



**ALFA International**  
THE GLOBAL LEGAL NETWORK

# GIG ECONOMY REGIONAL SEMINAR



**Austin, Texas | February 20, 2025**

# SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## Thursday, February 20, 2025

### Program at JW Marriott Austin | Austin, Texas

110 East 2nd Street | Austin, Texas | Rooms 301-302

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**LUNCH AND REGISTRATION**

Rooms 301-302

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**PROGRAMMING**

Rooms 301-302

2:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

*Speakers:*

**Jessica Zaroski Bauer**, *CEO*, ALFA INTERNATIONAL, Chicago, IL

**Jason Goodnight**, *Program Chair*, FRANDEN | FARRIS | QUILLIN | GOODNIGHT | ROBERTS + WARD, Tulsa, OK

**Heather Kuhn**, *Client Advisory Board Member*, GENUINE PARTS COMPANY, Atlanta, GA

**Eugene Lee**, *Client Advisory Board Member*, UBER, San Francisco, CA

**Stephen Myers**, *Client Advisory Board Member*, MATCH GROUP, Dallas, TX

**Akeem Williams**, *Client Advisory Board Member*, INSTACART, San Francisco, CA

2:15 P.M. – 3:05 P.M.

**REGULATION FIRST, INNOVATION SECOND?**

*Speakers:*

**Sebastian Schneider**, *Moderator*, TIEFENBACHER, Heidelberg, Germany

**Heather Kuhn**, *Privacy, Cybersecurity and Technology Counsel*, GENUINE PARTS COMPANY, Atlanta, GA

In the realm of Generative AI, both developers and users agree that this technology comes with inherited risks. That in mind, with the “AI Act,” the European Union (EU) has set out a regulation, before even the first European entrepreneurship made a significant leap in the application of generative AI systems in practice. However, is this slowing down innovation or rather preparing a legal framework that provides legal certainty in a field that has the potential to disrupt almost every field of economy? This panel shall look at which risks will have to be assessed by providing generative AI systems in the EU as well as potential ideas for implementation outside the EU.

# SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

3:05 P.M. – 3:55 P.M.

## DIFFERENT SHADES OF RED

### *Speakers:*

**Julie Busch**, *Moderator*, JOHNSON & BELL, LTD., Chicago, IL

**Andy Douberly**, DICKINSON & GIBBONS, P.A., Sarasota, FL

**Melanie Cheairs**, MAYER LLP, Houston, TX

**Kimberly Harris**, QUILLING, SELANDER, LOWNDS, WINSLETT & MOSER, P.C., Dallas, TX

A panel of veteran trial lawyers will compare Texas and Florida's contrasting approaches to excessive verdicts, emphasizing Florida's new tort reform legislation and efforts by the Plaintiff bar to bypass its protections. The panel will then focus on the unique risks of litigating cases in one of the most volatile jurisdictions in America, along with a deep dive into how tort reform failed, and a firsthand history of how particular venues in Texas became such frequent homes to some of the largest verdicts in the country.

3:55 P.M. – 4:05 P.M.

## BREAK

Foyer

4:05 P.M. – 4:55 P.M.

## NAVIGATING THE NEW 2025 FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE STATE AND PREDICTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSES

### *Speakers:*

**Brad Reed**, *Moderator*, FRANTZ WARD LLP, Cleveland, OH

**Nick Brauns**, *Chair Emeritus*, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK, LLP, San Diego, CA

**Nick Ruble**, BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE LLC, Kansas City, MO

**Amy Yarbrow**, MORRISON MAHONEY, Boston, MA

This session will address navigating changes in federal regulations under a new administration, focusing on the potential impact of new regulators and increased state and local enforcement. Topics include consumer protection regulations like the right-to-cancel, updates to DOL independent contractor rules, and state-level trends. The panel will explore the effects of California's Proposition 22, its role in litigation following its affirmation by the state Supreme Court, and expected legislative and administrative responses.

4:55 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

## THANK YOU AND CLOSING REMARKS

### *Speakers:*

**Brooke Churchman**, *Practice Group Chair*, HALL & EVANS, LLC, Denver, CO

**Jason Goodnight**, *Program Chair*, FRANDEN | FARRIS | QUILLIN |

GOODNIGHT | ROBERTS + WARD, Tulsa, OK

5:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

## SOCIAL EVENT



# SOCIAL EVENT



## BOAT CRUISE ON LADY BIRD LAKE

5:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Join us for an unforgettable evening on Lady Bird Lake as we cruise beneath the stunning skyline of Austin! Indulge in a delicious Texas smokehouse dinner paired with refreshing cocktails, all while enjoying the vibrant sounds of live music. This exclusive boat cruise promises breathtaking views and a lively atmosphere, making it the perfect way to connect with new and old friends.



