

National Advocacy Training Program

Participant Biographies

Session A



Kimberly Chojnacki, Esq.

I'm Kimberly, a litigator in the great State of Texas. I'm always looking for low-risk opportunities to learn more advocacy skills with honest, constructive feedback, so the NATP was an easy choice for me. My practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, namely relating to fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and contract disputes, as well as condemnation work for oil and gas pipelines and common carriers. I've averaged about a trial per year—both jury and bench—and the thrill never goes away. I hope to get more trial experience over the years, but that is harder to come by these days. While I love what I do and can't imagine doing anything else, I also get a kick out of running marathons and ultramarathons, spending time with my family, and trying the many incredible restaurants that my city—the most diverse in the country—has to offer. Outside of the obvious proud moments of my life

(graduating law school, marrying the best man in the world, and becoming a mom), my most unique is finishing the Boston Marathon while three months pregnant. I'll never forget the moment I turned on to Boylston Street to see the finish line and knew this would be something my daughter and I would share for the rest of our lives.

Andrew Giddings, Esq.

I go by Andrew. I am very interesting in the International aspect of the NATP. While I am not a member of an American Inn of Court, I am a member of the American Society of International Law, and the Military Officers Association of America. I am, at present, Senior Counsel at the International Monetary Fund. My work there focuses on privileges and immunities, institutional issues, governance, contracts/procurements, and dispute resolution including grievances, tribunals, and arbitration (hence the desire to attend NATP!). I am married and have two children – we enjoy spending time together especially at museums. I live in Alexandria, VA, but work in Washington, DC. Last January, I moved back to the US after 3 years in Japan while on active duty in the Navy JAG Corps. I enjoy the diversity of the DC area, the museums, and the overall level of intellectual engagement in the city. I grew up all over the world, including one summer spent in London many years ago.



William Lewis Jenkins, Jr., Esq.

I am Lewis Jenkins, a lawyer in private practice in Tennessee. I live in a rural area, grew up in a rural area, and prefer the pace and style of life in a rural area, but my practice takes me all over Tennessee and sometimes to courts (mainly federal courts) in other states. My practice primarily involves, broadly speaking, business-related civil litigation and transactional work. In Tennessee, we have a publicly-funded defense service for criminal defendants unable to afford a lawyer, but occasionally that office has a conflict of interest, and so I accept some pro bono criminal defense cases, also. I have tried both civil and criminal jury trials, as well as civil non-jury

trials. I am a member of the Howell Jackson Inns of Court in Jackson, TN, and learned about the NATP through that membership. I hope to come away from the NATP with new insight for improving my work in the courtroom. I try to continue learning and improving constantly, and have been back to school, (part-time while still working), twice after law school, for a master's degree in taxation law and another in legal history and philosophy. I enjoy my family (spouse and three children), fishing, hiking, reading history, and raising a few cattle when I'm not working. I look forward to meeting everyone and to a challenging experience in Washington.

Jonathan Joannides, Esq.

My name is Jonathan Joannides, and my friends call me JJ. Feel free to call me JJ or Jonathan. As an associate, I practice primarily commercial litigation with the Silicon Valley-based law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, and I sit in the Palo Alto office. I earned a B.S. in computer science and math from the University of Minnesota. I presently live in San Jose, CA, which means that I am close to my favorite sports teams: the San Jose Sharks and San Francisco Giants. I also love to read, workout/play sports, cook, and visit beautiful and historic places. Prior to my law career, I was a former infantry officer and Captain in the United States Marine Corps. I deployed all over the world, including serving two tours of combat in Iraq where I led a rifle and 81mm mortar platoon and off the coast of Somali battling pirates.



Since 2015, I have been a member of the Honorable William A. Ingram American Inn of Court (San Jose, CA). I am enthralled with not only the traditions of the Inn but also the core purpose it serves. Our local Inn President announced this NATP opportunity, and I was hooked! I hope to one day visit the original Inns in England. I am eager to get to know everyone and participate in the program!



Kristen A. Lee, Esq.

