



# 2025



## WBA & WBF

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

From  
*Gaps*  
to *Gains*

Advancing Gender Equity in the Legal Profession

# Carpenter Lipps LLP

Attorneys at Law

We proudly support the OWBA and OWBF  
and recognize our woman leaders:

**OWBA / OWBF Past and Present Board Members:**

Jennifer A. L. Battle  
Amber Merl  
Angela Paul Whitfield

**Past OWBF Leadership Institute Graduates:**

Jennifer A. L. Battle  
Kimberly Bojko  
Amber Merl  
Emily Vincent  
Angela Paul Whitfield





# Keynote Speaker

*Hilarie Bass*

President

The Bass Institute for Diversity & Inclusion

---

Hilarie Bass is a nationally recognized trial lawyer, having tried cases for more than 35 years and who was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. She served as the Co-President of Greenberg Traurig, an international law firm of more than 2,000 lawyers with more than 40 global offices, after having served for 8 years as the Chair of the Litigation Practice Group, made up of more than 600 attorneys. She served as President of the American Bar Association in the years 2017-18, having earlier served as the Chair of the Litigation Section of the ABA. In 2019, she left the active practice of law to create and serve as President of the Bass Institute for Diversity and Inclusion. In that role, she has done speaking throughout the world as an evangelist for gender parity and an outspoken advocate for expanding the ranks of women leaders at corporations, non-profits and other institutions. She will be teaching a law school course on Leadership for Lawyers in the Fall.

Hilarie has also served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Miami, and is a current Board member of UHealth, a \$5 billion healthcare Company. She also is the current Co-Chair of the ABA's Center for Practice Innovation, and a Board member of the ABA Retirement Fund. She is a graduate of the University of Miami School of Law where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.



# President's Message

*Jennifer A. L. Battle*

President

Carpenter Lipps LLP - Outgoing  
President OWBA

---

As I leave what felt like a very short year as President of the Ohio Women's Bar Association, I have only this parting thought: Our profession needs the OWBA. And the OWBA needs you. The OWBA is one of only two statewide bar associations in Ohio. We represent women lawyers around the state. I'm not going to repeat any depressing statistics here, but you can find them easily with a Google search. Meritorious, career-ambitious women continue to struggle to break into leadership roles across the profession, from judges to law partners to corporate legal departments. It's been more than 45 years since the term "glass ceiling" was coined, and yet here we are. This is, frankly, outrageous. And in the face of a trend to shut down programs that would help correct those disparities, it is bar associations that must lead the way. We are not beholden to clients or government funding. We can speak for you. The ABA, the Cleveland Metro Bar Association, and others have stepped up in recognition of this unique role—as have we, in publicly reaffirming our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion programs and joining the ABA in its affirmation of the importance of the rule of law.

Our leadership and staff have worked tirelessly to bring you the programming for this Annual Meeting, which tackled these hard issues head-on. During the year, we continued to host state-wide CLE programming on the hardest topics, ranging from sexual harassment and abuse in the legal profession to why so many women opt out of private law firm practice. And, of course, our sister organization, the OWBF, continues to build new future leaders through the unique programming of the Leadership Institute.

But we are more than that. Because of our diverse membership, we present an unparalleled opportunity to build relationships with other women lawyers—peers and mentors, and those who can benefit by learning your experiences. This year, we were excited (thanks to

volunteers Anne Marie Schloemer and Emily Vincent) to revitalize our mentoring program in the form of ongoing Coaching Circles open to all levels of attorneys. We hosted social events around the state. We revitalized our Government Lawyers and DEI Committees. We expanded our staffing to better serve you. The relationships we forge through the OWBA are really what makes us special. After spending time with your fellow members, you may find yourself considering career paths you never imagined would be open to you!

None of this, however, can happen without you. We need you to shape the future of the OWBA—to set our course and help plan our programming. Post-pandemic, we all reassessed our priorities and many of us never fully regained the level of participation we'd had before. But I urge you now to find the time to get involved with the OWBA. You'll be sustaining an essential voice in our profession, and I promise you'll never regret the relationships you'll forge. So, I invite you to send me or Shennan or any of our Board members an email, and get involved!

-Jennifer A. L. Battle

# Mistress of Ceremonies

*Olivia Hiltbrand*

Mistress of Ceremonies

---

I recently earned my J.D. from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Previously, I worked for nearly a decade as a TV news reporter in Ohio, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. After the bar exam, I'll be joining a firm here in Columbus for one year before clerking at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. My husband, Brett, is a lifelong Ohioan, and although I'm originally from New York, I consider myself an honorary Ohioan after living here for close to ten years. As a young adult cancer survivor, I am a volunteer with Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the American Society of Hematology.



# Swearing in Ceremony

## *Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt* Tenth District Court of Appeals

Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt is a dedicated jurist, educator, and civic leader who has worked to advance the status of women in the legal profession and the Columbus community. A magna cum laude graduate of Spelman College, she earned her law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School. Before taking the bench, she built a distinguished litigation career at Frost Brown Todd, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter, and Otto Beatty Jr. & Associates, and served as Director of Legislative Affairs and Counsel to the Voting Rights Institute for the Ohio Secretary of State.

Appointed to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in 2009, she presided over complex civil litigation and serious felony criminal cases. In 2018, she made history as the first Black woman on Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals, where she continues to serve. Judge Beatty Blunt taught at the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy about the role of state and local courts and the impact of U.S. Supreme Court decisions. She is also a sought-after speaker, sharing insights on the law and leadership with students and young attorneys.

Her contributions to the legal field have been widely recognized. In 2023, she received an Honorary Doctorate from Franklin University and the YWCA Columbus Woman of Achievement Award.





Dinsmôre

# We're here for a better future.

Our mission looks past legal victories. We're committed to building strong, thriving communities through pro bono legal work and local initiatives, making a lasting impact beyond the courtroom.

## We're here for you.

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP  
255 E. Fifth Street, Suite 1900 | Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Attorney Advertising. © 2025 All Rights Reserved.