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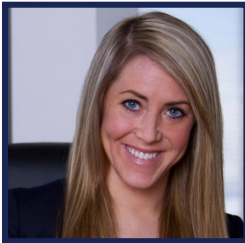
# SPEAKERS



**JESSICA ZAROSKI BAUER** joined ALFA International (ALFAI) in 2004 as a Coordinator of Events & Member Services. She then worked for several years as a Marketing Manager, Chief Events Officer and Chief Operating Officer. After 17 years with the association, she accepted her current role as Chief Executive Officer. In this position, she is the strategic thought leader of the organization, working closely with the Board of Directors and the various ALFAI committees. She manages headquarters staff and maintains constant communication with association members. Jessica oversees the member recruitment, development and retention programs as well as the marketing and business development initiatives for the organization. Prior to joining ALFA International, she worked in the marketing department of the Chicago-based law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas, LLP (now Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath). She is a graduate of the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business (Go Hawkeyes!) and is an avid college football fan. In her spare time, Jessica can be found enjoying family time with her husband, Harry, and her two young daughters, Greta and Vivian.



**NICK BRAUNS** is an attorney with Higgs Fletcher & Mack, LLP, the ALFA International member firm in San Diego, California. Nick's practice includes assisting with the investigation and defense of industrial accidents, personal injuries or other catastrophic losses for various companies in the transportation industry (trucking, auto and vertical transportation manufacturers, escalators and elevators). Nick has successfully represented clients through trial and arbitration in commercial and catastrophic loss matters in Southern California. His work on behalf of commercial clients includes counseling and representation for regulatory issues that impact the trucking and transportation industries. Nick is on standby as part of HFM's 24/7 Rapid Response Hotline, staffed by a live operator around the clock.



**JULIE BUSCH** is a shareholder of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., the ALFA International member firm in Chicago, Illinois. Julie concentrates her practice in general negligence, as well as transportation and retail litigation. She has assisted with all aspects of litigation, mediation, settlement, and jury trials for large, complex disputes in transportation litigation, complex brain injury, and retail litigation. Her clients include transportation companies, refuse and recycling companies, food companies and retailers.



**MELANIE CHEAIRS** is a partner from Mayer LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Houston, Texas. Melanie is an experienced trial lawyer, defending her clients in the Hospitality, Retail and Transportation industries in both commercial and injury-related catastrophic loss matters. Melanie was honored as the 2016 Recipient of ALFAI's Nathan Fishbach Attorney of the Year Award. Melanie was also the program chair of the ALFAI's 2016 International Client Seminar and previously chaired ALFAI's Hospitality and Retail Practice Group. In addition, she served as chair of ALFAI's Marketing Committee.





# SPEAKERS



**BROOKE CHURCHMAN** is a member of Hall & Evans, LLC, ALFA International's member firm in Denver, Colorado. Brooke's practice focuses on defending personal injury matters, including commercial transportation litigation, auto claims, premises claims, and employment matters. Brooke also represents niche businesses that operate app-based technology and marketplace platforms in the gig economy. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.S. in Zoology and earning her J.D. Before entering private practice, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Raymond Moore in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado and as assistant general counsel with the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. Brooke was named by 5280 Magazine as a top lawyer in Transportation and has been (and is) selected for inclusion in Colorado's "Rising Stars." Brooke is a member of ALFAI's Future Leaders, Transportation, Gig Economy and Hospitality & Retail Practice Groups.



**ANDY DOUBERLY** is a shareholder of Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A., the ALFA International member firm in Sarasota and Tampa, Florida. Andy is a trial attorney with a focus on auto, trucking, premises liability, and product liability defense. He handles the defense of claims from pre-suit through trial and has tried numerous multi-day civil jury trials in jurisdictions throughout Florida.



**JASON GOODNIGHT** is a partner with Franden | Farris | Quillin | Goodnight | Roberts + Ward, the ALFA International member firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jason primarily litigates matters in state and federal court in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas. He focuses his practice on product liability, transportation, oil & gas litigation and subrogation matters.