I am a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a JD and Certificate in International Legal Studies from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. As a law student, I was a student practitioner in the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic (criminal defense), and was invited into the St. Thomas More Inn of Court as a student member and remain an active member to this day! I am licensed to practice law in Louisiana, and work as a judicial law clerk at the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. In addition to the Thomas More Inn of Court, I am also a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. This past year, I served as the chair of the Pathways and Pipelines to Success program,

an annual day-long program that provides African-American law students from Louisiana law schools with career development and professionalism tools. I look forward to sharing what I learn at the NATP with others in my legal sphere!

Zhao "Ruby" Liu, Esq.

Hi, my name is Zhao Liu, although everyone calls me Ruby except for my Chinese family members. I am an associate attorney at the Rosner Law Group LLC located in Wilmington, Delaware. My practice centers on chapter 11 corporate bankruptcy. I'm not a member of any inns, but I would like to join one soon. I'm actively involved with the American Bankruptcy Institute and the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association. I was recently appointed as a Business Law Fellow for the ABA Business Law Section. In addition to being a full time attorney, I'm also a licensed massage therapist, although my only client nowadays is my mom.





Deian McBryde, Esq.

My name is Deian (pronounced DEE-in) from the high desert of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Albuquerque is a great, small city that is known for our green and red chili sauces, International Balloon Fiesta, and spectacular views from atop the nearby Sandia Mountains.

I became an attorney later in life, following a career in business and the arts, including performing jazz, producing events, owning a yoga studio and teacher-training school, consulting on organizational change management (organizational and adult learning behavior) for large-scale computer system implementations, and leading a customer training team for Apple, Inc. If I have any confidence in court, it is from years of singing in nightclubs and lounges from New York to Paris to Sydney, and if I have any fancy moves, it's only because, as I tell my hometown

colleagues, "I am the only licensed attorney in the state of New Mexico who once had backup dancers."

I currently practice family law and mediation, but I'm exploring adding more litigation to my docket. My approach is collaborative based on highly-engaged clients and my motto to "do for my client's what they would do for themselves if they knew what I knew."

Beyond practice, I am a Member-at-Large on the American Bar Association's Solo, Small Firm and General Practice (GPSolo) Division and a member of several GPSolo boards, chair-elect of my state bar's Solo & Small Firm Section, and a member of my state's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession. I also created a scholarship at the University of New Mexico for older students ("career reinventors") who enroll after years of work or homemaking. I am genuinely interested in legal education and advocate for a return to more experiential learning and apprenticeships, and for creating opportunities for career reinventors in the legal community.

If asked, gin martinis.

Maria Morlacci, Esq.

My name is Maria. I am an Assistant Attorney General with the Arizona Attorney General's Office. I work in the civil area, specifically insurance defense. I specialize in all aspects of workers' compensation law, and I currently also co-counsel on tort matters. My work encompasses administration litigation, superior court work, and appellate work in the Arizona Court of Appeals. I am a member of the Lorna Lockwood American Inn of Court. I live and work in Phoenix, Arizona. I was raised in Tucson, Arizona. I am originally from Italy, and look forward to utilizing my Italian language skills whenever possible!



Urvashi Morolia, Esq. 2019 Tim Coleman Scholar

My name is Urvashi, but I prefer to go by Urvi. I moved from one hot and humid climate (Mumbai, India) to another one (Houston, Texas) a little over five years ago. I was a lawyer in India and practiced mainly cyber law and intellectual property law before redoing law school at South Texas College of Law Houston. I was a prosecutor for two years at the Harris County District Attorney's Office before moving into civil litigation at Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons. I am currently a member of the Garland R. Walker American Inn of Court. I consider myself a trial lawyer and love being in a courtroom. I was very impressed with NATP's program and I am always looking for ways to better myself and be more presentable. Before law school consumed my life, I was an avid theater buff and performed

improvisation shows all over India. Nowadays I settle watching stand-up and reruns of The Office on Netflix with my husband and dog. I am a Pilates enthusiast and Thai food snob. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

A Colby Parks, Esq.