[dinsmore.com](https://dinsmore.com)



# *Day One*

May 8th 2025



**From**  
*Gaps*  
**to** *Gains*

---

Advancing Gender Equity in the Legal Profession



**WBA & WBF**

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

# Agenda

May 8, 2025

## Time Slots

## Session Titles

*11:30a - 12:45p*

President's Brunch

*1:00p - 1:30p*

Identifying the Gaps: Obstacles to Advancement (.50 CLE General Credit Hour)

- Jake McMillian, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Dickinson Wright

*1:40p - 2:40p*

Gaining Ground: Women Lawyers in Elected Office (1.00 CLE General Credit Hour)

**Moderator:** Emily Quick Schriver, Chief Executive Officer, The Matriots

**Panelists:**

- Jenifer French, Chair, Ohio Public Utilities Commission
- Sharetta Smith, Mayor, City of Lima
- Lizett Martinez Schreiber, Managing Attorney & Chief Projects Director, Ohio Justice & Policy Center

*2:50p - 3:50p*

Minding the Gap: Current and future of DEI in the United States (1.00 CLE General Credit Hour)

**Moderator:** Jenni Edwards, Partner, Porter Wright

**Panelists:**

- Shakeer Abdullah, PhD, Founder and Principal Consultant, Practical Diversity Associates
- Andrea N. Williams, Director, The Women's Place, The Ohio State University

# Agenda

May 8, 2025

## Time Slots

## Session Titles

*4:00p - 5:00p*

Progressing in the Public Sector: Navigating the Legal Profession in State Government (1.00 CLE General Credit Hour)

**Moderator:** Caitlyn Johnson, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Ohio Attorney General's Office

**Panelists:**

- LeeAnne Cornyn, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Cynthia Callender, Deputy Attorney General, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Mary Beth Foley, Executive Director, Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund
- Paula Paoletti, Deputy General Counsel & Senior Associate Vice President, The Ohio State University

*5:15p - 8:15p*

Welcome Reception (Hyde Park)

*Welcome  
Reception*  
Hyde Park



# *Day Two*

May 9th 2025

**From**  
*Gaps*  
**to** *Gains*

Advancing Gender Equity in the Legal Profession



**WBA & WBF**

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



# Agenda

*May 9, 2025*

## Time Slots

## Session Titles

**8:00a - 8:45a**

Breakfast

**8:45a - 9:15a**

Gaining Peace: Hypervigilance and the Lawyer (.50 CLE  
Attorney Professional Conduct Credit Hour)

Emy Trende, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, UNOS

**9:25a - 10:25a**

Standing in the Gap: Leveraging Networks to Advance in  
Corporate Legal Departments (1.00 CLE General Credit Hour)

**Moderator:** Lavell Payne Brown, Associate Vice President,  
Nationwide

**Panelists:**

- Shanrika Hall, Counsel, Nationwide
- Marla Gilreath, General Counsel, Privacy and Public  
Policy Officer, Ohio Health Information  
Partnership/CliniSync
- Malisheia Douglas, Counsel, McDonald Hopkins

# Agenda

*May 9, 2025*

## Time Slots

## Session Titles

*10:35a - 11:50a*

From Gaps to Gains in Private Practice: Examining the Impacts of Law Firm Policies on Women (1.25 CLE General Credit Hours)

**Moderator:** Jennifer Battle, Esq., Partner, Carpenter Lipps

**Panelists:**

- Janica Pierce-Tucker, Partner-In-Charge, Taft
- Beth Naylor, Partner, Frost Brown Todd
- Chris Keim, Managing Partner, Frantz Ward
- Amanda Gatti, Liability Claims Manager, ABA Insurance Services

*12:00p - 1:30p*

***AWARDS LUNCHEON & KEYNOTE***

**Keynote address:** Hilarie Bass



Keynote Speaker :

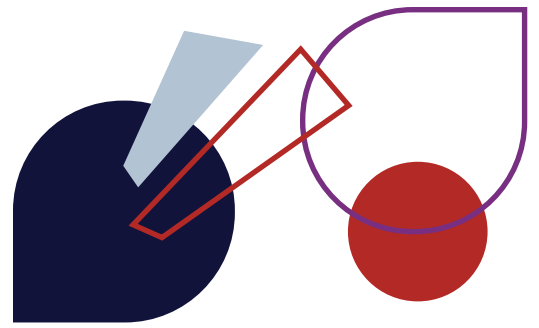
**Hilarie Bass**

President, The Bass Institute for Diversity & Inclusion

*From Gaps to Gains: Advancing Gender Equity in the Legal Profession*

# Panelists

---



## *Jake McMillian*

Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion,  
Dickinson Wright

---

Jake McMillian is a Chicago-based diversity, equity, and inclusion practitioner currently serving as the inaugural Director of Diversity at Dickinson Wright PLLC. In this role, Jake works alongside senior firm leadership on issues related to diverse attorney recruitment, retention, and promotion; organizational culture and equity; diversity program development; and community engagement.

Jake is also a licensed attorney with bar admission in the state of Missouri. His legal interests include employment law, higher education law, trusts and estates, artificial reproductive technology, LGBTQ litigation, and general civil litigation. He is currently pursuing a doctorate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, focusing on issues of diversity and equity in education and human resource development.



## *Caitlyn Nestleroth Johnson*

Senior Assistant Attorney General in the  
Health & Human Services Section, Office  
of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost

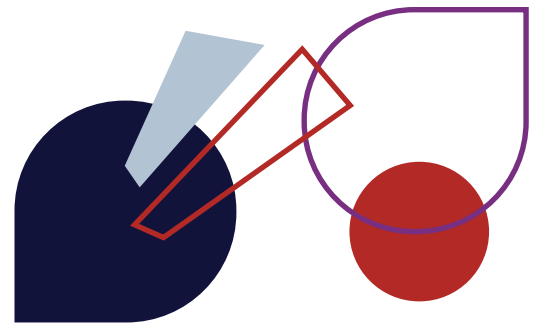
---

Caitlyn Nestleroth Johnson serves as a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Health & Human Services Section of the Office of Ohio Attorney General. In this role, she represents the Ohio Department of Children & Youth, the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid in administrative hearings and litigation in state and federal court. She also co-chairs the Office's Women's Employee Network and serves on the Office's Professional Development Program and Attorney Mentoring Program committees.



# Panelists

---



## *Mary Beth Foley*

Executive Director, Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund

---

Mary Beth Foley has served as the Executive Director of the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, a defined benefit plan for Ohio's municipal public safety officers with \$19 billion in assets, since 2021. Mary Beth has been with OP&F since 2008, having previously served as General Counsel. She began her career with the Ohio Attorney General as a trial lawyer specializing in labor, employment and constitutional matters. She was the Chief Labor Counsel and bargained on behalf of the Attorney General with the Fraternal Order of Police and OCSEA/AFSME units.



## *LeeAnne Cornyn*

Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

---

Throughout her career, LeeAnne Cornyn has worked tirelessly on behalf of Ohio's most vulnerable populations — children and those living with mental illness and substance use disorder.

She was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine in December 2023 to serve as Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

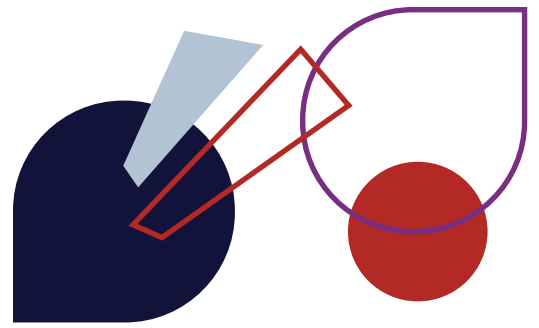
Prior to her appointment, Cornyn served as Governor DeWine's Deputy Chief of Staff where her responsibilities included oversight of the health, mental health, human services, education, and children's issues policy portfolio. Cornyn also served as the Director of Cabinet Affairs, where she acted as a liaison between the Governor and his 26 state agency directors.





