

2026 PRODUCT LIABILITY ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Edward Dumoulin

2026 Product Liability Roundtable Program Co-Chair

Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA

Ed Dumoulin represents clients in high-stakes civil cases across a variety of practice areas including product liability and antitrust litigation. His work has led to dozens of victories and recognition by *Law360* as one of four Rising Stars chosen nationwide in product liability practice, as well as by *Legal 500* for “his thorough handling of briefing strategy, motions practice, and appellate issues.” Ed has briefed and argued motions that have resulted in litigation-wide impact in MDLs, and that have led to dismissals based on issues of federal preemption or jurisdiction in numerous individual suits. His appellate practice has seen him argue in the First, Fourth, Seventh, and Ninth Circuits and brief appeals elsewhere. He has also managed large-scale litigation, deposed key witnesses, and served on trial teams in cases with billions of dollars in disputes.



Daniel Higginbotham

2026 Product Liability Roundtable Program Co-Chair

Thomas Combs & Spann PLLC, Charleston, WV USA

Daniel Higginbotham is a partner at Thomas, Combs & Spann in Charleston, West Virginia. He is a trial lawyer who defends product manufacturers in high-stakes litigation, with a particular focus on the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors. Daniel has tried cases in federal and state courts across the country. His products liability practice spans the full life cycle of complex litigation, including mass tort matters, multidistrict litigation, and coordinated state court proceedings involving thousands of claims, where he has served on national defense teams.

Daniel is an active member of the IADC and a returning contributor to the Product Liability Roundtable, having presented at the 2024 program. He is honored to serve as a co-chair of the 2026 IADC Product Liability Roundtable in New York.

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Mark D. Hansen

IADC President, 2026-2027

GROWMARK, Inc., Peoria, IL USA

Mark Hansen is Deputy General Counsel of GROWMARK, Inc., one of the largest agribusiness companies in North America. In that role, he oversees litigation involving GROWMARK and its subsidiaries and affiliates and provides legal counsel on a broad range of matters involving GROWMARK's operations.

Before joining GROWMARK, Mark was a shareholder and director with Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen. During his years in private practice, he represented clients in complex litigation, with an emphasis on product liability, professional liability, and commercial disputes.



Dana Baiocco

White & Williams LLP, Washington, DC USA

Dana Baiocco is a seasoned litigator defending clients in high-stakes matters in the aviation and manufacturing sectors in federal, state, and international courts. She has distinct experience with aircraft component parts, industrial products, consumer goods, and medical devices. She also works with clients in many regulated industries.

Dana is a former commissioner on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the governing body of the independent federal agency charged with regulating consumer products. As one of five CPSC commissioners, Dana contributed to the agency's overall policy agenda and operational plan and participated in rule-making proceedings, voted on dangerous product bans, and prompted other regulatory actions related to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of consumer products.

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Mollie Benedict

Tucker Ellis LLP, Los Angeles, CA USA

Mollie Benedict represents clients in federal and state courts across the United States, frequently in the role of lead national counsel and as trial counsel in product liability, pharmaceutical, and medical device litigation.

Mollie's complex business litigation practice also includes class action defense, false advertising, and product liability. She has written and argued appeals on issues including invasion of privacy, statutory immunities for physicians, and appropriate standards for medical expert testimony.

An attorney ranked in *Chambers USA* in the area of Product Liability and Mass Torts (Nationwide), Mollie is described by one client as "a very quick study. She can take a case on in short order and has a good knack for taking complicated topics, seeing the big picture, and communicating that to a jury." Another client comments that Mollie is "unflappable, focused on the task needing solution, and able to see the big picture. She also has e-discovery expertise and can spot potential issues." Mollie also is listed in *Who's Who Legal* in the areas of "Product Liability Defence" and "Life Sciences – Product Liability," where she is described as an outstanding litigator with an impressive track record in class action defense, false advertising, and product liability disputes, who is "renowned for her substantial experience representing life sciences clients in large-scale pharmaceutical and medical device litigation."

