

2026



WBA & WBF

Ohio Women's Bar Association | Ohio Women's Bar Foundation

2026 Annual Meeting & Conference

Next-Level Legal:

*AI, Resilience, and Strategic Agility
in a Changing World*



Thursday, April 16th Agenda

Time Session Titles & Speakers

11:00am - 12:30pm **President's Brunch**
Robert King Room

12:30pm - 1:00pm **Registration and Networking**
Edna Boies Hopkins Room

1:00pm - 1:30pm **Next-Level Legal: AI Essentials**
Nate Craig, Associate Professor, Department of Operations and Business Analytics,
The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business
Elijah Pierce Room (.50 cle general credit hour)

1:30pm - 2:30pm **From Policy to Practice: Managing AI's Impact in the Workplace**
Panelists:
Kami Brauer, Partner, Employment Law Partners, LLC
Jason T. Whitehead II, Attorney, Perez Morris
Shennan Harris, Principal, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP
Heather Renée Adams, Partner, Thompson Hine LLP
Elijah Pierce Room (1.0 cle general credit hour)

2:30pm - 2:50pm **Break**

2:50pm - 3:50pm **Resilient by Design: Managing Cybersecurity and AI Risk While Driving Legal Innovation**
Moderator: Claudia Herrington, Esq, CCEP, Managing Director, Enterprise Risk, JobsOhio
Panelists:
Dawn Browning, Chief Privacy Officer & VP, Privacy Legal & Technology Team, Nationwide
Jennifer Mountcastle, Deputy General Counsel and Corporate Insurance Director, SVP, Huntington National Bank
Pete Walters, Vice President, Litigation, Integreon
Elijah Pierce Room (1.0 cle general credit hour)

3:50pm - 4:00pm **Break**

4:00pm - 5:00pm **Leading with Grit & Grace: Shaping the Future of Legal Resilience**
Moderator: Lavell Payne Brown, Associate Vice President, Nationwide Financial Litigation, Nationwide
Panelists:
Marilyn McClure-Demers, Office Managing Member, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
Yvette McGee Brown, Partner-in-Charge, Inclusion & Advancement, Jones Day
Janice Innis-Thompson, Senior Vice President, Nationwide Financial Legal, Nationwide
Elijah Pierce Room (1.0 cle general credit hour)

5:15pm - 6:45pm **Happy Hour Reception**
Sponsored by
Edna Boies Hopkins & Elijah Pierce Room



Friday, April 17th Agenda

Time Session Titles & Speakers

8:00am - 9:00am

Breakfast

Edna Boies Hopkins & Elijah Pierce Room

9:00am - 9:45am

Unplug to Perform: The Hard Reset Lawyers Need in an Always-On World

Moderator: **Laura Hartnett**, Legal Consultant, Law By Design

Panelists:

Mallory Monhemius, Assistant General Counsel, OhioHealth

Claire Parsons, Of Counsel, Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP

Stephanie Chmiel, Partner, Thompson Hine LLP

Elijah Pierce Room (.75 cle general credit hour)

9:45am - 10:00am

Break

10:00am - 11:00am

AI and Technology Governance: Anticipating the Future as Elected Officials

Moderator: **Jennifer A. L. Battle**, Esq., Partner, Carpenter Lipps LLP

Panelists:

Allison Russo, State Representative, District 7, Ohio House of Representatives

Christine Cockley, MPA, State Representative, District 6, Ohio House of Representatives

Nikki Hudson, Board Member, Worthington School District

Elijah Pierce Room (1.0 cle general credit hour)

11:00am - 12:00pm

Legal Leaders Roundtable: AI Governance, Ethics, and Resilient Practice

Moderator: **Sabra Tomb**, Director of Training Programs & Strategic Business Development; Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Dayton School of Law

Panelists:

Anne K. Garcia, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, The Ohio State University Office of Legal Affairs

Magdalena Grossman, Chief Compliance Officer, American Financial Group, Inc.

Meleah M. Skillern, Partner, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Elijah Pierce Room (1.0 professional conduct credit hour)

12:00pm - 12:30pm

Networking Break



Next-Level Legal:

AI, Resilience, and Strategic Agility in a Changing World

Awards & Luncheon: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Luncheon Keynote: Cat Moon

Founding Co-Director, Vanderbilt AI Law Lab

Founder, Women+AI Initiative



See each participants LinkedIn connected to their profile



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Luncheon Keynote Speaker



Cat Moon

Founding Co-Director of the Vanderbilt AI Law Lab,
Founder of the Women+AI Initiative



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Cat Moon

Founding Co-Director, Vanderbilt AI Law Lab
Founder, Women+AI Initiative

Cat is an internationally recognized speaker, facilitator, and coach who works with people wanting to make change to create value. In other words, innovators seeking inspiration—as well as methods and tools for action—to make the world better in ways both large and small. She speaks and facilitates extensively across the U.S. and Europe, and coaches individuals from around the globe.

As Professor of the Practice, Co-Director of the Program on Law and Innovation, and Founding Co-Director of the Vanderbilt AI Law Lab at Vanderbilt Law School, Cat brings her experience in research and teaching on the AI of law, human-centered design, and innovation leadership at a top 20 law school to her work with individuals, teams, and firms.

