

KICKING ASHES THROUGH TIME

Lessons in Curiosity, Integrity and Passion

Randy Watson, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-CI, CFEI, CVFI, CFII S-E-A, LTD

In any profession, longevity brings perspective. After 48 years in fire investigation, I've learned that expertise is not a fixed destination — it's an evolving pursuit, shaped by science, grounded in ethics, and fueled by purpose.

When I began my career in fire service and investigation nearly five decades ago, much of what was accepted practice lacked a scientific foundation. Over the years, the industry has undergone a profound transformation, moving away from anecdotal assumptions and toward scientifically grounded methodologies. That transition has required all of us to unlearn old habits, embrace evidence-based practices, and recommit ourselves to professional rigor. For me, this evolution has been driven by three core values: the importance of curiosity and integrity, continued industry involvement, and a passion for educating the next generation.

CURIOSITY: THE ENGINE OF INVESTIGATION

From the beginning, I was driven by an insatiable desire to understand the “why.” Why did a fire start? What sequence of events led to the loss? What evidence is hidden beneath the ashes? That curiosity compelled me to explore deeply, to question assumptions, and to outwork any ob-

stacle standing between a problem and its solution. In fire investigation — especially within the context of litigation, subrogation, or claims resolution — every detail matters. That mindset of intellectual rigor is foundational to producing reliable, defensible conclusions.

INTEGRITY: THE NON-NEGOTIABLE STANDARD

In forensic investigation, few things are as consequential as integrity. When you raise your right hand and testify as an expert witness, that oath should mean something. The role of an expert is not to advocate, but to inform — to present unbiased, scientifically grounded findings, regardless of who hired you.

Instances where experts compromised their objectivity in an effort to support a client's position were often witnessed. That's not forensic science — that's advocacy masquerading as expertise. Integrity means doing the work thoroughly, documenting your methodology, and following the facts wherever they lead. It means being willing to have those hard conversations when the facts don't align with the hopes of a client. For those who entrust us with these critical investigations — whether legal teams, insurance professionals, or corporate clients

— the expectation should be not just competence, but unwavering ethical standards.

PASSION: THE DRIVER OF PROGRESS

You can be a fire investigator without passion. But you cannot be a great one.

That passion found me early — on the scene of one of my first incendiary fires. I remember the sense of anger and injustice that someone would endanger lives so recklessly. Those moments left an indelible mark — and lit a fire in me to not only uncover the truth but also to help prevent such tragedies from repeating.

That passion fueled my desire to contribute to the advancement of fire investigations, and I felt that I could help accomplish that through standards. I had the privilege of serving on, and eventually chairing, the NFPA 921 Technical Committee on Fire Investigations — the body responsible for developing the scientific framework that now defines our profession. Using NFPA 921 in investigations ensures a standardized, scientifically based approach that enhances the accuracy, consistency, and credibility of findings. It provides clear guidance on evidence handling, fire behavior analysis, and investigative techniques, making it easier to communicate results across legal, insurance, and technical audiences. By following



NFPA 921, investigators not only improve the quality of their work but also strengthen its defensibility in court, reduce liability, and support professional development through recognized best practices. Prior to NFPA 921's release in 1992, the industry lacked standardization. Investigations were often based on experience alone, with little grounding in validated science. NFPA 921 changed that — establishing the scientific method as the cornerstone of credible fire origin and cause analysis.

I also served on the NFPA 1033 Committee, helping define the minimum professional qualifications and core competencies required for individuals who investigate fires and explosions. These standards transformed fire investigation into a true profession — one that demands accountability, competence, and continuous education.

EDUCATION: A WAY TO PAY IT FORWARD

With experience comes the responsibility to share it. One of the most fulfilling chapters of my career has been mentoring the next generation of investigators and forensic engineers — both at S-E-A and through my work with professional associations. As director of technical training at S-E-A, I've had the privilege of helping new experts navigate the

complexities of investigative work, testimony, and professional growth. Seeing that same spark of curiosity in a young investigator — watching them connect the dots and commit to excellence — is as rewarding as solving the most complex fire scene.

Passion, when authentic, demands action. That's what drew me to leadership roles in the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), where I served as president in 2022, and the National Association of Fire Investigators, where I served on the Board of Directors for 12 years. They offered opportunities to influence industry standards, contribute to training and education, and build strong professional networks. Leadership in these organizations is not about titles — it's about a commitment to advancing the profession, giving back, and inspiring others to pursue excellence.

Vince Lombardi once said: *"We are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well we will not catch it, because nothing is perfect. But in the process, we will catch excellence."*

That mindset has guided my work, and I believe it should guide our profession.

LOOKING AHEAD

After 48 years in the field — investigat-

ing scenes, testifying in courtrooms, developing national standards, and mentoring future experts — my passion for this profession remains undiminished. I believe in the power of science, the value of integrity, and the impact of investing in others.

In the world of forensic investigation, especially as it intersects with litigation, insurance claims, and corporate risk management, the stakes are high. Lives, livelihoods, and reputations hang in the balance. So as we look to the future of this profession, my hope is simple: that we continue to uphold the science, nurture the next generation, and never forget that what we do matters — not just today, but for the trust and truth of tomorrow.



Randy Watson just retired from [SEA, Ltd.](#) after 32 and a half years. For the last 10 years, he served as the director of technical training and as a senior fire investigator. Prior to joining S-E-A, Randy spent 16 years in the public and private sectors. He is an internationally recognized expert in fire investigation, public speaker and guest lecturer.

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Annual Membership Meeting

Cory Feinberg (GC and corporate secretary of MoneyGram), Anne Loucks Umberger (director and associate GC of Nordstrom, Inc.) and Stephen Winborn (senior VP of National Interstate Insurance Company) shared their insights, experiences and perspectives with USLAW members and corporate partners during the USLAW Annual Member Meeting's Vision for the Future Client Panel moderated by USLAW Chair Ken Wingate of Sweeny, Wingate & Barrow, P.A. (pictured left).



