

WINTER 2013

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Newsletter
Committee:**

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**Ohio Association of
Civil Trial Attorneys**
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2013 in the Rear-View Mirror

By: Kurt D. Anderson, Immediate Past President

I could swear Kevin Connell passed me the gavel just last month, whispering something like "Please remain seated until the ride comes to a complete stop." That was November, 2012. There are now 2 weeks left in December, 2013. The Annual Meeting is over. I've passed the gavel on. Done already? Can I catch my breath before unbuckling?

2013 has been an amazing year. We put on three seminars in addition to November's Annual Meeting. The Women in the Law committee sponsored February's Women in the Law Seminar at Hilton Polaris in Columbus. In April, the Trial Tactics and Young Lawyers committees co-sponsored OACTA's first-ever Trial Tactics Boot Camp, at Capital University. Grange Insurance hosted June's Insurance Coverage seminar, thanks to the Insurance Coverage committee's efforts to provide CLE's to qualify for the new Insurance Coverage specialty certification.

April saw the fruit of the spring's Recruit1 Campaign, supervised by Jim Kline and the Membership Committee, attracting 30 new members.

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**NOMINATE SOMEONE
FOR THE MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**

OACTA is always looking for new nominations for the "Member Spotlight" section of the Update. If you know of anyone who exemplifies both professionalism in the practice of law and has outside activities which would be of interest to the OACTA membership, please submit a nomination via email to:

[Tony Brown](#)
or
[Joe Borchelt](#)

The Update Spring
Issue deadline is
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Committee Updates

OACTA Announces a New Substantive Law Committee

OACTA is pleased to announce a Workers' Compensation Substantive Law Committee has been developed. The Committee will be chaired by Jennifer Brill, Freund, Freeze & Arnold in Dayton, and Josh Lounsbury, Coolidge Wall in Dayton. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the OACTA office at oacta@assnoffices.com to indicate your interest or express this committee interest when renewing your OACTA membership!

Amicus Committee Update

By: Ben Sasse, Committee Chair
and Jennifer Nordstrom, Committee Co-chair

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year - time to take stock of the year that was in OACTA amicus filings. The year 2013 brought change to the Supreme Court of Ohio as three new justices took the bench: Justices Kennedy, O'Neill and French replaced Justices McGee Brown, Cupp and Stratton. Fortunately, this change did not dampen OACTA's success before the Court, with three favorable decisions to date on issues ranging from the admissibility of "write-off" evidence to recreational user immunity.

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Insurance Coverage Committee Update

By: Michael M. Neltner, Committee Chair

The following cases represent the more relevant insurance coverage cases decided by the Ohio Supreme Court, federal courts, and lower state appellate courts this year. Four of the cases involve the continuing litigation over Ohio's 2005 Employer Intentional Tort ("EIT") statute and three of these have been appealed so far to the Supreme Court, which has accepted two of them for review.

This summary will also appear on the OACTA Insurance Coverage website, which includes most EIT Supreme Court and lower appellate court decisions related to the interpretation of R.C. 2745.01 to date, as well as a number of the more relevant trial court decisions.

[Read more](#)



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OACTA Diversity Scholarship Program

OACTA Announces 2014 Law Student Diversity Scholarships

OACTA has developed a Law Student Diversity Scholarship program. Scholarships are open to incoming second and third-year African American, Hispanic, Asian, Pan Asian and Native American students enrolled at Ohio law schools. Incoming second and third-year female law students enrolled at Ohio law schools are also eligible regardless of race or ethnicity. Other criteria for the scholarship include: Academic achievement in law school; Professional interest in civil defense practice; and Service to community and to the cause of diversity;

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Congratulations to the OACTA Award Recipients

The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) during its Annual Meeting on November 14 in Cleveland, presented awards to recognize attorneys for their service to OACTA, the profession and the community.

The *Excellence in Advocacy Award* was presented to **Irene Keyse-Walker**, Tucker Ellis LLP, Cleveland, Ohio. The *Distinguished Contributions to the Profession Award* was presented to **Stephen V. Freeze**, Freund, Freeze & Arnold, Dayton, Ohio. **Eric Kennedy**, Weisman Kennedy & Berris Co., L.P.A., Cleveland Ohio, was the recipient of the *Respected Advocate Award*. The *Distinguished Contributions to the Community Award* was presented to **Carolyn A. Taggart**, Porter Wright, Cincinnati, Ohio. The *Public Service Award* was presented to **Evelyn Lundberg Stratton**, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, Columbus, Ohio. **Ralph F Dublikar**, Baker, Dublikar, Beck, Wiley & Mathews, North Canton, Ohio, received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* and **Richard M. Garner**, Davis & Young, Westerville, Ohio, received the *Outstanding Advocacy Award*. The *Committee Chair of the Year Award* was presented to **John J. Garvey, III**, Garvey Shearer, PSC, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky and the *Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year Award* was presented to **James N. Kline**, Ulmer & Berne, Cleveland, Ohio.



Congratulations to all of the 2014 OACTA award recipients!

"We Should Get Us Some Reform"

By: Gary S. Greenlee

In the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?", gubernatorial candidate Pappy O'Daniel frets over the groundswell of support for his populist opponent, Homer Stokes. "Election held tomorrow," says Pappy, "that \$*#& Stokes would win it in a walk." Pappy's son, Junior, forgetting for a moment that his father is the incumbent, offers some unhelpful advice: "Well, he's the reform candidate, Daddy. A lot of people like that reform. Maybe we should get us some."

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Member News

Congratulations to OACTA Board Member, Amy Mass of Howell, Michigan, who was elected as a **DRI National Director!**

2014 Calendar of Events:

April 2014 Personal Injury Defense Seminar

June 2014 Appellate Advocacy Seminar

August 2014 Business & Commercial Litigation Seminar

September 2, 2014 OACTA Golf Outing Pinnacle Golf Club

November 13-14, 2014 OACTA Annual Meeting Columbus, OH

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