

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Craig A. Thompson

2023 Corporate Counsel College Dean

Venable LLP

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Craig Thompson represents clients in the areas of commercial litigation, product liability, premises liability, and personal injury. He is an assertive trial lawyer and legal counselor with significant experience handling civil cases before federal and state courts throughout the country. His knowledge of technology, legal, and business administration enables him to resolve numerous cases by assessing liability and developing risk management strategies. His professional motto — "add value and provide solutions" — has guided him in the service of clients ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to mezzanine-level companies. He also has a thriving practice representing pharmacies against claims of alleged drug misfills.



Amy Sherry Fischer

Dean-Elect of the 2024 Corporate Counsel College

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Amy Sherry Fischer is a shareholder at Foliart, Huff, Ottaway, & Bottom in Oklahoma City, OK. She is a graduate of the University of Tulsa (B.A.) and University of Oklahoma College of Law. She has extensive experience in the areas of products liability, particularly drug and medical products, personal injury, and medical liability. Ms. Fischer also is actively involved in mass tort litigation, including class actions and toxic torts. She defended Johnson & Johnson in the first opioid trial in the U.S. She also defends insurance companies in direct actions and businesses in commercial disputes. She is Past President of the IADC, a member of FDCC, a member of the ADTA, and a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, among other organizations. She is consistently listed in *Best Lawyers* and *Super Lawyers*.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Mark R. Beebe

2022-2023 IADC President

Adams and Reese LLP

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Mark Beebe is a partner at Adams and Reese LLP in New Orleans where he has practiced for 33 years in the area of business litigation, including class actions, antitrust, securities, D&O and E&O liability, contract disputes, and education law. He represents and advises multi-national companies, financial institutions, insurance companies, and privately-held businesses. Since 2007, he has been recognized for his work in both commercial litigation and antitrust by *Best Lawyers in America* and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*. He is also recognized by *Chambers* in the area of General Commercial Litigation. Mr. Beebe has served his firm in various roles including on its Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, as Litigation Practice Group Leader, Recruiting Chair, Business Litigation Team Leader, Emerging Practice Areas Liaison, and is an originating member of its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. For his contributions in pro bono, his firm has recognized Mark as a CA&RE Lawyer of the Year.



Michele Abraham

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An accomplished executive lawyer and respected corporate and community leader, Michele Abraham provides global leadership to ethics and compliance, corporate sustainability, risk management and legal initiatives. She strategically counsels company executives and the board of directors to prevent, detect, and mitigate risk while instilling an ethical culture, ensuring compliance with regulations, and effectively and efficiently integrating risk mitigation activities with business strategy. Under her leadership, her employers earned recognition by Ethisphere Institute as being among the World's Most Ethical Companies a total of ten times and three times by *Newsweek* as being among America's Most Responsible Companies.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Mark Behrens

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Mark Behrens co-chairs the Washington, DC-based Public Policy Group of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP. He has more than thirty years of experience working on civil justice issues and defense litigation. A substantial part of his practice is working to improve the civil litigation environment through legislation; in the courts through amicus curiae briefs on behalf of business, civil justice, and defense lawyer organizations; through legal scholarship and judicial education; and in the court of public opinion.

He chairs the IADC's Civil Justice Response Committee and serves on Lawyers for Civil Justice's Board of Directors. In 2016, Mark received the IADC's Joan Fullam Irick Award for his work as Civil Justice Response Committee Chair. In 2015, he received the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform's Individual Achievement Award.

He has authored or co-authored more than 150 amicus briefs on behalf of national and state business and civil justice organizations in cases before the United States Supreme Court, federal appellate courts, and state appellate courts. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and numerous state legislatures. He has also served as an expert witness in trials and arbitrations. He received a Burton Award for Legal Achievement and has published more than 50 scholarly articles in leading national journals and law reviews.

He received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1990 and B.A. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1987.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Lawrence Braggi

IBM

Armonk, NY United States

Mr. Braggi has been supporting legal technology for more than 30 years. Half of that time has been with five AMLAW 200 firms serving as Litigation Support Manager and IT Director. The other half with consulting firms such as FTI & Navigant.