Originally from central Illinois, Mollie moved to California to attend law school and stayed for the sunshine. She enjoys traveling, running, yoga, and an occasional triathlon.



Sharon L. Caffrey

Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia, PA USA

Sharon L. Caffrey is co-chair of Duane Morris' 400+ member Trial Practice Group and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Sharon concentrates her practice in the areas of mass tort, products liability, and toxic tort litigation. She is

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	also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Sharon is sought after to try large exposure cases in the most difficult jurisdictions, often referred to as “judicial hellholes.” She has experience defending pharmaceutical, medical device, and biologics product liability claims. Sharon has a distinguished record of success at trial; of the past ten cases she has tried, she obtained eight defense verdicts and two low-value verdicts. She has tried dozens of mass tort, toxic tort, health effects, and medical negligence cases, the vast majority to defense verdicts. Sharon is also able to leverage her deep experience to serve as national coordinating counsel for clients looking to guide the management of voluminous litigation consistent with their legal and business priorities. Sharon is the current Chair of the IADC Product Liability Committee.
	Lisa DeBord <i>Bayer U.S., St. Louis, MO USA</i> Lisa DeBord is Senior Assistant General Counsel on Bayer’s Global Litigation team, where she manages complex litigation across the United States. In that role, she also has a particular interest in the evolving use of artificial intelligence and emerging legal technologies to support litigation strategy, efficiency, and risk management. Before joining Bayer, Lisa was a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP where her practice focused on mass tort and product liability litigation. Lisa earned her Juris Doctor from Washington University in St. Louis and her Bachelor of Arts from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.
	Nancy M. Erfle <i>Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, Portland, OR USA</i> GRSM partner Nancy M. Erfle is a member of the Product Liability Litigation and Pharmaceutical and Medical Device practice groups and currently serves on the firm’s Executive Committee. Her practice is focused on litigation, specifically the defense of manufacturers in the areas of automotive, heavy equipment, toxic tort, and medical exposures. Nancy has served on national litigation teams and as lead local and regional counsel for manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and medical device clients on many cases, including several mass tort cases. Most recently she served as National Trial and Coordination Counsel for a supplier of raw materials in

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	litigation pending in multiple state and federal courts throughout the country. Nancy also has class action experience in both consumer fraud and securities matters. She has extensive state and federal court jury trial experience, defending her clients in all types of product liability claims throughout the country. Nancy was the Director for the IADC's 2019 Trial Academy, which was held at Stanford University Law School. She served as Director-Elect for 2018 and was a member of the teaching faculty in 2007. She also serves as an adjunct professor for Lewis & Clark Law School's Aviation Seminar.
	Larissa Eustice <i>Bayer Corporation, Whippany, NJ USA</i> Larissa A. Eustice focuses her practice on mass-tort pharmaceutical product liability litigation and is engaged in all phases of the litigation process, including motion practice, discovery, and deposition and trial preparation.
	Lisa M. Floro <i>Coloplast Corp., Minneapolis, MN USA</i> Lisa M. Floro is the Vice President, General Counsel, Global Litigation at Coloplast Corp. She is responsible for all disputes and litigation globally across the Coloplast Group with the exception of Intellectual Property disputes and litigation. Ms. Floro is responsible of devising, implementing, and enforcing global litigation strategies and partnering with other legal and functional experts in the various businesses and countries. She is a member of the Group Legal, IP and Business Ethics leadership team. Prior to her work at Coloplast, Ms. Floro worked in-house at a Life Sciences company managing a variety of litigation, including pharmaceutical mass tort multi-district litigation, commercial litigation, contract/warranty litigation, and general litigation, as well as government subpoenas and investigations. She has counseled on regulatory, marketing, medical communications, and public relations relating to litigation matters. Her career includes a federal clerkship, private practice in both large and small firms, and in-house counsel. Ms. Floro lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with her husband Gianni and two children, Tommaso and Mia. She is involved in many community activities and is passionate about mentoring and coaching future leaders. Ms. Floro received her undergraduate