# Panelists

---



## *Cynthia C. Callender* Deputy Attorney General, The Ohio Attorney General's Office

---

Formerly a prosecutor in the Health Care Fraud Unit of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Cynthia Dungey rejoined the office as the deputy attorney general responsible for managing the Civil Rights, Labor, PUCO, Taxation, Transportation and Workers' Compensation sections.

Dungey came to the Attorney General's Office in 2019 from the Ohio Department of Youth Services, where, as deputy director of Community Engagement and Reentry, she planned for the successful return of youths to their homes and communities.

Prior to that, she served as director of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services for five years and as the federal designee responsible for supervising the state's public assistance, workforce development, unemployment insurance, child and adult protective services, adoption, child care, and child support programs.



## *Paula Luna Paoletti* Deputy General Counsel & Senior Associate Vice President, The Ohio State University

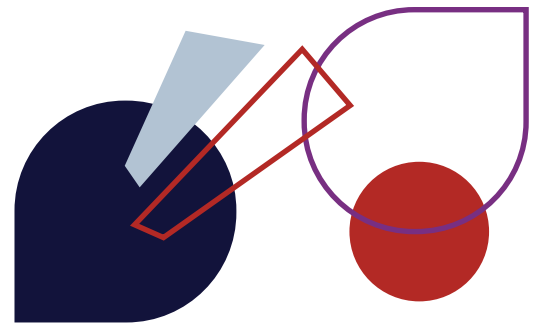
---

Paula Paoletti manages and oversees litigation for the University in a variety of forums including state and federal courts. In this role, she works closely with outside counsel and The Office of the Attorney General on a wide variety of litigation matters including professional liability claims, personal injury claims, premises liability claims, employment/faculty claims, contract disputes and class actions. Paula also manages and oversees litigation relating to the Wexner Medical Center, advising the Risk Management Committee and Self-Insurance Board, and providing counsel on risk management. She also serves as a legal advisor and consultant regarding regulations, medical staff compliance, business litigation and administrative issues in coordination with other legal counsel within the Office of Legal Affairs.



# Panelists

---



## *Jenni Edwards* Partner, Porter Wright

---

Jenni advises clients on labor and employment issues in both the public and private sectors and is frequently consulted by senior executives on high-stakes employment matters. Her experience includes negotiating collective bargaining agreements, developing litigation strategies, and investigating misconduct allegations, particularly those involving C-suite members. Jenni excels in navigating complex legal issues and helping clients develop practical, business-focused compliance plans. She provides guidance in litigation and arbitration, labor and settlement negotiations, and daily employment matters.



## *Andreá N. Williams* Director, The Women's Place, The Ohio State University

---

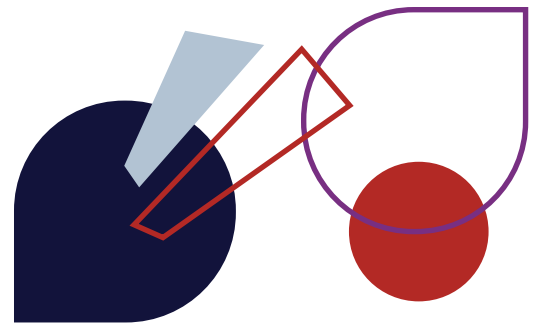
Andreá N. Williams is director of The Women's Place. Since joining The Ohio State University in 2006, Andreá has served widely on college and university committees and contributed to initiatives dedicated to diversity, inclusion and women's advancement. She was recognized with the university's Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award in 2016.

Andreá is an associate professor in the Department of English, specializing in African American and nineteenth-century American literature. As a literary historian, Andreá is drawn to questions about the social and material conditions that historically have enabled or inhibited African Americans in producing literature and art. She is the author of *Dividing Lines: Class Anxiety and Postbellum Black Fiction* (2013).



# Panelists

---



## *Dr. Shakeer Abdullah*

Founder and Lead Consultant, Practical Diversity Associates

Dr. Shakeer Abdullah is the Founder and Lead Consultant for Practical Diversity Associates, a full-service leadership, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging firm established in 2011. Our services are appropriate for organizations and individuals who are seeking professional development or a general education related to diversity, equity, inclusion, multicultural competence, and belonging. What distinguishes PDA from competitors is our personalized approach, deep expertise in multicultural competence, and our founder's extensive background in educational leadership and community engagement.



## *Emily Quick Shriver*

Chief Executive Officer, The Matriots

Emily Quick Schriver is the Chief Executive Officer of The Matriots. As CEO, Emily leads the organization's purpose to advance women's equal participation in all aspects of political life in Ohio. In this role, she guides The Matriots three missions: to endorse women running for office; to encourage women to leverage their political power; and to advocate for women-friendly policies. Her nonpartisan work is grounded in common values and beliefs.

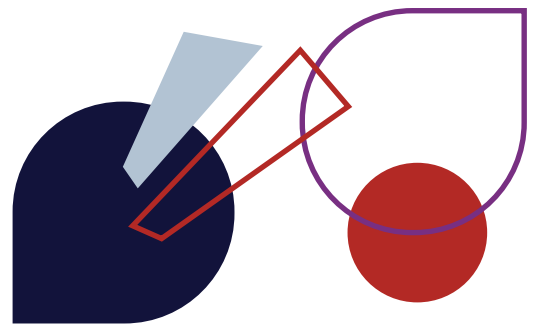
Emily joined The Matriots in 2021, following a career as a lawyer representing institutions of higher education on issues of public policy and regulatory compliance. She has served as in house legal counsel for a large, land-grant institution, an associate at a top-100 international law firm based in Washington, D.C., and as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She has additional experience working for state and federal legislators.





# Panelists

---



## *Jenifer French*

Chair, Ohio Public Utilities Commission

---

Jenifer French was appointed to the commission and named chair by Governor Mike DeWine in 2021. In 2024, she was reappointed by Governor DeWine to serve a five-year term.

Chair French is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). In 2024, she was appointed to the NARUC Board of Directors. She also serves on the NARUC Committee on Electricity and the Washington Action Program, the committee that primarily discusses NARUC's work in Congress and with other federal stakeholders.

Prior to joining the PUCO, French served as a Franklin County Court of Common Pleas judge from 2015 through 2021, presiding over civil, criminal felony, and administrative matters. French was named "Highly Recommended" in 2020 by the Columbus Bar Association.



## *Sharetta Smith*

Mayor, City of Lima, OH

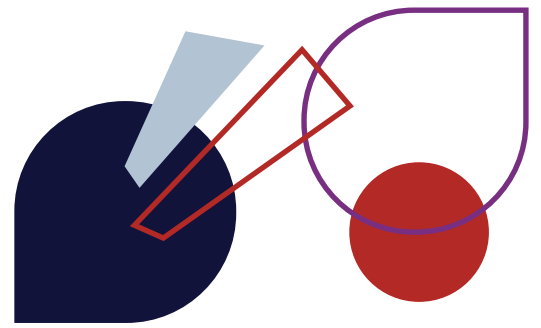
---

Sharetta Smith is the 59th Mayor of Lima and the first woman and first African American to be elected as the city's chief executive. With an agenda focused on safe and livable neighborhoods; job creation and economic development; youth, recreation and parks; quality, affordable housing; and improving city operations, she started her first term with a focus on making government more accessible and responsive to citizens. As Mayor, she has shown that she is not afraid to tackle the big issues facing the City of Lima. Through on-going collaboration with community stakeholders she is working to improve citizen engagement in local government; create more opportunities for Lima's small business owners and entrepreneurs; increase home ownership; and implement a multi-faceted approach to address crime through prevention, intervention, and enforcement.