Before joining Vanderbilt's faculty in 2017, Cat led a technology-powered law firm and counseled businesses from start-up to acquisition stage for 19 years. Earlier in her career, she taught communication (rhetoric, persuasion, public speaking) at two large public universities and as part of her master's work studied innovation and change management with global industry leaders.

A relentlessly curious person, Cat's superpower is moving people to action, beyond the moment of her talk, workshop, or coaching session. She empowers people to DO: to take action and make change that creates value in their work and for their organizations, using proven mindsets, tools, and processes.

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Jennifer Battle

Amber Merl

Angela Paul Whitfield

Past OWBF Leadership Institute Graduates:

Jennifer Battle

Kimberly Bojko

Amber Merl

Emily Vincent

Angela Paul Whitfield





President's Message

Shennan Harris

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

Outgoing OWBA President

Dear Members,

As I prepare to pass the gavel at this year's Annual Meeting and Conference, I have been reflecting on the meaning and mission of the Ohio Women's Bar Association, what we've accomplished over the past year, and the work we have yet to do.

The purpose of the OWBA (as reflected in our Regulations) is to maintain the honor and integrity of the legal profession, to foster communication among women attorneys, to advance the position and opportunities available to women attorneys in order to more accurately reflect the role of women in a democratic society, to ensure women attorneys' participation in bar associations, to encourage participation in the social and political areas affecting our communities, to monitor legislation, policies, and practices affecting women's status and opportunities, and to promote continuing legal education and the dissemination of information of interest to women.

At a time when women's initiatives in the workplace have all but disappeared, when the laws we have sworn to uphold are under attack, and when raising your voice to oppose these issues can lead to retaliation, the OWBA has stepped up to the plate.

We believe in diversity, equity, and inclusion—not as obligations, but as essential to who we are and how we serve. We continue to offer our members a robust network of accomplished lawyers, mentorship opportunities that open doors and lift each other up, and programming that educates and inspires, all at a price that reflects our commitment to accessibility.

We believe in the power of our profession to advance justice and uphold the rule of law. As one of only two statewide bar associations in Ohio, we have both the privilege and the responsibility to speak out in support of these principles. We have spoken against constitutional violations and in defense of the rule of law, and we will continue to use our collective voice to speak out in furtherance of our mission—because the work of maintaining the legal profession's integrity, of advancing justice, and of advocating for women's full participation in the profession and in society demands nothing less.

Over the past year we've also undertaken strategic initiatives to strengthen how we serve you. We modernized our governing documents and trustee structure, moving from a district-based model to regions—ensuring we serve our members effectively across Ohio's urban and rural communities. We've refreshed our visual identity with an updated logo and website, investments in digital infrastructure that continue to evolve and better reflect who we are. And we've developed several new membership initiatives that we will be rolling out over the coming months. These changes reflect our commitment to making the OWBA work harder for every member, wherever they practice.

The OWBA offers something invaluable: a place where our members find community, strengthen their voice, and move forward together. As I step down from this role, I am confident that the OWBA—strengthened by all of you—will continue to be a force for good in our profession and our communities. Thank you for your membership and your engagement.

In solidarity,

Shennan Harris
President, Ohio Women's Bar Association





President's Message

Amber Merl

Carpenter Lipps LLP

Outgoing OWBF President

Welcome to the OWBA & OWBF 2026 Annual Meeting & Conference! As President of the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation, I am delighted to spend two days with all of you, learning and connecting in this changing world. For those of you who know me well, you know that I am slow to accept technological changes—I do not use social media, I still telephone my mother every day for a live conversation, and I have no idea how to have asked ChatGPT to write this letter. But I know enough to understand AI is here to stay, and I am excited for the opportunity to attend this conference and hear from so many thoughtful and talented speakers.

While AI may be changing the world and with it, the legal profession, I know some matters remain the same. Lawyers still need mentorship and leadership training, and law students still need scholarships to help them succeed. I have been honored to serve as President of the OWBF this year, and to work alongside our Board and Trustees to further the educational and charitable pursuits of the Ohio Women's Bar Association through the Foundation. Under the incredible leadership of the 2025-2026 Leadership Institute Planning Committee, 21 women attorneys from across Ohio met monthly for full-day sessions, where they cultivated leadership skills and expanded their networks, advancing their careers. The 2025-2026 OWBF Leadership Institute Cohort graduated last month, and these women are poised to lead their firms, companies, and communities with purpose and integrity, furthering the OWBF's mission to advance gender equality and elevate women leaders. This year, the OWBF Scholarship Committee offered two need-based scholarships to female law students to cover the costs of a bar review course and/or living expenses while studying for the bar exam. The applicants' essays confirmed the significant need for assistance to alleviate the financial hardship associated with the bar exam, and I am proud that the OWBF and the Scholarship Committee were able to lessen that need for two individuals.

The world is changing, and so are we. As my year as President draws to a close, I am confident in the future of the OWBF. We have worked tirelessly this year to streamline operations, increase efficiencies, and generate funding, in an effort to further the OWBF's mission to accelerate the advancement of women lawyers as leaders in the profession through our educational and charitable efforts. We are stronger than ever, and excited to increase our impact in the coming year. Please join us!