Greetings from Tacoma, Washington. My name full name is Arthur Colby Parks, but only the Bar and the IRS refer to me that way ... otherwise I am just Colby. Basically, I am a trust and estate guy, who does a significant amount of guardianship work, too. Writing has grown to be my strength, apart from coming up with a "bio", and I want to improve my courtroom advocacy skills, even after all these years. So, participation in the NATP this year will be exciting. Hopefully old dogs can learn new tricks. My first career was as a teacher – I taught 8th Grade U.S. History for 7 years – and I served as a reserve police officer in southern California – before I went off to law school with my wife and two daughters. Now we have been married for 36 years, are the parents of three wonderful women, and love our son-in-law and two significant others – yes, two more weddings to pay for, yikes! I love to be out on the water, especially on our 47-year-old lake boat, and that takes up most of my free time, especially this time of year. We love to travel, garden together, and work around the house. Most people do not know I am probably the world's best barn dad. My first experience with the *American Inns of Court* was in 1991 as a third-year law student. Even though there are a couple of gaps in participation over the years, the Inn experience has been, and remains, the single most meaningful and beneficial "continuing education" of my career. My family never complains when I remind them that, "I have an Inn of Court meeting tonight." It is an honor to be referred to as a "Master."



Tiffany C. Raush, Esq.

My name is Tiffany C. Raush. Not surprisingly, people call me Tiffany. Except two little people, who prefer to call me Momma. I am terrified of public speaking—until I am actually doing it... then I love it. I would like to be less terrified in the run up. Hence, the Nation Advocacy Training Program. I am a barrister in the Garland Walker American Inn of Court in Houston, Texas (shout out to other Houstonians!) and have a great deal of respect for the AIC. I have been practicing law for nine years, and am currently an associate on the cusp of partnership. The focus of my practice is construction litigation along with commercial litigation. My non-professional interests are the aforesaid little people (ages 7 and 4), running, Jim Gaffigan and

Tom Papa, and travel. As mentioned, I live in Houston, Texas (by way of Florida and New York). We moved to Houston four years ago so my husband could work at NASA. So far, so good.

Mary West Russo, Esq.

Hi! My name is Mary Russo. I am a master member of the St. Thomas More Inn of Court, as well as a law clerk in the appellate chambers of the Hon. Roland Belsome. As a law clerk, I spend most of my time researching and writing appellate judicial opinions. While I regularly observe oral arguments, I am unable to participate in the capacity of an advocate. Since I rarely speak in public, I tend to get nervous. I am excited to participate in the NATP so I will be more comfortable in the courtroom. I am a wife and mother of an eleven-year-old boy. I live in Metairie, which is a suburb of New Orleans. I am a Saints fan. Who Dat! While we don't have much free time due to my son's busy sports schedule, my husband and I enjoy attending the various music festivals. French Quarter Fest is my favorite. It's free! I love living near some of the best restaurants in the world. If you visit New Orleans, I highly recommend Peche, GW Fins, Clancy's and Restaurant August. I also enjoy watching Dateline. Keith Morrison is the best narrator. Fun fact, he is Matthew Perry's (from Friends) stepdad. It will be a pleasure to meet everyone and read their biographies!





Mark D. Shelton, Esq.

I am a husband of 21 years, and father of two: Omari (20) and Oriah (17). I am currently employed as a Design Engineer at Northrop Grumman Corporation (NG) in Annapolis, Maryland. I have been with NG for 15 years as a Design Engineer (approx. 10 years) and a Contracts Representative (approx. 5 years). Long ago, I accepted that I am not very good at thinking on my feet, so I took Bench and Trial Advocacy during law school. Still, I didn't gain the confidence I felt was necessary to litigate. So, during my clerkship I determined that I would return to NG when the clerkship was over. After the clerkship, I returned to NG in the Contracts Department to negotiate contracts with the US Government on behalf of NG. After five years in this role, I returned to engineering in May 2019.

I was a member of Inns of Court until 2010 as a result of the very active participation of the judge that I clerked for post-law school. Earlier this year, I received an email regarding NATP (on behalf of Inns of Court) and decided that I wanted to update my advocacy training. I am hoping that NATP will augment the limited courtroom experience that I have had since graduating, and provide better insight into the things that make me so afraid of standing before a judge in an adversarial proceeding. One thing that makes me a little different than most is that, although I have two bachelor degrees and a law degree, I never graduated from high school, and I never took the ACT or SAT in order to enter an undergraduate program.