# Panelists

---



## *Lizett Martinez Schreiber*

Managing Attorney & Chief Projects  
Director, Ohio Justice & Policy Center

---

Lizett Martinez Schreiber is the Managing Attorney and Chief Projects Director for the Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC). She has been with OJPC since September of 2024. Lizett began her career as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, and continued prosecuting for the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, where she served in the juvenile, grand jury, and drug enforcement units. She then worked as Policy Counsel for the Ohio Supreme Court in the Specialized Dockets section. Lizett most recently has worked in private practice and is excited to return to criminal justice policy and impact litigation.



## *Emy Trende*

Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel,  
UNOS

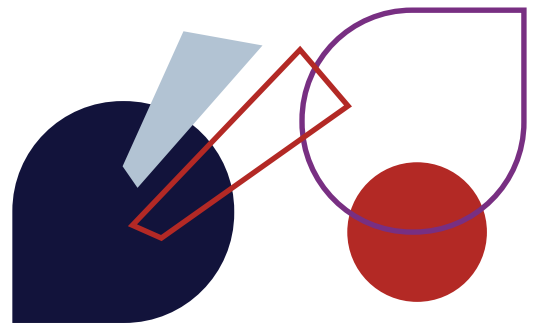
---

Emy serves as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel of United Network for Organ Sharing, the sole federal contractor that operates our nation's organ donation and transplant system. She has two decades of experience advising health care providers, as well as companies in the health innovation and commercialization space in domestic and international arenas. Emy was also a dually appointed Assistant Attorney General for the state of Ohio, and former Senior Assistant Vice President for the OSU Wexner Medical Center and James Cancer Hospital. In her spare time, Emy is a clinical mental health counseling student, and enjoys helping lawyers feel better about themselves, and the rest of the world feel



# Panelists

---



## *Lavell Payne Brown* Associate Vice President, Nationwide

---

As the AVP of NF Litigation, Lavell O. Payne Brown leads Nationwide's in-house financial services litigation center of excellence. Her leadership is marked by a focus on strategic planning, business acumen, and innovative problem-solving, all geared towards providing outstanding legal services. Lavell previously served as Managing Counsel of the Corporate Litigation Discovery Management Unit. Lavell has also served in multiple roles in Nationwide's Trial Division, beginning her career as a trial lawyer and appellate specialist, before progressing into roles in quality assurance, ethics, training, and process management. She keeps her courtroom skills sharp by serving as an Arbitrator with the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, an Adjunct Professor at Case Western University School of Law, and participating in pro bono opportunities.



## *Shanrika S. Hall* Counsel, Nationwide

---

As Counsel on the Contracts Services Group (CSG) team at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, Shanrika supports Nationwide's Procurement department by reviewing and negotiating Technology agreements. At Nationwide, Shanrika also serves on the DE&I Council, Lawyers for Kids and Pro Bono Committees and leads the Contracts team for Nationwide's Street Law Program.

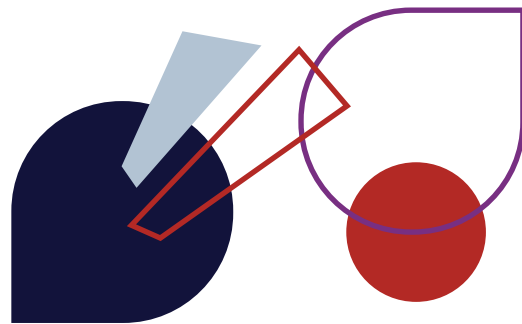
Prior to joining Nationwide in November 2021, Shanrika worked at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida in Jacksonville, FL for over 8 years. There she supported the Procurement department and negotiated and reviewed vendor agreements. Shanrika worked at other notable companies such as IBM, Battelle and Limited Brands.





# Panelists

---



## *Marla Gilreath*

General Counsel, Privacy and Public Policy  
Officer, Ohio Health Information  
Partnership

Marla Gilreath currently serves as General Counsel, Privacy and Public Policy Officer at Ohio Health Information Partnership. In this role, she drives the enterprise legal, compliance, and privacy strategies for a rapidly expanding technology company, playing a pivotal role in addressing the health information needs of hospitals, health plans, and providers across Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Prior to joining the Partnership, Marla held several executive roles at Nationwide Insurance Company, supporting key business units, managing critical relationships with state departments of insurance and regulatory agencies across the country, as well as providing strategic counsel to the Board, the Chief Legal Officer, and senior business leaders. She also served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in two Michigan counties where she specialized in advocating for the rights of domestic and sexual assault victims.



## *Malisheia Douglas*

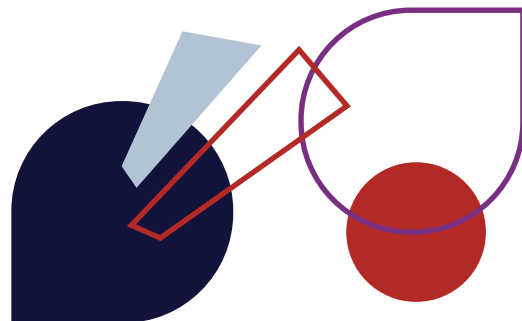
Counsel, McDonald Hopkins

Malisheia is Counsel in McDonald Hopkins' Intellectual Property Department. Her practice focuses on patent and trademark strategy, trade secret protection, technology transactions, and global portfolio management, with experience spanning a wide range of industries including e-commerce, industrial and consumer products, automotive, oil and gas, and energy management. She routinely advises clients on distinguishing between trade secret and patent protection, especially for innovations involving artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML). She approaches her client relationships as a true partner, working as an extension of internal teams to deliver strategic, tailored solutions that align with clients' business goals and cultures.



# Panelists

---



## *Jennifer A. L. Battle*

Partner, Carpenter Lipps, Outgoing  
President, OWBA

Jennifer Battle 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.