-Amber L. Merl



Welcome to our incoming Presidents



Lavell Payne Brown

Associate Vice President, Nationwide
Financial Litigation

Nationwide

Incoming OWBA President



Bonnie Wolf

Associate Vice President, Chief of
Staff to the Chief Legal Officer at
Nationwide

Nationwide

Incoming OWBF President



Mistress of Ceremonies



Olivia Hiltbrand

Associate

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

Olivia graduated summa cum laude from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where she was a Michael E. Moritz scholar. During her time at Moritz, Olivia served as executive editor for the Ohio State Law Journal and competed in moot court. She also externed with the Honorable Edmund A. Sargus Jr. at the US District Court for the Southern District of Ohio and the Honorable R. Guy Cole Jr. at the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Currently, Olivia is a litigation associate at Squire Patton Boggs in Columbus.

Prior to law school, Olivia worked for nearly a decade as an award-winning TV news reporter in Ohio (Columbus and Cleveland), Rhode Island and West Virginia. Olivia remains interested in press freedom and the First Amendment. As a legal intern and summer fellow, she assisted in litigation at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University and the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School. She has also published law review articles on these topics.

As a cancer survivor, Olivia is also passionate about volunteering with Blood Cancer United (formerly The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society) and the American Society of Hematology. Read more about her Visionaries of the Year campaign for Blood Cancer United [here!](#)



Swearing in Ceremony



The Honorable Joyce V. Kimbler

Medina County Court of Common Pleas

Judge Joyce V. Kimbler has been a judge of the Medina County Court of Common Pleas since 2015, having won election in 2014 and re-election in 2020. Judge Kimbler presides over two specialized dockets certified by the Ohio Supreme Court, Drug Court and Mental Health Court. Judge Kimbler received a B.A. from Evangel College and her J.D. from the University of Akron. She was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1982. She then served as a judicial clerk for Judge William Baird at the Ninth District Court of Appeals. Thereafter, she was in practice as a trial attorney for 29 years.



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Working together + achieving more. The Women's Collaborative at Kegler Brown is an action-oriented group that believes in sharing knowledge, connections, a platform to brainstorm, and much more. We're proud to support the OWBA and OWBF in their initiatives to bring women lawyers together to advance professionally, because we know true success only comes through collaboration.

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2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists

See each participant's LinkedIn connected to their bio



Nate Craig, Associate Professor, Department of Operations and Business Analytics, The Ohio State University

Nate Craig is an associate professor in the Department of Operations and Business Analytics, where he helps organizations and managers deploy artificial intelligence to create value. He researches applications of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science with a focus on the financial services, healthcare, and retail industries. His work has been published in leading outlets including Harvard Business Review, the Journal of Operations Management, Decision Sciences, and Manufacturing & Service Operations Management. At the Fisher College of Business, Nate designed and launched the college's first course on artificial intelligence for business, and he currently serves as the academic director of the Executive MBA program.

Nate holds a doctorate in Technology and Operations Management from Harvard Business School, along with master's and bachelor's degrees in Systems Engineering from The Ohio State University. He has received several research honors, including the Wyss Award and the Ralph Gomory Industry Studies Award. Beyond campus, Nate mentors students in the FIRST Robotics League. He has served in community leadership roles with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) Community Board and the Ohio Union Council.



Kami D. Brauer, Esq. Partner, Employment Law Partners, LLC

Kami D. Brauer is a Partner at Employment Law Partners, LLC. She represents all types of workers, from laborers to executives, providing smart and innovative counseling and litigation services. Kami has been recognized as one of the top lawyers in Ohio by Ohio Super Lawyers magazine for the years 2021 through 2024 and serves as an Arbitrator for employment matters with the American Arbitration Association. Currently, Kami is the Chair of the Ohio Employment Lawyers Association and serves on its Amicus Committee and Membership Committee. In May 2020, she became the District 8 Representative on the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Women's Bar Association. Ms. Brauer also held the position of Co-Chair for the Women in Law Section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Shennan Harris, Esq., Principal, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

Shennan Harris helps employers solve – and prevent – problems through efficient, effective, personalized representation and counseling.

Shennan excels at efficiently and effectively managing all aspects of the litigation process and thinking outside the box to resolve tough problems. She represents clients in all aspects of complex litigation and arbitration, including class and collective actions, in state and federal trial and appellate courts, as well as helps employers resolve charges of discrimination and other disputes before administrative agencies.

In addition to her dispute resolution work, Shennan counsels employers of all sizes regarding all aspects of federal, state and local employment law, including hiring, termination, wage and hour compliance, FMLA and ADA issues, federal contractor issues, and employee handbooks and policies. Shennan is well-versed on state and local employment laws, including leave laws, allowing her to provide guidance to employers with employees across the US. She also helps clients by reviewing, drafting and providing advice regarding all types of employment-related contracts.