He is currently leading the litigation support effort for IBM's Corporate Litigation Department with a focus on innovation, process improvement, and addressing new data formats such as Slack.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Nicole M. Brunson

Arrival

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Nicole M. Brunson is Head of Litigation & Disputes with Arrival. In this global role, she practices general litigation, product liability, and commercial litigation with a focus on risk mitigation. She also advises on various corporate matters. Before joining Arrival in 2021, she served as Associate General Counsel with Trane Technologies and an associate at Swanson Martin & Bell, LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Chicago, Illinois.

She serves the business in mitigation of risk, management of litigation matters and costs, and the provision of legal insight on business decisions. Nicole's varied background in physical science and sales and management provides a strong foundation for her role as a dispute resolutionist and business partner to her clients.

A big believer in "paying it forward," she is active in the Association of Corporate Counsel Charlotte Chapter and served as President during 2020. She was awarded the *Charlotte Business Journal's* Rising Star in 2014 and named a 2019 nominee for Outstanding Corporate Counsel. She is a certified mentor with Mentor Collective and has earned the elite ACC In-House Counsel Certified (ICC) designation.

She is a 2006 graduate of Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington (n/k/a/ Maurer School of Law) and 1998 graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana (B.S. Biochemistry). She obtained an MBA in Marketing and Management from Christian Brothers University in 2002. She enjoys cooking, traveling, Peloton, and family time with her four children, a boxer named Stella, and her extraordinary husband, James.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Jillian Charles

Honeywell

Charlotte, NC United States

Jillian Charles is a strategic risk leader and reliable advisor to boards and C-Suite executives. She has expertise in a range of business-critical areas, including antitrust/competition law, anticorruption, international trade sanctions, and M&A due diligence and integration. She has solved complex legal problems in industries that include aerospace, power generation and distribution, specialty chemicals and advanced materials, productivity/sensing solutions, safety and health, and enterprise performance management software. Currently, she heads the global antitrust and anticorruption practice for Honeywell International Inc., a fortune 100 industrial software company with a presence in more than 140 countries. Over the years, she has held similar roles at other large multi-industry multinationals, having built her career navigating the increasingly complex and interconnected international regulatory landscape. Jillian's government service included two tours of duty with the Department of Justice Antitrust Division, serving as counsel for the Directors of Civil and Criminal Enforcement and as an Attorney Advisor for Legal Policy. She began in career in private practice in Washington, D.C.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Christine Egner

Continental Tire the Americas

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Chris S. Egner is a corporate attorney at Continental Tire the Americas, LLC in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Ms. Egner provides general legal advice, contract drafting/negotiation, and NPM purchasing support. She is also a legal advisor to Human Relations, including responding to claims of discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, and conduct compliance training. She manages external counsel during all phases of litigation. She serves as the Chairman of the Information Governance Committee responsible for the management and evolution of Continental's U.S. legal hold data retention systems to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable U.S. legal standards. She is a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Board Member and Co-Founder of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Network at Continental.

Ms. Egner is a Board Member of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Charlotte, North Carolina Chapter, and is the Chair of the Corporate Counsel Committee of the International Association of Defense Counsel. In 2016, she co-published "Simplifying Through Storytelling: Use of Animations and Graphics in Complex Product Liability Claims."

She earned her J.D. from Nova Southeastern University. She is admitted to the Florida Bar, Southern District of Florida, Middle District of Florida, and Northern District of Florida.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Sherylle Francis

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Sherylle is a Senior Managing Associate General Counsel at Universal Property and Casualty Insurance Company. Sherylle previously founded and managed her own law practice where she represented local and international companies in a variety of civil matters. She is a seasoned trial lawyer with more than 20 years of experience defending major corporations, including insurers, pharmaceutical, pharmaceutical compounding, automotive, and heavy-duty equipment manufacturers, in commercial, product, and unfair trade practice litigation, including multi-party mass tort litigation in state and federal courts nationwide and in the United States Virgin Islands.

