

## 2026 Professional Liability Roundtable



**Timothy F. Sullivan, RPLU**

*Professional Liability Program Chair  
Recreation Risk Retention Group  
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Tim Sullivan has worked in the insurance claims field for about 40 years. For the past 30+ years, Tim has focused on professional liability claims involving lawyers, accountants, public officials, real estate agents, insurance company D&O and E&O, insurance agent E&O, and free flight instructor EO.

Tim is the President & CEO and Chief Claims Officer of Recreation Risk Retention Group, a Vermont domiciled risk retention group serving niche sports and recreation insurance needs, currently focused on the paragliding and hang gliding free flight niche, as well as parasailing operations.

Tim graduated from Indiana University School of Liberal Arts with a BA in Political Science. He received the designation of Registered Professional Liability Underwriter from the Professional Liability Underwriting Society in 1998. Tim is a member of the Defense Research Institute, the International Association of Defense Counsel, and a former director and Board Chair of the National Risk Retention Association.

Tim has been a frequent speaker at insurance association events on a variety of topics relating to claim avoidance for insurance companies and insurance agents, D&O liability, and corporate management issues.





**Constance A. Endelicato**

*Medical Liability Program Chair  
Theodora Oringer PC  
Los Angeles, CA USA  
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Constance A. Endelicato is an accomplished trial lawyer with more than 30 years of experience in defending healthcare and other professionals and holds Advocate status in ABOTA. She is the past Chair of IADC's Medical Defense and Health Law Committee and a past Co-Chair of the PLR conference. She has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*, *Business Insurance*, and *CLM Women to Watch*, Los Angeles and San Francisco's *The Daily Journal's* Top 100 Women Lawyers in California, *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers, *Los Angeles Magazine's* Top Women Attorneys in Southern California, and Super Lawyers. She has received Lawyer Magazine's Award for Elder Abuse Litigation and Women in Law Award and was recognized by *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Women's Council & Awards for outstanding achievement in philanthropy. She has also received the Women's

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|   | <p>Influence &amp; Power in Law Award for Lifetime Achievement and holds AV-Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Steven E. Peiper</b><br/> <i>Insurance Program Chair</i><br/> <i>Hurwitz &amp; Fine, P.C.</i><br/> <i>Buffalo, NY USA</i><br/> <a href="mailto:sep@hurwitzfine.com">sep@hurwitzfine.com</a></p> <p>Steven E. Peiper is Co-Chair of Hurwitz Fine's Insurance Coverage Practice Group and head of the firm's First Party team, where he focuses on insurance coverage analysis and litigation involving both first- and third-party claims. He provides strategic, nationwide counsel on insurance and risk management matters and has successfully litigated cases throughout New York state and in all federal courts in New York. In addition to his coverage practice, he serves as the firm's Vice President and a member of its Board of Directors, and leads the Subrogation team, handling complex recovery matters ranging from large-scale industrial losses to personal claims. A recognized leader in the field, Steven is a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, DRI, and the New York State Bar Association, where he previously chaired the subcommittee on First Party Property Coverage Issues. He serves as an adjunct professor at the University at Buffalo School of Law and is a frequent lecturer at national and international programs.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>J. Dominic Campodonico</b><br/> <i>IADC President</i><br/> <i>Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP</i><br/> <i>San Francisco, CA USA</i><br/> <a href="mailto:dcampodonico@grsm.com">dcampodonico@grsm.com</a></p> <p>Dominic Campodonico is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani (GRSM). He has 28 years of experience serving as national litigation coordinating counsel, regional counsel, and local counsel in mass tort, product liability litigation. He has represented manufacturers and distributors of a variety of pharmaceutical/medical device and laboratory products as well as personal care/consumer products in litigations as well as risk assessments. He has been involved in many California Judicial Council Coordinated Proceedings and has served as Defense Liaison Counsel. Dominic's experience also extends to other industries including personal protective equipment, automobile parts, household appliances, and industrial machinery. He has significant experience handling wrongful death and catastrophic injury litigation and has developed an extensive network of prominent experts in many sciences and technologies. He also assists his clients with high-stakes matters that frequently occur simultaneously with product liability litigation, such as risk management and compliance, FDA/regulatory issues, government</p> |

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investigations, suits under the federal and California False Claims Act, insurance, and crisis communications.