Jason T. Whitehead II, Esq., Attorney, Perez-Morris

Jason T. Whitehead II joined Perez Morris in 2023, where he focuses his practice on workers' compensation and employment litigation matters. Prior to joining Perez Morris, Jason was an Assistant Prosecutor for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. He previously worked as an associate attorney at an Ohio workers' compensation law firm.

Jason takes pride in his clear communication skills and ability to build strong relationships with his clients and colleagues. He understands that legal issues can be complex and overwhelming, and is committed to providing his clients with the guidance they need to navigate the legal process with confidence. He is most passionate about helping others craft strategies to assist them in increasing productivity and decreasing liability, while creating a safe and enjoyable work environment.

Jason obtained his law degree from DePaul University College of Law in 2019. During law school, Jason served as Treasurer for the Midwest Region of the National Black Law Student Association and as the Business Manager for the DePaul University Journal of Health Care Law. Jason also served as a legal extern for both the Seventh District Court of Appeals for the State of Ohio and the Department of Health & Human Services Office of General Counsel.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Heather Renée Adams, Partner, Thompson Hine LLP

Heather is a partner in the firm's Labor & Employment practice group. Licensed to practice in Ohio and Illinois, Heather is a true workplace attorney, advising on the full range of issues that arise in the modern workplace. A practical, common-sense counselor, she skillfully navigates all levels of an organization—from the frontline to the C-suite. A trial attorney by training, Heather is a sought-after advisor whose guidance is grounded in deep litigation experience.

Heather's unique practice includes complex employment litigation, traditional labor matters, and comprehensive workplace counseling. She has tried novel whistleblower cases, including a case of first impression in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois involving the Federal Railroad Safety Act, which she tried to a complete defense jury verdict and successfully defended before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Heather has also defended employers in False Claims Act litigation and other complex matters.

In addition, Heather has significant traditional labor experience. She is at the table when it matters. She represents both public and private entities in all facets of traditional labor practice, including collective bargaining, grievance arbitration, union-avoidance strategy, and labor-management relations.

As a workplace counselor, Heather provides strategic advisory services to senior executives and leadership teams across the United States. She also conducts highly sensitive investigations and leads comprehensive policy reviews, helping organizations assess risk, strengthen compliance, and implement practical, business-aligned workplace policies that withstand legal and operational scrutiny.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Claudia Herrington, Esq., CCEP, Managing Director, Enterprise Risk, JobsOhio

Claudia Herrington is the Managing Director of Enterprise Risk for JobsOhio. Her role includes two distinct areas of responsibility. In one area, Claudia conceptualized, operationalized and continues to evolve a comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management program across JobsOhio's portfolio of companies with particular focus on cyber security, data privacy and artificial intelligence. In the other area, Claudia ensures 100% compliance for all of JobsOhio's statutory, regulatory, and corporate driven requirements. Her role requires strong internal and external cross-functional communication and collaboration that have earned her the trust of the staff and the Audit Committee of the board. Her role has set her apart as a thought leader of both Compliance and Enterprise Risk.

Before joining JobsOhio, Claudia worked as a Compliance / Regulatory leader for companies in highly-regulated industries, pharmaceuticals and medical devices (Sarnova) and chemicals (Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Fortune 1000). Further, her professional background naturally lends itself to board service. Claudia is the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Investment committee for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio. Claudia served as a Board Member and investment expert for the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio where she chaired the Compensation committee and was a member of the Audit, Governance, and Investment committees. She is a Past President of the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

Claudia graduated from The College of Wooster with a bachelor's degree in International Relations; the American University with a master's degree in International Studies; and Case Western Reserve University with a juris doctor. She is a Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Dawn M. Browning, Chief Privacy Officer & VP, Privacy Legal & Technology Team, Nationwide

Dawn joined Nationwide as its chief Privacy Officer and Vice President of the Privacy Legal & Technology Team in October 2021. In this role she oversees the privacy function for Nationwide and leads a team of eight legal professionals.

Prior to joining Nationwide, Dawn spent almost sixteen years working in various roles in the United States Intelligence Community at the United States Department of Justice, the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Each of these roles focused significantly on privacy and cyber security issues. Immediately prior to joining Nationwide, Dawn served as the Deputy General Counsel for the FBI's National Security and Cyber Law Branch, in which she oversaw the FBI's entire national security and law practice. Prior to entering the federal service, Dawn worked in the non-profit sphere advocating for equal access to justice for the indigent.

Dawn is a graduate of the University of Delaware, and the American University's Washington's College of Law. She is currently licensed to practice in the District of Columbia and Maryland.



Pete Walters, Vice President, Litigation, Integreon

Pete Walters is the Vice President of Litigation at Integreon with years of experience in both Alternative Legal Services and Legal Technology. He helps law firms, corporations, government agencies, and consumers solve complex data challenges. His areas of expertise are Information Governance, Electronic Discovery, Computer Forensics, Managed Document Review, and Cybersecurity Incident Response.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Jennifer Mountcastle, Deputy General Counsel and Corporate Insurance Director, SVP, The Huntington National Bank

Jennifer Mountcastle is Deputy General Counsel, Senior Vice President, and Corporate Insurance Director at The Huntington National Bank, where she is the head of litigation, corporate insurance, and legal operations out of its Columbus, Ohio headquarters. She previously practiced law from 2000-2015 at the law firm of Thompson Hine in both Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, where she was a litigation partner in the business litigation and product liability practice groups, an active member of the firm's pro bono program, and chaired the firm's Lawyer Personnel Committee that managed professional development and compensation for the firm's employed lawyers.

