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The UPDATE

News & Practice Pointers from OACTA

Fall 2015

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Upcoming Events

2015 OACTA Annual Meeting

November 20-21, 2015
The Hilton at Easton
Columbus

Click [Here](#) to Register

**Submit Articles
to the
Newsletter
Committee:**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By James L. Mann
2015 OACTA President

I hope that everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather. Looks like warm weather and sunshine right through the end of October. If the predictions on El Nino are correct, we may have to open our homes so that our Florida friends can come north for the winter.



As you make your plans for the fall months, please consider including our Annual Meeting (Nov. 20-21). It is a Friday-Saturday meeting, so minimal time out of the office, and it is at Easton Town Centre, a great venue for fun, shopping and fine dining. Include your significant other and make it a fun weekend away.

We believe that the program is an outstanding one loaded with cutting edge topics, presented by excellent speakers. Complete all of your remaining CLE hours for the year, including ethics and professionalism, and enjoy the company of your fellow OACTA members. At the same time, you can support our project to help veterans through our joint work with Legal Help Ohio.

In conjunction with those efforts, while attending the DRI Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., four of us, John Garvey, Jill Mercer, Gary Grubler and myself had the honor of placing a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This was done on behalf of all OACTA members. Our sincere thanks to John Garvey for making the arrangements for the

[Ian Mitchell](#)

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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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**The Update Winter
Issue deadline is
November 30, 2015**

ceremony.

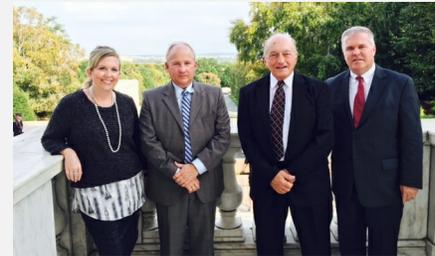
Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery

At the recent DRI Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., OACTA arranged for a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, October 9th. This ceremony was conducted as a way to formally begin the 50th Anniversary Year of the founding of OACTA and to stand in honor of all of our Nation's servicemen and servicewomen who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the many freedoms we all enjoy, and which



we, as practicing lawyers, fight to preserve each and every day. On October 9th, OACTA Officers present (Jim Mann, John Garvey and Jill Mercer) and the OACTA DRI State Representative (Gary Grubler) stood in solemn tribute to all Ohio servicemen and

servicewomen, in particular, on behalf of all the members of OACTA, past and present.



Register Now To Attend The 2015 OACTA Annual Meeting

The Hilton Columbus at Easton will be the site for this year's Annual Meeting! The Hilton is located in the Easton Town Center, home to an ever expanding list of the nation's premier retailers and restaurants. The Hilton is easily accessible and centrally located for the OACTA members throughout the state! Join your colleagues and bring your office administrators for valuable information from nationally and locally recognized speakers. Up to 9.0 hours of CLE will be available, including all required attorney professional conduct instruction. An outstanding program is planned! [Download the registration brochure](#) to review the complete program.

Networking opportunities include a **Friday Evening Networking Reception at Bar Louie in Easton!** The **OACTA Annual Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting** will provide you with an opportunity to recognize your esteemed colleagues and learn

more about OACTA activities.

Click [HERE](#) to Register to attend this year's OACTA Annual Meeting!

Click [HERE](#) to make your hotel reservation at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Make your reservation by October 30th to receive the group rate!

OACTA Award Recipients Announced

OACTA is pleased to present the following awards during the OACTA Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 20, Noon-1:30 p.m. at the Hilton Columbus at Easton:

Excellence in Advocacy Award

Carolyn A. Taggart, Esq.

Respected Advocate Award

Mark Kitrick, Esq.

Distinguished Contributions to the Profession Award

Peter J. Hersha, Esq.

Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

Natalie M. Wais, Esq.

Public Service Award

Judge Lisa Sadler

Lifetime Achievement Award

Neil F. Freund, Esq.

Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year Award

Michael M. Neltner, Esq.

OACTA Committee Chair of the Year Award

Lynn V. Luther, Esq.

Join us in recognizing these individuals! [Click here](#) to register for the OACTA Annual Meeting. Your meeting registration includes the Awards Luncheon. Please note that you may register to attend the Award Luncheon only. For more information about these awards, visit the OACTA website: www.OACTA.org.

OACTA congratulates these outstanding individuals on their success!!



