.

**Brian** began his career with Ringler in 2009. He now owns and manages the Connecticut office and is currently Chairman of the Ringler Board of Directors. Brian joined the structured settlement industry with another firm in 2002. Brian has now helped place over \$1 billion in structured settlements in his career. He has 12 years of experience in the property casualty claim industry in several claim handling and management experiences, in both a home office and multiple field office setting.

**Dennis**, a former Vice President of Excess Casualty claims at AIG, brings 18 years of structured settlement experience to Ringler. He was a lead negotiator of catastrophic injury claims, utilizing structured settlements to match the needs of the injured party. Dennis has participated in mediations in multiple jurisdictions across the country over his 18-year career.

## **About Vernis & Bowling**

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Vernis & Bowling has proudly served the needs of its clients since 1970. At that time, Frank C. Vernis, Jr. and James W. Bowling devoted themselves to creating a full-service law firm dedicated to meeting the needs, requirements and expectations of their clients. To accomplish this end, they adopted a fundamental philosophy of providing exceptional, cost-effective, personal representation to their clients by experienced, highly qualified personnel.

This philosophy continues into a new generation. G. Jeffrey Vernis, Esquire, and Robert C. Bowling, Esquire, the sons of the firm's original founders, comprise the firm's management team. Together they oversee the firm's direction and ensure that the firm's mission and goals are achieved.

With 18 offices throughout Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Mississippi, Vernis & Bowling provides cost-effective, full service legal representation that consistently exceeds the expectations of our clients. We succeed when our clients are successful.

**G. Jeffrey Vernis** was born in Coral Gables, Florida. In 1984, he graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in International Political Science. While at U.S.F., Jeff was a founding member of a social fraternity requiring higher academic standards which later became a national fraternity. He then attended St. Thomas University School of Law, in Miami, Florida. St. Thomas University conferred a Juris Doctorate upon him in 1987.

Jeff specializes in civil trial and appellate practice and is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Florida Bar Board of Specialization. Jeff is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, which identifies attorneys with preeminent legal ability and is a reflection of expertise, experience, integrity and overall professional excellence. Jeff has also been selected as one of Florida's Legal Elite by Florida Trend Magazine and one of Florida's Super Lawyers by

Super Lawyer Magazine. He has also been named one of Florida's Leading Lawyers by the South Florida Business Journal. Jeff has been listed as one of Florida's Top Lawyers by the South Florida Legal Guide and named one of Florida's Power Leaders in Law by South Florida Business Journal.

**Robert C. Bowling** was born in Hollywood, Florida. He graduated from Stetson University in 1987 with a B.B.A. (emphasis in Finance). Robert obtained his J.D. from the University of Miami where he graduated *cum laude* in 1990. Robert is a member of the Florida Bar and the State Bar of Georgia. His professional memberships include: The American Bar Association (member, Sections on Litigation, on Corporate, Banking and Business Law and on Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law; member, Committees on Class Actions and Derivative Suits, on Business Torts Litigation, and on Commercial and Banking Litigation) and the Dade County Bar Association. Robert is a former member of Stetson University's School of Business Administration Board of Advisors (2002-2005).

Robert enjoys spending time outdoors—especially in the Rocky Mountains—as well as exploring oenology, geology, astronomy, Christian existential philosophy, and all natural sciences. Robert has also been a lifelong fan of the Miami Dolphins, Heat, and Hurricanes. He loves to be involved in his community and currently serves as a Trustee for the First United Methodist Church of Fort Lauderdale and the Director of Charitable Giving for Vernis & Bowling.

### **About Wright Close & Barger, LLP**

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**WRIGHT CLOSE ■**  
**▼ BARGER & GUZMAN**  
*Civil Trials & Appeals*

Wright Close Barger & Guzman LLP is a Houston-based civil trial and appellate firm trusted for handling complex appellate and trial work across Texas and beyond. We represent clients in matters involving catastrophic personal injury, insurance coverage, intellectual property, oil and gas, product defects, commercial disputes, trade secrets, and trust and estate litigation. Our appellate team delivers strategic support at every stage of litigation—from

pretrial and post-trial motions to emergency mandamus proceedings, and the critical work of shaping the court's charge to the jury. Learn more at [www.wcbglaw.com](http://www.wcbglaw.com).

**Howard** is a trial lawyer. He has tried and arbitrated complex personal injury, commercial and intellectual property cases all over the state. From patent and trade secret litigation in northeast Texas to multiple death and burn cases along the Texas-Mexico border, to massive coverage cases in Beaumont, he and his trial team have handled the difficult assignments. He has tried state and national class actions, medical device, oil & gas, nursing home, insurance coverage and intellectual property matters in both state and Federal Court in the toughest jurisdictions in Texas. He also has extensive appellate experience, having argued at all levels of the Texas Appellate system and in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Howard is AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest level of peer rated professional excellence. Every year since 2003, Howard has earned selection to Thomson Reuters' list of Texas Super Lawyers® (2003-present) in Civil Litigation, Insurance Coverage, Intellectual Property Litigation, as published in Texas Monthly. In 2008-present, Howard was listed among the Top 100 Super Lawyers in Houston. In addition, since 2005, Howard has been included on BL Rankings, LLC's list of Best Lawyers in America® (2005-present) in the categories of Commercial Litigation and Personal Injury Litigation-Defense. Howard was also named to the list of "Top Rated Lawyers" in Texas (2010-present) in the area of Intellectual Property Law, by ALM and Martindale-Hubbell. Howard is also a Fellow of the prestigious Litigation Council of America.