Jen was a member of the Leadership Columbus Class of 2013. She has been an active member of several non-profit boards in Cleveland and Columbus during her career, including The Columbus Early Learning Center, The Center for Community Solutions, Teen Leadership Corps (Secretary, Vice Chair), and Amethyst, Inc. (Vice-Chair), and has volunteered with Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio, People in Need of Delaware County, and West Broad Elementary. She has been active in supporting her daughters' passion for dance, serving for several years as secretary of the boosters for the competition dance team at Powell Dance Academy and serving as an assistant coach for the Olentangy Liberty High School Dance Team. Jen has also served for many years as a mentor in the Ohio Supreme Court's Lawyer to Lawyer mentoring program and co-founded and co-chairs the litigation section of the Columbus chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Jen graduated *cum laude* from Bowling Green State University and received her law degree *summa cum laude* from Cleveland State University College of Law, which inducted her into its Hall of Fame in 2023. She resides in Powell, Ohio, with her husband Bill and daughters Clare and Colette.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Lavell Payne Brown, Associate Vice President, Nationwide Financial Litigation, Nationwide

Lavell Payne Brown is Associate Vice President - Nationwide Financial Litigation at Nationwide, where she leads the company's in-house financial services litigation center of excellence. She and her team manage complex, enterprise-wide matters and deliver practical, business-focused legal advice informed by strong strategic planning, business acumen, and innovative problem-solving.

Previously, Lavell served as Managing Counsel of Nationwide's Corporate Litigation Discovery Management Unit, overseeing a multidisciplinary team of attorneys, paralegals, and litigation technology professionals as they evolved and strengthened the company's approach to litigation and e-discovery. She began her Nationwide career in the Trial Division as a trial lawyer and appellate specialist and has also held roles in quality assurance, ethics, training, and process management.

Lavell keeps her advocacy skills sharp as an arbitrator with the Summit County Court of Common Pleas and as an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. An alumna of the University of Virginia and The University of Akron School of Law, she holds bachelor's degrees in English Language and Literature and African American and African Studies, as well as a Juris Doctor. She has also completed executive education certificates in Business Acumen for Rising Executives from the Wharton School and in building inclusive workplaces from the University of South Florida Muma College of Business, and is a Certified E-Discovery Specialist (CEDS) and eDiscovery Executive (eDEX). She is President-Elect of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and a frequent speaker on litigation, e-discovery, legal operations, and belonging and inclusion for national bar and industry conferences.

She serves on the Board of Breadwinners Academy in Cleveland, Ohio, a nonprofit that equips students and adults from historically underserved communities with practical financial literacy and tools for long-term economic stability. A former U.S. Army Reservist, she received multiple awards for excellence in service. Outside of work, Lavell and her husband, Richard, enjoy cheering on their four children—DJ, Tyanna, Tavien, and Tyler—and doting on their two dogs, Honey the Cockapoo and Arya the Black Lab.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Marilyn McClure-Demers, Office Managing Member, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

Marilyn T. McClure-Demers brings decades of corporate leadership, extensive in-house and private legal practice experience and background to clients as she counsels them on business and legal issues and guides them through high-level strategy decisions. As the Office Managing Member in the firm's Columbus office, Marilyn is focused on growing the office and expanding the firm's client base. She also leads the firm's outside general counsel practice, providing comprehensive legal counsel to businesses of various sizes.

Previously the Vice President and Associate General Counsel at a Fortune 100 company, Marilyn is skilled at building relationships and leading collaborative teams. She uses her strategic legal and business acumen to help clients navigate complex labor and employment, corporate, intellectual property, class action, insurance and financial services, and litigation issues. Throughout her career, Marilyn has worked with private and public sector clients, including elected public officials and in high-profile regulatory, arbitration, and civil litigation matters.

Marilyn also serves as Assistant General Counsel to the firm, where she assists in handling and resolving complex conflicts and related ethical and business issues.

Marilyn has been widely recognized for her inclusive culture, humanitarian and community work. She serves on the boards of numerous community organizations and is currently the Co-Chair of the Tiffany Circle National Council of the American Red Cross and the Chair of the WVU Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has also been recognized as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the West Virginia Bar Foundation.

She has been a featured speaker across the country including the American Bar Association Annual Meeting, the Association of Corporate Counsel University, the Thomas L. Sager Distinguished Speaking Series at the Wake Forest University Schools of Law and Business, the Defense Research Institute, the Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia, the National Employment Law Institute, Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD), and the Ohio Women's Bar Association Annual Meeting.

