

# 2022 IADC TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY



**Michael A. Brown, Director**  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP  
Baltimore, Maryland USA

**Mike Brown** handles complex cases in jurisdictions around the country. Mr. Brown has experience in the areas of product liability defense, mass tort litigation, employment law, medical malpractice, and insurance defense, as well as commercial and real estate litigation matters. In addition to his national clients, Mr. Brown also serves as general counsel to numerous local companies and corporations, advising on a variety of matters related to employment and business litigation; real estate issues; and concerns unique to the Baltimore-Washington region. During his more than 25 years of practice, Mr. Brown has represented large national corporations that run the gamut of industries which include 17 Fortune 500 corporations in numerous litigation matters. He has tried more than 80 cases to verdict for these corporations and has tried cases in 24 states, including in some of the most challenging jurisdictions in the United States, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Mississippi, Florida, Ohio, California, Louisiana, Missouri, Arizona, and Washington, DC, among others. He has obtained defense verdicts in more than 95 percent of his matters.



**Edward S. Sledge IV, Director-Elect**  
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP  
Birmingham, Alabama USA

**Ed Sledge** is a partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. Mr. Sledge's national practice focuses on complex business and commercial litigation in courts across the country; he also routinely represents businesses in consumer and commercial lending disputes and in high exposure personal injury and wrongful death matters. Mr. Sledge has tried cases in multiple state and federal courts, and is a frequent lecturer and author on civil litigation and trial issues. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has been listed by *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Mid-South Super Lawyers*, and *Alabama Super Lawyers* (Top 50), among others. Mr. Sledge will serve as the Director of the IADC's Trial Academy in 2021. As a former Army officer, Mr. Sledge remains active in serving veterans' issues for which he has been recognized by the Alabama State Bar with its President's Award three times. Mr. Sledge is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and the University of Alabama School of Law.



**Jennifer R. Annis**  
GableGotwals  
Tulsa, Oklahoma USA

**Jennifer Annis** is a litigation shareholder of the GableGotwals firm in Tulsa. She is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. She is a member of IADC and DRI, and has been a very active member of Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel, serving on its Board of Directors since 2009 and as OADC President in 2014. Ms. Annis is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, has been recognized as a *Super Lawyer* annually since 2010, and has also been selected as one of the "Top 25 Women Lawyers" in Oklahoma, as well as one of the "Top 50 Lawyers" in Oklahoma. She received both her undergraduate degree and J.D. from the University of Oklahoma and concentrates her practice in defending medical malpractice actions and insurance matters. Ms. Annis is a 2001 IADC Trial Academy alumna.



**Candace A. Blydenburgh**  
McGuireWoods LLP  
Richmond, Virginia USA

**Candace Blydenburgh** is a partner at McGuireWoods LLP. Her practice over the last 24 years includes representing manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers in mass tort litigation, automobile litigation, environmental contamination, public nuisance, and individual product and personal injury cases. She has tried several cases to verdict in numerous jurisdictions including Puerto Rico, South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Her litigation and trial experience includes defending catastrophic injury claims involving children. Ms. Blydenburgh also has significant experience in leading national trial teams and coordinating national litigation pending in MDL and state courts.



**Andrew Gendron**  
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP  
Baltimore, Maryland USA

**Andy Gendron** is a partner in Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP's Baltimore office. He has a diverse civil, trial, and appellate practice, representing manufacturers of heavy equipment; industrial machinery; woodworking tools; automobiles; golf carts; go-karts; medical devices; pharmaceuticals; tobacco products; paints and pigments and petrochemicals in product-liability litigation; petroleum marketers in toxic-tort cases; and corporate defendants in contract, breach-of-trust, stockholder-derivative, class-action, and other complex commercial litigation. One of his proudest moments as a lawyer came after winning a defense verdict for his client, when the young plaintiff, only nine at the time of her accident, walked up, thanked him, and then gave him a hug. (There's a longer version of this story.) Mr. Gendron has led national expert and subject-matter teams. He is a member of the IADC.

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**Brandee J. Kowalzyk**  
Nelson Mullins  
Atlanta, Georgia USA

**Brandee Kowalzyk** is a partner at Nelson Mullins' Atlanta office, where she practices in the areas of pharmaceutical and medical device defense, product liability, and commercial litigation. She has significant experience in nationwide litigation involving pharmaceuticals and implantable medical devices, including all aspects and phases of multidistrict litigation and bellwether trials. In 2021 alone, Brandee served as trial counsel in three in-person multi-week trials involving implantable medical devices. A member of the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, she also serves as a Court of Appeals judge for her tribe.



**Daniel E. Krauth**  
Zimmer Kunz, PLLC  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

**Dan Krauth** was the managing partner of Zimmer Kunz from 2013-2021. Zimmer Kunz is a medium-sized litigation firm, practicing in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Dan's 30 years of practice have focused on the areas of oil and gas litigation; product liability defense; mass tort litigation; commercial litigation; construction litigation; and insurance defense. He has represented Fortune 500 companies, as well as smaller Western Pennsylvania businesses. He has tried dozens of cases to verdict throughout all counties in Western Pennsylvania, obtaining defense verdicts in an overwhelming majority of the trials. As the Marcellus Shale play erupted in Pennsylvania in the last two decades, Mr. Krauth has litigated a myriad of cases within this general area, including leasing and commercial disputes, personal injury disputes, as well as assisted on eminent domain proceedings. He currently serves as the Chair of IADC's Environmental and Energy Law Committee.