**Andrew** has experience in both trial and appellate matters. His appellate experience includes assisting in the briefing of complex legal issues before several intermediate Texas courts of appeals. His trial experience includes assisting trial counsel in all aspects of trial preparation, including pre-trial briefing and motions, representing clients in pre-trial hearings, taking depositions, and drafting the jury charge.

Andrew has experience in a wide variety of civil litigation matters, including serious personal injury and wrongful death cases, commercial litigation, insurance coverage litigation, and contractual disputes. He has also served as an adjunct professor of appellate advocacy at South Texas College of law since 2010. Andrew is Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

**Ronnie Flack** is a trial lawyer with a diverse practice. In addition to insurance coverage litigation, his civil litigation practice involves construction, personal injury, employment, complex commercial, insurance coverage, and intellectual property disputes.

At the start of any matter, Ronnie prepares his cases as if he will be delivering his opening to a jury. This approach has afforded him successful results at trial before judges and juries. But Ronnie's practical approach has also achieved positive pre-trial results, including early dismissals, summary judgments, and favorable settlements.

While Ronnie is prepared to handle any civil litigation matter, he has a unique background in construction that allows him to be especially effective as a construction litigator. His construction background also assists him when working with liability experts in catastrophic personal injury cases. Many of his catastrophic personal injury cases have resulted in favorable results for his clients because of his ability to work effectively with experts to develop sound theories and discover reliable facts to show his client was not responsible for the alleged injuries or damages.

Outside the office, Ronnie enjoys spending time with his wife, their four children, and their dog. He is an avid outdoorsman, has a passion for film, and loves cars.

## **About Blank Rome**

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# BLANKROME

Blank Rome is an Am Law 100 firm with 14 offices and more than 600 attorneys and principals who provide a full range of legal and advocacy services to clients operating in the United States and around the world. Our professionals are widely recognized for their leading knowledge and experience across a broad spectrum of industries, as well as their dedication to diversity and inclusion initiatives and pro bono work.

But what really sets us apart is our investment in client relationships—our unwavering commitment to understanding their businesses, the around-the-clock access we provide, and our nimble and customized delivery of services. We treat your goals, ideas, and objectives as our own and fight fiercely for resolutions that are in your best interest. This promise goes deeper than words. It is our creed, adopted and held true at all levels, starting at the very top.

**Dan Rhyhart** is the co-chair of Blank Rome's firm-wide Litigation Department, encompassing more than 300 trial lawyers in 14 offices. Recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal as "Best of the Bar" for Business Litigation (2019) and the Philadelphia Inquirer as one of five "Influencers of Law" for Litigation

(2018), Dan has 25 years' experience trying and litigating high-stakes business disputes across the country. He has been specially admitted to practice in more than 20 states and has won significant damages awards and secured defense verdicts in jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations. Dan has tried or arbitrated dozens of cases as a first chair involving hundreds of millions of dollars, in a wide variety of business disputes spanning software and technology, telecommunications, financial services, retail, and real estate.

## **About Galloway**

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Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith is a full-service and proactive corporate defense firm that prioritizes client service and strategic partnerships. Our attorneys are experienced, forward-thinking, decisive, and pragmatic problem solvers who provide quality counsel for high-value complex matters.

Founded in New Orleans, Galloway has built a strong reputation for sophisticated legal excellence and in-market strength through 14 offices in seven states across the Gulf South and Midwest. We deliver value through early case assessments, cost-containment strategies, risk transfer, and efficient case handling through targeted motion practice, timely dispute resolution, or trial. Galloway has been recognized and rated by Martindale-Hubbell, Best Law Firms, and Chambers USA.

**Richard** is one of Galloway's senior partners and a respected trial lawyer engaged in a general commercial litigation practice, products liability, construction, environmental and all facets of professional liability. Also, general insurance defense and coverage litigation. Rick's experience also includes the immediate response, assessment and defense of catastrophic incidents and explosions. Rick has an extensive history of trials to verdict, with a trial success rate of over eighty percent. In addition to his litigation practice, Rick has also represented numerous clients in the entertainment business in litigation and in the areas of contracts, trademark, residuals, and other general entertainment law practice concerns. He has handled and resolved matters for promoters,

record labels, production companies and individual performers and their representatives, both in the United States and Europe.

**Kelsey** believes that effective communication is key to being a successful client advocate. With an emphasis on insurance defense, insurance coverage, and workers' compensation, Kelsey represents insurance carriers and private businesses in civil litigation in state and federal court. A native of New Orleans, Kelsey is active in the community and passionate about charity work. She chairs Galloway's Hogs for the Cause team, which raises money to support families of children with pediatric brain cancer, and works with Take Paws Rescue, a New Orleans-based animal rescue.