Gregory E. Vaughan, Esq.

Hello, my name is Greg Vaughan. I'm interested in this program because I think it's going to be a great opportunity to sharpen my advocacy skills - and meet other lawyers from around the country with similar goals. I'm a member of the local Inns chapter in Mobile, Alabama. I've lived in Mobile for the last 15 years (all of my lawyer / professional life) and have been a member of a small litigation firm for the last 12 years. Initially, my family and I lived in downtown Mobile. But, 3 years ago we moved to the country and now live on a small farm. My free time is spent raising kids (2), cutting grass, picking up pecan tree-limbs, pond fishing, endless home-improvement projects, and because our property backs up to the rural volunteer fire department (Barnwell VFD) and they were low on members, I signed up for that too. I look forward to the upcoming program - and meeting my fellow classmates. Roll tide!



Michael Weinman, Esq.

My name is Mike Weinman and I practice law in Jackson, TN, a small city about half way between Memphis and Nashville. I have been practicing here since 1991 and worked with a small firm for about ten years, until I opened my own firm around 2002. I primarily practice in Federal Court, representing plaintiffs in employment and civil rights cases and defendants in criminal cases. I also represent plaintiffs in state court civil litigation, primarily medical malpractice and other injury cases. Although, over the years I usually have had associates working with me, right now it is just me, my office manager, paralegal, and a clerk. I live on a 70 acre farm about 15 miles from my office, where for many years I bred and trained German warm blood horses, until around 2008, when the economy did its thing and no one was buying my horses anymore. My twin 22 year old daughters and I showed hunters and jumpers in Memphis and Nashville until they went off to college a few years ago. I hope to start showing horses again but for now I spend most of my non-practicing law time trying to keep my pasture cut, taking care of retired horses and dogs and swimming and biking.

I am a member of the Edmund Howell, Jackson, TN Inn of Court and am on the Tennessee Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Executive Committee. I spent 10 years working in restaurants before I went to law school, the last five at Chez Phillippe, the gourmet dining room at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, where I got to wait on lots of famous people, the most exciting of which was Cary Grant about a year before he died (my claim to fame). I also spent several summers on tour following the Grateful Dead around the country (selling the proverbial veggie burritos in the parking lot) and still go to see Dead and Company (or related bands) as often as I can, much to my wife's dismay. As she likes to say, I'll never grow up.

Michelle M. Wezner, Esq.

My name is Michelle M. Wezner, and I typically go by Michelle. While I have had friends and family refer to me as “Mish,” “Wezner” or “Wez,” nobody has ever called me “Shelly.” I believe that this fact alone conveys a lot about my personality. I am a commercial and business litigator practicing in the greater Detroit, Michigan area, and am a member of the Oakland County Bar Association Inn of Court there. I don't see the inside of a courtroom as often I would like, so this program attracted me because it seemed like it would be a good hands-on program that would help me keep the oral advocacy skills I have honed and improve or learn new skills. I'm also very shy and hate talking, so this seems like a good opportunity to get me outside of my comfort zone. With respect to non-professional interests, my first love is travel, and I also enjoy food (trying and making), comedy (the darker, the better) and aggressively wasting time.



Session B

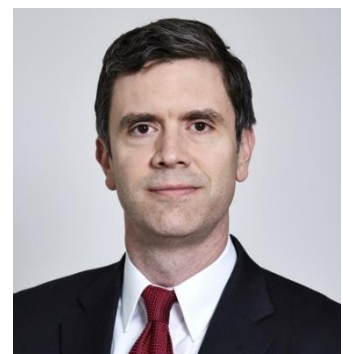


Nathaniel Brand, Esq.