USLAW/TELFa Cross-Border Exchange

Cross-border collaboration. Nearly 30 corporate and M&A attorneys from USLAW NETWORK and the Trans European Law Firms Alliance (TELFa), representing 10 countries globally -came together for the USLAW NETWORK/TELFa Cross-Border Exchange in Miami Beach. These legal experts convened for vital discussions on the changing tariff landscape and how AI is reshaping legal practices and the associated business opportunities.



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each of these firms, their experienced teams of attorneys and broad capabilities, visit gerber-ciano.com and parlee.com.

Welcome New USLAW NETWORK Members

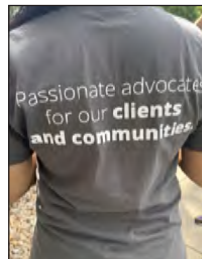
USLAW NETWORK welcomes **Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady LLP** of Buffalo, New York, as the newest member of USLAW NETWORK for the Western New York (Buffalo) market and multi-service law firm **Parlee McLaws LLP** as its newest member firm representing Alberta, Canada. Parlee McLaws has two offices in Alberta, one located in the provincial capital of Edmonton and the other in Calgary. To learn more about



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Poyner Spruill holds its third annual service week to remember Cheslie Kryst

EPoyner Spruill LLP continued its tradition of service and advocacy with the third annual Service Week, honoring the life and legacy of late colleague, Cheslie Kryst. Kryst served as an attorney and later as the firm's diversity advisor, using her platform to champion social justice and support underserved communities. Her passion for volunteerism and advocacy lives on through the firm's collective efforts each year.



From April 28 to May 2, 2025, the firm's DEI Committee organized time to give back to local organizations and raise awareness for mental health, continuing the legacy Kryst left behind. Throughout the week, Poyner Spruill team members engaged in meaningful service projects to give back to their local communities. On Tuesday, volunteers assisted the Hospitality House of Charlotte with landscaping improvements. The new mulch and spring flowers helped bring joy to patients and caregivers staying at the house while receiving medical care in the area. The Raleigh office went to Haven House Services on Wednesday to clean the Second Round Boxing Gym and organize their Essentials Pantry. In Rocky Mount, Poyner Spruill volunteers partnered with Meals on Wheels on Thursday to deliver meals to seniors in the community. Service Week concluded on Friday with a Raleigh group volunteering at the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle farm, helping to wash and box over 400 pounds of green onions.



Poyner Spruill LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



The joint **USLAW/S-E-A Live Better initiative** focuses on mind, heart, and health, promoting a culture of health and well-being. This comes to life at USLAW events through carefully crafted experiences, such as the "explore and recharge" hike through Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve or along the pristine beaches of South Florida.

Live Better
MIND. HEART. HEALTH.



Rivkin has heart: Cheryl Korman, Kate Heptig, Bernadette Kasnicki and Tracey McIntyre attended the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women luncheon. Rivkin Radler in Uniondale, New York, was a proud sponsor of the event.

On March 27, Rivkin Radler's **Catalina De La Hoz** (center) served as a panelist for a discussion hosted by the **Dominican Bar Association (DBA)** on women in the law.



Rivkin's Milfort and Ogé organized a book discussion on behalf of Amistad LIBBA. On Thursday, May 8, the **Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association (Amistad LIBBA)**, Nassau Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta

Sorority, Inc. – Rho Omega Zeta Chapter co-sponsored a book discussion regarding Professor Gloria J. Browne-Marshall's recently released book entitled, "A Protest History of the United States." It is Dr. Browne-Marshall's seventh published book. Attorneys Jamie Milfort and Andre Ogé organized the event on behalf of Amistad LIBBA.



Franklin & Prokopik principal Heather Rice captained the 'Heather's Heroes' team at Walk MS 2025 in Annapolis, MD. Many current and former F&P staff members joined the team, proudly supporting the **National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Walk for a Cure**.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Carr Allison's Jacksonville office sponsored **PIN PALS**, a program benefiting **Special Olympics Florida**, through the Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (YLS).

Participants above L-R: Carr Allison attorneys Austin Sherman (2025 PIN PALS event chair and YLS Board of Governors member), Heather Frederick, Ashton Hampton, Miles Igou and Special Olympics Florida athletes Junior and Mallory.



CARR ALLISON

Faces and stories of our pro bono heros...

USLAW NETWORK members continue to rise to the occasion by volunteering their time and experience to worthwhile causes.



Hanson Bridgett's pro bono efforts recognized.

On March 6, Hanson Bridgett LLP's Darlene Chiang and David Casarrubias-Gonzales were recognized by the Bar Association of San Francisco - Justice & Diversity Center as Outstanding

Volunteers in Public Service for their pro bono work for BASF-JDC. This is the second consecutive year that Casarrubias-Gonzales has received this recognition.

Centro Legal de la Raza honored Hanson Bridgett as a Champion of Justice and recognized the firm during its 56th Anniversary Gala on April 17.

For the fourth year in a row, Hanson Bridgett has been honored with the Beacon of Justice award by the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA). This year's award recognizes the firm's pro bono work in strengthening civil rights protections, providing legal representation to families in crisis, community justice initiatives, and empowering vulnerable populations.



HansonBridgett



Nassau County Bar Association recognizes Rivkin Radler as a top pro bono provider

On Wednesday, April 2, Rivkin Radler was recognized by the Nassau County Bar Association as a Top Pro Bono Provider for 2024. Rivkin attorneys recognized for their pro bono work included: Jennifer Abreu, Brian

Bank, Katherine Jenkins, Bernadette Kasnicki, Elan Kirshenbaum, Lauren Russo, Jeffrey Rust, Alan Rutkin, Bill Savino, Catherine Savio, Wendy Sheinberg, Liz Sy, Jenson Wang, and Alexa Wolff.



RIVKINRADLER
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Pierce Couch attorneys Rusty Hendrickson and Debbie Davis gave back to the legal community by volunteering their time during the Oklahoma County Bar Association's Ask-A-Lawyer event in conjunction with the annual Law Day celebration.