## **About Lewis Brisbois**

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LBBS is primarily a trial firm, with nationally recognized trial lawyers and over 30 members of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Lewis Brisbois has consistently ranked in the top 10 in recognized diversity surveys since 2005, including being ranked #1 By American Lawyer Media as the nation's most diverse law firm on multiple occasions. With offices from Los Angeles to New York, Lewis Brisbois can provide full service legal services across the nation, with 40 fully staffed offices in the 26 states.

**Tera Sherman Edwards** is a Partner in the Cleveland Office of Lewis Brisbois and has a successful track record of representing clients in cases and matters involving business disputes, trucking and transportation, general liability, insurance defense, professional liability, catastrophic injuries, insurance matters, premise liability, employment, and products liability. She has practiced in a variety of jurisdictions across the country and represented both corporate and individual clients from a variety of different fields and backgrounds with great success. Tera is a litigator and an aggressive trial lawyer with experience at both the federal and state court levels. She has handled numerous arbitrations, mediations, and administrative proceedings with successful outcomes for her clients.

Prior to joining Lewis Brisbois, Tera worked at a law firm representing large insurance companies. She also previously worked as a Staff Attorney for two Common Pleas Court Judges in Geauga County, Ohio.

## **About MC Consultants, Inc.**

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MC Consultants serves clients nationwide in forensic related claims and litigation matters. For over 30 years MC's team of professional consultants, including architects, engineers, construction managers, general contractors, cost estimators, water intrusion experts and project managers, have leveraged their extensive backgrounds in both construction and construction forensics to deliver industry-leading third-party quality assurance consulting services.

**Mr. Ducommun** directs all MC Consultants, Inc. consulting groups through dynamic leadership and strategic planning, guiding the organization to ensure continued growth and effectively cultivating key business relationships. Through his visionary leadership, Mr. Ducommun is committed to position TEAM MC to be recognized as an industry leader, committed to innovation while maintaining a corporate culture of excellence, performance and integrity. Mr. Ducommun received his Liberal Arts and Sciences degree from Lake County College in Illinois.

**Christopher Pierson** is a Civil Engineer Expert with MC Consultants, Inc. consulting groups. His areas of focus, to name a few, include earthwork, hydraulics, pipelines, public works, land development. He has project experience related to single family residences, high-rise and mid-rise commercial buildings, restaurants, industrial, public works, military, and more. Mr. Pierson's areas of expertise include forensic investigation, document analysis, delay analysis, contract disputes, and more. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology. As well as a Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law.

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Consilio stands as the global leader in eDiscovery, document review, flexible legal talent, and legal advisory & transformation consulting services. With its Consilio Complete suite of capabilities, the company empowers multinational

law firms and corporations using innovative software, cost-effective managed services, and deep legal and regulatory industry expertise. Renowned for its expertise in litigation, HSR second requests, internal and regulatory investigations, eDiscovery, document review, information governance, compliance risk assessments, cybersecurity, law department management, and contracts management, Consilio also excels in legal staffing and recruitment through its Lawyers On Demand division.

Consilio globally employs leading professionals in the industry, applying defensible workflows with patented and industry-proven technology across all phases of the eDiscovery and risk management lifecycle. ISO\IEC 27001:2013 certified, the company operates offices, document review, and data centers across Europe, Asia, and North America.

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**Business Development Manager**

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Founded in 2008, iDS is a professional services consulting firm that specializes in Digital Forensics, e-Discovery, Structured Data, Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, and Information Governance. Their case portfolio includes defense and plaintiff matters. iDS has over 50 full-time employees working in multiple jurisdictions from the United Kingdom, to the U.S. East Coast, to the U.S. West Coast. Since its founding, iDS has worked on over 3,000 matters and on projects ranging from a single mobile device to cases involving 10,000, 40,000, or even 450,000 plaintiffs and billions of data records.

In addition to multiple awards from INC 5000 and other organizations, iDS has been honored as a Band One and Band Two consulting firm by Chambers and Partners. CEO and founder, Dan Regard, is also currently ranked as a Band One e-discovery consultant. iDS not only participated but has an active leadership role in the Sedona Conference, the Electronic Discovery Institute (EDI), and the Georgetown Global Advanced Electronic Discovery Institute (AEDI). They also have one of the leading and most progressive pro-bono programs in e-Discovery.

With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to excellence, **Theodore (Teddy) Brown** transforms complex financial data into insights that empower clients and counsel alike. Teddy is a seasoned expert across sectors such as healthcare, construction, and manufacturing. He holds multiple credentials, including Certified Public Accountant in Georgia and Florida, Certified in Financial Forensics, Master Analyst in Financial Forensics, Certified Valuation Analyst, and Certified Fraud Examiner. His expertise in commercial disputes, fraud investigations, and asset tracing establishes him as a go-to expert witness.

**Pam** is a progressive, client focused professional with over 28 years in the legal industry, including 11 years of experience in a consultative sales role. At iDS, Pam is responsible for all aspects of business development and maintaining client relationships. After transitioning to business development, she held sales roles at several leading eDiscovery organizations. When she is not working, Pam can be found spending time with family. She loves to travel, cheering on her Cowboys and Steelers, and always searching for her next big adventure.