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	degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Association of Corporate Counsel, Product Liability Advisory Council, and International Association of Defense Counsel.
	Mike Gentine <i>Arnold & Porter, Washington, DC USA</i> Mike Gentine, a former senior counsel with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), advises manufacturers, retailers, and other commercial clients on product safety and consumer protection issues. He is especially skilled with legal, regulatory, enforcement, and penalty matters before various agencies, including the CPSC and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and policy advancement at the state and federal levels. Mike also has extensive product recall experience in multiple international jurisdictions and across agency proceedings, stakeholder organizations, and trade associations. Prior to joining Arnold and Porter, Mike had an extensive career across the legal and public policy arenas, serving as in-house regulatory counsel and government relations manager for Polaris, in private practice, and in the federal government. His government service comprises multiple positions at the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), including senior counsel for the Office of CPSC Commissioner Joseph P. Mohorovic from 2014–2017, where he advised on various policy, regulatory, and ethics issues, as well as reform initiatives such as reducing the paperwork burden on CPSC-regulated companies. Before that at the CPSC, he was a legal fellow and a law clerk in the Office of Commissioner Nancy Nord. Mike's other government-related work includes externships with the US Senate Judiciary Committee and the US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps (JAGC).
	Phil Goldberg <i>Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, Washington, DC USA</i> Phil Goldberg is the office managing partner at Shook in Washington, DC and co-chair of the firm's Public Policy Practice Group. He has more than 25 years of experience advising clients on high-stakes and high-profile liability-related public

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	policy, public affairs, and public relations issues. He counsels businesses and their trade associations on some of the most cutting-edge liability issues of the day. As part of this work, Phil co-chairs the firm's national Amicus Practice, which files more than three dozen amicus briefs every year. He has filed amicus briefs for many of the most influential trade and civil justice groups with courts at every level, from the U.S. Supreme Court to the U.S. Courts of Appeals and state appellate courts. He has testified before Congress and state legislatures, has authored leading legal scholarship, and is a regular speaker at judicial education conferences. He also is a resource for journalists, podcasters, and others who report on and discuss pressing liability issues.
	Christiana Jacxsens <i>B. Braun Medical Inc., Atlanta, GA USA</i> Christiana Jacxsens is the Corporate Vice President and General Counsel, Life Sciences and Litigation at B. Braun Medical Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia. Christiana earned her JD and master's in public health from The George Washington University Law School in 2002.
	Allyson Miller Julien <i>Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA</i> Allyson is a partner at Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP in Chicago. She has amassed a range of experience driving legal strategy and decision-making for Fortune 500 companies in high-stakes commercial and products liability litigation. She currently serves as co-lead counsel on behalf of a vaccine manufacturer in the first multidistrict litigation of its kind related to a routinely recommended childhood vaccine. She steers all aspects of her client's legal defense, including theme development, fact discovery, expert discovery, and briefing. Allyson has an accomplished record at all phases of litigation, including securing multiple high-profile summary judgment victories and playing an integral role on multiple successful trial teams. In the past year, Allyson has been recognized as a Rising Star in Product Liability by <i>Law360</i>, as Up & Coming in Illinois Product Liability by <i>Chambers USA</i>, and as part of the Chicago Elite in Product Liability by <i>Legal500</i>.

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**Stephanie M. Laws**

MASLON LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA

Stephanie M. Laws is a partner at MASLON LLP in Minneapolis, Minnesota and co-chairs the firm's Tort and Product Liability Group. Stephanie graduated *cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2012 and earned her bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Stephanie has spent nearly fifteen years litigating product liability and consumer protection matters in state and federal courts. Her product liability bandwidth spans multiple industries, with experience defending both FDA and CPSC-regulated products. She also conducts internal investigations and helps companies respond to government enforcement actions. Stephanie is deeply engaged with pro bono work. She partnered with MASLON attorney Steve Schleicher in his role as special prosecutor for the state of Minnesota in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, providing integral support to the state's use-of-force case. Stephanie also serves on MASLON's Pro Bono Committee and maintains an active practice, including representing victims of domestic violence, seeking orders for protection against their abusers, and representing asylum seekers, among other endeavors. Stephanie recently won a complete defense verdict in a \$300 million breach of contract case on behalf of Polaroid, in addition to other jury, bench, and mock trial experience.