## *Janica Pierce Tucker*

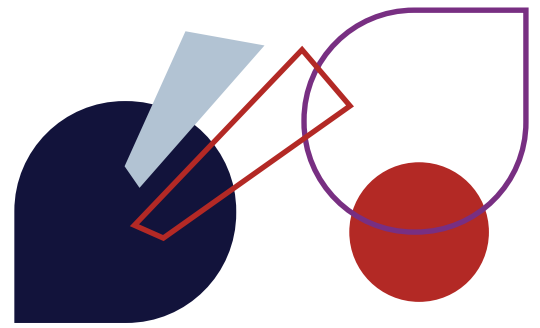
Partner-In-Charge, Taft

Janica is the partner-in-charge of the Taft Columbus office. Her practice focuses on representing clients in all aspects of employment and labor law. She advises employers regarding legal planning and policy analysis and formulation, including preparation of employee handbooks, and represents colleges and universities regarding labor and employment matters, public records, and tenure decisions. She also represents primary and secondary schools. She also represents employers in defense against a broad range of employment claims including sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wrongful discharge matters. As a litigator, Janica is also active in other aspects of civil trial, appellate litigation and commercial litigation as part of her practice.



# Panelists

---



## *Beth Naylor*

Partner, Frost Brown Todd

---

Beth has over 30 years of experience advising businesses on the risks associated with the products they manufacture and distribute throughout the world. She provides national litigation management, representation before regulatory bodies, crisis management response, risk assessment/management, and preventive product safety counseling to U.S. and foreign manufacturers and distributors in diverse industry sectors, from consumer products and industrial equipment to medical devices, drugs, food products, and cosmetics. Beth is consistently named one of The Best Lawyers in America®. Beth has also been recognized for outstanding leadership in advancing and mentoring women as an Athena Award Finalist, Law360 Female Powerbroker and recipient of the Ohio Glass Ceiling Award from the National Diversity Council and Council on Women.



## *Chris Keim*

Managing Partner, Frantz Ward

---

Chris focuses his practice on civil litigation matters, including business disputes, product liability claims, transportation law, employment litigation, and corporate investigations. He has successfully defended businesses through trial and arbitration throughout the United States, with over 75 bench and jury trials to date. This experience includes representing closely held and publicly traded companies and their insurers in complex and catastrophic litigation.

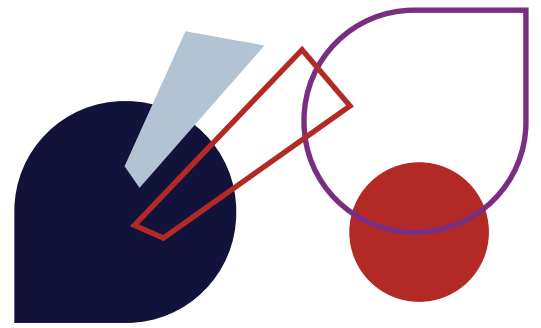
Chris is dedicated to helping clients and forming long-term relationships, whether through proactive risk mitigation or successfully advocating for them in court.

Chris was elected by fellow partners as Frantz Ward's first Managing Partner in 2017 and is involved in establishing the firm's strategic direction and leading its day-to-day operations.



# Panelists

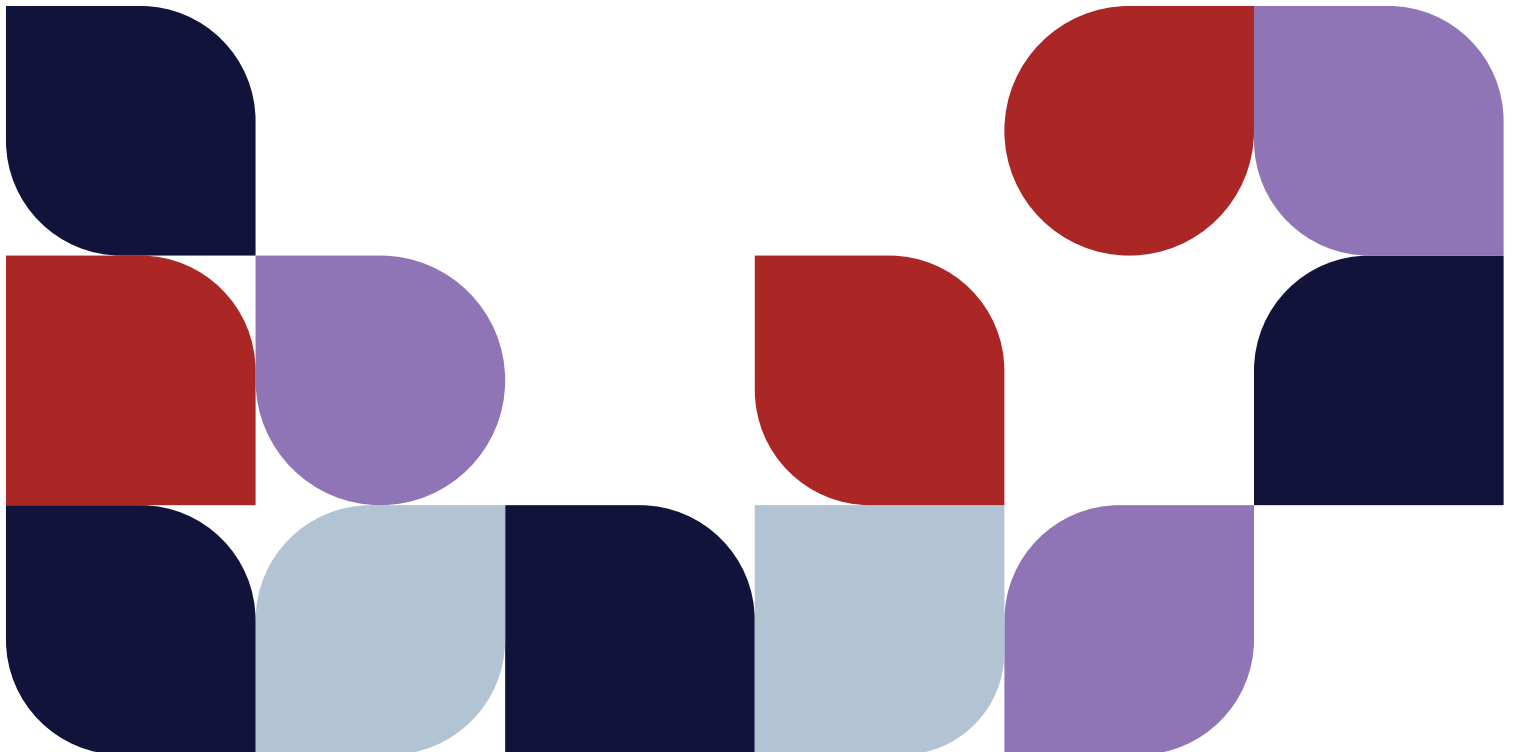
---



## *Amanda Gatti*

Liability Claims Manager, ABA Insurance Services

Amanda M. Gatti is the Liability Claims Manager at ABA Insurance Services Inc. She oversees and manages claims against insured financial institutions under Directors and Officers Liability Policies. She also oversees coverage litigation involving ABA Insurance Services Inc.'s Bank Program. Amanda was recently recognized as a 2025 Emerging Leader by the American Property Casualty Insurance Association. Prior to joining ABA Insurance Services Inc., Amanda was a civil litigation attorney with a focus in professional liability defense. She was recognized as an Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Amanda graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts and she received her Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve School of Law.