## **About MDD Forensic Accountants**

### Contact Information:

**Edward Szaniawski**  
**Director, Business Development -Litigation**  
ESzaniawski@MDD.com



Tracing its roots back to 1933, MDD is one of the world's top forensic accounting firms specializing in business valuations, shareholder disputes and economic damage quantification calculations. In situations such as business disputes, natural or man-made catastrophes, business interruption, fraud or defective product recall, MDD can help by accurately determining the value of harm or injury that has been inflicted on a person or property.

We regularly work with law firms, government entities, multi-national corporations, small businesses, insurance companies and independent adjustment firms to provide independent objective assessments that enable fair and equitable settlements. With forensic accounting professionals in over 40 offices on 5 continents, MDD has global resources to assist our clients with their forensic accounting needs. Our work spans more than 130 countries and 800 industries.

We have highly qualified resources available at all levels who not only boast accounting qualifications from several international bodies but also undergo regular intensive internal training. We speak over 30 languages and hold 18 distinct professional designations, with many possessing additional credentials in fraud detection and valuation. Our forensic accountants are exceptionally

dedicated, singularly qualified experts with proven track records who provide clear and concise assessments that stand up to scrutiny.

**Ed** is involved in all facets of business development with a focus on MDD's continuing growth and expansion around the world. Ed pro-actively seeks out any untapped opportunities that may be met by MDD's capabilities; opportunities that fit with the firm's commitment to provide the most accurate and reliable economic damage quantification assessments to its clients.

In the past, Ed has worked on general liability accounts, lent support to reinsurance representatives on large exposure cases, helped risk managers with their problem solving and provided opinions on various insurance issues. Ed's forensic accounting practice areas include business interruption, personal injury and wrongful death, fidelity claims, subrogation, catastrophe services and construction defects & claims. He also helps evaluate owner-controlled insurance program (OCIP) losses. Ed's experience spans across a wide range of industries – from agricultural and construction losses to retail, wholesale, hotels and resorts.

## **About SERMA**

### Contact Information:

**Richard Lenkov, Esq.**  
**Capital Member**  
Rich@TheSerma.org



The Sports and Entertainment Risk Management Alliance (SERMA) is the first risk management association devoted entirely to the sports and entertainment industries. It is an organization of risk managers, claims managers, general counsels, outside counsel and other associated professionals who work in the sports and entertainment field.

As a Capital Member of Downey & Lenkov LLC, **Rich** has been representing professional sports organizations and multiple entities in the entertainment industry for 25 years. Rich is also the co-founder of Triopolis, a production company with credits including '85: The Greatest Team in Football History (starring Barack Obama, Bill Murray, Mike Ditka) and John Wayne Gacy: Defending a Monster. Rich was also the lead producer for the very successful Las Vegas production Renegades, and is involved in other productions including Rock of Ages and Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel In Concert.

## **Arturo Antezena**

### **Assistant Vice President, Excess Casualty Claims Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance**

Arturo Antezana has been in the insurance industry for over 25 years as both a manager and handler of Excess Casualty claims for insurance carriers such as Crum & Forster, Gulf/Travelers and ACE/Chubb. Arturo currently is with Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance as an AVP in Excess Casualty claims handling high exposure cases throughout the nation.

## **Lauren Bellamy**

### **Senior Associate, General Counsel Grady**

Lauren is a Senior Associate General Counsel at Grady Health System, in Atlanta, Georgia. In this role, she represents the Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation and is responsible for handling employment and litigation matters for the Office of General Counsel. Ms. Bellamy assumes an active role as a strategic business partner to the Human Resources Department, providing legal advice and counsel, as well as supporting operations in meeting the goals and objectives of the Corporation.

## **Lloyd Brown**

### **Claims Manager, Risk Management and Safety Wawa Inc.**

Lloyd oversees the day-to-day operations and overall performance and development for the casualty claims team. Lloyd manages all claims (GL, WC, Auto, PD) from first report to closure. His team partners with several business units throughout the company to process claims, as well as external vendor partners, Third-Party Administrators & Defense counsels. He coordinates claims reviews / Round tables, discusses defense strategies on litigation and afford reserves and trial authorizations.

## **Ken Bunn**

### **Vice President, Claims Builders Mutual Insurance Company**

Ken is the claims Leader for Builders Mutual Insurance Company, a midsized, regional insurance carrier based in the southeast catering to the Construction

industry. Responsible for overall leadership of the claim's operation including Workers Compensation and Commercial Lines.

### **Christopher Butler**

**Head of Claims  
Bowhead Specialty Underwriters, Inc.**

Christopher J. (Chris) Butler is the Head of Claims for Bowhead Specialty Underwriters. Prior to this he was a Managing Director overseeing the Professional and Management Liability claims groups in North America and Bermuda for Markel, which encompassed all E&O and D&O claims as well as the Environmental and Healthcare claims groups. He held a similar position at Alterra prior to its merger with Markel. Before this he spent over nine years with The Hartford managing the Financial Services E&O and D&O claims group. Chris received his bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross and his law degree from St. John's University School of Law.