In law school, Marilyn was a member of the Order of Barristers. She was also the first female Summit of Mountain Honorary, West Virginia University's ranking honorary for outstanding service, leadership and performance at WVU.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Yvette McGee Brown, Partner-in-Charge, Inclusion & Advancement, Jones Day

Yvette McGee Brown represents clients in complex litigation involving a variety of issues and industries and government investigations involving police or corporate misconduct, most recently representing the city of Minneapolis in state and federal investigations involving allegations of police misconduct. She advises on diversity, equity, and inclusion; Title VII; and Title IX. Yvette spent 11 years as a jurist, including as a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court, after which she returned to private practice, assisting clients across a range of difficult legal issues. Yvette has considerable experience navigating high-profile and time-sensitive matters, including those involving public corruption, discrimination, regulatory enforcement, and constitutional challenges. She divides her time between investigations, initial trial court representations, and appellate matters. She has been appointed as an arbitrator on complex litigation panels and as a mediator to resolve high-profile cases.

As Jones Day's Partner-in-Charge of Inclusion & Advancement, Yvette works with the Firm's leadership on diversity strategies and frequently advises clients on legal guardrails for diversity initiatives.

Yvette is an active community leader. She is a corporate director for Encova Mutual Insurance Group, The Jeffrey Company, M/I Homes, Inc., Nationwide Children's Hospital, and KIPP Columbus, a public charter school. She previously served on a number of non-profit boards including the boards of Claremont McKenna College and Ohio University.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Janice Innis-Thompson, Senior Vice President, Corporate Operations and Litigation Legal, Nationwide

Janice Innis-Thompson is Senior Vice President and lead attorney of Nationwide's Financial Services Legal Department. She leads a team of legal professionals who enable the record-breaking growth and expansion of Nationwide's Financial Services business. Janice's legal and compliance experience crosses litigation, general corporate, and compliance and ethics disciplines. She has also worked across multiple sectors including government, manufacturing, and technology. Prior to Nationwide, she led the Compliance, Privacy and Data Protection programs for Samsung Electronics' North American as the Chief Compliance Officer, and she served for 10 years as the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer for TIAA.

Her positions with Tyco International, International Paper Company and the U.S. Department of Justice helped to hone her skills in areas such as litigation, antitrust, consumer protection, records and information management, and government contracts. She also had the privilege of serving as a Law Clerk to Joseph W. Hatchett, U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit.

Janice currently sits on the following Boards: MBIA; The Executive Leadership Council; The National Forest Foundation; and the Children's Hunger Alliance. Among her many honors and awards, she was recently named by Directors & Boards Magazine as a "Director to Watch" and she was also included in Who's Who in Black Columbus, 2024.



Laura Hartnett, Legal Consultant, Law By Design

Laura Hartnett is a legal design consultant who works with legal teams to redesign their practice of law from a human perspective. A former management consultant as well as BigLaw and in-house lawyer, she is passionate about making the practice of law better for both legal professionals and clients. She is also a yoga addict, karaoke enthusiast, and author of a forthcoming travel memoir and comic novel. Reach her at laura@laurahartnett.com, LinkedIn, or Instagram @laurabreaksthelaw.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Mallory Monhemius, Assistant General Counsel, OhioHealth

Mallory Monhemius is Assistant General Counsel at OhioHealth Corporation. In this capacity, she supports areas of the company such as the OhioHealth Physician Group, OhioHealth Research Institute and the Well-Being Center. Mental health and wellness is a passion of Mallory's and she has been involved in several well-being in law initiatives and organizations such as being the chair of the Cleveland Metro Bar Association Well-Being Committee, being an active participant in the annual Well-Being in Law week, organizing wellness activities for the OWBA and leading firm-wide initiatives in her former role at an Amlaw 200 law firm.

Outside of the law, Mallory's passion continues as she operates a boutique yoga studio in Central Ohio. Currently, Mallory is on the executive committee of the OWBA and a board member of the Society of Healthcare Attorneys.



Claire Parsons, Of Counsel, Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP

Claire E. Parsons is Of Counsel with Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP. She practices in the areas of school law, employment law, and litigation in both Kentucky and Ohio. In addition to being an experienced attorney, mom of two girls, and active community leader, Claire is a popular and well-known speaker and writer on the topics of attorney mental health, mindfulness, compassion, and stress management. She is the Chair of the wellness committees for the Ohio State Bar Association, Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, and Bricker Graydon Wyatt. In addition, Claire is the author of two books, *How to Be a Badass Lawyer: The Unexpected and Simple Guide to Less Stress and Greater Personal Development Through Mindfulness and Compassion* and *Mommy Needs a Minute*. Claire loves talking to and connecting with lawyers about the topics of writing, mental health, mindfulness and more. She invites you to follow the blog to learn more or connect with her on LinkedIn.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Stephanie Chmiel, Partner, Thompson Hine LLP

Stephanie Chmiel enjoys identifying creative and innovative solutions for her clients who are facing complex disputes, diminishing the stress of litigation. She is responsive to her clients and a business asset. Having participated in many class-action and complex civil lawsuits, Stephanie understands the process and has the knowledge required to make disputes as painless as possible.

While her focus is on complex litigation and class-action lawsuits, Stephanie has significant experience working on all aspects of civil litigation in state and federal courts including energy, contract, constitutional, product liability, tort, employment, real estate, environmental, non-compete and trade secret/confidentiality disputes.