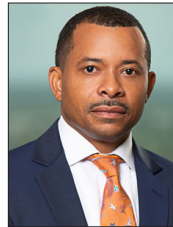
**H. Grant Law**  
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.  
San Francisco, California USA

**Grant Law** is a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon with more than 25 years as a trial lawyer representing corporate clients in product liability, class action, environmental contamination, construction defect, trucking, and consumer fraud matters. Mr. Law has tried numerous catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases to verdict, including one ranked among the Top 10 Defense Verdicts in California, and the *National Law Journal* selected another result among the Top 20 Defense Verdicts in the nation. Mr. Law is a frequent presenter on product liability and class action matters. He currently heads up Shook's Autonomous/Highly Automated Vehicle Task Force where he helps clients develop and protect their newest innovative creations while advising on steps to mitigate potential risk in an unpredictable regulatory and legal environment.



**Dana C. Lumsden**  
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP  
Charlotte, North Carolina USA

**Dana Lumsden** is a strategic business litigator and trusted legal advisor. His practice focuses on business litigation, including intellectual property disputes, securities litigation, investigations and enforcement proceedings, and the resolution of regulatory controversies concerning the consumer financial services industry. He advises and represents domestic and international companies, including some of the world's largest financial institutions and manufacturers. He has tried cases in jurisdictions throughout the country and is admitted to practice before the New York, North Carolina, and Massachusetts state courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of North Carolina, and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. In addition, he regularly practices before the North Carolina Business Court.



**Allen C. Miller**  
Phelps Dunbar LLP  
New Orleans, Louisiana USA

**Allen Miller** is a trial lawyer with extensive experience in the areas of commercial and tort litigation. He concentrates his practice in the areas of general business torts, casualty litigation, professional malpractice, class-action litigation, and a variety of other corporate litigation matters. He handles cases from inception through resolution at trial, appeal, and alternative dispute resolution where appropriate. Mr. Miller is solely responsible for the litigation strategy and handling of cases for several institutional firm clients. He regularly represents Fortune 500 companies, privately held companies, and educational institutions in federal and state litigation and disputes. Allen won the first COVID-19 business interruption case tried in the United States. He is a graduate of Xavier University and Southern University Law Center. He has been recognized by his peers in the leading peer review publications in the country.

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**Daniel I. Reisler**  
Aviva Trial Lawyers  
Toronto, Ontario Canada

**Dan Reisler** is a senior insurance litigation and jury trial expert. After 21 years leading his own defence boutique, Mr. Reisler is Senior Practice Counsel at Aviva Trial Lawyers in Canada. Mr.

Reisler's trial experience is extensive. He has appeared often at the Court of Appeal for Ontario but is best known as jury trial counsel. Certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Civil Litigation, he has been included in *Best Lawyers in Canada* since 2008 and is listed as "Consistently Recommended" by *Expert*. He is a past President of Canadian Defence Lawyers and is active in IADC and DRI. For nine years, Mr. Reisler served as an adjunct professor of Civil Trial Advocacy at Queen's University's Faculty of Law. He speaks frequently on related topics.



**Douglas Vaughn**  
Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP  
Gulfport, Mississippi USA

**Doug Vaughn** is a civil litigation partner in the Gulfport, Mississippi office of Deutsch Kerrigan. He has been named by *Best Lawyers* as a "2022 Lawyer of the Year" (Product Liability – Defense) and is a past President of the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association. Mr. Vaughn has chaired the IADC's Medical Defense and Health Law Committee and Medical Liability Roundtable events in New York and Chicago. In addition to his medical malpractice defense and other personal injury defense practice, he handles business litigation and insurance coverage.



**Michelle I. Schaffer**  
Campbell Conroy & O'Neil, P.C.  
Boston, Massachusetts USA

**Michelle Schaffer** is a member of Campbell Conroy & O'Neil, P.C. in Boston, Massachusetts. Her trial practice includes defending domestic and foreign companies in complex products

liability, toxic tort, pharmaceutical, and premises liability cases. She is a past President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a past President of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association, and a past President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Ms. Schaffer has been recognized since 2020 for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Personal Injury Litigation – Defense, is a 2015 Top Women of Law recipient by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, and is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.



**Sharon Donaldson Stuart**  
Christian & Small LLP  
Birmingham, Alabama USA

**Sharon Stuart** is a founding partner of Christian & Small where she handles complex and class action insurance, business, product liability, and toxic tort cases. Sharon is also

President and Claims Counsel of Attorneys Insurance Mutual of the South, a lawyer-owned company providing attorney malpractice coverage in Alabama and Tennessee. She is recognized in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America* – garnering multiple "Lawyer of the Year" honors, the Top 50 Mid-South Women *Super Lawyers*, and is one of *Benchmark Litigation's* Top 250 Women in Litigation. Sharon is active in the IADC, where she has served as Chair of the Insurance and Reinsurance Committee. She is also active in DRI and the American Inns of Court. She is past President of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association.