### **Diane Carman**

**Vice President, General Counsel  
Taconic Biosciences**

Diane is currently a Vice President and General Counsel at Taconic Biosciences. Diane Carman brings experience from previous roles at Association of Corporate Counsel Greater Philadelphia, Windtree Therapeutics, Inc., Vitara Biomedical, Inc. and Helius Medical Technologies. Diane Carman holds a 1995 - 1998 Juris Doctor – JD Summa cum laude in Law @ Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. With a robust skill set that includes Mobility, Due Diligence, Licensing, Employment Law, Customer Service and more.

### **Patrick Carroll**

**Director, USA Casualty Claims Consulting  
Aon**

Patrick leads a team of senior casualty claim consultants whose responsibilities include the delivery of client specific casualty claims consultative support designed to track and improve processes assisting to reduce client loss costs, mitigate losses and expedite claim settlements. Employing post-loss activities dedicated to best meet all levels of client need, Patrick provides appropriate advocacy, oversight and marketing support in an efficient and effective

manner, while ensuring the highest level of service from carriers, third party administrators, vendors, and related experts.

## **Christopher Carucci**

### **Senior Vice President, Construction Claims Gallagher Bassett**

Christopher A. Carucci is Senior Vice President of Claims at Gallagher Bassett. He is responsible for overseeing the National Construction Claims Program, as well as litigation management and the GB LegalScore Program. Prior to joining Gallagher Bassett, Chris held a leadership position at Everest National Insurance Company, where he managed various claim departments, including Casualty, Auto, Property, Excess, and Professional Liability. He also supervised Litigation Management, SIU, and Compliance. Before his time at Everest National Insurance Company, Chris worked at Zurich North America, where he managed the Professional Liability Claim Department and played a significant role in litigation management. He also worked at AIG, where he handled a nationwide caseload of bad faith, coverage, and high exposure Casualty claims.

Chris is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the New York Bar Association, the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (where he serves as an Advisory Board Member), the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, USLAW (Client Advisory Board), Defense Research Institute, and NRRDA. He is also a professor at the CLM Litigation Management Institute and frequently speaks at industry events on topics such as claim management, litigation management, and good faith claim handling.

Outside of work, Chris has been happily married to his wife Tara for 17 years and is a proud father of two children, Bella and Jack. He is a passionate sports fan, supporting the Yankees, Giants, and Knicks. Additionally, Chris is an avid music enthusiast, with Bruce Springsteen being his favorite artist. He enjoys warm weather and loves going on beach vacations with his family.

## **Andrew Chestnut**

### **Senior Vice President, Head of Claims Clear Blue Insurance Group**

Andrew Chestnut, based in Charlotte, NC, US, is currently a Senior Vice President, Head of Claims at Clear Blue Insurance Group.

## **Michael Cortese**

**SVP of Claims  
Westfield Specialty**

Michael Cortese, based in Alpharetta, GA, US, is currently a SVP, Head of Casualty Claims at Westfield Specialty Insurance, bringing experience from previous roles at IAT Insurance Group, Navigators, AIG and Allied World Assurance Company. Michael Cortese holds a 1983 - 1987 Bachelor of Science - BS in BS - Kinesiology @ University of Maryland College Park. With a robust skill set that includes Claims Management, Professional Liability, Casualty, Insurance, Property & Casualty Insurance and more, Michael Cortese contributes valuable insights to the industry.

## **Mitchell Dane-Henry**

**Director, Risk Management  
Sprouts**

Mitchell Dane-Henry is responsible for procuring and managing the insurance program at Sprouts while interfacing with various departments within the organization to help assess and manage its internal and external risks. In addition, he oversees the internal and external claims roles at Sprouts. Prior to joining Sprouts, Mr. Dane-Henry began his career in 2007 with a non-standard insurer based in Illinois, Founders Insurance Company, handling personal and commercial automobile losses before moving to Travelers to join their inland marine division and most recently held the role of Claims Manager at Retail Properties of America, Inc. where he was primarily responsible for handling the organization's property and casualty claims nationwide.

Mr. Dane-Henry received his Bachelors of Arts from DePaul University located in Chicago, Illinois. He currently holds a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation as well as an Associates in Claims (AIC) designation. In addition, he holds two CLM sponsored designations which are the Certified Litigation Management Professional (CLMP) and the Certified Claims Professional (CCP). Mr. Dane-Henry is currently serving on the Young Professionals Advisory Board as well as is a Regional Chair for the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance.

## **Jeff Davis**

### **AVP & Senior Counsel Lincoln Financial Group**

Jeff currently serves as in-house litigation counsel for Fortune 250 financial services company. He manages litigation caseload, manages paralegals, and supervises subpoena responses. He is also a member of the Crisis Management Team. Prior to joining Lincoln Financial Group in 2012, Jeff worked at Higgins Benjamin PLLC where he served as lead counsel in complex construction arbitrations. He received his B.A. in Political Science and Speech Communication Studies, 2000 Cum Laude, from Clemson University. He received his Juris Doctorate from UNC Chapel Hill School of Law in 2003.