Sherylle previously served as Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair of Broward Legal Aid and Coast to Coast Legal Aid, and as a board member of the Women's Council of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Lynne Mitchell Foundation. She is also a past President of the Caribbean Bar Association and serves as a mentor and volunteer with Learning for Success, Inc. Sherylle is the 2022 recipient of the organization's Special Presentation Award for her commitment to excellence in education.

Sherylle is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit civil mediator and serves as the Co-Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") section of the Broward County Bar Association in Florida. Sherylle is a court-appointed mediator in a variety of civil matters in Florida state courts. She also serves as a Vice Chair on the Alternative Dispute Resolution, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Cyber Security, Data Privacy and Technology, and Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committees of the IADC.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Heidi B. Friedman

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Heidi B. (Goldstein) Friedman is a partner in Thompson Hine’s Environmental and Product Liability Litigation practice groups and co-chair of the firm’s ESG Collaborative. She focuses her practice on environmental, health, and safety counseling in business, regulatory, and legislative matters; environmental and toxic tort litigation; environmental enforcement actions; site remediation; product stewardship; and compliance with environmental regulations. Friedman serves as national environmental counsel for many large corporations, including Fortune 500 companies, often providing legal support utilizing flexible staffing and value-based pricing.

Friedman is co-chair of the ESG Collaborative, Thompson Hine’s multidisciplinary team that was created to assist clients as ESG factors have become increasingly important priorities for their investors, customers, employees, and other stakeholders. In this role, she partners with clients to meet their evolving ESG needs and objectives and provides guidance on developing or expanding sustainability, diversity and social stewardship strategies. Friedman believes that counsel can play a valuable role in serving as strategic, trusted advisors who holistically evaluate the risks and opportunities presented by all categories of the “E,” “S,” and “G.” Friedman has been interviewed by and published in multiple outlets on ESG topics, including *Law360*, *Bloomberg Law*, *Of Counsel*, *Corporate Counsel*, and *The AmLaw Litigation Daily*.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Karen Glickstein

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Karen R. Glickstein is a principal and the Office Litigation Manager in Jackson Lewis' Kansas City office where her practice focuses on the management side of employment law. Ms. Glickstein has represented employers before administrative agencies, arbitration panels, and state and federal courts in matters ranging from single plaintiff employment cases to EEOC class actions. She is a past member of DRI's Board of Directors and Law Institute and was awarded DRI's 2015 Mary Massaron Award for advancing women in the legal profession. Ms. Glickstein was appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court to its Civil Rules of Procedure Committee, a position she continues to hold. She is also a past chair of the Missouri Bar's Committee on Women in the Profession. She is listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers* for Business, Labor & Employment (Kansas City and Surrounds) and has been selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* since 2008. She has also been named a *Super Lawyer* for multiple years, including recognition as one of the Top 50 Female Lawyers in Missouri and Kansas for multiple, consecutive years. She served on the Faculty of the 2016 IADC Trial Academy (go MisFritz!) and was IADC CLE Chair for the 2021-2022 program year. She is a proud *cum laude* graduate of Smith College and received her J.D. from Northwestern University.



Thomas J. Harris III

Cushman & Wakefield
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Thomas Harris is Assistant General Counsel (Labor and Employment) at Cushman & Wakefield in Chicago, Illinois.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



John Jablonski

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John J. Jablonski is a founder and Managing Partner of Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady LLP – a startup law firm providing alternative pricing and innovative use of technology. He chairs the firm’s Cyber, Technology and Information Governance Practice Group. He has more than 25 years of experience advising clients on enterprise-wide initiatives involving data privacy and security, information governance, IT governance, preservation of evidence, legal holds, litigation readiness, privacy and security of enterprise technology, applications and cloud-based systems (including click-wrap and browse-wrap agreements, terms and conditions, master services, service level and software licensing agreements, and website privacy statements), matter management software, enterprise-wide electronic evidence preservation and e-discovery solutions. John helps organizations of all sizes with baseline assessments, developing organizational goals for governance, process and security improvements, identifying and implementing IT governance frameworks, maturity assessments, compliance assessments and legal hold policies, procedures, and training. John is a co-author of the upcoming book "7 Reasonable Steps for Legal Holds of ESI and Other Documents" (ARMA 2023).

