



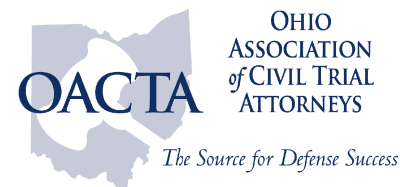
# REGIONAL WOMEN IN THE LAW SUMMIT

OHIO \* KENTUCKY \* INDIANA

APRIL 25-26, 2024

CINCINNATI

REGIONAL WOMEN IN THE LAW SUMMIT  
THE WESTIN CINCINNATI  
12:00PM THURSDAY - 12:00PM FRIDAY



The Women in the Law Committees from Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana have teamed up to support, educate and advance women in civil defense litigation. This two-day seminar will combine speakers and panels to discuss ways to assist lawyers in their practices.

**Hotel Information:** *The Westin Hotel Cincinnati, 21 East 5th Street* \* **Block Rate: \$179** \* **Block Rate Expires: April 4, 2024**

**Book on-line:** <https://book.passkey.com/go/WomeninLawApril2024> \* **Call:** 513-621-7700

**CLE:** 465 Minutes / 7.75 Hours (includes 2.5 ethics) (OH/KY - includes 2.25 APC)

**Registration Fee:** \$300 - Member State & Local Defense Organizations (SLDO)  
\$450 - Non-Member \* \$75 Law Student \* No Charge for Judges

**On-Line Registration:** <https://oacta.memberclicks.net/regional-women-in-the-law-summit>

# THURSDAY AGENDA

## REGIONAL WOMEN IN THE LAW SUMMIT

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

- |               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| 12:00-1:00    | <b>Registration &amp; Lunch (grab &amp; go style)</b>  |  |
| 12:55-1:00 pm | <b>Welcome</b><br><b>Nicole Mitchell, Esq., Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys</b><br><b>Kayla Goodfellow, Esq., Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana</b><br><b>Tia Combs, Esq., Kentucky Defense Counsel</b>   |  |
| 1:00-1:45 pm  | <b><i>Trial Skills - You Said What? - Can or Should You Really Say That?</i></b><br><b>Valerie Herbert, Esq. - Travis Herbert &amp; Stempien, PLLC</b>   | <b>45 mins.</b>                                    |
| 1:45-2:30 pm  | <b><i>The Future is Here – Piloting the Multigenerational Workplace</i></b><br><b><u>Panel:</u> Molly Lee, Esq. - Lewis Wagner LLP, Madeline Richmond, Esq. - Lewis Wagner, LLP;</b><br><b>Carolyn Taggart, Esq. - Porter Wright Morris &amp; Arthur, LLP</b>  | <b>45 mins.</b>                                    |
| 2:30-2:45 pm  | <b>Networking Break with Exhibitors</b>  |  |
| 2:45-4:15 pm  | <b><i>Diversity and Inclusion: Let's Talk</i></b><br><b>Ricardo A. Woods, Esq., Burr &amp; Forman LLP, Mobile, AL</b><br><b><i>Sponsored by DRI</i></b>  | <b>90 mins.</b><br><b><i>Ethics/APC credit</i></b> |
| 4:15-5:15 pm  | <b><i>A view From the Bench</i></b><br><b>Panel:</b><br><b>Judge Sally McLaughlin, Dearborn County Superior Court</b><br><b>Judge Susanne M. Cetrulo, Kentucky Court of Appeals</b><br><b>Judge Jennifer McElfresh, Butler County Common Pleas Court, General Division</b><br><b>Moderator: Justice Michelle M. Keller, Kentucky Supreme Court</b> | <b>60mins.</b>                                     |
| 5:00-6:00 pm  | <b>Networking Reception</b>  |  |
| 6:30 pm       | <b>Dine-A-Rounds - Restaurant choices will be sent to attendees in advance of the event.</b>   |  |

