



OHIO
ASSOCIATION
of CIVIL TRIAL
ATTORNEYS

The Source for Defense Success

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

November 21-22, 2019
Hilton Cleveland Downtown
Cleveland, Ohio



REGISTER TODAY TO ATTEND THE 2019 OACTA ANNUAL MEETING!

The Hilton Cleveland Downtown will be the site for this year's Annual Meeting! The Hilton is located in the heart of Cleveland's downtown area, right on Lake Erie. Join us for an outstanding two-day program which will culminate in a presentation by four Ohio Supreme Court Justices: **Justice DeWine, Justice Donnelly, Justice Fischer, and Justice Stewart**. A reception following their presentation will provide attorneys with a great opportunity to meet and greet the Justices! The Annual Meeting is jam-packed with top-flight speakers and incredibly interesting topics with something for everyone! **This will be an exceptional CLE program and networking opportunity with up to 8.75 hours of CLE, including 2.25 hours of attorney professional conduct instruction.** The *OACTA Legal Excellence Awards Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting* will provide an opportunity to recognize your esteemed colleagues for their contributions! Join your colleagues at a Social & Networking Event on Thursday evening at **Pickwick & Frolic** comedy club where there is sure to be lots of fun and laughs!

Register TODAY and PLAN NOW to attend this year's OACTA Annual Meeting!

OACTA AWARD RECIPIENTS

During the OACTA Legal Excellence Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 21st, Noon-1:30pm, the following awards will be presented, in addition to other OACTA member awards. For more information on these awards and the recipients, visit the OACTA website: www.OACTA.org. Join us in recognizing these outstanding individuals!

Excellence in Advocacy Award
James L. McCrystal, Jr., Esq.

Outstanding Advocacy Award
Benjamin C. Sassé, Esq.

**Frank Seth Hurd Member of
the Year Award**
Gary L. Grubler, Esq.

**Distinguished Contributions
to the Profession Award**
Gretchen Koehler Mote, Esq.

Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Zachary B. Pyers, Esq.

**OACTA Committee Chair of
the Year Award**
Christopher F. Mars, Esq.

Respected Advocate Award
Robert P. Rutter, Esq.

REGISTRATION FORM

2019 OACTA ANNUAL MEETING

November 21-22, 2019 • Hilton Cleveland Downtown

Complete this form and return to the OACTA office.
(one per person registered) OR register online at www.OACTA.org

2019 OACTA Annual Meeting
17 S. High Street, Suite 200 • Columbus, OH 43215-3458
614.228.4727 • Fax: 614.221.1989
E-mail: OACTA@AssnOffices.com • www.OACTA.org

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Preferred First Name for Badge _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Check here if you have any disability-related or dietary needs that require accommodation in order to fully participate in this meeting. If so, attach a written description of your needs.

REGISTRATION FEES:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$325 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member | \$525 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Attorney* (Member) | \$275 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Attorney* (Non-member) | \$375 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claims Executive** | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-House or Corporate Counsel*** | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Administrator | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Student Member | Complimentary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | Complimentary |

* **New Attorneys** are those practicing 5 years or fewer.

** **Claims Executives** are individuals employed as a claims professional by a corporation or insurance co., who spends a substantial portion of his or her professional time hiring or supervising outside counsel in the representation of business, insurance companies or their insureds, associations or governmental entities in civil litigation.

*** **In-House or Corporate Counsel** are licensed attorneys, who are employed exclusively by a corporation or other private sector organization for the purpose of providing legal representation and counsel only to that corporation, its affiliates and subsidiaries. These lawyers act in a legal capacity for insurers or corporations but do not appear in court as defense counsel.

Groups of 4 or more from the same firm can receive a \$25 discount off each "member" or "non-member" registration when registering together. Not applicable to Claims Executives, In-House Counsel.

Non-Members: Join OACTA today and receive the member registration rate and membership through 2020!
Visit www.oacta.org to join and complete your membership profile!

