

## MEET OUR FIRST TIMERS



### Anne K. Averitt

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP  
Birmingham, AL USA

[Biography](#)



### Dana Baiocco

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Philadelphia, PA USA

[Biography](#)



### Eric Brotten

Lynx FinHealth Inc.  
Boston, MA USA

[Biography](#)



### Robyn Buck

Bayer U.S.  
Saint Louis, MO USA

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### Rinaldo Cartaya

Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer P.A.  
Orlando, FL USA

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### Marie E. Chafe

Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP  
Boston, MA USA

#### [Biography](#)

Primary Practice Areas: Product Liability, Commercial Lit, Toxic Torts  
IADC Committee Involvement: Product Liability, Empowerment Collaborative

Marie is a civil and commercial trial attorney with vast experience representing business clients in the defense and trial of an array of disputes, including wrongful death and catastrophic injuries in complex product liability matters (automotive, medical devices, construction and industrial equipment, building products, consumer and recreational products), transportation issues, toxic torts and asbestos litigation, business and franchise disputes, and consequential warranty claims against U.S. and international manufacturers, distributors, and insurers. She has worked with hundreds of general counsel, national counsel, and insurers to develop a strategy for successful litigation defense. Marie tries cases in the state and federal courts of Massachusetts and Connecticut.



### Melanie E. Chung-Tims

MG+M The Law Firm  
Miami, FL USA

#### [Biography](#)








### Mark Clark






Parsons McEntire McCleary & Clark PLLC  
Houston, TX USA

#### [Biography](#)



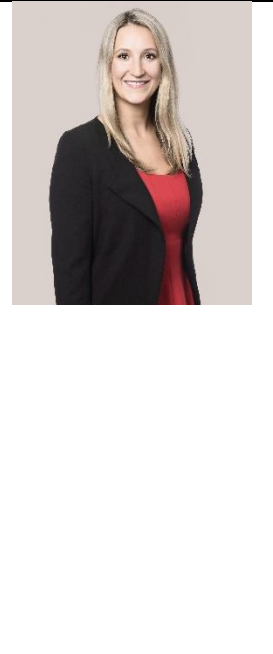
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	<p><b>Geoffrey M. Coan</b> Hinshaw &amp; Culbertson LLP Boston, MA USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Keven Drummond Eiber</b> Stanley Black &amp; Decker, Inc. Cleveland, OH USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Litigation</p>
	<p><b>Lane Finch</b> Swift, Currie, McGhee &amp; Hiers, LLP Birmingham, AL USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Phillip E. Foco</b> Bienvenu, Foco, &amp; Viator, LLC Baton Rouge, LA USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Robert Graham</b> Bristows LLP London, England</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Technology litigation and intellectual property</p>

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	<p><b>Jennifer Green</b> DeHay &amp; Elliston, L.L.P. Dallas, TX USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Angela Guitar</b> AXA XL New York, NY USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Lars E. Gulbrandsen</b> Quarles &amp; Brady LLP Milwaukee, WI USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Product Liability</p>
	<p><b>Kristen Harris</b> BlueOval SK, LLC Fort Worth, TX USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> In-house, Automotive, Corporate</p>
	<p><b>Heather Hatfield</b> Porter &amp; Hedges, LLP Houston, TX USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Litigation</p>

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	<p><b>Suzanne Hill</b> Rumberger, Kirk &amp; Caldwell, P.A. Orlando, FL USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Jay Mattappally</b> Irwin Fritchie Urquhart Moore &amp; Daniels, LLC New Orleans, LA USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Litigation <u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Social Justice Pro Bono, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Drug, Device and Biotechnology</p> <p>Litigation defense of product manufacturers, including medical device, pharmaceutical, chemical, and consumer-product manufacturers in individual and mass-tort actions. Background in Biomedical Engineering, Mathematics, and Engineering Management.</p>
	<p><b>Alexandra Mitretodis</b> Fasken Martineau Vancouver, BC Canada</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Class actions, commercial litigation, and arbitration</p> <p>Alexandra Mitretodis is a litigation and dispute resolution Partner in Fasken’s Vancouver office with a practice in class actions, international and domestic commercial arbitration, and commercial litigation. She works on complex files that often have a multi-jurisdictional or international dimension. Alexandra has extensive experience with clients in the technology industry, as well as expertise in privacy and cybersecurity, competition and consumer protection matters.</p>

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### Andrés Moreno Gutierrez

Moreno Baldivieso Estudio de Abogados  
La Paz, Bolivia

[Biography](#)