# FRIDAY AGENDA

## REGIONAL WOMEN IN THE LAW SUMMIT

### Friday, April 26, 2024

- 7:00-7:30am ***Mindfulness*** - We invite you to start your day mindfully by joining Claire Parsons as she leads the group with mindfulness practices, breathing exercises and gentle movement.  
**Claire Parsons, Esq., Bricker Graydon**
- 7:30-8:00 am **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00-8:45 am ***Changing the Paradigm: Practical Tips for Creating a Supportive Work Environment*** 45mins.  
**Emily N. Litzinger, Esq. - Fisher & Phillips, LLP** **Ethics/APC**  
**Courtney Risk, Esq. - Lawyers Mutual of Kentucky**
- 8:45-10:15 am ***A Perspective from Inside Counsel:  
Navigating Challenges in the Ever-Changing Legal Environment*** 90 mins  
  
**Panel:**  
**Anita L. Koesters, JD, CPCU, AIC-M, ASLI, The Cincinnati Insurance Company**  
**Kerrie Kitts, JD, Manager-Major Case, Hanover Insurance Group**  
**Jill K. Mercer, Esq., Managing Counsel Nationwide Insurance**  
**Moderator: Kayla Goodfellow, Esq. - Staff Counsel, The Cincinnati Insurance Company**
- 10:15-10:30 am **Networking Break with Exhibitors**
- 10:30-12:00 pm ***2024's Best Legal Tech Tips, Tricks, Services & Websites*** 90 mins.  
**Barron K. Henley, Esq., Affinity Consulting**

# SPEAKERS

## REGIONAL WOMEN IN THE LAW SUMMIT

**Valerie W. Herbert, Esq., Partner Travis, Herbert & Stempien Attorneys** – Valerie’s practice for the past 35 years, has been focused on insurance defense, including areas of personal injury, motor vehicle accidents, and premises liability litigation. Ms. Herbert routinely handles cases in Jefferson, Bullitt, Meade, Hardin, Henry, Oldham, Shelby, Franklin, Fayette and Trimble counties in Kentucky—though she has also previously practiced in Kenton and Boone counties in Northern Kentucky. Ms. Herbert earned her B.A. degree cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1986 and her J.D. degree (with honors) from the University of Louisville in 1989. She is a member of the Louisville and Kentucky Bar Associations and the Kentucky Defense Counsel, Inc. Ms. Herbert is admitted to practice in Kentucky and in the United States District Court, Western District of Kentucky. Ms. Herbert was the first woman to appear in the Kentucky Trial Court Review as one of the top ten most prolific trial attorneys beginning in 1998 and she continues to enjoy an active trial practice.

**Madeline Richmond, Esq. - Lewis Wagner LLP** - Madeline is a born and raised Hoosier who graduated magna cum laude from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 2023. She worked as a law clerk at Lewis Wagner during the summer of 2022, before becoming an associate in the firm’s transportation practice. Madeline was inspired to pursue a career in law by a high school class called “We The People,” where she developed a passion for reading, writing, and oral advocacy. She also loves meeting new people and hearing their stories and has combined those two loves in pursuing a legal career.

**Molly Lee, Esq. - Lewis Wagner LLP** - Molly is a partner with Lewis Wagner in Indianapolis, Indiana. Molly concentrates her practice on defending a variety of civil litigation matters, including wrongful death, catastrophic personal injury, premises liability, liquor liability, construction liability and various insurance defense cases. Molly also has substantial experience representing Indiana governmental entities in defense of lawsuits. Molly is a proud graduate of DePauw University and the Indiana Robert H. McKinney School of Law. While pursuing her law degree, Molly served as a Legal Extern for the NCAA and a Legal Intern for The Finish Line, Inc. For two years, she chaired the Young Lawyer Section of the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana. Molly currently serves on the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society Board of Directors. Additionally, Molly has been recognized as a “Rising Star” for the past six years.

