

News & Practice Pointers from OACTA

Winter 2018

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or
[Ian Mitchell](#)

Upcoming Events

**Mark your
Calendars!**

April 12th
Insurance Coverage

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Jill K. Mercer
2018 OACTA President

As I wrap up my year as President of OACTA, I want to express my deepest gratitude for this opportunity. This year has been a professional highlight for me, and that is thanks to all of the wonderful and talented people that support our organization. This includes everyone from the officers, board members, committee chairs and vice-chairs, members, and sponsors. I am proud to now call so many of you my friends. You all have played a part in making OACTA the #1 source for the civil defense bar and I genuinely thank you for your support. I would be remiss to not thank the long line of past presidents, as well, who set the bar so high and were instrumental in creating such an outstanding organization. And last but certainly not least, thank you to our Executive Director, Debbie Nunner, and Executive Assistant, Laney Mollenkopf, for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that OACTA remains a success.



I am proud to say that we were able to increase our membership this year, which I attribute to Brian Kerns' establishment of the Claims Committee and new membership categories. Please help us keep that momentum going! Tell your friends and colleagues about OACTA, recruit new members, get young lawyers involved. We do really important work, from offering fantastic CLE's, commenting on proposed rules, publishing top-notch articles, or drafting amicus briefs... and there is ample opportunity for members to contribute and get involved.

Now that we are officially into the holiday season (my absolute favorite time of year), I am very much looking forward to enjoying many traditions with my family and wish the same for you as we say goodbye to 2018. I also look forward to the year ahead, as President Jim Kline takes the reins and leads us into what is sure to be a great 2019 for OACTA. Thank you all again for such a memorable and rewarding year.

Welcome New OACTA Member since October!

Jerralyn Burlingham Eagen & Wykoff

Seminar
Grange Insurance
Columbus, OH

May/June
Trial Tactics Seminar

July/August
OACTA Happy Hours
Series

September 3rd
OACTA Foundation
Annual Golf Outing
Pinnacle Golf Club
Grove City, OH

November 21-22nd
OACTA Annual
Meeting
Hilton Cleveland
Downtown
Cleveland, OH


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**The Update Winter
Issue deadline is
April 1, 2019**


**SUBMIT YOUR
MEMBER NEWS**

OACTA is always looking
for announcements
for the "Member News"
section of the Update.
Please submit your news
via email to:

[Tony Brown](#)
or
[Ian Mitchell](#)

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Renew Your OACTA Dues!

If you have not already renewed your OACTA membership for 2019,
renew today [here!](#)

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2018 OACTA Annual Meeting

**Thank you to all the Exhibitors and Sponsors of the
2018 OACTA Annual Meeting:**

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Robson Forensic
Rudick Forensic Engineering
SEA, Ltd.
Shadow Investigations
Veritext

2018 Diversity Scholarship Recipients

The 2018 OACTA Diversity Scholarship recipients attended the Annual Meeting and were recognized: Shana Marks, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; Natalia Trotter, The University of Cincinnati.



The new OACTA officers for 2019 were installed at the Annual Meeting.



Left to right: Benjamin Sassé, Secretary; Natalie Wais, Treasurer; Jamey

[View all of the photos from the 2018 Annual Meeting](#)

2018 OACTA Award Recipients

The **Excellence in Advocacy Award** was presented to **Frederick Hunker, Esq.**, Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company; Columbus, Ohio. **Eleana Drakatos, Esq.**, Yacobozzi Drakatos LLC; Columbus, Ohio, was the recipient of the **Respected Advocate Award**. **David J. Oberly, Esq.**, Blank Rome, LLP; Cincinnati, Ohio, received the **Outstanding Young Lawyer Award**. The **Committee Chair of the Year Award** was presented to **Charles R. Wendland**, Claims Executive, National Interstate; Richfield, Ohio. The **Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year Award** was presented to **David W. Orlandini, Esq.**, Collins, Roche, Utley & Garner, LLC; Dublin, Ohio. The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Steven T. Sloan, Esq.**, Mollica, Gall, Sloan & Sillery, L.P.A.; Athens, Ohio. The OACTA congratulates these award recipients for their outstanding contributions and their dedication to the profession!



Frederick Hunker, Esq. accepting the Excellence in Advocacy Award.



David W. Orlandini, Esq. accepting the Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year Award.