In order for your registration to be valid, please indicate which events you DO plan to attend:

EVENT REGISTRATION:

- Thursday Continental Breakfast
- Thursday Legal Excellence Awards Luncheon
- Thursday Breakout Session A or B (please circle one)
- Thursday Breakout Session C or D (please circle one)
- Thursday Evening Reception and Show at Pickwick & Frolic.....\$35 (if registered for the Annual Meeting)
- Friday Continental Breakfast
- Friday Meet and Greet the Ohio Supreme Court Justices

EVENT FEES FOR NON-REGISTERED GUESTS:

- Thursday Awards Luncheon \$35 # tickets _____
- Thursday Evening Reception and Show at Pickwick & Frolic..... \$50 # tickets _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
(Make check payable to OACTA, tax I.D. #23-7442025)
- Charge my: [] Visa [] MasterCard [] Discover [] AmEx
NO OTHER CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Security Code _____ (3 digits for MC, Visa, Discover but 4 digits for American Express)

Signature _____

Cancellations must be made by **Thursday, November 7, 2019** to receive a full refund. Cancellations after that date will be charged a \$50 service fee.

FOR OFFICE USE:

CHECK # _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

DATE RECEIVED: _____

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Hilton Cleveland Downtown
100 Lakeside Avenue East, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, USA

Make your reservation today at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown through the OACTA room block and receive the group rate (\$169 single/double occupancy). To make your reservation online, find the link on the OACTA website or call the Hilton at 216-413-5000, Option 1, and reference the group code "CTA." All guest rooms reserved in the block include complimentary internet. Overnight guests can receive a discounted overnight valet parking rate of \$28. **Reservations must be made by October 28th to receive the group rate.**

PROGRAM

2019 OACTA ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday | November 21st

8:00–8:30am Registration/Continental Breakfast/Exhibits Open

8:30am Welcome
James Kline, Esq.
OACTA President
Christine E. Watchorn, Esq.
OACTA Annual Meeting Chair
Jay S. Hanson, Esq.
OACTA Annual Meeting Moderator

8:45-10:15am “Anatomy of a Hoax - The Duke Lacrosse Team Case and De-constructing a False Claim”
James P. Cooney, III, Esq.
Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP, Charlotte, NC
Sponsored by: DRI

Jim Cooney, a distinguished civil and criminal trial attorney will discuss his work as counsel for one of the three accused players in the high-profile “Duke Lacrosse” rape case, emphasizing how the use of forensic evidence led to the dismissal of all charges against the players. Mr. Cooney will explain how he and the defense team deconstructed the state’s case, drawing parallels useful for civil defense attorneys seeking to deconstruct plaintiffs’ claims.

10:15-10:30am Networking & Break with Exhibitors

10:30-Noon “Investigating and Managing the Unexpected Mess: What to Do When Your Client is Facing a Fiasco”
Alexander M. Andrews, Esq.
Ulmer Berne, LLP, Columbus, OH
Bruce M. Hennes
Hennes Communication, Cleveland, OH
David C. Comstock, Jr., Esq.
Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co., L.P.A.,
Youngstown, OH

Scandals, data breaches, product recalls, catastrophic failures . . . our clients may face incipient crises at any time and without warning. This panel presentation will address issues to consider and steps to take when your client calls you with an urgent situation and possible public relations nightmare. Topics addressed will include protecting the client in the post-event investigation, developing a communication plan, working with the insurance carrier and adjuster, recalls and do’s and don’ts when litigation seems likely.

Noon-1:30pm OACTA Legal Excellence Awards Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting

1:30-2:30pm “Mindfulness Tools for Ethical Attorneys”
Claire E. Parsons, Esq.
Adams, Stepner, Woltermann & Dusing, PLLC,
Covington, KY

This presentation will introduce you to mindfulness concepts and strategies so that you understand how they can help you live up to your ethical obligations as an attorney and enhance your practice and life. It will begin with an overview of the many ways that the ethical rules include a duty to

manage one’s own mind and heart and a discussion of some common impediments that attorneys face in living up to these obligations. It will also explore some of the promising scientific studies relating to mindfulness and explain and demonstrate three of the most common styles of meditation practice that any person new to mindfulness can try out. It will conclude with information about tools available that even the busiest of lawyers can try to begin a meditation practice of one’s own.

APC CREDIT

2:45–3:45pm Breakout Sessions – Choose A or B

Breakout A: “What Friends Are For: OACTA’s Amicus Program and Strategies for Soliciting and Writing Amicus Briefs”
Benjamin C. Sassé, Esq.
Tucker Ellis LLP, Cleveland, OH

This presentation will include an overview of the appeals OACTA has participated in as amicus curiae and a summary of OACTA’s process for deciding whether to participate in an appeal, as well as general thoughts about how to solicit amicus support as a defense lawyer and how to draft an amicus brief that is persuasive and helpful to the court.