My name is Nathaniel Brand, but Nate is fine. I am a trial attorney at a boutique firm in northern New Jersey, focused in litigation. During my brief tenure with the firm, I have represented corporations, small businesses, school districts and municipalities in a variety of civil actions. Since 2017, I've focused on hostile work environment, discrimination, and whistleblower claims; harassment, intimidation and bullying matters on behalf of school districts; professional liability claims; and the state's tort claims act, both in state and federal court. I recently took a 'stretch assignment' where a family filed suit against a district, due to the school's limited means of serving autistic children. Learning the intricacies of 'the autism spectrum' has been eye-opening. I have successfully tried a few cases to verdict, each being a favorable result for my clients, and while the successes are genuine, I'm hoping the NATP will reveal my points of strengths, and help address areas of weakness.

Nathan A. Cook, Esq.

My name is Nathan. I am a Director at Grant & Eisenhofer (G&E) in Wilmington, Delaware. I practice corporate governance and securities litigation, mainly before the Delaware Court of Chancery. G&E specializes in plaintiff-side class action litigation. Before joining G&E, I practiced corporate governance and securities litigation on the defense side. And before that, I clerked for the Delaware Court of Chancery. I am a member of Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court in Delaware and live just outside of Wilmington in Greenville, about a mile down the road from Joe Biden. When we're not working, my wife and I are usually chasing after our two daughters, ages 5 and 3. Some personal facts: Ages ago – when I was 19 – I spent a summer as a wilderness guide on multi-day canoeing trips in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. I also received a minor in astronomy in undergrad. I'm still looking for a way to put my canoeing and astronomy knowledge to use in corporate law!





David Dyer, Esq.

My name is David Dyer. I am a third-year associate in the IP group at the Austin office of Baker Botts LLP. I am also a member of the Honorable Lee Yeakel IP Inn of Court here in Austin, which I joined as a 3L at the University of Texas School of Law. I heard about the NATP through the Inn and also from some previous participants. I love advocacy, so I jumped at the opportunity to get some practical training.

I was born and raised in Austin, TX, as was my wife of seven years, Stephanie. Steph and I live with our two children (Weston - 4; Hailey - 1), our dog Zoey, and are expecting our third child (and second girl) in November. I am a huge sports fan

and am especially passionate about Longhorns football and the Pittsburgh Steelers. I am also a cinephile and whatever the equivalent would be for television/streaming.

Rae Fischer, Esq.

We look forward to finding out more about Rae during the program!



Rachel Leigh Grove, Esq.

My name is Rachel Grove. I am an assistant district attorney in Jefferson County, Texas. Our office is located in Beaumont, Texas, which is about 80 miles from Houston and 70 miles from Lake Charles, Louisiana. I am a felony prosecutor assigned to the Criminal District Court. I handle cases all the way from State Jail Felony Theft (enhanced theft from Walmart etc.) cases to Capital Murder cases. I have worked at the Jefferson County DA's Office since 2008.

I was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas. I went on to graduate from Baylor University with a degree in Political Science. I graduated from Baylor School of law with a concentration in criminal law in 2008. I worked the 79th legislative session in Austin, clerked in Houston, and spent a summer working in Washington D.C., but I moved back to Beaumont after taking the bar exam in July of 2008.

I heard about the NATP this year through my membership in the Michelle F. Mehaffy American Inn of Court. I always want to get better in the courtroom and learn from watching other people and their style. I especially look forward to The Hampel Training Method and the courtroom exercises followed by individualized feedback. I know it will be challenging and I am a bit intimidated, but that is a good thing.

As far as my life out of the courthouse I enjoy cooking, traveling—I went to Greece in March, binge watching shows on Netflix—some I am not proud of, exercising—I recently took tennis back up after years, and live music. I look forward to meeting everyone and to our time together in Washington D.C.

Elizabeth Liuzza, Esq.

Hi! My name is Elizabeth, but most people call me "Eli" ...pronounced the same as the Manning brother. It's been a lifelong nickname thanks to my dad. I go by either name! Honestly, I was not too familiar with NATP, until my Inn, St. Thomas More Inn of Court, advised that they selected me to attend this year! I took one look at the program and immediately knew this is something I could never pass up. I am an associate at Porteous, Hainkel & Johnson, LLP in Covington, Louisiana where I practice insurance defense. We have four offices in the great State of Louisiana. Covington is my home town. I returned home from New Orleans (just across the pond, aka Lake Pontchartrain) about two years ago. I moved to New Orleans to attend law school at Loyola College of Law and spent eight years in the city. I'm now back practicing in my hometown and it's great. I earned my undergraduate degree from LSU (geaux tigers). For those that do not know, Covington is only about 50 minutes from New Orleans. I also have a dog, named Buster, who is the love of my life. I'm very much looking forward to meeting everyone! See y'all soon!