PIERCE COUCH HENDRICKSON
BAYSINGER & GREEN, LLP



Faces from around the USLAW circuit...

Throughout the year, USLAW members and clients lead facilitated discussions at USLAW events from coast to coast. Here are some of the recent leading voices.



Barbara Barron, MehaffyWeber (Houston, TX); Keely E. Duke, Duke Evett, PLLC (Boise, ID); Karen P. Randall, Connell Foley LLP (Roseland, NJ)



Jessica L. Dark, Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green, L.L.P. (Oklahoma City, OK); Adam C. Grafton, Bovis Kyle Burch & Medlin (Atlanta, GA); Aretta K. Bernard, Roetzel & Andress (Cleveland, OH)



Douglas W. Clarke, Therrien Couture Joli-Coeur L.L.P. (Montreal, QC, Canada); James D. Snyder, Klinedinst PC (San Diego, CA); René Mauricio Alva, EC Rubio (Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico)



Lisa A. Zaccardelli, Hinckley Allen (Hartford, CT); Sheryl J. Willert, Williams Kastner (Seattle, WA); Julie A. Proscia, Amundsen Davis LLC (Chicago, IL)



David R. Elmore, MDD Forensic Accountants (Reston, VA); Batya F. Forsyth, Hanson Bridgett LLP (San Francisco, CA); Molly Arranz, Amundsen Davis LLC (Chicago, IL)



J. Scott Searl, Baird Holm LLP (Omaha, NE); Ami C. Dwyer, S-E-A, Limited (Glen Burnie, MD); Joseph S. Goode, Laffey, Leitner & Goode LLC (Milwaukee, WI)



Krista Cammack, Wicker Smith (Orlando, FL); Peter T. DeMasters, Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC (Morgantown, WV)

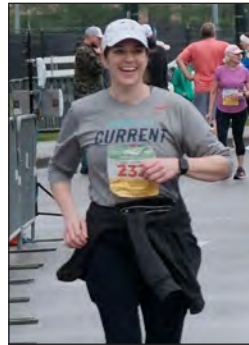


Jordan Hettrich, Pion, Nerone, Girman & Smith, PC (Pittsburgh, PA); Zach McGovern S-E-A, Limited (St. Louis, MO); Nicholas Rauch, Larson & King LLP (St. Paul, MN)



Trey Sandoval, MehaffyWeber (Houston, TX); Bryan Price, Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC (Charleston, WV)





Dysart Taylor supports 37th Annual CCVI Trolley Run in Kansas City

Dysart Taylor was a proud sponsor of the 37th Annual Children's Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI) Trolley Run in Kansas City. The Trolley Run is the largest fundraiser for CCVI, and all money raised from the race supports educational or therapeutic services for kids with vision impairment, including those with multiple disabilities. Dysart Taylor attorneys [Amanda Pennington Ketchum](#) and [Elizabeth Judy](#) participated in this year's run on the firm's corporate team, and managing director [Michael Judy](#) serves on the CCVI board of directors.

DYSART TAYLOR
McMONIGLE BRUMITT & WILCOX, P.C.

Honors & Distinctions from around the NETWORK



Hanson Bridgett's Jonathan Storper was named to the MO 100 Impact list for a fifth consecutive year. The MO 100 honors leaders who are leveraging the engine of capitalism to create shared prosperity.

Hanson Bridgett's Alfonso Estrada was appointed to the Mexican American Bar Association Board (MABA). MABA empowers the Latino community by supporting Latino lawyers, law students, and



bench officers through philanthropic, educational, and civic endeavors.

The Health Law Section of the American Bar Association awarded **Hanson Bridgett LLP partner**



Stefan Chacón with its 2025 Champion of Diversity and Inclusion award. The award is given to members of the Health Law Section who make the extra effort to foster an environment of acceptance and equality and go above and beyond to promote diversity and inclusion within the section and the legal profession.

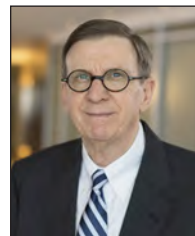


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The **North Carolina State Bar** awarded the **John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award** to **Cecil Harrison**, a distinguished employment attorney and former managing partner of **Poyner Spruill LLP**. This recognition is the highest honor bestowed by the Bar for exemplary service to the legal profession and the public.

With a career spanning five decades, his practice has encompassed a broad range of employment law matters, including matters arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Harrison has successfully represented clients in a number of federal and state cases, as well as in matters before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the United States and North Carolina Departments of Labor, and the Employment Security Commission. He has also argued numerous appeals at both the state and federal levels.



Over many years, Harrison has also provided pro bono services to several Raleigh nonprofit organizations on an ongoing basis.

p.s.
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Caryn Boisen of Larson King LLP in St. Paul, Minnesota, received the **2025 Ramsey County Bar Association Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award** in recognition of her outstanding commitment to humanitarian service and dedication to the Ramsey County community. Throughout her career, Boisen has given back to Ramsey County and the broader Minnesota legal community through pro bono work and leadership in various professional organizations.



LARSON • KING



Thomas G. Williams, a managing member of Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC in Arkansas, was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) at its 2025 Spring Meeting held in Maui, Hawaii. Williams joins his partners Steve Quattlebaum and John Tull as Fellows of this prestigious organization. The ACTL is an invitation-only fellowship comprising exceptional trial lawyers from the United States and Canada who have demonstrated the highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and collegiality. Membership can never exceed 1% of the total lawyer population of any state or province.

QG&T
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Franklin & Prokopik principal and president Bert Randall was featured on The Daily Record's 2025 Employment Law Power Player List, which features the most influential and respected practitioners in the employment law sector in Maryland.

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Barbara Barron of MehaffyWeber in Houston, Texas, was elected **president of the board of the Symphony of Southeast Texas**, whose mission is to advance and promote a further appreciation of symphonic music and to present student concerts to further the musical education of the region. Musicians are from Houston, Southeast Texas, and various universities.