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS

Nancy J. Laben

Booz Allen

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Nancy Laben is the chief legal officer for Booz Allen Hamilton and leads the law department, which spans numerous functions including corporate governance, government contract law, employment law, securities law, and investigations. She is also a member of the firm's leadership team.

Her areas of expertise include ethics and compliance; mergers and acquisitions; governance corporate securities; contracting; litigation and employment law; and enterprise risk management.

Before joining Booz Allen, she served as general counsel at AECOM Technologies. There she was responsible for all legal support and led a team of 55 attorneys as well as contract advisors and outside counsel.

Prior to that she served as deputy general counsel at Accenture, where she held senior positions supporting the company's U.S., Europe, and Asia business. She has also served in the law department at IBM Corp.

She holds a B.A. in government and East Asian studies, with honors, from Smith College and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Latrice N. Lee

Alaska Airlines

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Latrice N. Lee is Senior Corporate Counsel at Alaska Airlines. Formerly she was Principal Commercial Counsel for GitHub, Inc. and in that role was responsible for supporting the revenue and marketing teams by negotiating deals as well as providing advice and counsel to mitigate risk for the company. Prior to joining GitHub, she was an employment attorney for both Microsoft and Lowe's companies. While in private practice at Posinelli PC in Kansas City, MO, Latrice handled wage and hour class actions and individual suits regarding discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation, disability accommodation, and compliance matters.

She received her law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law and her bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. She is the Executive Vice President- Elect for the Junior League of Seattle as well as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Veronica M. Lei

Eli Lilly and Company
Indianapolis, IN United States

Veronica M. Lei is Assistant General Counsel - Lilly Diabetes Alliance at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, Indiana where she provides strategic legal advice to product development and brand teams for the Lilly-Boehringer Ingelheim Global Diabetes Alliance. In her prior roles at Lilly, she led a global, internal privileged investigation team consisting of attorneys dedicated to examining the company's highest risk and most complicated matters. Ms. Lei also directed the company's defense of litigation with and investigations by external entities, specifically in the areas of pharmaceutical pricing and in response to federal and state government requests for information. When she first came to Lilly, she advised on issues relating to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and counseled her company's Ethics and Compliance function. Before joining Lilly, Ms. Lei was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for more than six years in the Boston U.S. Attorney's Office, specializing in asset forfeiture and financial investigations. She began her career as a litigation associate at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP (now Dentons) in Chicago and then clerked for the Honorable Morris E. Lasker on the U.S. District Court in the District of Massachusetts. Ms. Lei graduated from Harvard University School of Law and from Columbia College, Columbia University.

Ms. Lei serves on the Board for Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis.

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Roman Martinez

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Roman Martinez is the Deputy Office Managing Partner of the Washington, DC office of Latham & Watkins. As a member of the firm's Supreme Court & Appellate Practice, he focuses primarily on appeals in the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Courts of Appeals, and state appellate courts. Mr. Martinez's practice encompasses civil and criminal matters spanning virtually all areas of law. He has argued 13 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, involving a wide range of legal issues including arbitration, First Amendment, civil procedure, criminal, intellectual property, and civil rights law. Mr. Martinez previously served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice, as a law clerk to Chief Justice Roberts and then-Judge Brett Kavanaugh, and in various foreign policy roles at the U.S. Department of Defense and at the White House.



Taylor Meehan

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Taylor Meehan is a partner at Consovoy McCarthy PLLC. She represents clients in all phases of litigation in the federal courts, from district court to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her practice before the Supreme Court has included constitutional issues, complex statutory issues, and election law. In 2021, the Supreme Court appointed Ms. Meehan to brief and argue an immigration case, *Patel v. Garland*, as a court-appointed amicus curiae. She is a former judicial law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia and Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge William Pryor Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. She graduated with high honors from the University of Chicago Law School and *summa cum laude* from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. An Indiana native, she currently lives just outside of Chicago with her husband and four children.