**KIMBERLY HARRIS** is an attorney with Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett & Moser, P.C., the ALFA International member firm in Dallas, Texas. Kimberly represents clients in a variety of litigation matters. During her career, Kimberly gained extensive experience in commercial and civil defense litigation, including premises liability and non-subscription defense, trying cases in both Texas state and federal courts. She also defends companies on general liability and non-subscriber claims of premises liability, wrongful death and product liability.

# SPEAKERS



**HEATHER KUHN** is Privacy, Cyber and Technology Counsel at Genuine Parts Company, where she handles tech contracts, privacy, cyber and AI compliance programs, and breach response. She is very engaged in the privacy and security communities and is an officer for the Privacy and Technology Section of the Georgia Bar. Heather is also an active member of IAPP's KnowledgeNet Atlanta chapter and holds three privacy certificates (FIP, CIPP/US and CIPT). Heather is currently enrolled at Georgia Tech, pursuing her M.S. in Cybersecurity, and is co-teaching both Privacy Law and Cybersecurity Law at Georgia State University College of Law. Prior to law school, Heather had 10 years of professional experience covering government, non-profit and for-profit sectors. This experience includes working in business operations, teaching high school math and directing grassroots advocacy efforts. Heather is based in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband and five kids.



**EUGENE LEE** serves as in-house counsel at Uber Technologies, Inc. He is on the insurance litigation team, handling matters primarily in California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. He is also a member of the Defense Counsel Task Force at Uber, which is tasked with identifying new law firms to include in Uber's defense counsel panel that is committed to diversity and inclusion. Prior to working at Uber, Eugene worked at several large national law firms and worked with various gig economy companies. Eugene serves on ALFA's Gig Economy Practice Group Client Advisory Board.



**STEPHEN MYERS** is a Director & Senior Counsel of Litigation at Match Group, where he handles consumer, business and employment litigation matters for Match Group's global portfolio of brands, including, among others, Tinder®, Match®, Hinge® and OkCupid®. Prior to joining Match Group, Stephen worked as a litigation and labor and employment attorney for Southwest Airlines, and, before that, as a litigation associate at the international law firm Norton Rose Fulbright. Stephen received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.



**BRAD REED** is a partner with Frantz Ward LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Cleveland, Ohio. Brad works on a wide range of corporate, transactional, regulatory, data privacy/cybersecurity and employee benefits matters. Specifically, his practice focuses on working with hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare providers regarding complex regulatory and compliance issues. Brad regularly advises clients with respect to HIPAA compliance, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, health care fraud and abuse regulations, and medical staff management issues. He also works on a wide range of various data privacy and cybersecurity issues, financial services regulations, ERISA compliance, service provider and vendor agreement negotiations, and other commercial contracts for clients in numerous industries and sectors. Additionally, he has experience handling ERISA, general litigation and intellectual property matters. He assists in investigating data security incidents and regularly prepares breach risk assessments and notifications under HIPAA and various state data breach notification laws.



# SPEAKERS



**NICK RUBLE** is a member of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC, the ALFA International member firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Nick represents companies of all sizes and industries in employment and labor, personal injury, creditor's rights, and commercial disputes at all stages of litigation or alternative dispute resolution. Throughout his career, Nick has employed creative tactics to reach positive outcomes for his clients in mediation, arbitration, and in state or federal court.



**SEBASTIAN SCHNEIDER** is partner with Tiefenbacher, the ALFA International member firm in Germany. Tiefenbacher offers full-service legal advice for both corporate advice and litigation. Sebastian's practice focuses on corporate, M&A and similar transactions, including real estate portfolio acquisitions and, therefore real estate, construction and rental law. In addition, Sebastian is a key contact for the startup advice center at Heidelberg University, and his clients include promising start-up companies from the technology sector. As common in this field, he advises both investors and entrepreneurs on navigating the gig economy with its challenges and disruptions to the classic labor law environment.



**AMY YARBRO** is a partner with Morrison Mahoney LLP, the ALFA International member firm in Boston, Massachusetts. Amy is practicing civil defense litigation with a focus on employment law, professional liability, and directors and officers (D&O) liability in Massachusetts. She defends nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care agencies, medical and real estate professionals, businesses, and individuals in a wide range of matters involving medical malpractice, wrongful death, condominium disputes, landlord-tenant matters, premises liability, and transportation. She represents clients in employment discrimination and retaliation claims as well as wage and hour disputes. Amy is also the founder and chair of the firm's Wellness Committee.