Brandon L. Morrow, Esq.

I'm an East Tennessee native, but spent some time between college and law school working and living in Washington, D.C. (so our seminar will be somewhat of a homecoming for me). I'm a Volunteer twice-over, obtaining both my undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Tennessee. Since graduating law school in 2012, I have practiced primarily in the field of employment litigation (mostly defense), but I have dabbled in other areas (i.e., insurance coverage and religious institutions). I co-author a quarterly column in the Tennessee Bar Journal on employment-related topics. I've spent my entire legal career at Kramer Rayson. From the partners at our firm, I'd like to think I've learned how to practice law "the right way" (equal parts advocacy, cordiality, and practicality).

Outside the office, I can be found behind my grill preparing dinner or snacks for a football weekend tailgate party. My wife, Jenny, and I spend as much time as possible outside, whether on the Tennessee River or in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. When at home, though, we're spending time with our dog, a ten-year old puggle (half pug, half beagle) named Duncan.

I'm a member of the Hamilton Burnett Inn.

Adam G. Northup, Esq.

Everything has been a whirlwind since August 1, 2017 when I opened my own office. I've had ups, a lot of downs, and everything in between, both professionally and personally. I also wouldn't have it any other way. For the last year, I have had the great benefit of having a mentor attorney. We co-counsel many Family Court cases in Rhode Island, the first of which was a fourteen day divorce trial. The parties ended up settling the case but the experience was exhilarating. I have been looking to enhance my trial skills ever since. I joined the Edward P. Gallogly Inn of Court in September of 2018. I stumbled upon the NATP while looking at the National Inn website and instantly knew I wanted to take the course. In Rhode Island, there are a number of attorneys that simply do not try cases. The attorneys who do can push and push to get better results for their clients. I want to be one of those attorneys that aren't afraid to go up against the big guns.



In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family. I enjoy traveling, exploring, and trying anything that is new.



Jessica Rickabaugh, Esq.

Jessica A. Rickabaugh is counsel at TLG and a civil litigator with experience in state and federal courts throughout the United States. She has represented individuals, universities, closely held businesses, and Fortune 500 companies in tort, consumer protection, contract, and civil rights cases. Ms. Rickabaugh has particular expertise representing defendants in complex catastrophic personal injury litigation. She has defended clients in multidistrict litigation and in class actions, which she has defeated on motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment. She has achieved appellate victories for her clients in both Pennsylvania state court and at the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, including after presenting oral argument. Her experience entails counseling clients through civil investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and state attorneys general, before whom she has argued her client's position to a multistate panel. She has worked on investigations

under state consumer protection laws, Medicaid/Medicare laws, and the federal False Claims Act.

Ms. Rickabaugh is equally proud of her service to her community. She provides pro bono representation to children in dependency proceedings through the Support Center for Child Advocates, and to individuals in immigration and civil rights matters. In 2019, the Support Center for Child Advocates honored Ms. Rickabaugh as a "Distinguished Advocate." Ms. Rickabaugh serves on the Board of Directors for the Homeless Advocacy Project. Ms. Rickabaugh received her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, graduating with High Honors. She obtained her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Felicea Robinson, Esq.

In addition to being an attorney, I am also a motivational speaker seeking to empower girls and women to reach their full potential spiritually, physically, professionally, and academically. I try to equip them with the tools they need to discover and utilize their talents to meet challenges and solve problems, making sensible decisions and living stress and drama free lives. I was born in Hartford, Connecticut, raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and am currently living outside of Boston where I am very active in my church. I got my BA in criminology (with a minor in psychology) from the University of South Florida in Tampa, a Masters degree in criminal justice from Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts, and my JD from the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover. Most recently, I completed a Masters in clinical mental health specializing in trauma from Lesley University in Cambridge. Obviously, I love learning!