MEHAFFYWEBER

On the Road with USLAW

Once the formal sessions end, USLAW event attendees enjoy fun times and network together in various host cities, including a San Diego Regatta Challenge on San Diego Bay, a culinary tour through La Jolla, an e-bike adventure along San Diego's coastline, hiking Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, a foodie tour of Ft. Lauderdale, VIP tour of The Star (world headquarters and practice facility of the Dallas Cowboys), and par three golf at The Swing in Frisco, Texas.



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Connell Foley LLP (Roseland, NJ)



Connell Foley secures favorable outcome for Tomco in high-stakes bid protest; \$18 million jury award for defamation reduced to \$500

Connell Foley LLP achieved a major legal win for Tomco Construction in a bid protest over an \$80 million contract for Athletic Fields in Thomas Edison Park, County Project #EDI8017. Middlesex County had awarded Tomco the contract as the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$77,985,000, slightly under ALT's \$78,147,543. In December, ALT challenged the bid, claiming flaws in Tomco's proposal, but a trial court dismissed these claims in March, affirming Tomco's compliance.

On May 9, the Appellate Division upheld this decision, finding ALT's arguments unsubstantiated and supporting the trial court's ruling that Tomco's plan to install certain elements did not require licensed electricians. The court confirmed Middlesex County's decision as lawful and appropriate. Mitch Taraschi and Mark Fleder represented Tomco in this matter.

Separately, on May 12, Superior Court Judge Jeffrey B. Beacham reduced an \$18 million jury award for defamation against former Ghanaian MP Kennedy Agyapong to \$500. The case involved remarks made about journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas following his 2018 BBC investigation into football corruption. Connell Foley successfully argued that Anas failed to establish reputational harm, limiting damages to \$500 without punitive awards.

Defendant Kennedy Agyapong was represented by Connell Foley's Timothy E. Corrison, Christina Sartorio Ku and Meredith Rubin on the Motion to Mold the Jury Award.

Hanson Bridgett LLP (San Francisco, CA)



Water law team obtains published opinion

Hanson Bridgett's water law team and appellate group obtained a published opinion from the Court of Appeal, Fifth District, reversing a preliminary injunction and requiring courts to balance reasonable uses even at the injunctive relief stage. Nathan Metcalf led the team, which included Gary Watt, Sean Herman and Jillian Ames.

MehaffyWeber (Houston, TX)



MehaffyWeber attorneys obtain defense verdict and motion for summary judgment

Maryalyce Cox of MehaffyWeber in Houston, Texas, obtained a complete defense verdict in a slip-and-fall case on behalf of a national retailer. The plaintiff broke two bones in their leg following the fall. However, the jury ultimately found the client was not negligent. Additionally, associates Trey Hillman and Uzochukwu Okonkwo both successfully prevailed on a motion for summary judgment in a premises liability case involving slip and falls.

Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green, L.L.P. (Oklahoma City, OK)



PIERCE COUCH HENDRICKSON
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Jake Pipinich successfully obtains an order dismissal

Attorney Jake Pipinich successfully obtained an Order dismissing shareholder claims against a Delaware County HOA concerning the purchase of a golf course within the geographical boundary of the community. The dismissal was affirmed on appeal, and the decision will be released for publication.

Rivkin Radler LLP (Uniondale, NY)



RIVKIN RADLER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Rivkin Radler obtains landmark Anti-SLAPP

decision dismissing Leon Black's malicious prosecution action; Secures significant summary judgment victory for insurance client

In *Black v. Ganieva, et al.*, Rivkin Radler partner Max Gershenoff, arguing on behalf of the employment law firm Wigdor, secured a landmark decision in the Appellate Division, First Department. The decision dismissed a malicious prosecution suit filed by multi-billionaire Leon Black against Wigdor, which had previously represented Black's accuser in an action alleging sexual assault and defamation.

The Appellate Division also found that Wigdor was entitled to recover the attorneys' fees it incurred in defending against Black's defective malicious prosecution claim.

This decision is the first ever to apply New York's amended anti-SLAPP statute to a malicious prosecution action, and it represents a significant victory not only for Wigdor but for the legal profession. The decision makes clear that lawsuits alleging sexual assault and defamation are subject to the protections of the New York anti-SLAPP statute. It also signifies that plaintiffs who sub-



successful

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sequently contend that such lawsuits constitute malicious prosecution must come forward with substantial evidence in order to avoid dismissal of their malicious prosecution claims.

In addition to Gershenoff, the Rivkin Radler team included Janice DiGennaro, Yonatan Bernstein, and Peter Henninger.

In a separate matter, Alan Eagle (retired) and Frank Valverde secured an important summary judgment victory in a hotly contested declaratory judgment action in the Southern District of New York. The dispute was among multiple insurers and concerned insurance coverage for an underlying Labor Law action where a worker sustained grave injuries (quadriplegia) after falling from a ladder. Rivkin Radler's winning summary judgment motion involved many cutting-edge issues, including with respect to late notice/prejudice, additional insured coverage, priority of coverage, the doctrine of circuitry of the action, and estoppel as well as issues concerning contractual indemnity, employer's liability coverage, and real property. Read more at rivkinradler.com.

Wicker Smith (Miami, FL)



Baca and Aravena obtain defense verdict for defendant driver

WICKER SMITH

Jaime Baca and Claudia Aravena obtained a defense verdict on behalf of a defendant driver in an automobile negligence case in Miami-Dade County, Florida. The team was assisted at trial by co-counsel Anita Figueroa.

This case arose from an accident that occurred after the firm's client, who was operating a commercial vehicle, rear-ended the plaintiff, pushing her into another vehicle. The plaintiff was a world-renowned martial artist with no prior records of neck or back injuries or treatment. She claimed wage loss and ongoing pain and underwent an ACDF neck surgery.