Breakout B: “Trends in Construction Law and Crane Insurance – The Legal Ups and Downs of Cranes”
Patrick S. Corrigan, Esq.

Staff Counsel for the Cincinnati Insurance Co.,
Cleveland, OH

Timothy E. Walsh

Oswald Companies, Bloomfield Hills, MI

This presentation will address understanding insurance for cranes at construction sites and a review of recent law arising out of construction site litigation.

3:45-4:00pm Networking & Break with Exhibitors

4:00–5:00pm Breakout Sessions – Choose C or D

Breakout C: “Capital View: Update on Changes to Ohio Statutes and Rules, and New Attacks on Robinson-Bates”
Kevin C. Connell, Esq.

Bruns, Connell, Vollmar & Armstrong, LLC, Dayton, OH

James L. McCrystal, Jr., Esq.

Sutter O’Connell, Cleveland, OH

The presentation will encompass a legislative update, some recent rules changes and discussion of the recent adverse Robinson-Bates rulings and the employment of new attack strategies by plaintiffs.

Breakout D: “What the Civil Defense Litigator Should Know About Immigration”

David W. Leopold, Esq.

Ulmer & Berne LLP, Cleveland, OH

This presentation will include: an overview of immigration law in 2019 with a look ahead to 2020, civil liability and immigration law, plaintiff’s immigration status and how it affects the defendant, what to look for when depositing the non-citizen witness or party, when to engage an immigration expert, what to ask your non-citizen insured about their immigration status, and what to do when your key witness is overseas.

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Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Jack’s Casino





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To:

PROGRAM continued

5:30-8:30pm **OACTA EVENING SOCIAL EVENT**
Co-Sponsored by: Robson Forensic
Pickwick & Frolic Restaurant and Comedy Club -
Kevin's Martini Bar



2035 East 4th Street, Cleveland, OH 44115
5:30-7:00 Reception; 7:00-8:30 Show Time
Join us for an evening of fun and laughs!
This event includes food, drink tickets, and a comedy show. Pickwick & Frolic is located just a few blocks from the Hilton Downtown Cleveland. Advanced ticket purchase is required. All are welcome!

Friday | November 22nd

8:00-8:30am **Continental Breakfast/Exhibits Open**

8:30-9:45am **"3-Way Tug-Of-War in a Minefield: Ethics in the Tripartite Relationship (Part II)"**
Kurt D. Anderson, Esq.

Collins Roche Utley & Garner, LLC, Cleveland, OH

This presentation will use both hypothetical and real-world scenarios and will delve into the potential ethics pitfalls that confront insurance defense, private defense, coverage, and even plaintiffs' counsel due to the numerous relationships and duties that arise out of insurance-related litigation. The program expands on the prior presentation presented at OACTA's Insurance Coverage Seminar earlier this year, but offers insights and guidance for first time and prior attendees alike.

APC CREDIT

9:45-10:00am **Networking & Break with Exhibitors**

10:00-10:15am **Exhibitor Door Prizes**

10:15-11:45am **"An Ohio Supreme Court "Majority" - Ohio's Four Newest Justices and an Inside Look At the Court"**

Justice R. Patrick DeWine

Supreme Court of Ohio

Justice Michael P. Donnelly

Supreme Court of Ohio

Justice Patrick F. Fischer

Supreme Court of Ohio

Justice Melody J. Stewart

Supreme Court of Ohio

MODERATOR: James N. Kline, Esq.

Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co., L.P.A.

Cleveland, OH

Four of Ohio's Supreme Court Justices will provide a panel discussion sharing their views, their insights, their likes and their dislikes with respect to briefing and oral argument, and what they have learned since assuming their position on the bench.

11:45am-12:30pm **Meet and Greet the Ohio Supreme Court Justices**

Enjoy some light refreshments while you have the opportunity to mingle with the Ohio Supreme Court Justices!

12:30pm **Adjournment**

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

This course is pending approval by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 8.75 total CLE hours, with 2.25 of attorney professional conduct instruction. The course is also pending approval by the Kentucky Bar Association.