**Jill M. Leibold, PhD**

IMS Legal Strategies, Los Angeles, CA USA

Dr. Jill Leibold, Senior Jury Consulting Advisor with IMS Legal Strategies, has more than 20 years of trial consulting experience and has applied her expertise in juror decision-making to hundreds of cases across all genres of litigation. Clients rely on her skills in preparing challenging witnesses for deposition and trial, as well as her extensive experience in jury selection for both civil and criminal cases.

Jill has focused on post-pandemic juror trends, researching safetyism, emotional thinking, cognitive rigidity, and anxiety and the effects on verdict and damages outcomes. These experiments inform not only trial strategies and themes, but also jury selection strategies for today's juries.

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Katie Maechler

MASLON LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA

Katie Maechler is a partner at MASLON LLP in Minneapolis, Minnesota where she co-chairs the firm's Litigation and Tort and Product Liability groups. She and her department are ranked Band 1 in Product Liability Litigation in Minnesota by *Chambers USA*. In her 20-year career, Katie has successfully defended a wide variety of national and multinational manufacturers across a range of product industries in federal and state courts throughout the country. She has significant experience in the medical device, consumer products, and chemical product industries, serving as national coordinating and trial counsel managing extensive portfolios of filed and unfiled product liability claims, as a lead member in a "virtual law team" for clients managing defense of a mass tort, and as a go-to partner for Am Law 100 firms as local Minnesota counsel. In related work, she represents manufacturers navigating regulatory and compliance actions involving the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and leads clients through fast-track recalls and related reporting to the CPSC. Katie graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 2005, after earning her bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from Trinity University in 2002.



Michael Malterer

Dentons, Munich, Germany

Dr. Michael Malterer is an M&A and Automotive Regulatory partner in the Munich office of Dentons. Dentons is a global law firm driven to provide its clients with a competitive edge in an increasingly complex and interconnected marketplace. Michael is the German, European, and global sub-sector team leader for Automotive. He is also co-leading the firm's Global Autonomous Vehicles team. Over many years, Michael worked for two major car manufacturing groups in the context of automated and autonomous driving. As mobility expert and car enthusiast, Michael focuses on M&A transactions and regulatory work. Michael has a deep technical understanding of the production of cars and the adaption of new technologies in the industry. He advises mainly manufacturers but also suppliers, technology companies, and private equity funds. Michael advises on connectivity, automated and autonomous driving, new mobility, and electrified driving. Michael

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	is based in Munich, Germany, and is about to relocate to New York City for a secondment. Michael graduated from the University of Regensburg (law degree, 1996; Dr. jur. 1999) and was admitted as a lawyer (Rechtsanwalt) in Munich, Germany in 1999. He has provided advice to industrial and automotive companies mainly in Europe and the US for more than 25 years.
	Danielle Mindlin <i>Pfizer Inc., New York, NY USA</i> Danielle Mindlin is the Assistant General Counsel at Pfizer Inc. Danielle has been with Pfizer for more than nine years. Danielle earned her JD from the NYU School of Law.
	Roy Prather, III <i>Beveridge & Diamond PC, Baltimore, MD USA</i> Roy Prather maintains a national practice focused on complex environmental and commercial litigation matters and counseling on environmental justice. Roy represents businesses and public sector entities across a broad range of industry sectors in federal and state courts. He defends citizen suits and class actions involving toxic tort and product liability claims under federal environmental laws and state analogues, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act. He also represents clients in class actions and other consumer protection litigation involving green marketing and related allegations of greenwashing. Roy advises clients on issues relating to regulatory compliance. He represents clients in indemnity and other commercial contract disputes relating to construction as well as contaminated site cleanup under the federal Superfund law (CERCLA). Roy also works with clients to proactively manage sensitive multi-stakeholder interactions related to environmental justice, including developing creative solutions to address environmental justice community concerns. Additionally, Roy assists clients in navigating administrative regulatory proceedings under various environmental laws and advises them on mitigating