# ***Luncheon***

May 9th 2025



**From**  
***Gaps***  
**to** ***Gains***

---

Advancing Gender Equity in the Legal Profession



**WBA & WBF**

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



# Trustees

2025 - 2026

OWBA Officers & Trustees

*Shennan Harris*

President, Squire Patton Boggs  
(US) LLP

*Lavell Payne Brown*

President-Elect, Nationwide Mutual  
Insurance Company

*Kami Brauer*

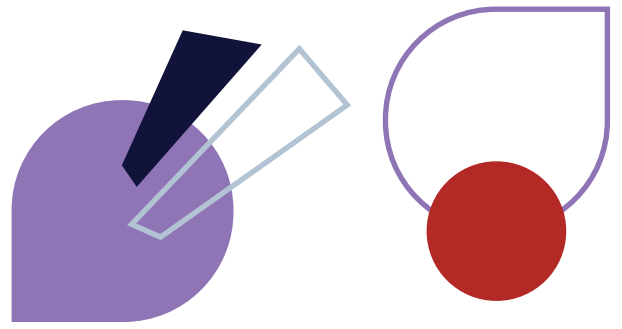
Vice President, Employment Law  
Partners LLC

*Mallory Monhemius*

Treasurer, OhioHealth Corporation

*Jennifer A. L. Battle*

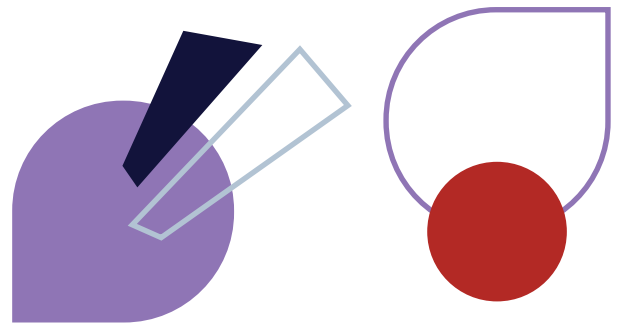
Immediate Past President, Partner,  
Carpenter Lipps LLP



# Trustees

2025 - 2026

OWBF Officers & Trustees



*Amber Merl*

President, Senior Counsel, Carpenter  
Lipps LLP

*Bonnie Lee Wolf*

Vice President, Chief Of Staff to the Chief  
Legal Officer, Nationwide Mutual  
Insurance Company

*Keri Collin*

Treasurer, Senior Associate Counsel  
Bread Financial

*Emily Dicke Miran*

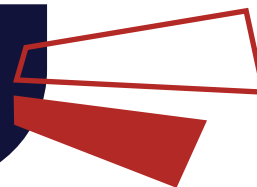
Secretary, Senior Associate General  
Counsel, The Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center

*Elizabeth Shaffer*

Immediate Past President, Partner,  
Dinsmore & Shohl



# OWBA Founding Members



Catherine Adams  
Sandra J. Anderson  
Joan E. Baker (deceased)  
Hon. Sandra Shank Beckwith  
Sheryl King Benford  
Dena Elliott Benson  
Janice McKimmie Bernard  
(deceased)  
Barbara Scott Bison  
(Jacobson)  
Karen J. Blackwell  
Becky Blair  
Randal S. Bloch  
Amy Reidenbach Bowen  
Kathleen Burke  
Hon. Mary Cacioppo  
Wanda L. Carter  
Deborah A. Coleman  
Michelle Creger  
Joyce M. Deitering  
Louise P. Dempsey  
Catherine T. Dunlay  
Hon. Ann Dyke  
Joyce D. Edelman  
Hermine G. Eisen  
Hon. Sheila G. Farmer  
Carol A. Fey  
M. Colette Gibbons  
Susan Gilles  
Frances Floriano Goins  
Diane K. Goulder  
Pamela B. Griffith  
Kathleen K. Haase  
Cheryl Hacker  
Pamela I. Hanover  
Laura A. Hauser  
Hon. Patricia Hemann\*  
Pamela Nagle Hultin\*

Lynn Balshone Jacobs  
Martha Kalina  
Kerin L. Kaminski  
Hon. Eva D. Kessler  
Hon. Anne Kilbane  
(deceased)  
Hon. Janet Kleckner  
Hon. Patricia S. Kleri  
Hon. Judith Kilbane Koch  
Joan A. Kodish  
Martha H. Krebs  
Valita R. Kreiss  
Pamela S. Krivda  
Mark S. Krumbein  
Nancy A. Lawson  
Delores S. Learmonth  
Joan C. Lee  
Hon. Teresa Lea Liston  
Kleia R. Luckner  
Ellen S. Mandell  
Catherine Martineau  
Ellen M. McCarthy  
Dorothy B. McCrory  
Carol Newell McIlwain  
Jean M. McQuillan  
Barbara J. Michael  
Jennifer E. Millson  
Kimberly A. Miyazawa  
M. Elizabeth Monihan  
Barbara L. Morgenstern  
Hon. Pat E.  
Morgenstern-Clarren  
Jori Bloom Naegele  
Priscilla D. O'Donnell  
Mary Lee Pilla  
Beverly Pyle  
Julie E. Rabin  
Mary Ann Rabin

Mary Lynn Readey  
Justice Alice Robie Resnick\*  
Alice Rickel  
Jan E. Robertson  
Hon. Linda Rocker  
Jan L. Roller  
Ann C. Rowland  
Hon. Dorcas Anne Russo  
Frances M. Schaul  
Howard A. Schulman  
Joan B. Sebelin  
Lynn B. Simon  
Barbara J. Smith  
Hon. Beth A. Smith  
Hon. Leslie Spillane  
Prudence C. Spink  
Elizabeth M. Stanton  
Lu Ann Stapleton  
Laurie Faith Starr  
Hon. Melody Stewart  
Barbara Stutz  
Kathleen A. Sutula  
Holly Taft Sydlow  
Hon. Ann Marie Tracey  
Katharine A. Van Tassel  
Hon. Nancy A. Vecchiarelli  
Barbara J. Wagner  
Patricia A. Walker  
Susan M. Weaver  
Linde H. Webb  
Hon. Lesley B. Wells  
Ann Wightman  
Jane Pine Wood  
Pamela Kirwin Zerbe