Dominic has comprehensive experience in alternative dispute resolution of state and national cases, and has participated as regional and national settlement counsel in mass tort cases. He has extensive experience working with experts in dozens of fields and has defended and taken multiple expert depositions over the course of his career. In that regard, Dominic has developed specific expertise in areas related to medical causation and damages, product design and manufacturing, chemical science and safety, regulatory affairs, and sales and marketing.

Prior to his work at GRSM, Dominic was a research attorney for three superior court judges in Los Angeles. In addition to his legal practice, he has served as the hiring partner for Gordon & Rees's Summer Associate Program for the San Francisco office and was a member of the Summer Associate Hiring Committee for eight years. He has also been active in the firm's Diversity, Community Service, and Pro Bono Committees and has served on multiple Boards for local and national entities.



### **Courtney Britt**

*Teague Campbell*



*Raleigh, NC USA*

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Courtney's practice focuses on advising businesses and municipalities in insurance coverage and bad faith matters. Her previous years of experience litigating workers' compensation and liability matters informs her evaluation of the coverage landscape. Her insurance coverage practice focuses on evaluating general liability, law enforcement liability, employment practices liability, excess, and umbrella insurance contracts. She provides coverage opinions, drafts reservation of rights letters and other correspondence to insureds, drafts and amends manuscript policy forms, and acts as monitoring counsel.

She tries cases in United States District Courts in North Carolina, at the North Carolina Industrial Commission, and in North Carolina Superior Court. She also handles appeals at the North Carolina Court of Appeals, the North Carolina Supreme Court and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her insurance coverage practice focuses on evaluating general liability, business auto, workers' compensation, excess, and umbrella insurance contracts. She provides coverage opinions, drafts reservation of rights letters, prosecutes and defends declaratory judgment actions, and acts as monitoring counsel.

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|   | <p>A graduate of Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Courtney worked in a genetics laboratory for a Fortune 500 company before attending law school. Courtney received her Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest University where she was recognized as an outstanding trial advocate by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Tiffany R. Brown</b><br/> <i>Pennsylvania Insurance Department - Mcare</i><br/> <i>Harrisburg, PA USA</i><br/> <a href="mailto:tirbrow@pa.gov">tirbrow@pa.gov</a></p> <p>Tiffany is a Senior Claims Examiner for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, bringing extensive experience in evaluating and managing complex medical malpractice claims. Prior to this role, she worked as a claim examiner with both insurance companies and hospitals, developing a well-rounded perspective on risk assessment, liability, and healthcare matters. Tiffany holds a Doctorate in Healthcare, which enhances her ability to navigate the intersection of medical and legal considerations with insight and precision.</p> <p>Outside of her professional work, Tiffany is actively involved in the community as a fundraising coordinator for the Boy Scouts and is a dedicated advocate for autism awareness and support.</p> |
|   | <p><b>SSA Bridgette Callahan</b><br/> <i>FBI</i><br/> <i>Chicago, IL USA</i></p> <p>SSA Callahan has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's College in Indiana and a JD from Loyola University Chicago. She has been with the FBI for more than 8 years where she provides legal counsel and investigative support and reviews and approves investigated tools.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>James J. Hunter</b><br/> <i>Collins Einhorn Farrell, P.C.</i><br/> <i>Southfield, MI USA</i><br/> <a href="mailto:james.hunter@ceflawyers.com">james.hunter@ceflawyers.com</a></p> <p>Jim is a member of the firm's Professional Liability and Commercial Litigation practice groups. He has extensive experience defending lawyers and other professionals in malpractice claims. Jim's practice also concentrates on representing lawyers and judges in ethics matters.</p> <p>Before joining the firm, Jim worked on complex litigation and federal white-collar criminal defense. He has experience representing clients in healthcare fraud cases and antitrust investigations. He also served as an Assistant</p>  |