Stephanie is also dedicated to pro bono and community service. She has been a member of the Steering Committee for the Columbus Chapter of Women for Economic Leadership and Development (WELD) for several years, serving as the Chapter Co-Chair and Programming Co-Chair. During her tenure as President of the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation (OWBF), she helped lead a significant fundraising initiative, raising critical funds to increase scholarships and programming.



Jennifer Battle, Partner, Carpenter Lipps LLP

OWBA Immediate Past President Jennifer Battle is a Partner at Carpenter Lipps LLP, a Columbus-based litigation boutique. She is a business litigator and trial attorney representing a diverse array of clients around the country, from Fortune 500 companies to midsize/small businesses and individuals, on both sides of complex business disputes. Her experience includes litigation, trial, and appellate work in a variety of business tort and contract disputes, including specialties in executive employment disputes, class action litigation, trade secret litigation, financial services litigation, and real estate litigation. Her focus is on helping clients of all types navigate complex litigation successfully.

Jennifer has served on the Board of the Ohio Women's Bar Association for a number of years, as well as previously serving as the chair of its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and also currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the NYU School of Law.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Nikki Hudson, Board Member, Worthington School District

Nikki holds a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law and a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Miami University. She currently works as an attorney and is Vice President of Intellectual Property for Bath & Body Works.

Before serving on the Board, Nikki was Co-Chair of the District's Master Facilities Task Force. She decided to run for the school board because she is passionate about advocating for students and elevating conversations about issues that impact them. Nikki believes we need effective leadership at all levels of education. And, she states that just as we raise our children to be the change, we must lead by example.

Nikki and her husband, David, have two daughters that attend Worthington Schools. The Hudsons have resided in Worthington since 2012.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Christine Cockley, MPA, State Representative, District 6, Ohio House of Representatives

State Representative Christine Cockley is a proud West Sider serving her first term in the Ohio House of Representatives, representing District 6. Representative Cockley was born and raised in Mansfield, Ohio, and moved to Columbus where she graduated from The Ohio State University. Representative Cockley has her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration from The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs. She is ready to work alongside her community to accomplish the shared goals and overcome any challenges experienced by those living in District 6 which includes the Columbus Westside, Franklin Township, Prairie Township, Valleyview, and parts of Norwich Township.

Prior to joining the Legislature, Representative Cockley worked in the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she was the Executive Assistant to the President & CEO of YWCA Columbus, a Board Member for Highland Youth Garden, and the Director of Development for Moderation Management, an organization that seeks to support those who wish to change their relationship with alcohol consumption. Having previously worked for U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and his re-election campaign, Representative Cockley has learned the importance of actively listening to community members and taking decisive action to get concrete results. She is committed to being a strong advocate for her constituents, making sure their voices are heard and their needs are met in the General Assembly. With a background in nonprofit administration and governance, human resources, campaigning, and government affairs, she brings a wealth of experience to her role.

In the 136th General Assembly, Representative Cockley will prioritize enhancing health care access, lowering the cost of housing, and funding reliable infrastructure. She believes every Ohioan deserves to thrive with safe, secure neighborhoods, affordable housing, a job that pays a living wage, and an education that is second to none. She intends to uphold the values of all Ohioans while working across the aisle where possible to deliver tangible results for District 6.

In addition to her public service work, Representative Cockley enjoys spending time with her husband, dogs, and chickens as well as gardening, and reading. She lives on the Hilltop, a Columbus Westside neighborhood with her husband.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Allison Russo, State Representative, District 7, Ohio House of Representatives
State Representative Allison Russo is currently serving her fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives, representing House District 7 which includes Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights, and portions of Columbus. She previously served as the Minority Leader for the Ohio House Democratic Caucus between January 2022 and June 2025.

Prior to being elected Minority Leader, Representative Russo served as the Ranking Member on the House Health Committee. She also served as a member on the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, Finance Committee, and Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee. Additionally, Representative Russo previously served on the Ohio Redistricting Commission, was the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Legislative Children's Caucus, Policy Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, and member of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Ohio Advisory Committee and the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Currently, Representative Russo is the Ranking Member for the Financial Institutions Committee and a member of the General Government Committee. She also continues to serve as a member of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Representative Russo brings a practical approach and evidence-based solutions to the critical issues facing Ohio, introducing several pieces of important legislation that address health care access, the protection of public health and safety, and the financial security of family caregivers and aging adults. During her time in the Ohio General Assembly, Representative Russo has fought to adequately fund Ohio's public schools, support economic strategies that sustain working families and vibrant communities, and prioritize innovative solutions in healthcare that increase access and make it affordable for all Ohioans. She has received several state and national awards for her work on mental health, early childhood, aging, and disability issues.

Prior to joining the legislature, Representative Russo spent more than two decades advising government leaders and policymakers on issues related to the healthcare financing and care delivery needs of seniors, vulnerable populations, Veterans, and military families. Representative Russo is also a passionate advocate for women and families and is involved in many local civic and service organizations in her community.