Primary Practice Areas: Arbitration, Insurance, M&A



### Mark R. Nash

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP  
Atlanta, GA United States

[Biography](#)



### Tonya G. Newman

Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP  
Chicago, IL USA

[Biography](#)



### Timothy B. Niedbalski

Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C.  
Saint Louis, MO USA

[Biography](#)

Primary Practice Areas: Products liability, trucking

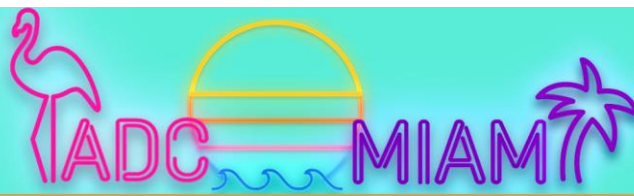


### Elizabeth H. Overmann


Ragsdale Liggett, PLLC  
Raleigh, NC USA

[Biography](#)




Primary Practice Areas: Civil Defense of Commercial & Professional Clients



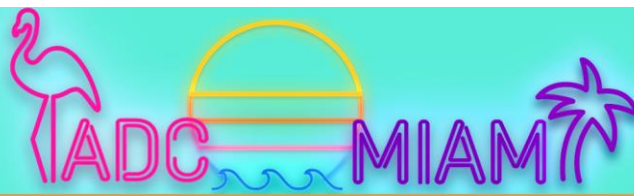
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	<p><u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Insurance and Reinsurance, Transportation</p> <p>Elizabeth is an experienced civil defense litigator whose practice for the past twenty years has focused on transportation with an emphasis on trucking, personal injury, and catastrophic injuries. She has also handled complex construction, premises, and product liability matters. With extensive knowledge of accident preservation and reconstruction, property inspections, expert reviews, and fire investigations, Elizabeth is regularly called on to facilitate and protect clients from the scene of an incident. She works closely with experts on catastrophic injury reviews, handles professional liability defense, adulterated food claims, and insurance coverage analysis. Elizabeth handles complex litigation pre-suit through trial and is admitted to practice before all federal and state courts in North Carolina and South Carolina as well as the state courts in Virginia. In every case, she strives to provide the most efficient and effective strategies to resolve matters favorably for her clients.</p>
	<p><b>Acacia B. Perko</b> Houston Harbaugh, PC Pittsburgh, PA USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Commercial Litigation <u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Intellectual Property, Cyber Security, Data Privacy and Technology</p> <p>Acacia Perko is a business litigation, intellectual property, insurance coverage and bad faith, and insurance defense trial lawyer with an emphasis on the substantive areas of Business Litigation, Trade Secret Law, Intellectual Property, Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Law and Insurance Defense.</p> <p>Acacia has a wide array of experience in all aspects of insurance defense, professional liability, insurance, and business litigation, including first and second chair trial experience and appellate advocacy. She is licensed in Ohio</p>



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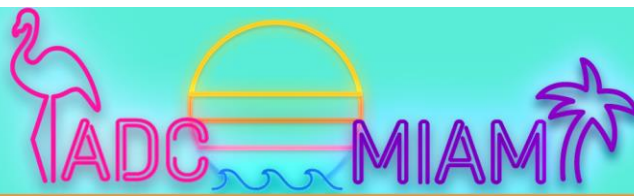
	<p>and Pennsylvania, where she has represented clients in state and federal court, securing defense verdicts and favorable outcomes for them.</p> <p>Acacia has been recognized as a “Rising Star” and “Ones to Watch” by Ohio <i>Super Lawyers</i> Magazine every year since 2017.</p> <p>Prior to joining Houston Harbaugh, Acacia was a Shareholder at Reminger Co., LPA, where she served on the firm’s management team and chaired the firm’s Women’s Leadership Council.</p> <p>In law school, Acacia graduated in the top 10 while clerking for a defense firm, serving on the Law Review Executive Board, and externing for the Southern District of Ohio for the Honorable Gregory L. Frost and for the Third District Court of Appeals for the Honorable Richard Rogers</p>
	<p><b>Kaytie M. Pickett</b>        Jones Walker LLP        Jackson, MS USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Dean Richardson</b>        Moye White LLP        Denver, CO USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Michael J. Rossi</b>        Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch &amp; Ford, LLP        Boston, MA USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Professional Liability, Business Litigation  <u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Professional Liability</p>