The Court initially allowed punitive damages against the firm's client, but Fort Lauderdale Partner Alyssa Reiter assisted in getting that count dismissed via Summary Judgment.

Wicker Smith admitted liability and tried the case on damages, arguing the injury was minor and the plaintiff's symptoms did not correlate with an acute herniation since her MRI imaging showed pre-existing degeneration, consistent with 40 years of martial arts.

After a five-day trial, the plaintiff asked the jury for \$3.1 million. The jury found that the accident was not the legal cause of the injury and returned a defense verdict.

Wicker Smith (Orlando, FL)



WICKER SMITH

Wicker Smith obtains summary judgment for theme park client

Wicker Smith's Orlando Partner Patrick Mixson and Associate Isaac Horowitz recently obtained summary judgment on behalf of a popular theme park in the Orlando tourism corridor. The plaintiff alleged that she fell due to a sticky substance on the ground in the queue of an attraction at the theme park and that she suffered a fractured hip as a result. The plaintiff was unable to identify the substance or its source, and she testified in her deposition that she had walked through the exact same area just moments before without incident. Accordingly, the firm moved for summary judgment on the grounds that the theme park could not have had constructive or actual notice of the allegedly dangerous condition prior to the Plaintiff's fall. The Court agreed and granted final summary judgment in the firm's client's favor.

TRANSACTIONS



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Connell Foley LLP (Roseland, NJ)

Connell Foley real estate team secures 30-year tax abatement for 35-story mixed-used development in Jersey City

Connell Foley real estate attorneys Charles Harrington, Thomas Leane and Rebecca Maioriello assisted their client in securing a 30-year tax abatement under the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Act of 1983, as amended and supplemented N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1, et. seq. for a new thirty-five (35) story mixed-use building containing 360 dwelling units, inclusive of which shall be 90 affordable housing units, and ground floor retail space under the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency Law of 1983, as amended and supplemented, N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1 et. seq. On April 23, 2025, the Jersey City Municipal Council adopted legislation approving the 30-year tax abatement and the execution of a Financial Agreement.

Rivkin Radler LLP (Uniondale, NY)



RIVKIN RADLER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Rivkin real estate team closes \$10.75 million deal

Yaron Kornblum, Marie Landsman, and Ilana Camarda's client, 151 Avenue A Property, sold a property in Alphabet City on Avenue A containing eight residential units and two commercial units for a total purchase price of \$10.75 million. The sale included a complicated 1031 Exchange Drop and Swap component.

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2001. The Start of Something Better.

Mega-firms...big, impersonal bastions of legal tradition, encumbered by bureaucracy and often slow to react. The need for an alternative was obvious. A vision of a network of smaller, regionally based, independent firms with the capability to respond quickly, efficiently and economically to client needs from Atlantic City to Pacific Grove was born. In its infancy, it was little more than a possibility, discussed around a small table and dreamed about by a handful of visionaries. But the idea proved too good to leave on the drawing board. Instead, with the support of some of the country's brightest legal minds, USLAW NETWORK became a reality.

Fast forward to today.

The commitment remains the same as originally envisioned. To provide the highest quality legal representation and seamless cross-jurisdictional service to major corporations, insurance carriers, and to both large and small businesses alike, through a network of professional, innovative law firms dedicated to their client's legal success. Now as a diverse network with more than 6,000 attorneys from more than 80 independent, full practice firms across the U.S., Canada, Latin America and Asia, and with affiliations with TELFA in Europe, USLAW NETWORK remains a responsive, agile legal alternative to the mega-firms.

Home Field Advantage.

USLAW NETWORK offers what it calls The Home Field Advantage which comes from knowing and understanding the venue in a way that allows a competitive advantage – a truism in both sports and business. Jurisdictional awareness is a key ingredient to successfully operating throughout the United States and abroad. Knowing the local rules, the judge, and the local business and legal environment provides our firms' clients this advantage. The strength and power of an international presence combined with the understanding of a respected local firm makes for a winning line-up.

A Legal Network for Purchasers of Legal Services.

USLAW NETWORK firms go way beyond providing quality legal services to their clients. Unlike other legal networks, USLAW is organized around client expectations, not around the member law firms. Clients receive ongoing educational and programming opportunities – onsite and virtual – and online resources, including webinars, jurisdictional

updates and *USLAW Magazine*. To ensure our goals are the same as the clients our member firms serve, our Client Leadership Council and Practice Group Client Advisors are directly involved in the development of our programs and services. This communication pipeline is vital to our success and allows us to better monitor and meet client needs and expectations.

USLAW IN EUROPE.

Just as legal issues seldom follow state borders, they often extend beyond U.S. boundaries as well. In 2007, USLAW established a relationship with the Trans-European Law Firms Alliance (TELFA), a network of more than 20 independent law firms representing more than 1,000 lawyers through Europe to further our service and reach.

How USLAW NETWORK Membership is Determined.

Firms are admitted to the NETWORK by invitation only and only after they are fully vetted through a rigorous review process. Many firms have been reviewed over the years, but only a small percentage were eventually invited to join. The search for quality member firms is a continuous and ongoing effort. Firms admitted must possess broad commercial legal capabilities and have substantial litigation and trial experience. In addition, USLAW NETWORK members must subscribe to a high level of service standards and are continuously evaluated to ensure these standards of quality and expertise are met.

USLAW in Review.

- All vetted firms with demonstrated, robust practices and specialties
- Organized around client expectations
- Efficient use of legal budgets, providing maximum return on legal services investments
- Seamless, cross-jurisdictional service
- Responsive and flexible
- Multitude of educational opportunities and online resources
- Team approach to legal services

The USLAW Success Story.

The reality of our success is simple: we succeed because our member firms' clients succeed. Our member firms provide high-quality legal results through the efficient use of legal budgets. We provide cross-jurisdictional services eliminating the time and expense of securing adequate representation in different regions. We provide trusted and experienced specialists quickly.

When a difficult legal matter emerges – whether it's in a single jurisdiction, nationwide or internationally – USLAW is there.