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Christopher G. Michel

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Chris Michel is Co-Chair of the National Appellate Practice at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP. Based in Washington, D.C., his practice focuses on complex legal issues at all stages of litigation, with a particular emphasis on appellate and Supreme Court matters. During his time at the firm, he has represented clients in high-stakes disputes in the areas of antitrust, securities, corporate governance, intellectual property, international relations, and criminal law, among others.

He joined the firm from the Office of the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he argued 10 cases before the Supreme Court, briefed roughly 200 Supreme Court cases at the certiorari and merits stages, and advised the Solicitor General on all aspects of federal litigation strategy. He also served as a counselor to the Attorney General on civil litigation matters and as a special adviser in the White House Counsel's Office.

He began his legal career as a law clerk to Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., at the Supreme Court, and to Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, who was then sitting on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Before attending law school, he worked at the White House under President George W. Bush, whom he served as Director of Speechwriting, drafting more than 500 presidential speeches including five State of the Union addresses. He is a native of California and a graduate of Yale Law School and Yale College, where he played on the varsity golf team.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Erin Murphy

*Clement & Murphy PLLC
Washington, DC United States*

Erin Murphy is widely recognized as one of the nation's leading Supreme Court and appellate advocates. She has argued dozens of cases in appellate and trial courts throughout the country, including the Supreme Court and nearly all of the federal courts of appeals. She is one of only seven women in the top two bands of *Chambers & Partners* rankings for Appellate Law–Nationwide, and the *National Law Journal* has named her one of the nation's "Outstanding Women Lawyers." She has litigated appeals involving myriad provisions of the Constitution, including several cases involving the Constitution's structural protections of liberty. She has litigated a wide range of statutory issues as well, including cases involving the Affordable Care Act, the Bankruptcy Code, the False Claims Act, the Federal Arbitration Act, the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act, the National Labor Relations Act, and more. The *National Law Journal* named Erin a "Litigation Trailblazer" for her work representing institutional clients, which includes successfully arguing before the Supreme Court on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Wisconsin State Legislature. She also has an active pro bono practice, through which she has successfully represented many religious organizations and adherents, criminal defendants, asylum applicants, adoptive parents, and more.

She is an adjunct professor at her alma mater the Georgetown University Law Center, a member and former officer of the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court, and a frequent speaker on topics relating to the Supreme Court and appellate advocacy. In her spare time, she serves on the boards of directors of Street Law and the Mother of Light Center.

2023 CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Amanda Perez

Pfizer Inc.

New York, NY United States

Amanda T. Perez received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1998. After graduating from law school, Ms. Perez clerked for the Honorable Joseph Irenas in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Ms. Perez spent nine years practicing law at the New York office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, and subsequently joined Schering-Plough Corporation (now Merck & Co., Inc.) as a Senior Legal Director. Ms. Perez is currently Vice President, Chief Counsel Civil Litigation at Pfizer Inc. in New York City. Ms. Perez is responsible for a diverse portfolio of litigations for Pfizer, including securities litigation, mass tort, product liability, consumer fraud, and general commercial matters.



Valerie E. Ross

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Valerie Ross manages product liability litigation, primarily for toxic tort matters arising out of exposure to asbestos. She oversees every component, from high-level strategy to the collection and analysis of related research. Valerie has extensive experience working with medical experts, medical historians, memory experts, and company witnesses, and she has litigated in state and federal courts across the country.

In addition to her comprehensive product liability and toxic tort experience, Valerie is well-versed in insurance, environmental, and professional responsibility litigation. Her strong interpersonal and translational skills allow her to effectively communicate and manage the complex circumstances of each case, ensuring that clients are positioned to achieve the best possible outcome.