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	the risks of regulatory enforcement actions and litigation. He currently serves in firm leadership as a member of the firm's Management Committee.
	Eric L. Probst <i>Schindler Elevator Corporation (U.S.), Morristown, NJ USA</i> Eric Probst's clients value his 25 years of litigation and corporate leadership experience, from which he has developed a reputation for developing pre-claim and litigation strategies that alleviate financial pressure points of a material risk. He has a talent for quickly acclimating to client businesses and even becoming embedded in corporate culture to firmly understand the client's business, products, and objectives. Eric's unique in-house counsel experience through secondment roles for publicly traded and privately held companies gives him the edge in knowledge that his clients desire and demand. He brings this experience to the Business Law Group at Porzio, where he counsels clients on how legal risk affects their bottom lines. These skills have been honed through defending manufacturers in catastrophic products liability cases, and businesses in complex breach of contract/business-to-business lawsuits in state and federal court. As a Principal of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C., and co-chair of the firm's Litigation Practice Group, Eric enjoys recruiting and managing a diverse team of skilled legal professionals as the first line in defending their clients in complex commercial, products liability, and personal injury lawsuits. When not practicing law, he loves spending time with his family, watching and referring soccer games, and playing golf. Specialties include litigation management and risk avoidance/counseling; complex commercial litigation/consumer fraud; product liability and personal injury litigation; product liability and personal injury litigation; commercial transportation litigation; construction defect litigation; electronic discovery; contract drafting and negotiation for construction firms; and arbitration.
	Mark A. Prost <i>Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C., St. Louis, MO USA</i> Mark Prost, a litigation partner in the Products Liability practice group at Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C., leads the firm's Toxic Tort team. Mark has a broad

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	range of litigation and trial experience in defending manufacturers of pharmaceutical and medical products (talc/ovarian cancer, opioids, transvaginal mesh), toxic tort products (asbestos, benzene, chemical products, welding fumes, etc.), transportation products (railroad, automotive, aviation, trucking, etc.), children's products, construction products, and consumer goods. Mark actively defends cases locally in Missouri and Illinois while maintaining a national practice serving as national coordinating counsel for several product manufacturers. He serves as national litigation counsel for several product defendants, including asbestos products, smoke shop products, and a chemical and biotechnology company. In 2019, Mark served as a Faculty Member for the IADC Trial Academy at Stanford University Law School. Mark is also a published author and frequent lecturer at national Toxic Tort seminars, has served for several years as Vice Chair for the ABA's Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Committee, and is the former Editor of the ABA's Toxic Tort Newsletter. Mark also has successful appellate experience before the Missouri Court of Appeals, the Missouri Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh and Eighth Circuits.
	Carolyn E. Riggs <i>FBT Gibbons, Indianapolis, IN USA</i> Carolyn Riggs focuses her practice on complex litigation, representing corporate clients in a wide range of products and premises liability, personal injury, commercial disputes, and intellectual property matters. She has significant experience defending clients in all phases of civil litigation in both state and federal courts, including complex and multidistrict proceedings. Carolyn regularly represents clients in matters involving catastrophic personal injury, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, healthcare, automotive and transportation, industrial equipment, and cosmetic products. Her litigation experience includes defending against claims for wrongful death, negligence, breach of warranty, failure to warn, breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference, and alleged consumer protection violations. She is known for her strategic,