**Carolyn Taggart, Esq. - Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, LLP** – Candi is a trial attorney for more than four decades, Candi has substantial experience in the areas of product liability, legal malpractice, and complex commercial cases. She has significant jury and bench trial experience and has worked extensively at the appellate level in both state and federal courts. Candi is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and served as a past president of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys. She has also served as a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. She is consistently recognized among Super Lawyers’ Top Lists, including the Top 10 Ohio Super Lawyers and the Top 5 Cincinnati Super Lawyers. In 2012, 2017 and 2021, Candi was named The Best Lawyers in America® Cincinnati “Lawyer of the Year” in Product Liability Litigation – Defendants.

**Ricardo Woods, Managing Partner, Burr Forman** - Ricardo is a defense trial lawyer and practices in Transportation, Insurance and Product Section (TIPS) with an emphasis on product and toxic tort liability, insurance litigation and government liability. His product liability and toxic tort experience include the defense of cases involving industrial-grade machinery, warranty claims, automobile components, solvents and other chemical agents. Ricardo has spent his career training, preparing and deposing expert witnesses in product liability cases. He has successfully defended product manufacturers, distributors, and sellers in the product arena. Ricardo’s insurance litigation experience includes issues related to defalcation, bad faith, fraud and coverage agents. He is a creative problem solver who provides his clients with innovative and cost-effective solutions and strategies. He is no stranger to the courtroom, and he is experienced in handling all stages of complex litigation. Ricardo has first-chair jury trial experience, as well as extensive pre-trial litigation experience. In addition to his service to the bar and his government service as City Attorney of the City of Mobile, Ricardo has served as a leader in the non-profit community over the years as the President of 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile, Inc., Chair of Mobile United, President of the Vernon Z. Crawford Bay Area Bar Association, Chairman of AL.com’s first Gulf Coast Young Professional’s Summit, and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Prichard Preparatory School.

**Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Michelle Keller 6<sup>th</sup> Supreme Court District** - Justice Michelle M. Keller was appointed to the Kentucky Supreme Court in April 2013. She was subsequently elected in both 2014 and 2022 for two full terms on the Court. Prior to her service on the Supreme Court, Justice Keller was elected as Judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals in November 2006. Justice Keller has served as the Court of Appeals representative on the Judicial Conduct Commission and Chairperson of the Court of Justice’s Technology Governance Committee, and is currently serving as Chairperson of the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission and Criminal Rules Committee. Prior to her service on the bench, Justice Keller practiced law for 17 years. She served as an Assistant County Attorney for her home county of Kenton. Her private practice concentrated in the areas of medical negligence and product liability defense, personal injury, family law, and criminal defense.

## SPEAKERS CONTINUED

Justice Keller also practiced administrative law, representing numerous clients before state regulatory and licensure boards. She is Chairwoman Emeritus of the Kentucky Personnel Board and has served as a hearing officer and member of that Board. Justice Keller is licensed to practice law in Kentucky, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and the United States Supreme Court. She is a member of the Honorary Order of Kentucky Colonels and has twice been commended by the Kentucky House of Representatives for her service to the Commonwealth.

**Judge Susanne Cetrulo, Kentucky Court of Appeals 6th Appellate District, Division 2** - Judge Cetrulo was appointed to the Court of Appeals in September of 2021 and elected in November of 2022 to serve the 6th Appellate District, Second Division, which is composed of the Commonwealth's 13 northernmost counties. Her career has brought her full circle, as her first legal job was as a staff attorney for the Court of Appeals from 1984 to 1991, first for Judge Charles Lester and then Judge Judy M. West. Judge Cetrulo went on to spend 30 years in private practice and came to the Court of Appeals Judge Cetrulo has been named one of the most prolific trial attorneys in Kentucky several times by the "Kentucky Jury Verdict Reporter." She has presented on appellate advocacy and mediation skills and is a certified mediator. Judge Cetrulo is a co-founder of Cameron's Cause, a non-profit organization that places automated external defibrillator devices in Northern Kentucky schools and businesses to prevent sudden cardiac death. She has served as a board member and volunteer with the Northern Kentucky Bar Association's women lawyers and mentoring programs, Josh Cares, KAREFarm, the Citizen Foster Care Review Board, Court Appointed Special Advocates, the Diocesan Children's Home, Dixie Heights High School band, the Women's Crisis Center, IMPACT 100, and Immanuel United Methodist Church in Lakeside Park, Kentucky.