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|   | <p>Prosecuting Attorney in Wayne County, Michigan where he gained valuable trial experience.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Kenneth Kim</b><br/> <i>Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance</i><br/> <i>New York, NY USA</i><br/> <a href="mailto:ken.kim@bhspecialty.com">ken.kim@bhspecialty.com</a></p> <p>Ken is a Complex Claims Director at Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance in the New York office. He manages claims for both hospital and senior care programs. For senior care programs, he handles both primary policies as well and excess policies on insurance towers. The day-to-day handling of these claims includes evaluation of case value, negotiations, and monitoring cases for trial.</p> <p>Prior to working at BHSI, Ken has had more than two decades of litigation experience in both California and New York, focusing primarily on medical malpractice while practicing in New York.</p> <p>In his free time, he loves to grill and smoke meats for his wife and three kids and is always trying to excel at cooking Korean food as well as his mom.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Paula A. Koczan</b><br/> <i>Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires &amp; Newby, LLP</i><br/> <i>Pittsburgh, PA USA</i><br/> <a href="mailto:pkoczan@wglaw.com">pkoczan@wglaw.com</a></p> <p>Paula A. Koczan is an experienced attorney who focuses on defending healthcare providers in medical malpractice and licensure actions. With a strong background in both state and federal court trials, Paula is adept at navigating complex legal proceedings for her clients. Drawing from her background as a registered nurse, Paula offers a distinct perspective to her cases, enabling her to provide enhanced service to her clients. She handles nursing home cases as well as prisoners' civil rights actions and product and general liability matters. She represents a range of clients including hospitals, physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician groups, and their employees.</p> <p>Paula's exceptional accomplishments have earned her recognition within the legal community. Since 2008, Paula has been selected for inclusion in <i>The Best Lawyers in America</i>® in the area of Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants. In 2013, Paula was included in the list of Top 50 Women Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*, and she has been repeatedly selected to the lists of <i>Super Lawyers</i> issued by Thomson Reuters. Committed to her profession, Paula is actively involved in prestigious legal organizations such as the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Western Pennsylvania and the International Association of Defense</p> |

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Attorneys. She has also served as a faculty member at the IADC’s Trial Academy held at Stanford, demonstrating her dedication to sharing her wisdom with fellow legal professionals.



**Michael LeCrone**

*Zurich North America, Head of Corporate Investigations and Security Services, Former Secret Service  
Schaumburg, IL USA  
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Mike LeCrone is a proven security executive with more than 19 years of experience defining and resolving corporate physical security and compliance challenges. His career is marked by a consistent ability to collaborate with internal process partners and deliver value-added outcomes for global Fortune 100 organizations Caterpillar Inc. and Dell Technologies. His expertise is further enriched by more than a decade of distinguished service with the United States Secret Service.

As Vice President and Head of Security, Investigations, and Health & Safety for Zurich North America, Mike leads a professional security team responsible for protecting the enterprise through the development and execution of comprehensive physical security strategies and operations. His leadership spans executive security, corporate investigations, and environmental health and safety programming.

Mike ensures enterprise-wide compliance and risk management related to physical security, health and safety, and anti-fraud financial controls. He is also responsible for developing and maintaining policies, procedures, and standards that support Zurich’s security, anti-fraud, and health and safety initiatives.

A strategic partner with strong business acumen, Mike is known for his collaborative leadership style and exceptional analytical, problem-solving, relationship-building, and communication skills—engaging effectively with stakeholders at all levels, including the CEO. His commitment to positioning security as a trusted business partner has elevated the role of corporate security within Zurich and across the industry.

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**Heidi L. Mandt**

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*Portland, OR USA*  
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Heidi Mandt is a litigator defending clients in product liability, medical and other malpractice/professional liability claims, and toxic torts. Her practice covers general insurance defense and insurance coverage matters as well. She has tried more than 20 cases to verdict in both state and federal courts ranging from product liability to personal injury and commercial claims.

In addition, Heidi has significant experience handling complex matters, including construction liability and breach of contract claims, catastrophic personal injury and death cases, and first- and third-party insurance claims. Her experience and success in the courtroom has established her as a leader in major cases with high monetary exposure.

As such, she has regularly defended individuals, retail establishments, construction companies, automotive and commercial truck manufacturers, and chemical companies in personal injury and product liability claims, as well as companies involved in commercial disputes. She has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* every year since 2017 and was named *Lawyer of the Year* for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants in 2026.