# OWBA Past Presidents

**1992-1993**

**Pamela Nagle Hultin**  
Smith & Hultin LLC

**1993-1994**

**Mary Lynn Readey**  
The Ohio State University  
Office of Legal Affairs

**1994-1995**

**Barbara J. Smith**  
Smith & Hultin LLC

**1995-1996**

**Linde H. Webb**  
Lydy & Moan, Ltd.

**1996-1997**

**Laura A. Hauser**  
Thompson Hine LLP

**1997-1998**

**Kirsti Talikka Garlock**  
Attorney at Law

**1998-1999**

**Maria A. Kortan-Sampson**  
Goodrich Corporation

**1999-2000**

**Jami S. Oliver**  
Oliver Law Offices, Inc.

**2000-2001**

**Helen Mac Murray**  
Mac Murray, Petersen, & Shuster LLP

**2001-2002**

**Debra J. Horn**  
Meyers Roman Friedberg & Lewis

**2002-2003**

**Suzanne M. Nigro**  
Attorney at Law

**2003-2004**

**Michelle J. Sheehan**  
Reminger Co., L.P.A.

**2004-2005**

**Halle M. Hebert**  
Travelers Insurance

**2005-2006**

**Monique B. Lampke**  
University of Dayton Law School

**2006-2007**

**Pamela D. Houston**  
SSA, Office of Disability  
Adjudication and Review

**2007-2008**

**Susan E. Petersen**  
Petersen & Petersen, Inc.

**2008-2009**

**Michele Shuster**  
Mac Murray, Petersen, & Shuster LLP

**2009-2010**

**Lisa House**  
Reminger Co., L.P.A.

**2010-2011**

**Valoria C. Hoover**  
Kohrman Jackson & Krantz PLLL

**2011-2012**

**Jennifer Breech Rhoads**  
Ohio Petroleum Marketers & C-Store  
Assn.

**2012-2013**

**Michelle Proia Roe**  
Mettler-Toledo, LLC

**2013-2014**

**Magistrate Judge Stephanie K. Bowman**  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of  
Ohio

**2014-2015**

**Claudia Herrington**  
JobsOhio

**2015-2016**

**Grace Royalty**  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of  
Ohio

**2016-2017**

**Marilyn McClure-Demers**  
Nationwide

**2017-2018**

**Lisa Kathumbi**  
Bricker & Eckler

**2018-2019**

**Tara Aschenbrand**  
OhioHealth

**2019-2020**

**Lisa Whittaker**  
EXPRESS, LLC

**2020-2021**

**The Honorable Mary DeGenaro**  
Ohio Auditor's Office

**2021-2022**

**Erin Rhinehart**  
Faruki, PLL

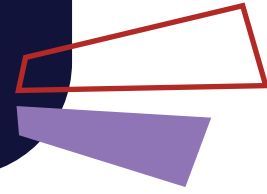
**2022-2023**

**Jayne Smoot**  
Nationwide

**2023-2024**

**Lindsey D'Andrea**  
Ohio Health Corporation

# OWBF Past Presidents



**Angela Marie Courtwright**  
2011-2012

**Stephanie Chmiel**  
2018-2019

**Valoria (Val) Hoover**  
2012-2013

**Angie Paul Whitfield**  
2019-2020

**Denise Platfoot Lacey**  
2013-2014

**Amy Ahn-Roll**  
2020-2021

**Marilena DiSilvio**  
2014-2015

**Kiko Yee**  
2021-2022

**Pat Gajda**  
2015-2016

**Lucy Higgins**  
2022-2023

**Sasha Blaine**  
2016-2017

**Heather Renee Adams**  
2023-2024

**Sommer Sheely**  
2017-2018

# Awards



## *President's Choice Award*

Awarded by outgoing OWBA president for contribution of Support, Energy, Talent, Time and Vision.

## *Prior Award Recipients*

1993 | Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Hemann (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio)

1993 | Kirsti Talikka Garlock (Attorney at Law (Alexandria, Virginia))

1994 | Debra J. Horn (Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis)

1995 | Pamela Nagle Hultin (McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., LPA)

1996 | Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Hemann (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio)

1997 | Maria A. Kortan-Sampson (Goodrich Corporation)

1998 | Catherine B. Martineau (Emch, Schaffer, Schaub & Porcello Co., LPA)

1999 | Debra J. Horn (Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis)

2000 | Carol A. Childs (Attorney at Law)

2001 | Law Firm of Climaco, Lefkowitz, Peca, Wilcox & Garofolill Co., LPA

2002 | Lisa Babish Forbes (Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, LLP)

2003 | Dawn M. Tarka (Office of the Ohio Attorney General)

2003 | Patricia A. Delaney (Assistant Columbus City Attorney)

2004 | Paulette M. Ivan (Reminger & Reminger Co., LPA)

2005 | Michele Shuster (Kegler, Brown, Hill and Ritter)

2006 | Angela Courtwright (Reminger & Reminger, LPA)

2007 | Lisa R. House (Reminger Co., LPA)

2008 | Irene Rennillo (Rennillo Deposition & Discovery)

2009 | The Honorable Patricia A. Delaney (Fifth District Court of Appeals)

2009 | Valoria C. Hoover (Kohrman Jackson & Krantz)

2010 | Jennifer Rhoads (Ohio Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association)

2010 | Denise Platfoot Lacey (University of Dayton School of Law)

2011 | Laura A. Sanom (Faruki Ireland & Cox, PLL)

2012 | Grace Royalty (U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio)

2013 | Claudia S. Herrington (Sarnova)

2014 | Lisa Kathumbi (Littler Mendelson)

2015 | Carrie Starts (Reminger Co., LPA)

2016 | Yukiko Yee (Ohio Attorney General's Office)

2018 | Lisa Whittaker (Express)

2019 | Lindsey D'Andrea (BakerHostetler)

2020 | Jennifer Battle (Carpenter Lipps & Leland)

2021 | Jayme Smoot (Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company)

2022 | Shennan Harris (Squire Patton Boggs)

2023 | Heather Renee Adams (Roetzel and Andress)

2024 | Mallory Monhemius (Genesis Healthcare System)



# Awards



## *Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Champion Award*

The Ohio Women's Bar Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee seeks to recognize a law firm, company, or other legal organization that has a demonstrated commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the profession.

### *Prior Award Recipients*

2016 | Nationwide Insurance Company

2017 | **Ohio Attorney General's Office**

2018 | Perez & Morris LLC

2019 | **Littler Mendelson P.C.**

2021 | Perez & Morris LLC

2022 | **Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP**

2023 | Epstein Becker Green

2024 | **Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease LLP**

## *Kurt Tunnell Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Sponsor Award*

The Ohio Women's Bar Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee seeks to recognize an individual who has demonstrated an individual commitment to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within the profession, particularly through support and sponsorship of diverse attorneys. All Nominees must be current members of the OWBA/OWBF.

### *Prior Award Recipients*

2016 | Anthony Sharett, Partner, Baker & Hostetler LLP

2017 | **James (Jim) Johnson, Founder, Summer Work Experience in Law**

2018 | Kurt Tunnell, Bricker & Eckler

2019 | **Bill Nolan, Barnes & Thornburg**

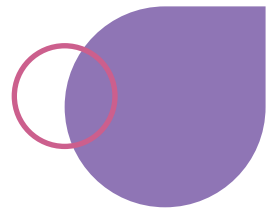
2021 | Kimberly Amrine, Frost Brown Todd

2022 | **Jeffrey B. Jones, Littler Mendelson**

2023 | Marilyn McClure Demers, Nationwide

2024 | **Lindsay Karas Stencel, Thompson Hines**

# Awards



## *Government in Action Award*

This award seeks to promote advancement and leadership opportunities for women working in both government and government related positions. The award honors a woman who has demonstrated strong leadership by promoting opportunities for the advancement of women and who has been influential in the public sector and in the community she serves.