**Judge Sally A. McLaughlin, Dearborn County Superior Court** - Judge Sally A. McLaughlin was appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to serve as the first Judge of Superior Court II in 2006 and is now in her second elected term. Prior to her appointment, she served as Prosecuting Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Judge McLaughlin grew up in Dearborn County graduating from St. Lawrence School and Lawrenceburg High School. She earned an Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degree from Eastern Kentucky University; and completed work towards a Master of Science Degree in Nursing at the University of Cincinnati. She earned her Law Degree at Salmon P. Chase College of Law in 1990 while serving as the Director of Nursing at Dearborn County Hospital. She has also worked as a staff nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky and as a manager of patient services at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Judge McLaughlin is a graduate of the Indiana Graduate Program for Judges and the Indiana Judicial College. She was recognized by the Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce as a Woman of Distinction in 2006 and received a Martin Luther King Memorial Award in 2011 for community service. Judge McLaughlin sponsors an annual Leadership in Law Program for high school students and summer internships for law students.

**Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh, Butler County Court of Common Pleas** - Judge Jennifer McElfresh was appointed to the Butler County Common Pleas Court in October of 2013. She was elected to her first full term in 2014. Judge McElfresh handles criminal felony and civil cases. In addition to her regular docket, She presides over the Felony Non-Support Court. The Felony Non-Support Court is a specialized docket which strives to enhance the public safety by preventing recidivism while assisting felony non-support offenders in taking responsibility for their behavioral issues and in paying their court ordered child support. In 2016, She was elected by her fellow judges to serve as Administrative Judge, a role which she held for more than two years. As Administrative Judge, she was responsible for submitting the Court's budget, managing the Court's personnel, and developing the Court's policies. Prior to taking the bench, she served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Butler County Prosecutor's Office for fifteen years. In addition to representing county agencies as an Assistant Prosecutor, Judge McElfresh prosecuted juvenile delinquency cases as well as adult misdemeanor and felony cases. In 2011, she became the Division Chief of the Child Assault Division of the Butler County Prosecutor's Office. She serves on the Ohio Judicial Conference's Public Confidence and Community Outreach Committee, Criminal Law and Procedure Committee, and Judicial Ethics, Professionalism, and Diversity Committee as well as the Butler County Criminal Justice Advisory Board and the Butler County Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee, Bar Applications Committee, Bar Foundation Committee, Continuing Legal Education Committee, and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. She is the Chairperson of the Butler County Bar Association's Notary Committee and serves on the Ohio Notary Advisory Board. In 2019, Judge McElfresh was appointed by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O' Connor to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. As a member of the Commission, Judge McElfresh serves on the House Bill 1 Implementation Workgroup. The Workgroup is charged with studying the impact of this new legislation and reporting its findings to the Governor.

**Claire Parsons, Esq., Of Counsel Bricker Graydon** - Claire E. Parsons, a seasoned attorney with 15 years of experience, specializes in litigation across Kentucky and Ohio. Her practice includes school law, administrative law, municipal law, and employment law. As a former president of the Kentucky Defense Counsel, Claire is dedicated to mentoring and promoting employee

# SPEAKERS CONTINUED

**Claire Parsons, Esq., Of Counsel Bricker Graydon** - Claire E. Parsons, a seasoned attorney with 15 years of experience, specializes in litigation across Kentucky and Ohio. Her practice includes school law, administrative law, municipal law, and employment law. As a former president of the Kentucky Defense Counsel, Claire is dedicated to mentoring and promoting employee well-being. She served on the 2022 WIL Planning Committee.