**Melissa Dorman Matthews**

*Steptoe & Johnson PLLC*  
*Plano, TX USA*  
[melissa.matthews@steptoe-johnson.com](mailto:melissa.matthews@steptoe-johnson.com)

Melissa Dorman Matthews is a member of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC in its Dallas, Texas office. In more than 29 years of practice, Melissa has tried cases all over Texas and beyond. She has extensive first-chair trial experience representing automotive and heavy equipment manufacturers, commercial clients, and premises owners. She also counsels clients in product defect cases, class actions, attorney-client disputes, business and employment disputes, and personal injury matters. Melissa earned her law degree from Texas Tech University and her bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University.



**Ryan McBride**

*Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby, LLP*  
*Scranton, PA USA*  
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Ryan McBride is the Professional Liability Practice Co-Managing Partner and a Regional Practice Group Leader. He is an accomplished litigator defending high-level actions with a primary focus on professional liability, including

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medical malpractice and legal malpractice, as well as general liability matters such as premises liability, products liability, and municipal liability. In the realm of medical malpractice, Ryan represents hospitals, health systems, physicians, ambulance companies, physician groups, and EMS providers, defending them against claims of catastrophic injury.

Ryan's experience in general liability includes various areas, such as premises liability for businesses of all sizes, D&O liability, commercial liability, and dram shop liability. He also possesses extensive knowledge of municipal liability and adeptly applies associated immunities to his clients' advantage.

Ryan also represents professionals in investigations before state licensing boards and regulatory agencies. He is committed to guiding his professional clients through these proceedings to ensure their reputations and careers are protected.



### **Kim Noble**

*Applied Financial Lines*

*Chicago, IL USA*

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Kim Noble joined Applied Financial Lines in January 2022 to launch lawyers' and accountants' liability programs. Before joining the company, she was a Senior Vice President at Thompson Flanagan in Chicago, IL. In that role, she advised law firms on coverage, claims, and risk management issues. Prior to that, Kim led the lawyers' and accountants' programs at Argo Pro. She has more than 25 years of professional liability experience and has managed E&O programs at OneBeacon, GE Westport, and St. Paul Companies. Kim began her career as a lawyer in private practice, representing directors and officers, lawyers and accountants, as well as public and private companies in employment practices disputes. She graduated from Drury University in Springfield, MO with a degree in Business Administration and Economics and has a law degree from University of Missouri in Kansas City. She is an active member of DRI, PLUS, CLM, claimsXchange, and PLDF, speaking frequently on topics concerning legal and accounting malpractice.



### **Michael J. Rossi**

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Mike draws upon 20 years of experience as a trial lawyer to help individuals and businesses of all sizes resolve disputes, inside and outside the courtroom. His practice focuses on professional liability and business litigation. Mike regularly defends attorneys and other professionals in malpractice actions and

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disciplinary proceedings. He also advises lawyers and law firms on risk management issues. His business litigation practice includes contract disputes, shareholder and partnership conflicts, and insurance coverage matters. An experienced courtroom advocate, Mike has successfully tried cases before judges and juries, and has argued appeals before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He also appears regularly before state administrative agencies. Mike is an active member of the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the International Association of Defense Counsel. He also serves as Conn Kavanaugh's internal Risk Management Partner and General Counsel.



**Lee S. Siegel**

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Lee S. Siegel is a partner in Hurwitz Fine P.C.'s Insurance Coverage Group, where he represents insurers in complex coverage and bad faith disputes. With more than 30 years of experience in insurance coverage, bad faith, class action, and defense litigation, he brings both deep litigation knowledge and a unique insight into insurance company operations. Admitted in Connecticut and New York, Lee regularly advises and defends insurers in high-stakes coverage and bad faith litigation across the country. He is widely recognized for his thought leadership, having published numerous articles on insurance coverage issues, been quoted in leading industry journals, and spoken at national conferences and webinars.



**Professor Joseph P. Schwieterman, PhD**

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*Chicago, IL USA*  
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Joseph P. Schwieterman is Professor in the School for Public Service and Director of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development at DePaul University and chair of the university's Sustainable Urban Development program. His research focuses on municipal government, transportation, and urban planning, with a particular emphasis on metropolitan Chicago. He is a regular guest on WBBM-780's Noon Business Hour and on WGN television news. He is the president of the Chicago Chapter of the Transportation Research Forum and has authored five books, including *Terminal Town*, an illustrated history of Chicago's train stations, airports, bus depots, and transportation systems since 1939. His earlier book, *The Politics of Place: An Illustrated History of Zoning in Chicago*, won the Midwest Independent Book Publishers' Award.