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OACTA Committees

If you are not on a committee, please consider joining an OACTA Committee! It's a great way to establish and demonstrate your expertise in your primary practice area(s). And it's also a great way to meet and deepen relationships with your counterparts across the state, as well as your current---and potential future---clients. OACTA's Substantive Law Committees are called upon to play a larger role in the delivery of the association's key membership services, such as CLE programming, publishing, and web content development.

If you are interested in serving on one of the following committees, please email OACTA@assnoffices.com to express your interest. Committee membership is open to any interested members!

Substantive Law Committees:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alternative Dispute Resolution | Insurance Coverage |
| Appellate Advocacy | Medical Negligence |
| Business & Commercial Litigation | Personal Injury Defense |
| Construction Litigation | Product Liability |
| Employment Law | Professional Liability |
| Environmental Law/Toxic Tort | Trial Tactics |
| Governmental Liability | Workers' Compensation |

Member Services Committees:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Diversity Committee | Young Lawyers Committee |
| Membership Committee | Golf Outing Committee |

Young Lawyers Committee Update

The OACTA Young Lawyers Committee would like to thank outgoing chair, Natalie Wais for her excellent leadership. Melanie (Shaerban) Irvin of Gallagher Sharp's Cleveland office will take over as chair this year and welcomes Zach Pyers of Reminger's Columbus office as co-chair. Zach focuses his legal practice on a wide variety of areas including commercial and corporate litigation, and professional liability. In his professional liability practice, he has represented attorneys, accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors, builders, insurance agents, and investment advisors. Zach also represents a multitude of clients in general liability matters.

Save the Date: The Young Lawyers Committee will be collaborating with collaborating with the Trial Tactics Committee to host a Trial Tactics Boot Camp currently slated for March 2016.

As a reminder, OACTA provides **a free membership to law students, a reduced-dues membership for new attorneys** (admitted to practice 5 years or less), and **a one-year free membership to all DRI members who have not previously been a member of OACTA**. Please encourage any law students and young lawyers you know to join OACTA. Young lawyers are defined as an attorney who has practiced 10 years or less and/or is 40 years old or younger. Feel free to have any potential new member contact [Melanie Irvin](#) or [Zach Pyers](#) with any questions on how to get involved.



We are fully qualified to assist you and your clients suffering from

catastrophic injury or disability. Our legal nurse consultants are

experts in the areas of medical litigation. We evaluate causation and

damages, analyze medical records for causality, and offer strategy

and support to any case. A QRSC legal nurse consultant is a

valuable and necessary resource for your legal team.

2015 OACTA 7th Annual Golf Outing

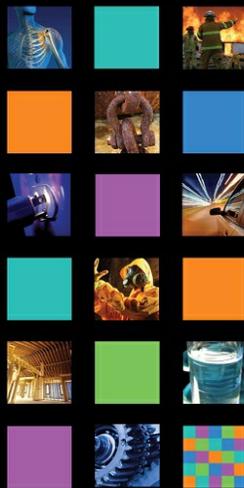
The 2015 Golf Outing took place on September 8, 2015 at Pinnacle Golf Club. Once again the best lawyers and the most generous sponsors in Ohio gathered not just for golf and fun, but they did so while raising money for the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE) and the OACTA Diversity Scholarship.



Thanks to [All the Sponsors](#) of the 2015 OACTA Golf Outing!

Please contact Chair David Orlandini if any OACTA Member is interested in helping serve as Vice-Chair and/or serve on the Golf Committee for 2016. David can be reached at dorlandini@cruglaw.com.

Thanks again to all!



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Member News

Sutter O'Connell is proud to announce and welcome, effective September 1, 2015, the addition of six lawyers and several

professional staff members formerly of the law firm of Brzytwa, Quick and McCrystal.

Collins, Roche, Utley & Garner invites you to check out their brand new website! www.cruglaw.com

Eric K. Grinnell has joined the firm of The Carr Law Office, LLC, as an associate.

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Environmental & Occupational	Vehicles & Crash Reconstruction
Fires & Explosions	Vocational & Life Care Planning



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Weston Hurd LLP is pleased to announce that the following attorneys have been selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© 2016

W. Charles Curley

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OACTA requests that authors who republish articles that were originally published in an OACTA publication, reflect that the article first appeared in the OACTA publication.

- Soil and groundwater remediation design and cost allocation
- Soil and groundwater forensics
- Site characterization
- Timing of chemical releases to groundwater (Who did what and when?)
- Groundwater modeling
- Groundwater supply/competitive use of groundwater
- Cases in Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, and Ontario, Canada.

Contact Jeffrey A. Bolin, M.S., CHMM (jbolin@dragun.com) 248-932-0228
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