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Sheila Schiffman

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As a corporate counsel with experience advising public, privately owned, and private equity backed companies, Sheila Schiffman has the best of all worlds: an intersection between corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and building relationships with stakeholders and other executive leaders domestically and internationally. She thrives on finding practical solutions through unpacking problems, analyzing nuances, and strategically partnering with others during times of crisis and times of growth.

Her career journey has allowed her to develop extensive relationships with business leaders, stakeholders, and attorneys to improve organizations and achieve business impact. Whether it is closing a deal or unwinding it, mitigating HR issues, training other corporate counsel and leadership, or managing a legal department budget, she is committed to completing the task effectively, thoroughly, and successfully.

She is regarded as a great connector, bridge-builder, and problem-solver who excels in leading people, positions, organizations, and stakeholders through sound judgment, trusted advice, and guidance. Sheila frequently serves as an active participant in general counsel networks and with other thought leaders in the legal industry to share best practices.

Currently at Vitesco Technologies, she leads the Global Commercial Law team and the Americas Compliance, Law and Intellectual Property (CLIP) team. Together with my multinational teams we partner with the business to provide guidance and advice on all legal topics, ensure compliance with Vitesco Technologies' operations and activities, manage litigation and outside counsel, and support corporate record-keeping and governance activities.

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Makila Scruggs

*Trane Technologies
Davidson, NC United States*

Makila Scruggs is Vice President, Deputy General Counsel—Labor & Employment, North America for Trane Technologies. She manages the Labor & Employment function and advises the company on all facets of labor and employment law. In addition to her employment practice, she is a certified data privacy professional and advises the company on global data privacy laws. She has been with the company for 10 years and is known for delivering practical, concise, and accurate legal guidance. She graduated Georgetown University with an English honors degree and obtained her juris doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law. She resides in Charlotte with her husband and two sons.



Spencer H. Silvergate

*Clarke Silvergate, P.A.
Miami, FL United States*

Spencer H. Silvergate is a trial lawyer with Clarke Silvergate, PA in Miami, FL. His practice focuses on high stakes commercial litigation and the defense of catastrophic personal injury and product liability claims and class and mass actions.



Mahsa Kashani Tippins

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Mahsa Kashani Tippins is President and In-House Counsel of DCo LLC (f/k/a Dana Companies LLC), a long tail liability division of Enstar Group. DCo is a legacy liability runoff company that manages the legacy asbestos and environmental liabilities of the former Dana Corporation. In this role, she is responsible for leading business initiatives that positively impact growth while managing litigation and decreasing risk. Prior to this role, she was a partner in the northern California office of DeHay & Elliston LLP and defended clients in toxic tort, product liability, and commercial litigation since 2006. She served as National Coordinating Counsel for a product manufacturer and has tried cases successfully to verdict in state and federal court in different parts of the country.

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Jackie Welch

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Jackie Bryk Welch serves as Vice President - Litigation at The J.M. Smucker Company based in Orrville, Ohio. Before joining Smucker, Jackie was an associate at Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC in Charleston, West Virginia, followed by Tucker Ellis LLP in Cleveland, Ohio. Her practice entails overseeing Smucker's litigation portfolio and claims. Jackie resides in Cleveland with her husband (Brian), their three children (Christian – 14, Emely – 4, and Megan – 2), and rambunctious Cavapoo (Penny).



Richard Worf

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Rich Worf has represented clients in all phases of civil litigation and has extensive experience in mass tort and insurance coverage litigation. He was part of the trial team representing the debtor in the *In re Garlock Sealing Technologies* bankruptcy case. There, Garlock convinced the bankruptcy court that its liability for thousands of current and future mesothelioma claims was no more than \$125 million, as opposed to the over \$1 billion estimate urged by asbestos claimants. In reaching that conclusion, the court found a practice in which asbestos plaintiffs and their lawyers failed to disclose material exposure evidence to Garlock that they used to assert claims against asbestos trusts and found that the practice inflated Garlock's mesothelioma settlements.