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### **G. Michael Verden**

*Founder and Security & Safety Consultant, The Lake Forest Group, Former Secret Service*

*Lake Forest, IL USA*

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With an extensive career as a police officer, Secret Service agent, Senior Director of Security for the NBA, and security advisor, G. Michael Verden understands how to apply security best practices to your unique setting to safeguard people, property, and assets. Mike's project management experience includes leading engagements with PayPal, Wilson Sporting Goods, Bain Capital, ADP, Domino's, Marathon Petroleum, Wegmans, The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met), Augusta National Golf Club, Rush University Medical Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the National Football League.

Mike employs methodologies learned in a 21-year career as an agent for the United States Secret Service protecting the President, First Lady, and other heads of state and large-scale events such as the Olympics and the Super Bowl to identify vulnerabilities and implement proper risk management techniques to offer the appropriate level of protection—without adversely affecting your culture.

Throughout his career, Mike has gained unique perspectives on how to work with law enforcement, first responders, and private sector partners to evaluate physical, technical, procedural, and personnel security and conduct needs assessments to determine what you're doing well and where you're exposed to risk—resulting in a best-in-class security program.

As a Senior Vice President/Managing Director and the first employee hired by Hillard Heintze, Mike directed the Strategic Security Services for the firm by providing strategic thought leadership, trusted counsel, and end-to-end services to public and private corporations as well as government agencies and major public service organizations.

In his capacity as Senior Director of Security for the NBA, Mike managed and coordinated global security, as well as designed and implemented site security measures, emergency evacuation programs, and contingency procedures. He was responsible for monitoring all NBA criminal investigations and security-related incidents throughout the league. He also implemented and supervised security for the NBA All-Star Game, NBA Finals, and the FIBA World Championships.

Mike was a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service for 21 years and finished his career as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge for the Dignitary

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Protective Division at USSS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. This assignment allowed him to be an event coordinator for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and a security adviser to the 2003 and 2004 Super Bowls. Other assignments in Washington, D.C. were to the Presidential Protective Division responsible for protecting the President and First Lady and the Counter Assault Team. His major event experience provides an institutional knowledge in securing and protecting facilities and people on a large scale. Additionally, he assisted with creating security plans for major events such as the Super Bowl, Kentucky Derby, Indianapolis 500, Breeders' Cup, and the Women's Soccer World Cup.

Mike is a member of the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Security Council, American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), Association of Former Agents of the United States Secret Service (AFAUSSS), Illinois Security Professionals Association (ISPA), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), and International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS).

Mike was born in Tipperary, Ireland, grew up in Chicago, and graduated from Western Illinois University with a degree in Law Enforcement Administration and Indiana State University with an M.S. in Criminology. He began his professional career with the Skokie, Illinois Police Department and then became a Secret Service agent in the Chicago Field Office.



### **Kathryn Whitlock**

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Kate has spent her career defending and counseling folks accused of not doing their jobs right. Primarily in professional liability, bad faith, and sexual misconduct matters, Kate represents clients in many different fields. Her job is to close cases as efficiently as possible so that her clients can get back to doing what they do best – their own jobs. Kate is skilled in both the courtroom and alternative dispute forums; having tried more than 100 cases to jury verdict, bench decision or final arbitration award in state court, federal court, licensing board, arbitration, and other venues. Kate handles her own cases through appeal and is called on by others to help on appeal after they receive a disappointing first level outcome.

Kate has been awarded multiple professional awards and has been recognized for years by a myriad of professional organizations. A lifelong learner, in 2025 she earned her Masters Negotiation certification from the Harvard Law School

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Executive Education's Program on Negotiation. Kate is also passionate about mentoring the next generation of trial attorneys.

Outside of MGC, Kate gives her time to non-profit organizations in Atlanta and enjoys time with her lawyer-husband, her four non-lawyer children, and her two non-lawyer dogs.