## **Kim Dwyer**

### **Senior Vice President – Risk Management Interstate Cleaning Corporation**

Kim handles the Risk Management and Information Systems for Interstate Cleaning Corporation, a leading national janitorial and maintenance company servicing shopping centers, lifestyle centers, retail stores, and office buildings nationwide. She joined ICC in January 2013. She worked as the Workers' Compensation Administrator for four years and the Risk Manager for six years before assuming her current role. Kim started her career as a Pricing Analyst at Moog Automotive and then worked at the May Department Stores Company as a Sr. Financial Analyst for five years. Kim also worked as a freelance accountant for over 15 years. She is a fellow at CLM, the Claims and Litigation Management Association, and frequently participates in conferences and educational programs.

## **Brandon Ehrie**

### **In-House Legal Counsel SPRISKA (Specialty Risk of America)**

At SPRISKA, Brandon leads legal operations ensuring compliance, mitigating risk, and supporting business objectives. Before joining SPRISKA, Brandon was a partner at one of the most respected civil defense litigation firms in Indiana, where he represented Fortune 500 companies, insurers, and high-profile clients in all manner of premises and product liability actions. Brandon is a recognized authority in dram shop and liquor liability defense, and has successfully handled high-stakes litigation for hospitality, retail, and insurance clients.

Brandon graduated with honors from Wabash College in Indiana and earned his Juris Doctor from Michigan State University College of Law and he also attended Georgetown University where he studied business and governmental affairs. He is admitted to practice in Indiana State and Federal Court where he actively defends SPRISKA insureds and he also oversees and provides assistance to SPRISKA's outside legal counsel across the country.

Brandon resides in the Indianapolis area with his wife, two sons and miniature labradoodle. He is an active youth baseball, basketball and football coach and serves as the Vice-President of the local baseball little league. When he's not pacing up and down a sideline or sitting on a bucket, he likes to spoil a good walk by attempting to play golf.

### **Elana Gilaad**

**Assistant General Counsel  
ABM**

Elana Gilaad is an Assistant General Counsel at ABM based in New York City, New York.

### **Michael Gonzales**

**VP Claims  
Global Guardian Services**

Michael M. Gonzalez is a seasoned claims leader with extensive experience across various insurance lines, including commercial property, auto, and trucking. As Assistant Vice President of Claims, he provides strategic oversight, ensuring timely and efficient claim resolutions while upholding compliance and fostering collaboration. With a strong background in leadership at national claims organizations, Michael's expertise in coverage analysis and investigations underscores Global Guardian's dedication to delivering exceptional client service.

### **Jody Hobbs**

**P&C Claim Litigation Specialist  
Pekin Insurance**

Jody Hobbs is a Senior Field Claims Adjuster at Pekin Insurance, specializing in the insurance industry. With over 15 years of experience in the field, Jody plays a vital role in investigating and resolving complex insurance claims. They are responsible for conducting thorough on-site inspections, evaluating policy

coverage, and negotiating settlements with policyholders. Prior to joining Pekin Insurance, Jody served as a Senior Field Claims Adjuster at Acuity Brands, demonstrating a strong track record of delivering exceptional customer service.

### **Philip Itkov**

#### **Commercial Casualty Claims Director NIP Group**

A seasoned claims leader with a wealth of expertise across diverse lines of insurance, including Property Casualty, Commercial Auto, Personal Auto, General Liability, and Workers' Compensation, Philip brings a track record of success in fast-paced, paperless environments. Philip oversees claims in all 50 states, managing over 1,600 files with approximately \$91 million in reserves. He works closely with TPAs, including AmTrust and Sedgwick, to ensure performance aligns with departmental goals, leveraging data and metrics to drive results.

Philip's earlier experiences include pivotal roles at the Arizona Department of Insurance Guaranty Fund, AAA Full Transportation, and American Family Insurance. These positions honed his expertise in multi-line claims management, staff development, and risk analysis. At Bank of America/Balboa Insurance Company, Philip was part of the inaugural team establishing a satellite office, eventually earning a promotion to the Large Loss Unit, where he managed significant property claims and executed structure rehabilitations in compliance with building and fire codes.

### **Mark Konerman**

#### **Claims Director, Alternative Markets Great American Insurance Group**

### **Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan**

#### **SVP - Head of Claims Golden State Claims Adjusters**

Ms. Laskaris-Lorigan was previously an Assistant Vice President for the Construction Defect Specialty Unit at Arch Insurance; a Construction Claims Manager and Large Loss Specialist at Gallagher Bassett Services; the Regional Manager of Claims, Contracts and Credit for SelectBuild, a subsidiary of Building Materials Holding Corporation; Southwestern Regional Team Manager for construction defect claims for Zurich North America; and the Construction Liability Claim Manager for the former Arrowhead Claims organization. Ms.

Laskaris-Lorigan has over twenty-six years of experience in construction liability and construction defect claims, including investigations, complex claims handling, and management of losses throughout the United States, and has lectured before various legal and trade organizations. Ms. Laskaris-Lorigan is currently the President of the San Diego Chapter of CLM. In her spare time, she enjoys running and has captained a relay race team that has raised over \$120,000 for Taking Control of Your Diabetes, a charity that promotes education for those suffering from diabetes.