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	detail-oriented approach and her ability to manage high-exposure cases through discovery, motion practice, and trial preparation.
	Peter J. Rotolo <i>Chaffe McCall, L.L.P., New Orleans, LA USA</i> For more than 25 years, Peter Rotolo has represented international, national, and regional clients in every facet of litigation, with a particular depth of knowledge and strategy in complex civil and commercial actions and disputes, including individual, multi-party, multi-district, and class action litigation. Peter is the Practice Area Coordinator for Chaffe McCall's Litigation Section and is a partner in the firm's New Orleans office. He has extensive experience litigating and arbitrating high-stakes, high-profile cases. Peter's successful pharmaceutical and medical device litigation includes matters involving multi-district litigation. He has served on expert, deposition, and strategy teams in numerous multi-district litigation actions. Peter has worked extensively identifying, retaining, and working with local and national experts in various multi-district litigations and individual actions. He has been recognized as an experienced litigator who has the ability to recruit and prepare experts for trial.
	Mark K. Silver <i>Schenck Price Smith & King, LLP, Florham Park, NJ USA</i> Mark Silver's practice spans a wide variety of legal concentrations. He regularly handles matters involving the following practice areas: commercial litigation, products liability, premises liability, pharmaceutical litigation, employment litigation, title insurance litigation, securities litigation, white collar criminal matters, and trusts and estate litigation. Over the past decade, Mark has defended several major pharmaceutical manufacturers in a variety of legal areas, including the defense of mass tort claims and class actions in multi-district federal litigation. Additionally, he has represented several preeminent hotel chains and restaurateurs in premises liability and health

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	code litigation. Mark has successfully defended several significant product liability actions including the defense of a large industrial machinery manufacturer against a claim that its product was defectively designed. His experience in product liability litigation led Mark to be selected as a contributing editor to the <i>Product Liability Desk Reference</i>, a Fifty-State Compendium, published annually by <i>Aspen Law & Business</i> (2001-2004). He has litigated commercial disputes in numerous jurisdictions, including a variety of successes in private arbitration. Mark has argued cases before courts at both the trial and appellate level. He has successfully tried cases in New Jersey Superior Court, the Eastern District of New York, and Tax Court.
	Shaniqua L. Singleton <i>Mercedes-Benz USA, Atlanta, GA USA</i> Shaniqua Singleton is corporate counsel for Litigation at Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, where she pairs strong litigation management with a deep commitment to service, mentorship, and advancing equity in the legal profession. In her current role, she manages company-wide class action and single-plaintiff litigation asserting product liability, regulatory, contractual, business, licensing, and trademark claims. She also advises on intellectual property and advertising topics, and new and proposed legislation affecting the automotive industry. An active volunteer with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF), Shaniqua also represents underserved communities in landlord-tenant matters. She serves on the AVLF's Leadership Council and Annual Campaign Committee, supporting volunteer initiatives and fundraising to expand access to justice.
	Jay Spears <i>Continental Tire the Americas, LLC, Fort Mill, SC USA</i> Jay Spears is currently Head of Sustainability and Director of Standards and Regulations for Continental Tire the Americas, LLC, having been with Continental for more than 25 years. He is skilled in engineering management, manufacturing, continuous improvement, and quality systems. He received a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University.

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Sarah K. Wolfe

AUMOVIO, Charlotte, NC USA

Sarah K. Wolfe is an in-house counsel specializing in product liability, regulatory compliance, and risk management. Sarah has diverse experience advising business leadership on complex litigation and regulatory matters, and plays a pivotal role in navigating the intricate interplay between evolving safety standards, reporting obligations, and liability exposure across diverse jurisdictions. In her current role, Sarah provides legal support for product recalls, regulatory compliance, and product liability issues for AUMOVIO, a global automotive supplier.

Her expertise encompasses a wide range of legal disciplines, including compliance, product liability, regulatory affairs, and previous litigation experience as a criminal prosecutor for 10 years. Sarah is known for her ability to navigate intricate legal landscapes and provide clear, actionable advice to executives and business leaders during crisis situations. In addition to her legal acumen, Sarah is dedicated to mentoring emerging legal professionals and promoting diversity within the legal field.