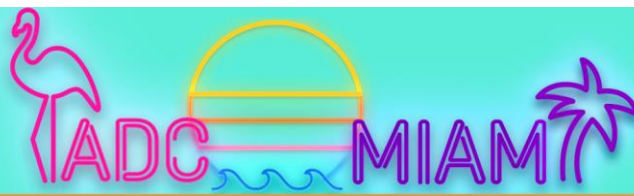
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	<p>I am a litigation partner at Conn Kavanaugh in Boston. My practice focuses on professional liability, business litigation, and employment matters.</p>
	<p><b>Robert Sands</b>                  Trane Technologies                  Davidson, NC USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Niki Schaefer</b>                  Reliability First                  Cleveland, OH USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Regulatory and Energy Law  <u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Corporate Compliance and Government Actions</p> <p>As Vice President and General Counsel for ReliabilityFirst, Niki Schaefer leads the Legal, Enforcement, and Compliance Monitoring (auditing) teams. ReliabilityFirst is one of six companies across the country that have statutory authority delegated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to regulate the reliability of electricity. Niki is responsible for ensuring ReliabilityFirst’s auditing and enforcement functions are effectively executed for electric utilities in the 13 states and Washington, D.C. that make up the ReliabilityFirst footprint.</p> <p>Niki returned to ReliabilityFirst from Eaton Corporation where she served as legal counsel to senior leadership teams across multiple business units within Eaton’s Electrical Sector supporting more than \$2 billion in revenue. Prior to Eaton, Niki was the Managing Enforcement Counsel at ReliabilityFirst and directed the teams responsible for carrying out enforcement of electric reliability regulations. Before working in the electric industry, Niki was a trial lawyer at Benesch Friedlander litigating commercial</p>





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	<p>and personal injury cases in State and Federal Courts across the country. She was also an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Law.</p> <p>In addition to earning multiple professional awards, Niki is active in the Cleveland community through volunteer work for University Hospitals and the American Heart Association. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of The Gathering Place, a non-profit that provides free therapeutic services to people with cancer and their loved ones.</p> <p>Niki received her B.A. with honors in American Studies from Cornell University, and graduated cum laude from CWRU School of Law where she received an academic scholarship. She lives in Chagrin Falls, Ohio with her husband, son, daughter, and their two dogs. In her free time, Niki is an avid runner and snowboarder, loves to cook and entertain, and is a close follower of politics and fashion.</p>
	<p><b>Matt Schroll</b>                  Nelson Mullins Riley &amp; Scarborough LLP                  Miami, FL USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Product Liability</p>
	<p><b>Jonathan Schwartz</b>                  Freeman Mathis &amp; Gary LLP                  Chicago, IL USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Insurance  <u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Insurance and Reinsurance</p> <p>Jonathan L. Schwartz is a partner in and the Vice-Chair of the Insurance Coverage and Extracontractual Liability Practice Section of Freeman Mathis</p>



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	<p>&amp; Gary, LLP. He resides in Chicago and is admitted to practice in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts.</p> <p>Jonathan concentrates his practice on insurance coverage litigation and counseling, arising from matters involving commercial and residential property, primary and excess commercial general liability, cyber, D&amp;O, E&amp;O, and commercial auto and trucking liability insurance policies. In addition, Jonathan's extensive experience includes defending data privacy, media liability, and intellectual property litigation and E&amp;O claims against insurance agents and brokers.</p>
	<p><b>James Shepherd</b>                  Shook, Hardy &amp; Bacon L.L.P.                  Houston, TX USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p>James' practice focuses on representing and advising clients on product liability and toxic tort litigations with an emphasis on mass torts. James is a nationally recognized leader in his areas of expertise, serving as national counsel representing pharmaceutical and chemical companies for the past 20 years in bet-the-company mass product liability litigations. His broad and deep experience has allowed him to devise and implement efficient, effective, and winning litigation and trial strategies. James currently serves as national counsel for Bayer/Monsanto in its Roundup litigation where he has helped devise and execute strategies that have led to numerous trial victories. He recently was a member of the trial team that delivered the first defense verdict in Monsanto's home state of Missouri.</p>
	<p><b>Daniel Steen</b>                  Lawyers for Civil Justice                  Arlington, VA USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>

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	<p><b>Ethan Stein</b> Gibbons Law Providence, RI USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Products Liability, Mass Tort</p>
	<p><b>Kristin Stephenson</b> St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Memphis, TN USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>
	<p><b>Adam Stone</b> Jones Walker LLP Jackson, MS USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p> <p><u>Primary Practice Areas:</u> Commercial Litigation <u>IADC Committee Involvement:</u> Construction Law and Litigation</p>
	<p><b>Jeff Young</b> Hitachi ABB Power Grids Raleigh, NC USA</p> <p><a href="#">Biography</a></p>