### **Ozie Lewis**

#### **Assistant Vice President Claim Client Manager Old Republic Risk Management**

Ozie Lewis joined Old Republic Risk Management in August 2015 serving as Claims Manager, responsible for oversight for the Auto Liability, Worker's Compensation and General Liability programs for Old Republic Insurance Company.

### **Mitzi McLean**

#### **Director, Assistant General Counsel DaVita Inc.**

Mitzi currently serves as Director and Senior Corporate Counsel for DaVita, Inc. The bulk of Mitzi's time is spent managing litigation related to the operation of the organization's dialysis facilities in the United States. Mitzi has served as in-house counsel with varying roles over the past 7 years, leaving her with an extensive amount of experience with claims and litigation involving a spectrum of issues and risk: commercial agreements and breaches; intellectual property; compliance; cyber security and information privacy; insurance coverage; bad-faith; medical malpractice; personal injury and property damage. Prior to her in-house experience, Mitzi was in private practice for 7 years during which time she served business clients by providing sound legal counsel to minimize and manage risk and as litigation/trial counsel when the occasion called for it. The role she has cherished most is being a mother to her vivacious 6 year old son. Outside of work, Mitzi enjoys family time, cooking and drinking wine.

### **Mike Merlo**

#### **Chief Claims Officer Aon**

Mike Merlo is the Chief Claims Officer at Aon, operating out of Chicago. With over two decades at Aon, his career reflects deep expertise in both legal and

claims functions across global insurance markets, particularly in high-stakes reinsurance and commercial risk.

### **James Minniti**

**Vice President  
Allied World**

James Minniti, based in New York, New York, United States, is currently a Vice President at Allied World, bringing experience from previous roles at Marsh and AIG. James Minniti holds a 1995 - 1998 Doctor of Law (JD) @ St. John's University School of Law. With a robust skill set that includes Product Liability, Liability, Claim, Litigation, Arbitration and more, James Minniti contributes valuable insights to the industry.

### **Stephanie Morris**

**Paralegal, Insured Litigation  
The Kroger Co.**

Stephanie S. Morris has been a litigation paralegal for 25 years. She is responsible for supporting eight (8) Kroger divisions which responsibilities include the management of their claims and litigated cases, third-party subpoenas, providing legal guidance to clients, and attending settlement conferences and mediations. In addition to supporting eight (8) Kroger divisions, she is also responsible for the handling of FTC and SEC matters, Civil Information Demands, and Michigan bounty law cases for the entire company.

Stephanie earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Thomas More College, her Associate's Degree for Paralegal Studies from Beckfield College and is an OSBA Certified Paralegal through the Ohio State Bar Association. She has been a member of the Cincinnati Paralegal Association since 2006, has served on their Board of Directors, and is currently serving as their Parliamentarian for the 2024-2025 term.

In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys antiquing, watching ice hockey (go Pens!) and baseball (go Reds!), researching and reading about esoteric subjects, traveling, and is an avid book collector. She is an advocate for all animals and believes that the world would be a much better place if everyone displayed kindness to one another. Her favorite quote is by Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

## **Matthew Morrison**

### **Vice President-Litigation AmFam Group**

Matthew Morrison currently serves as Vice President of Litigation at American Family Insurance, where responsibilities include leading the Litigation Division and overseeing claims-related and corporate litigation while fostering an inclusive culture of excellence. Previously, as Vice President of Specialty Claims & Loss Control Services within the same company, Matthew emphasized complex commercial claims and litigation management across various sectors. Matthew's extensive experience includes leadership roles at Amerisure Insurance, QBE North America, and General Casualty, showcasing a robust background in managing technical claims and legal matters. Matthew Morrison holds a JD/MBA, Cum Laude from Northern Illinois University and a BBA with Distinction from Wisconsin School of Business. Admission to practice includes state courts in Illinois and Wisconsin, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the United States Supreme Court.

## **Derrick Mullen**

### **VP, Director of Casualty Claims and Litigation Manager Seneca Insurance Company**

Derrick Mullen is a Vice President with the responsibility for handling complex and high exposure litigated claims involving major coverage issues, coordinating mediation days, manages a plaintiff doctors spreadsheet as well as managing defense and coverage law firms at Seneca Insurance Company, Inc. Since 1991, he has also worked for Hartford Insurance Company and Crum & Forster Insurance Company as an inside claims representative and an auto claims supervisor. Derrick gained a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Engineering at Gardner Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. In his current role, Derrick specializes in commercial general liability insurance claims, as well as first party property litigation filed against the company.

Derrick's success in this area is supported by excellent negotiation and communication skills, high claim technical ability, leadership, organizational skills combined with a special interest in coverage, habitability, products defect as well as construction defect claims. Derrick also carries an insurance adjusting license in 17-States and has a designation as a Master Certified Special Arbitrator (MCSA) as well as a Certified Claims Professional (CCP) designation. Derrick lives in Ozone Park, New York with his cat named Kobe. When not working, Derrick likes to watch movies, spend time with his two adult daughters, attend sporting events, workout, travel and dine at restaurants.

