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The UPDATE

News & Practice Pointers from OACTA

Spring 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By James L. Mann
2015 OACTA President

After a long and trying winter, we are finally seeing the promise of spring, and with that we are also anticipating a number of exciting developments at OACTA. We are particularly pleased with the number of new members that have joined us in recent weeks. This indicates that more lawyers in Ohio are realizing the benefits of an OACTA membership and how it can benefit their practice. Talk to your colleagues who are not yet members and let them know the benefits that you have seen from your own membership. In the words of past president Kevin Connell, it is truly "reputation insurance".



[Read More...](#)

OACTA Diversity Scholarship

OACTA Announces 2015 Law Student Diversity Scholarships

The OACTA Law Student Diversity Scholarship is 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.

Mark your calendar for these 2015 OACTA Events:

Women in the Law
Networking Lunch, Bravo
Cucina Italiana, West
Chester
April 8, 2015

Insurance Coverage
Seminar
Westfield Insurance
April 17, 2015

Employment Law
Seminar
The Athletic Club of
Columbus
June 18, 2015

Medical Malpractice
Seminar
August 2015

Golf Outing
Pinnacle Golf Club
September 8, 2015

2015 OACTA
Annual Meeting
Hilton at Easton
Columbus, Ohio

Up to two (3) scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 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 may submit up to three letters of recommendation.

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Save the Date!

2016 will mark **OACTA's 50th Anniversary!** Currently, there are plans for a Gala Event to be held on the evening of Thursday, **November 10, 2016** at the Ohio Statehouse. **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to join us in the celebration!



Committee Updates

Young Lawyers Committee Update
by Natalie M.E. Wais, Committee Chair

The Summer Happy Hour Series is back!! The Young Lawyers Committee will be hosting Happy Hours in various cities across Ohio as part of our efforts to engage members, increase membership networking and provide time for "fun". Be on the lookout for emails

November 20-21, 2015

**Submit Articles
to the
Newsletter
Committee:**

[Joe Borchelt](#)

[Tony Brown](#)

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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

[Joe Borchelt](#)

**The Update Summer
Issue deadline is
June 30, 2015**

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View our profile on LinkedIn 

from OACTA with specific locations and dates. **ALL OACTA MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE OACTA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!!** We encourage OACTA members to bring non-OACTA members to learn about the benefits of joining our organization. These Happy Hours are sponsored by S-E-A. If you are interested in being a host of a Happy Hour, please contact Natalie Wais at nwais@yandalaw.com.

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 Natalie Wais or Melanie Shaerban with any questions on how to get involved.

Employment Law Committee Update

by Lynn V. Luther, Committee Chair

The Employment Law Seminar will be held in Columbus on June 18, 2015 at the Athletic Club of Columbus. Topics will include matters of interest to all members of OACTA, not just those who focus their practices on employment law. The Honorable Gregory L. Frost of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio will be among the presenters. We are currently finalizing the agenda. Please contact me at vluther@eastmansmith.com if you would like to assist with seminar planning, have any suggestions on topics, or would like to recommend a presenter.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Update

by Thomas P. Erven, Committee Chair

The ADR Committee is currently considering topics and authors for the Summer Quarterly. If you have an interest in the Committee, or wish to suggest a topic or contribute an article, please contact Tom Erven terven@yandalaw.com or Jason Founds jfounds@GGPTL.com.

Insurance Committee Update

by Michael M. Neltner, Committee Chair

The Insurance Coverage Committee will host its biennial Coverage

Seminar on Friday, April 17, 2015, at the Blair Center located in Westfield, Ohio. The seminar includes presentations by the top insurance coverage attorneys in the State of Ohio speaking on a range of the "hottest" insurance coverage topics relative to the most pressing issues for 2015. If you are interested in attending the seminar, please feel free to call The OACTA Office at 614-228-4727 or me at 513-603-5082. [Register online](#) through the OACTA website. A special bonus this year is that in addition to qualifying for 5.75 hours of general CLE credit, the seminar has also been approved by the OSBA for 5.75 "specialty" CLE hours towards the Insurance Coverage Law Certification. We are also continuing our tradition of allowing any attorney who registers to bring up to two non-attorney Insurance Claims Personnel for the special rate of \$25.00 each (basically the cost of lunch which is provided with the Seminar on Westfield's beautiful veranda). And the Seminar adjourns at 4:20 on a Friday afternoon when all of this snow is gone - so you can't beat that!!