For more information, please contact Roger M. Yaffe, USLAW CEO, at (800) 231-9110 or roger@uslaw.org



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the complete USLAW SOURCEBOOK

USLAW NETWORK offers legal decision-makers a variety of complimentary products and services to assist them with their day-to-day operation and management of legal issues. USLAW Client Resources provide information regarding each resource that is available. We encourage you to review these and take advantage of those that could benefit you and your company. For additional information, contact Roger M. Yaffe, USLAW CEO, at roger@uslaw.org or (800) 231-9110, ext. 1.

USLAW is continually seeking to ensure that your legal outcomes are successful and seamless. We hope that these resources can assist you. Please don't hesitate to send us input on your experience with any of the USLAW client resources products or services listed as well as ideas for the future that would benefit you and your colleagues.



VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

USLAW has many ways to help members virtually connect with their clients. From the USLAW Remote virtual learning collection and USLAW Panel Counsel Virtual Meetings to exclusive social and networking opportunities to small virtual roundtable events, industry leaders and legal decision-makers have direct access to attorneys across the NETWORK to support their various legal needs.

EDUCATION

It's no secret - USLAW can host a great event. We are very proud of the timely industry-leading interactive roundtable discussions at our annual client conference, forums and client exchanges. Reaching from national to more localized offerings, USLAW member attorneys and the clients they serve meet throughout the year at USLAW-hosted events and at many legal industry conferences. USLAW also offers industry and practice group-focused virtual programming. CLE accreditation is provided for most USLAW educational offerings.



A TEAM OF EXPERTS

USLAW NETWORK undoubtedly has some of the most knowledgeable attorneys in the world, but did you know that we also have the most valuable corporate partners in the legal profession? Don't miss out on an opportunity to better your legal game plan by taking advantage of our corporate partners' expertise. This team of specialists focuses on forensic engineering, legal visualization services, record retrieval, structured settlements, jury consulting, investigations, and forensic accounting.

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LAWMOBILE

We are pleased to offer a completely customizable one-stop educational program that will deliver information on today's trending topics that are applicable and focused solely on your business. We focus on specific markets where you do business and utilize a team of attorneys to share relevant jurisdictional knowledge important to your business' success. Whether it is a one-hour lunch and learn, half-day intensive program or simply an informal meeting discussing a specific legal matter, USLAW will structure the opportunity to your requirements - all at no cost to your company.

USLAW REMOTE

USLAW Remote offers an engaging and diverse catalog of virtual opportunities to learn, connect and collaborate with member attorneys (outside counsel), in-house legal leaders, and USLAW corporate partners from across the NETWORK. USLAW Remote includes USLAW Remote: Share, USLAW Remote: Learn, USLAW Remote: Listen, USLAW Remote: Social and USLAW Remote: Custom. USLAW Remote offers a variety of delivery methods to suit your schedule, team, and business needs from the comfort of your computer or mobile device..

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STATE JUDICIAL PROFILES BY COUNTY

Jurisdictional awareness of the court and juries on a county-by-county basis is a key ingredient to successfully navigating legal challenges throughout the United States. Knowing the local rules, the judge, and the local business and legal environment provides a unique competitive advantage. In order to best serve clients, USLAW NETWORK offers a judicial profile that identifies counties as Conservative, Moderate or Liberal and thus provides you an important Home Field Advantage.

USLAW MAGAZINE

USLAW Magazine is an in-depth publication produced and designed to address legal and business issues facing today's corporate leaders and legal decision-makers. Recent topics have covered cybersecurity & data privacy, artificial intelligence, medical marijuana & employer drug policies, management liability issues in the face of a cyberattack, defending motor carriers performing oversized load & heavy haul operations, nuclear verdicts, employee wellness programs, social media & the law, effects of electronic healthcare records, allocating risk by contract and much more.



USLAW CONNECTIVITY

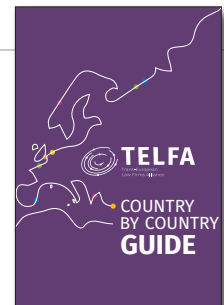
In today's digital world there are many ways to connect, share, communicate, engage, interact and collaborate. Through any one of our various communication channels, sign on, ask a question, offer insight, share comments, and collaborate with others connected to USLAW. Please connect with us via LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and X.

TELFA CORPORATE PRACTICE GROUP COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY GUIDE

The Trans European Law Firms Alliance (TELFA) Corporate Practice Group Country-by-Country Guide provides legal decision-makers with relevant info for creating corporate structures in jurisdictions across Europe. The corporate structure guide is intended to:

- Provide an overview of the different corporate structures and requirements in the EU.
- Inform about directors' liabilities.
- Supplement company law aspects by always considering issues of tax.

To view and download the TELFA Country-by-Country Guide, visit the Client Toolkit section of uslaw.org.



PRACTICE GROUPS

USLAW prides itself on variety. Its 6,000+ attorneys excel in all areas of legal practice and participate in USLAW's 25+ substantive active practice groups and communities, including Appellate Law, Banking and Financial Services, Business Litigation and Class Actions, Business Transactions/Mergers and Acquisitions, Cannabis Law, Complex Tort and Product Liability, Construction Law, Data Privacy and Security, eDiscovery, Energy/Environmental, Insurance Law, International Business and Trade, IP and Technology, Labor and Employment Law, Medical Law, Professional Liability, Real Estate, Retail and Hospitality Law, Tax Law, Transportation and Logistics, Trust and Estates, White Collar Defense, Women's Connection, and Workers' Compensation. Don't see a specific practice area listed? Not a problem. USLAW firms cover the gamut of the legal profession and we will help you find a firm that has significant experience in your area of need.

CLIENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND PRACTICE GROUP CLIENT ADVISORS

Take advantage of the knowledge of your peers. USLAW NETWORK's Client Leadership Council (CLC) and Practice Group Client Advisors are hand-selected, groups of prestigious USLAW firm clients who provide expertise and advice to ensure the organization and its law firms meet the expectations of the client community. In addition to the valuable insights they provide, CLC members and Practice Group Client Advisors also serve as USLAW ambassadors, utilizing their stature within their various industries to promote the many benefits of USLAW NETWORK.



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We are the largest pure litigation firm in Alabama and have been recognized as a top five law firm by the Alabama Trial Court Review. From complex class actions to the defense of professionals, retailers, transportation companies, manufacturers, builders, employers and insurers, we represent clients of all sizes. Our attorneys include two former USLAW Chairs, the Executive Director of the Alabama Self-Insurers Association, adjunct faculty in Alabama's law schools and several national speakers and writers on legal subjects ranging from punitive damages in Mississippi to quantifying death verdict values in Alabama and around the country.

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MEMBER SINCE 2001 Founded in 1930, Murchison & Cumming, LLP is an AV-rated AmLaw 500 "Go To" law firm for litigation in California. One third of the firm's shareholders are from diverse backgrounds. We have the resources of a large firm while ensuring the level of personalized service one would expect to receive from a small firm. We represent domestic and international businesses, insurers, professionals and individuals in litigated, non-litigated and transactional matters.

We value our reputation for excellence and approach our work with enthusiasm and passion. What truly sets us apart is our ability to provide our clients with an early evaluation of liability, damages, settlement value and strategy. Together with our clients we develop an appropriate strategy as we pursue the targeted result in a focused, efficient, and effective manner.

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MEMBER SINCE 2002 Klinedinst PC serves domestic and international clients in a broad range of civil litigation, corporate defense, white collar, and transactional law matters. Klinedinst attorneys are highly skilled and experienced individuals who provide a range of sophisticated legal services to corporations, institutions, and individuals at both the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts. Each matter is diligently and effectively managed, from simple transactions to complex document-intensive matters requiring attorneys from multiple disciplines across the West. Klinedinst is firmly committed to providing only the highest quality legal services, drawing upon the individual background and collective energies and efforts of each member of the firm. Klinedinst's overriding goal is to efficiently and effectively achieve optimal results for each client's legal and business interests.

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Coleman Chavez & Associates represents a variety of clients, including employers, insurance carriers and third-party administrators. We take pride in the quality of our work, and we are committed to providing thorough and effective representation to our clients. We believe that we can achieve the best results by staying well informed on the law, being thoroughly prepared, negotiating assertively and effectively, and keeping an open line of communication with our clients.

From our offices throughout the state, we service all Northern California and Southern California WCAB District Offices. The attorneys at Coleman Chavez & Associates look forward to working with you and your team members.

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Recognized as an AmLaw 200 Firm, Hinckley Allen offers pragmatic legal counsel, strategic thinking, and tireless advocacy to a diverse clientele. Our clients include regional, national, and international privately held and public companies and emerging businesses in a wide range of industries. Leading utilities, financial institutions, manufacturing companies, educational institutions, academic medical centers, health care institutions, hospitals, real estate developers, and construction companies depend on us for counsel. We have been a vital force in businesses, government, and our communities since 1906.

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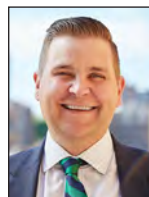
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Our attorneys are active in the community and have held governing positions in local and state bar associations and community organizations. Our AV-rated law firm is proud of its reputation for zealous advocacy, high ethical standards, and outstanding results. We are equally proud of the trust our local and national clients place in us.

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CCTB has built a reputation for strong client relationships as a result of its lawyers' skills in communication and counseling. If litigation cannot be avoided, our seasoned litigation group is prepared to aggressively defend the interests of our clients in state and federal courts. While Mississippi can be a challenging jurisdiction, the record of CCTB clients speaks well for the quality of our representation.

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Since 1912 our simple philosophy has never changed: at the core of every case is the client. The client's goals become our goals, and our firm works tirelessly to find the most efficient and cost-effective solution to each legal issue.

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With a strong emphasis in civil defense litigation for insureds and self-insureds, including expertise in complex litigation, general business, commercial law, and industrial insurance defense, Thorndal, Armstrong, Delk, Balkenbush & Eisinger is committed to providing thorough, efficient and effective legal services to its clients. Its experienced attorneys, combined with a highly capable professional support staff, allow the firm to represent clients on a competitive, cost-efficient basis.

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We are nationally certified as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE). In addition, we are certified as a Great Place to Work for 2022-2023, with 100% of our team reporting they are proud to tell others they work at Black Marjeh. Black Marjeh & Sanford was also selected as the 2019 winner of the WWBA Family Friendly Employer Award and recognized as one of Fortune's Best 50 Small Workplaces for 2018. We were especially proud to be the only law firm on this list. Seven BM&S attorneys have been recognized by Super Lawyers® for 2023 honors.

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Our success is achieved without compromising the ideals which define the best in our profession: integrity, loyalty and expertise. We constantly enhance our firm to meet the expectations of our clients. Committed to these principles, we have a reputation as skillful and effective litigators in a broad range of practice areas, providing the talent and experience of larger firms while maintaining flexibility to deliver personalized, cost-effective quality service.

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Our practice areas include transportation, railroad, asbestos, premises liability, products liability, family law, estate, Medicare Set-Aside, workers' compensation, and general liability. In addition to trial representation, catastrophic response and business consulting, the firm has an appellate and complex research group. The Partners of the firm have more than 150 years of collective experience.

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The firm has a wide and varied practice, particularly in central South Dakota, but also maintains a statewide litigation practice, regularly appears before State boards and commissions, and serves as legislative counsel for numerous associations and cooperatives.

Firm members have spent considerable time representing insurance companies in defense of casualty suits, products liability claims and similar matters.

The firm handles substantial regulatory law matters, and also does much work relating to banking, contracts, real estate, title work and probate and estate planning.