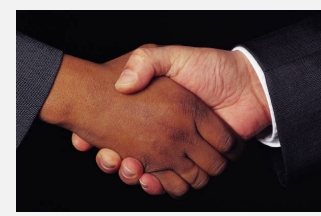
Steven T. Sloan, Esq. accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award.



OACTA Announces the 2019 Law Student Inclusion & Equity Scholarship

The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) Law Student Inclusion & Equity Scholarship program is open to the following incoming second and third year law students who are enrolled in an Ohio law school or are a permanent Ohio resident: Minority law

students; LGBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Questioning) law students, regardless of race or ethnicity; Female law students, regardless of race or ethnicity; or, Law students from economically impoverished families/backgrounds, regardless of race or ethnicity. The criteria include academic achievements; service to the community and to the cause of inclusion and equity; and experience or interest in a civil defense practice.



Up to two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be awarded to successful applicants. Applicants are required to submit an application, law school transcript and a cover letter addressing the following: academic, personal and professional accomplishments, and why they should be selected as a recipient of the scholarship. Applicants must also submit at least one letter of recommendation but may submit a total of three. Applications must be submitted online with a cover letter. Transcripts and letter of recommendation may be mailed to the OACTA office.

The completed application and all other requested material must be received by **April 19, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Scholarship recipients will be announced in June and recognized at the OACTA Annual Meeting in November. Funding is provided by the OACTA Foundation.

OACTA believes that a diverse membership makes a stronger organization. OACTA encourages inclusion and equity in all aspects of its activities and is committed to nurturing a culture that supports and promotes it.

For more information or to complete an application, visit www.oacta.org.

[View Additional Scholarship Information](#)

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Congratulations on Your Retirement!

OACTA would like to congratulate Tom McNally with Veritext and John Straus with Exponent on their retirement at the end of 2018! Tom and John are great supporters of OACTA and have continuously gone above and beyond to provide OACTA members with amazing benefits. In 2018, Veritext was an exhibitor at the Annual Meeting. Exponent is a 2018 OACTA Annual Sponsor and provided webinars throughout the year to OACTA members. Thank you for your support of OACTA and congratulations!



Tom McNally, Veritext Legal Solutions



John Straus, Exponent

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OACTA Women in the Law Committee

Submitted by Gretchen Mote, Chair

OACTA WIL members are invited to attend the DRI Women in the Law Seminar [Connected: Empowered Together to Succeed](#). This awesome seminar will be held January 23-25, 2019 at the Hotel Del Coronado in Coronado, California. The seminar will feature national speakers on topics that will enlighten firm lawyers and in-house counsel. There will be networking opportunities as well as a group volunteer service project. Register soon and be sure to make your hotel reservation by December 26, 2018 to be eligible for the group rate. If you have questions, please feel free to contact [Gretchen Mote](#), your OACTA WIL Committee Chair, or [Anne Marie Sferra](#), your OACTA DRI representative.

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Robert A. Yano, PE

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Job Postings on the OACTA Website

If you are looking for a position within the civil defense practice,

you've come to the right place! All listings appear for 90 days or until the position has been filled, whichever is lesser, and will be listed in at least one issue of The Update. Be sure to notify the OACTA office if the position has been filled prior to the end of the 90 day period.

Job postings cost is \$150 for members and \$250 for non-members.

[Submit a Job Posting](#)



Case Victories Needed!

OACTA members - send summaries of your significant case victories to David Oberly, OACTA Social Media & Website Chair, at djoberly@mdweg.com for inclusion on OACTA's new "Significant Case Victories" webpage and announcements on social media. Those received will be posted on our [website](#).



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Consider a Donation to the OACTA Foundation!

The OACTA Foundation (a 501(c)(3) organization) is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purpose. The Foundation funds projects consistent with the mission of OACTA, such as the annual OACTA Diversity Scholarship Program and supporting the

National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE). Contributions made to The OACTA Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. [DONATE TO THE OACTA FOUNDATION TODAY.](#)

OACTA Social Media Opportunity


We would like to feature OACTA members in our social media! To be a featured member, send the following to OACTA@AssnOffices.com:

- Your name
- Position
- Link to your online biography
- In 2 sentences or less, complete the following: How has OACTA membership benefited you?


Nominate an OACTA member to be featured! Send the member name and email address to OACTA@AssnOffices.com and we will follow up to request the information needed.

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