Please come and check us out if you haven't ever attended a Coverage Seminar or, if you have and you know how beneficial they are to your practice, please come back and see us again. The Seminar usually fills up quickly so register today to get your spot. See you April 17th!!

OACTA Substantive Law Committee Chairs Orientation

An orientation was held for OACTA Substantive Law Committee Chairs on February 25th. In case you missed it, [view the minutes of the call](#).

Do you want to network with others in your same practice area? Do you want to get involved in some of the member services of OACTA? If you are an OACTA member who is not a member of an OACTA Committee, [view the list of the OACTA committees](#) and contact the OACTA office at OACTA@AssnOffices.com to join a committee! This is an OACTA benefit you want to take advantage of!

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Mark Your Calendars

The Summer Happy Hour Series is back!! The Young Lawyers Committee will be hosting Happy Hours in various cities across Ohio as part of our efforts in engaging members, increasing membership networking and providing time for "fun". **ALL OACTA MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE OACTA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!!**

Mark your calendars for the following:

- Thursday, June 4 - Cincinnati
- Thursday, June 11 - Columbus
- Thursday, June 25 - Cleveland
- Tuesday, July 14 - Toledo
- Thursday, July 23 - Canton/Akron
- Thursday, July 30 - Dayton

Be on the lookout for emails from OACTA with specific locations for the sites.

Bitcoin - What Exactly Is It? And Why Is It The Next Big Thing?

By Thomas F. Glassman

How do you insure something no one will ever see or touch, whose ownership cannot be reliably traced, and whose legality is questioned in certain circles? That very question is now faced by the insurance industry as Bitcoin becomes increasingly prevalent. A corollary question is whether Bitcoin is the wave of the future, or will it go the way of Esperanto and Betamax?



What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is a virtual currency. It only exists in cyberspace. It is not recognized or regulated by any governmental entity in the world, nor is there any central body overseeing its use, either nationally or internationally.

[Read More....](#)

Franklin County Law Library

The Franklin County Law Library recently moved to a newly renovated facility on the 10th floor of 369 S. High St. in Columbus. The Library is launching a series of [Brown Bag Lunch programs](#) throughout the year, with some programs providing complimentary CLE. The law library will soon begin circulating e-Books to its patrons. Complimentary meeting space is available for groups of up to 30 people. The Library is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

For more information, visit their website:

<http://lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov/>

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Kentucky Defense Counsel - Seminar Invite

The Kentucky Defense Counsel (KDC) is holding their Spring Seminar,

"Trial Tactics Technology," on April 14th at the Louisville Slugger Field in Louisville, KY. The seminar features speaker Paul Unger, an attorney and a founding principal of Affinity Consulting Group in Columbus, Ohio, a nationwide consulting company providing legal technology consulting, training and continuing legal education. Up to 6.0 hours of CLE credit is pending for Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. For this seminar, the KDC is offering OACTA members the KDC member

rate. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the registration brochure. To register, print and complete the registration form or, register online at www.ky-def.org. events page; log-in using email: temp@att.net; password: Temporary2015. If you have any questions, please call Kathi McKeown at the KDC office at 502-228-9256.



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OACTA Webinar:

May 27 - Automated Vehicles

Exponent, in collaboration with OACTA, is pleased to bring you this webinar! Registration information coming soon!

MEMBER NEWS

Kevin Bush Named Partner in Charge of Columbus Office of Weston Hurd LLP

The Ohio-based law firm of Weston Hurd LLP is pleased to announce that Kevin R. Bush has been named the Partner-in-Charge of the firm's Columbus office effective January 1, 2015.

Kevin is an experienced trial attorney who focuses his practice on matters involving premises liability, personal injury, insurance disputes, and commercial and business litigation. He received his B.A. with high distinction in 1982 from Ohio Northern University and his J.D. in 1985 from Capital University. Kevin gained his Ohio Bar admission in 1985 and is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the U.S.



District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio. He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association and the Columbus Bar Association. Kevin is a past president of the Columbus Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, and a member of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys and the Columbus Claims Association. He is also an active member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM).

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