**Barbara Murillo**

**Manager Legal Counsel  
Greyhound/Flixbus**

**Gordon Pennington**

**CEO  
Global Guardian Services**

As founder and CEO of Global Guardian Services, Gordon Pennington brings over 20 years of leadership experience in insurance and risk management. His career highlights include leading national claims operations, supervising teams of hundreds, and [resolving complex claims](#) for a diverse client base. With dual bachelor's degrees in Business and Accounting and an MBA in Organizational Development, Gordon is committed to delivering tailored claims solutions, ensuring compliance, and fostering lasting client relationships. His dedication to excellence drives GGS's mission to provide trusted, results-driven services.

**Ian Rapaport**

**Chief Defense Strategy Officer  
MAGMUTUAL**

**Annette Rowinski**

**Senior Area Claims Manager  
Trinity Health**

Annette Rowinski RN CPHRM has worked in the Insurance and Risk Management Department at Trinity Health-Michigan for 41 years. She is a Senior Area Claims Manager who leads a team of claim professionals for the Michigan region. Her responsibilities include claim management and timely resolution of high exposure cases in HPL, GL and EPL litigation. Annette's caseload is primarily focused on obstetrical/birth trauma litigation as she previously worked as an obstetrical nurse. Annette is a member of American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) and Michigan Society for Healthcare Risk Management (MSHRM).

## **Aileen Schwartz**

### **General Counsel Altmedarb**

Aileen R. Schwartz has over 30 years of legal experience with greater than 24 years in-house counsel experience in the construction and real estate industries.

Most recently, serving as Senior Vice President, General Counsel Americas, and Chief Privacy Officer at Hill International, Inc., formerly a publicly traded NYSE listed corporation which became a private subsidiary of Global Infrastructure Solutions Inc. in 2022 providing program management, project management, construction management, project management oversight, construction claims, dispute resolution, advisory, facilities management, and other consulting services to clients in a variety of market sectors. At Hill, for over 18 years, responsibilities included reporting on a broad range of legal and business issues as well as contract and lease review and negotiation, litigation management, mergers and acquisitions, advising on construction law, employment law, insurance coverage, labor and employment law, benefits, human resource investigations, SEC matters, implementation and compliance worldwide with privacy laws, and response and prevention to cyber security breaches.

Formerly served as General Counsel, Human Resource Coordinator, and Corporate Secretary to The Quaker Group, as well as President of Quaker Construction, Inc., a private company specializing in development and construction of commercial and residential real estate, construction management, property management and investment. Responsibilities included all corporate legal matters from planning, land use, approvals through construction and dedication, as well as labor and employment issues and investigations, board of directors and entity management.

Extensive experience in international and business law matters. Involved in handling complex litigation, business advice, and contractual issues in the areas of construction, insurance, real estate, corporate, employment, human resources, privacy, security, technology, benefits, SEC, mergers and acquisitions.

Graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the University of Pennsylvania, College of Arts and Sciences. Licensed to practice law in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, as well as before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

## **Matthew Spector**

**SVP, Excess Complex and Environmental Claims Leader  
Chubb**

Matt began his career in 2003 with New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance handling various 1st and 3rd party claims. In 2006, Matt began with Harleysville Insurance (Nationwide) working as a Commercial Claims Examiner handling both Property Damage and Bodily Injury claims. He moved to York Risk Services in 2009 handling high exposure casualty claims for various insurers and clients. In 2012 Matt joined Hess Corporation in a Risk Management role in their Corporate Insurance department managing their foreign and domestic claims along with overseeing their TPA operations. In 2014, Matt joined CHUBB as a Sr. Claims Director in the Primary Complex Casualty unit. Matt has spent his last ten years at Chubb handling roles of increasing responsibility.

Within CHUBB, his current role is Vice President, Excess Casualty and Environmental Claims Leader. He currently manages a team of Excess Complex Claims groups, which consists of 2 AVP – Claims Managers and 13 technicians, along with the Environmental group, which consists of three managers and 15 technicians. Matt is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he was a business management major. Matt also has achieved multiple insurance designations including AIC, LPCS and AINS.

## **David Stark**

**Executive Legal Advisor  
Stark Creative Industries**

Stark is a former executive vice president and chief legal officer for Teva Pharmaceuticals. He spent about half his 21-year tenure there leading the company's legal team through major challenges such as complex litigations and multi-billion dollar transactions. But with that part of his career in the rearview mirror, Stark is thinking about ways to share his experiences and pass down his knowledge to attorneys, both young and old, within and without the healthcare ecosystem, with a strong focus on heavily regulated industries.

## **Paige Toth**

**Vice President, Associate General Counsel  
Hospital Sisters Health System**

## **Bakari Watkins**

**SVP, Head of TPA Management**

## **Clear Blue Insurance Group**

Bakari L. Watkins is Head Senior VP, Claims at Clear Blue Insurance Group, bringing extensive expertise in claims management within the insurance sector.

## **Jill White**

**Area Claims Manager  
Trinity Health**

## **Jonathan Wilson**

**Deputy General Counsel  
United Healthcare**

Jonathan D. Wilson serves as Deputy General Counsel at UnitedHealth Group, bringing extensive legal expertise to the insurance sector. They provide counsel on complex legal matters, focusing on regulatory compliance within the healthcare landscape.