He regularly represents clients seeking permanent resolutions of mass tort liabilities in bankruptcy or defending putative mass tort class actions. He also advises businesses on mass tort issues when purchasing or investing in distressed assets or conducting corporate restructurings. He is currently special counsel to the debtors in the *In re Bestwall LLC* and *In re DBMP LLC* asbestos-related bankruptcy cases.

He also co-chairs Robinson Bradshaw's Insurance Coverage Practice Group. He represents policyholders, exclusively, in insurance coverage disputes and counsels clients with respect to their coverage needs.

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Kim Yapchai

Tenneco

St. Joseph, MI United States

Kim Yapchai is an accomplished C-suite leader with almost 30 years of experience in multinational public companies where she spent approximately 10 years working with Boards of Directors and committees. She has an extensive background in ESG, risk, compliance, and legal. Her industry experience includes consumer and commercial financing; consumer products manufacturing; automotive components; and residential construction. Her thought leadership on strategic matters is valued and trusted by management and the Tenneco Board of Directors. She is adept at navigating dynamic landscapes in a manner that protects shareholders and supports management and the Board.

Ms. Yapchai successfully applies her strong leadership skills and broad manufacturing experience in multiple roles at Tenneco (NYSE; \$15B revenue; 73,000 employees; 20 countries). Tenneco is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of automotive products. Tenneco purchased Federal-Mogul from a major shareholder activist whose company held a board seat until 2021. Ms. Yapchai currently is the Chief Environmental, Social and Governance Officer of the company, a position created by the CEO based on her proposed ESG strategy. She was elevated to the Executive Leadership Team and the company is now in the top-quartile in its industry. *Newsweek* recognized Tenneco twice as one of America's Most Responsible Companies, and Sustainalytics scores improved 35%. She also enhanced Tenneco's brand by building a world-class compliance program based on company values, earning "Compliance Program of the Year" and Ethisphere's "World's Most Ethical Companies®" designation.

Ms. Yapchai's strategic skills were honed through her legal experience. Her international experience includes successfully navigating issues regarding the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Prior to Tenneco, she achieved Ethisphere's WME designation after integrating acquisitions in Europe and China as Chief Compliance Officer at Whirlpool, the world's largest appliance manufacturer (NYSE; \$20B; 93,000 employees; 50 countries). Before Whirlpool, Ms. Yapchai held roles of increasing responsibility at Masco Corporation (NYSE; \$7B; 30,000 employees; 20+ countries). At this dynamic, entrepreneurial conglomerate, Ms. Yapchai integrated hundreds of companies after acquisitions. Masco's portfolio included plumbing, paint,

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fasteners, windows, automotive, furniture, and insulation installation. Ms. Yapchai's last role at Masco was Assistant General Counsel, responsible for key customer relationships, the compliance program, and oversight of the retail-channel legal team. Ms. Yapchai started her career at Ford Motor Credit Company, a subsidiary of Ford Motor Company (NYSE), where she specialized in the regulated industry of consumer and commercial financing. At Ford, Ms. Yapchai received awards for her collaborative initiative to expand commercial opportunities and for her ability to increase the efficiency of business processes.

As an executive leader, Ms. Yapchai presents frequently to the Board, Audit Committee, and Nominating and Governance Committee. Her experience and skills would make her an asset for any Audit, Risk, Nominating & Governance, or an ESG committee. She is also a member of the Board of Tenneco's captive insurance subsidiary.

Ms. Yapchai's recognitions include: Top Mind by *Compliance Week Magazine*, the Salute to Excellence Award by the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, and the Transformational Leadership – Visionary Leader by *Inside Counsel Magazine*. Ms. Yapchai is a sought-after speaker on topics relating to ESG, leadership, and ethics.

Ms. Yapchai graduated with honors from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Economics. She pursued her interest in business by combining it with a J.D. *cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School where she was a *Wayne Law Review* editor.

Ms. Yapchai is a member of the National Asian Pacific Bar Association and volunteers her time to mentor many women and minorities. She promotes diversity through the Association of Corporate Counsel programs and LegalPrep Academy.