## *Prior Award Recipients*

- 2016 | Judge Jennifer Brunner & The Honorable Yvette McGee Brown
- 2017 | *Justice Sharon L. Kennedy*
- 2018 | Justice Mary DeGenaro
- 2019 | *The Honorable Nancy Hardin Rogers*
- 2020 | Justice Melody Stewart
- 2021 | *Sherry Maxfield*
- 2022 | Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
- 2023 | *Sarah Pomeroy*
- 2024 | *Hilary Damaser*





# Awards



## *Family Friendly Award*

With gratitude for the role it has played for many years, the OWBA Board has, upon thoughtful reflection, decided to retire the Family Friendly Award. This award was the first award created by the OWBA. No one else was publicly recognizing those legal employers that were going the extra mile to show concern for the challenges faced by women lawyers. Each year, this award recognized a legal employer in Ohio who best exemplified the commitment to flexible work arrangements and assured that all lawyers (not just women lawyers) could take care of their families and still pursue a successful career.

This award played an important role for the time that it existed. But we as a Board have concluded that it has run its course. Are things fixed? Not by a long shot. Affordable, quality child care remains a crisis, not just for lawyers but for all Ohioans. The assumption that women are the primary caregivers in a family continues to run strong. But Covid changed a lot. Many legal employers were forced to acknowledge and accept flexible work arrangements, which are now widespread. And awards like this have caused employers to change their policies from “maternity leave” to “parental leave,” and recognize that other forms of caregiving (elder care) may require flexibility or time away from work. A new generation of fathers feels empowered, in ways prior generations did not, to use those benefits. And we have since adopted other awards that also recognize and applaud legal employers who demonstrate a mindfulness of the endless variety of kinds of people, situations, and lawyers our profession includes.

Perhaps equally importantly, as a women’s organization, we do not wish to be seen as implicitly endorsing the presumption that the bulk of the “home and family” responsibilities should fall on the woman. Caregiving is a family issue, not a women’s issue. And so, with endless appreciation for our predecessors who realized the importance of publicly recognizing legal employers who demonstrate care for the well-being of their employees, we say a grateful farewell to the Family Friendly Award.

## *Prior Award Recipients*

2003 | Reminger & Reminger Co., LPA.

2004 | Bricker & Eckler, LLP

2005 | Cuyahoga County Prosecutor William D. Mason

2005 | Geauga County Prosecutor David P. Joyce

2006 | Eastman & Smith, Ltd.

2006 | Betty Montgomery, Ohio Auditor of State

2007 | Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, LLP

2008 | Honorable Mention: Ott & Associates

2008 | Cooper & Walinski, LLP

2009 | Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP

2009 | Javitch, Block & Rathbone, LLP

2010 | McGinty, Hilow & Spellacy Co., LPA

2010 | Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray's Office

2011 | Perez & Morris, LLC

2012 | Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP

2013 | Faruki Ireland & Cox P.L.L.

2014 | Thompson Hine, LLP

2015 | Ice Miller LLP

2016 | Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP

2017 | Squire Patton Boggs

2018 | Delaware County Prosecutor's Office

2019 | Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

2021 | Barnes & Thornburg LLP

2022 | Bread Financial

2023 | BakerHostetler

2024 | Kegler Brown Hill + Littler

# Awards



## 2025 Bar Prep Scholarship Award Recipients

---

***Meghan Schmitt . 3L***  
The University of Akron School of Law

***Chacyra Thompson . 3L***  
Capital University Law School

***Kylie Titer . 3L***  
Capital University Law School



# Leadership

## 2024-25 Leadership Institute Planning Committee



*Keri Collin*  
Bread Financial



*Mary Stanley*  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease



*Demitri Johnson*  
Columbus Regional Airport Authority

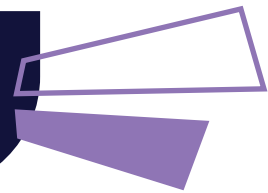


*Emily Miran*  
The Ohio State University Wexner  
Medical Center



*Bonnie Wolf*  
Nationwide

# OWBF Leadership Institute



## 2024 - 2025 Cohort

---

For more than a decade, the Leadership Institute has supported and promoted the visibility and career progression of women lawyers in Ohio. This six-month program has helped to connect participants with the tools, resources, and network to achieve their goals. Since 2011, more than 190 women lawyers, from across Ohio, have graduated from the OWBF Leadership Institute. Our alumni represent a broad cross-section of the practice. They serve in positions of leadership in law firms, government, private industry, and public service throughout Ohio and nationally.

The 2024-2025 program featured workshops on effective leadership; diversity, equity, inclusion and access; business development; health and wellness, and much more. The Institute also facilitated opportunities for cross cohort networking and mentorship in order to help establish long standing connections.

Katelyn Abrams, Great American Insurance Group

Jacqueline Aguilar, Procter & Gamble

Kelli Amador, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

Amelia Blankenship, Bricker Graydon LLP

Jillian Boone, The Ohio State University Moritz  
College of Law

Aisha Boykin, Ohio Department of Job and  
Family Services

Nicole Brittain, JPMorganChase

Sandra Carrillo, Carrillo Law, LLC

Angela Courtwright, Ice Miller LLP

Jennifer Halas, The Huntington National Bank

Erin Hatton, JPMorganChase

Tiffany Henderson, The Sherwin-Williams  
Company

Veronica Bennu Iglesias, Nationwide Mutual  
Insurance Company

Bano Itayim, JPMorganChase

Kaia Jackson, Ohio Attorney General's Office

Megan Knox, Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP

Holiday (Holly) Lovey, Ohio Department of Natural  
Resources

In Son Loving, Ohio Attorney General's Office

Azure'D Metoyer, Littler Mendelson, PC

Amanda Morris, Perez & Morris LLC

Erika Prouty, BakerHostetler

Adanna Smith, Porter Wright Arthur & Morris LLP

Kassandra Stewart, The Ohio Department of Health

Stephanie Swiger, The Ohio State University

Sabra Tomb, University of Dayton School of Law

Maggie Weber, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

# Sponsors

## Title Sponsors

CARPENTER LIPPS LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## Gold Sponsors

Dinsmôre

## Silver Sponsors

Benesch

FrantzWard

Bricker  
Graydon

THOMPSON  
HINE

Nationwide

## Bronze Sponsors

LEWIS  
BRISBOIS

Freking Myers Reul  
ADVOCATES FOR WORKING PEOPLE

BakerHostetler

SQUIRE  
PATTON BOGGS

Perez-Morris

Littler

KEGLER  
BROWN  
HILL  
RITTER

## Friend Sponsors

Haber  
Legal  
Group

porterwright

FARUKI+

Heather  
Adams

DICKINSONWRIGHT

EPSTEIN  
BECKER  
GREEN

UBGreensfelder

OhioHealth

GREATAMERICAN  
INSURANCE GROUP

VORYS  
New thinking.  
Since 1909.