**Emily N. Litzinger, Esq., Partner -Fisher & Phillips, LLP** - Emily is a partner in the national labor and employment law firm Fisher Phillips and practices out of the Louisville office. Emily is a trusted adviser and experienced litigator who counsels and defends employers through the intricacies of labor and employment law and works with her clients to develop preventative strategies to ensure compliance and avoid costly litigation. As a mother of three energetic young daughters, Emily is passionate about the advancement of women in both the legal profession and the workplace.

**Courtney Risk, Esq., Education & Engagement Specialist - Lawyers Mutual of Kentucky** - Courtney describes her role at Lawyers Mutual as a unicorn, where she gets to combine her skills in relationship building, risk management education, litigation, and organizational collaboration. She joined the Lawyers Mutual team after beginning her career handling litigation—both criminal and civil—as well as transactional work. Courtney has spoken across Kentucky and nationally about the connection between burnout, trauma, well-being, and lawyer liability. She attended Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law and currently serves as the Mentorship Chair for the Fayette County Bar Association Women's Law Association and as a member of the Women Leaders in Insurance Board.

**Kayla Goodfellow, Esq. - Staff Counsel, Cincinnati Insurance Company** - Kayla is staff counsel at the Law Office of the Cincinnati Insurance Company where she defends a broad range of civil litigation from inception through appeal. She received her B.A. from Coe College in 2005 and her J.D. from IU McKinney School of Law in 2008. Kayla is currently on the board of NeighborLink Indianapolis, which provides seniors with free home repairs so they may age in place safely.

**Anita L. Koesters, Esq. - JD, CPCU, AIC-M, ASLI, The Cincinnati Insurance Company** - Anita co-leads the Express Claims Center for The Cincinnati Insurance Companies. In this role, she trains and develops a team of new claims associates, creating a foundation for successful insurance careers. She's also responsible for reviewing specific state rulings and regulations to keep the ECC operating within licensing and state requirements. Prior to joining the insurance industry, Anita practiced civil litigation in Ohio for several years. In her insurance career that started before joining Cincinnati, she applied her legal knowledge to work with counsel in various jurisdictions involving complex, litigated and coverage matters.

**Kerrie Kitts, Esq. - JD, Manager-Major Case, Hanover Insurance Group** - Kerrie's legal career began at the law firm of Patterson, Phifer and Phillips in Detroit, Michigan. It was there she found her love of insurance that has carried her career to this day. She currently leads a team of national and regional adjusters providing technical guidance on the Programs and Excess & Surplus Claims book at The Hanover Insurance Group. Prior to joining The Hanover, Kerrie was an AVP with Cincinnati Insurance, a Regional Manager for Liberty Mutual, spent 12 years with Farmers Insurance in a variety of leadership roles that included National Coverage Manager, Claims Counsel Manager and Southeast Technical Consultant. Kerrie also spent 10 years with Nationwide Insurance in a variety of leadership positions. Kerrie earned both her Bachelor's and Juris Doctorate from The Michigan State University – Go Spartans!

**Jill K. Mercer, Esq., Managing Counsel, Contingent Litigation, Nationwide Corporate Operations and Litigation Legal Team** - Jill is Managing Counsel in the Contingent Litigation Unit of the Corporate Operations and Litigation Legal Team. She and her team specialize in managing bad faith litigation against the company throughout the country. This includes not only driving the litigation from start to finish to ensure the strongest defense is mounted, but also advising leadership on important trends in litigation and high exposures to the company. Jill has 20 years of litigation experience, which includes multiple jury trials and appellate arguments. Jill graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish, and received her Juris Doctorate from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She is also a Past-President of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, and very active in the civil defense bar.

**Barron K. Henley, Esq. Owner, Affinity Consulting** - Barron's role at Affinity involves automating complex documents with HotDocs and Contract Express. He also teaches continuing legal education classes on technology, ethics and practice management; is a primary software trainer for Affinity; and conducts technology audits. Barron practiced law from 1993 to 1997, then began offering technology services to lawyers in 1997. He is a founding partner of Affinity Consulting Group. Barron's superpower is his ability to automate extremely complex documents. Teaching continuing legal education classes in front of a live audience is his favorite part of his job.