Allison Russo holds a doctoral degree in health policy from The George Washington University and a master's degree in public health epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She lives in Upper Arlington with her husband and their three children.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Sabra Tomb, Director of Training Programs & Strategic Business Development; Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Dayton School of Law

Sabra Tomb serves as the Director of Training Programs and Strategic Business Development at the University of Dayton School of Law, where she leads the development and expansion of non-J.D. education and training initiatives. In this role, she oversees the Government Contracting & Procurement Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.) and Certificate Program. As part of the Dean's Senior Leadership Team, she works closely with faculty, staff, administrators, and external partners to create innovative and revenue-generating programs.

A firm believer in the transformative power of education, Sabra also teaches as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Dayton School of Law and for Wilmington College in the Ohio Prison Education Program.

Prior to joining UDSL, Sabra served as an Attorney-Advisor for the Headquarters Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She provided counsel to AFRL's \$6 billion science and technology enterprise on complex issues including labor and employment law and government ethics.

Civic engagement is a core value and priority in Sabra's professional and personal life. She continues to practice law as a Guardian ad Litem and serves as a board trustee for several professional and non-profit organizations.

A Leadership Ohio Fellow and Alumni (2022), Sabra is committed to strengthening communities, expanding civic dialogue, and mentoring the next generation of professionals.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Anne K. Garcia, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, The Ohio State University Office of Legal Affairs

As Senior Vice President and General Counsel for The Ohio State University, Anne Garcia serves as the chief legal advisor to the President, Board of Trustees, and University and Wexner Medical Center officers and administrators. As the leader of the Office of Legal Affairs, she manages a team of attorneys, paralegals, compliance specialists, risk managers, insurance consultants, and other professionals, which provides strategic advice and legal counsel to the university on all its key matters and risks. In addition, Anne oversees the Office of University Compliance and Integrity, which is responsible for compliance efforts across Ohio State. As an attorney for an instrumentality of the State of Ohio, she is also an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio.

Anne advances the missions of both the University and the medical center by collaborating on business initiatives and providing sound legal counsel. Anne provides legal guidance and representation to the university, advising in areas including litigation, risk management, transactions, contract review, educational programs, personnel law, government relations, student issues, and athletics. She also counsels and represents the Wexner Medical Center administration, physicians, and staff, as well as the Health Sciences colleges. Anne is responsible for compliance initiatives in Research, Healthcare, Athletics, Environmental Health and Safety, Information Security, Title IX, Clery Act reporting, Ohio Public Records law and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

She received her Juris Doctorate from Tulane University School of Law and attended the University of Notre Dame where she graduated cum laude. While in law school, she practiced as a student attorney with the Tulane Juvenile Law Clinic, representing the underserved youth population of New Orleans in criminal and civil litigation. Anne is licensed to practice law in Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri and is certified in Health Care Compliance. She is also an active member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, the American Health Lawyers Association, the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, and the Health Care Compliance Association. She routinely speaks at national conferences on key issues in the field of higher education and health care.



2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Panelists



Magdalena Grossman, Chief Compliance Officer, American Financial Group, Inc. (AFG)

Magdalena Grossman serves as Chief Compliance Officer and counsel at AFG, where she focuses on building and sustaining practical, risk-based compliance programs that support business objectives while meeting evolving regulatory expectations. She advises on a broad range of legal and compliance risks, including corporate compliance strategy, regulatory risk management, and internal governance.

In her role, Magdalena regularly works with cross-functional stakeholders to identify and address compliance risks, enhance internal controls, and respond to regulatory and enforcement developments affecting highly regulated organizations. Most recently, she has been engaged in responsible AI implementation, with an emphasis on developing actionable governance frameworks that thoughtfully balance innovation and risk.

Outside the office, Magdalena has served on the board of the Southwest Ohio Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. She is a graduate of St. John's College and the University of Virginia School of Law. She lives in Cincinnati with her husband, four children, and two recently adopted cats.



Meleah M. Skillern, Partner, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Meleah Skillern is a partner in the Akron office of Lewis Brisbois where she serves as the deputy managing partner. Meleah represents clients to resolve a wide range of business disputes in state and federal courts nationwide, including claims involving fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, business interference, breach of contract, and shareholder/member disputes. Meleah also provides outside general counsel services for business owners and founders interested in taking their business to the next level. She takes a collaborative approach to legal representation, working closely with her clients to understand their business objectives and develop strategic, practical solutions. While she is an experienced litigator who enjoys advocating for her clients in court, she also recognizes the value of resolving disputes outside of the courtroom whenever possible.

Beyond her practice, Meleah is deeply engaged in the legal community. She frequently speaks to students and young professionals about the practice of law, business, and professionalism. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling with her husband and son.



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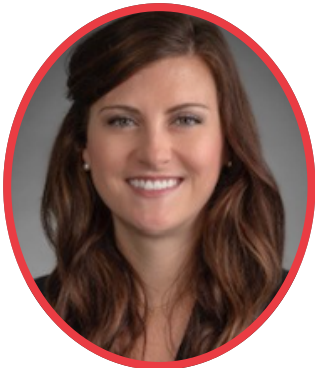
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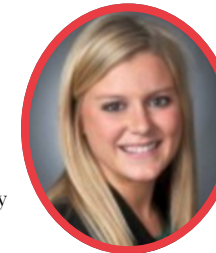
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