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MEMBER SINCE 2022 Richmond, Virginia-based Moran Reeves & Conn PC specializes in complex litigation, business transactions, and commercial real estate/finance. Its attorneys and legal professionals operate within a technologically advanced, nimble work environment. Client service is foremost at Moran Reeves Conn. Firm leaders also encourage community involvement and are proponents of a collaborative, inclusive culture. The firm's litigation team handles product liability defense, toxic torts and environmental litigation, construction litigation, premises liability, commercial litigation, and general liability defense. Its award-winning healthcare team works on matters involving medical professional liability, healthcare litigation, and employment disputes. Known as experienced trial attorneys, MRC lawyers also pursue alternative means of dispute resolution when appropriate, including arbitration and mediation. The firm's robust business transactional practice includes representation of corporate clients and developers in large-scale financing and commercial real estate deals. Team attorneys are experienced in entity formation, creditors' rights, securities offerings, tax-advantaged arrangements such as 1031 exchanges, and other complex transactions.

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At Flaherty, we are deeply committed to partnering with our clients to obtain optimum results. Throughout our history, our prime consideration has been our client's interests, with a key consideration of the costs associated with litigation.

While avoiding litigation may be desired, when necessary, our attorneys stand prepared to bring their considerable experience to the courtroom. We are experienced in trying matters ranging from simple negligence to complex, multi-party matters involving catastrophic damages.

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We want the hardest problems you can throw at us. There is nothing we love more than diving deep into complex litigation and disputes. We will solve your problems, no matter how large or how small. This team thrives under pressure, so pile it on. Our team of battle-tested attorneys brings an unmatched drive and determination to every client. We don't rest on our laurels. We innovate and create new solutions to produce winning results. We bring order and symmetry to chaos and complexity. We love what we do.

Lots of firms talk about being responsive; we live it. Our commitment to serving our clients fundamentally shapes how we view and practice law.

We are human beings. While we thrive under incredible challenges and difficult circumstances, we also care deeply about the people we work with and represent. Being authentic also means that we recognize our clients are people too. We understand them, and we know them.

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Since its inception, in 1996, the firm has been involved in several landmark transactions that helped shape the current Brazilian economic environment and has become a leading provider of legal services in several of its areas of practice, especially in corporate transactions, mergers & acquisitions, finance, tax, litigation, arbitration, governmental contracts and administrative law, regulated markets and antitrust.

Clients of the firm benefit from its knowledge and experience in all areas of corporate life and our commitment to excellence. The firm's work philosophy, combined with the integration among its offices, practice groups and lawyers, put the firm in a privileged position to assist its clients with the highest quality in legal services.

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Our insurance defence team is amongst the largest in the region and is recognized in the Lexpert Legal Directory for Canada as a 'leading litigation firm in eastern Ontario' in the area of commercial insurance. The group regularly acts for leading insurers on insurance defence and subrogation.

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From our original focus on agri-business, the firm has grown and branched out both in terms of its size and expertise. While we have maintained our industry leadership with respect to our historical roots, we handle a wide range of matters for our clients. Our most significant ingredient for success however continues to be the professionals of our firm who commit themselves every day to serving our clients.

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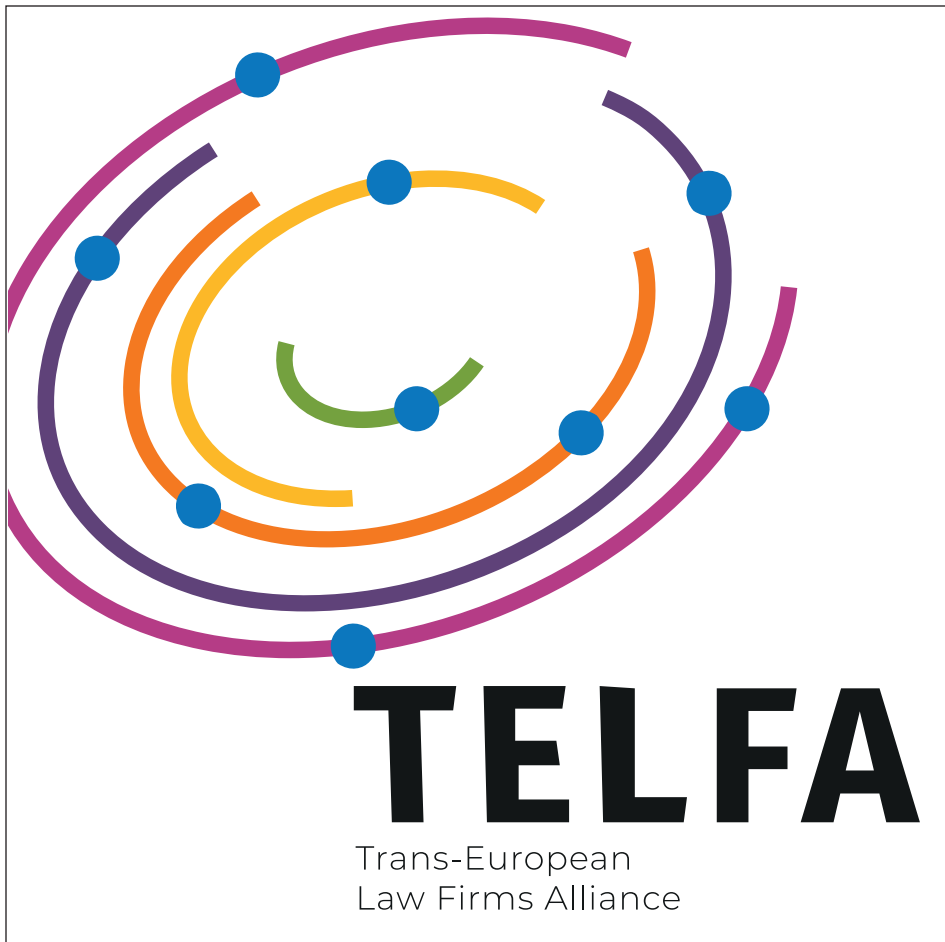
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