As a solo practitioner, I specialize in victim advocacy, family, juvenile and immigration law. I have received some awards for my work and am a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the American Bar Association, Massachusetts Bar Association, and Committee for Public Counsel Services. I believe the NATP is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen trial advocacy skills and learn ways to represent my clients more effectively.



Michael J. Sandler, Esq.

I came to the law later in life even though the dream was born decades before I was admitted to the Bar. As young boy, I worked in my family's restaurants. In my early twenties, I entered the retail automotive industry. Over the next twenty plus years I worked in various positions in the dealerships spending the last seventeen years as a new car franchised dealer. When I left the auto industry, I took a risk and set my sights on fulfilling my lifelong dream of becoming an attorney. After completing my bachelor's degree at Middle Tennessee State University, I entered the Nashville School of Law to begin my legal studies. While at NSL, I simultaneously completed a master's program in

the growing field of Information Security at Lipscomb University, later joining an international life insurer as a compliance officer. While in law school, I also became a Listed Rule 31 Civil and Family Mediator. Upon graduation from NSL, I formed Mike Sandler Law, PLC, where I practice today.

My areas of practice include general civil litigation, information security and cyber law, consumer and family law, and small business representation. I am a member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court in Nashville, Tennessee. I have the pleasure of serving on several bar association committees, including the editorial board of the Nashville Bar Journal. Recently, I was named by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve a 3-year term on the disciplinary hearing committee of the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility for my district (Davidson County).

My beautiful and talented wife, Kathy and I have been married for thirty-five years and are the proud parents of three and grandparents of six with another on the way.

Jenifer Veal, Esq.

Jen joined Fitzer Leighton Fitzer in April 2015 as a Senior Associate. In 2017, she became an equity Shareholder with the launch of Fitzer Fitzer Veal McAmis. Jen's impact at the firm has been both immediate and impressive. In addition to medical malpractice litigation, Jen Veal has advised clients on a variety of HIPAA issues; secured a six-figure judgment for a health care system against a major county for reimbursement of medical costs incurred by an inmate/detainee; co-authored several appellate briefs; and handled a multitude of licensure matters brought by the Department of Health/Medical Commission.



Jen's pathway to the courtroom was influenced by her parents' roles in the legal system. With an early childhood interest in science and medicine, Jen began working in a local law firm while in high school. She supported medical malpractice defense lawyers by obtaining, organizing, and summarizing medical records until pursuing her law degree. Through these early experiences she developed an understanding of multiple electronic medical record systems and their role in discovery. She also discovered a career that combined her passions: law and medicine. Following graduation, Jen returned to Washington and joined one of the region's leading defense firms as an associate attorney. There she represented large hospital systems and care organizations.

Samuel Ventresca, Esq.

Sam Ventresca concentrates his practice on general litigation matters. He served previously as a judicial intern to the Honorable Michael E. Erdos of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. He also served as an extern in the Claims Unit of the City of Philadelphia Law Department.

During law school, Sam was a research editor for the Temple Law Review. He also worked on the ABA Third Circuit Media Alert Project. Additionally, Sam was the 2018 recipient of the John Colvin Wright, Jr. Esquire Award for a paper he wrote on labor and employment law.

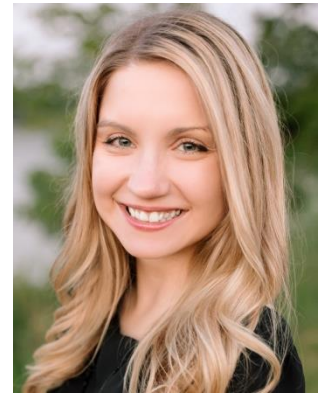


In his free time, Sam enjoys traveling, trying new restaurants, going to concerts, and cheering on the Sixers.

Samantha Warchol, Esq.

Hello, my name is Samantha! I am an associate attorney at Ritchie, Dillard, Davies & Johnson in Knoxville, Tennessee. My practice encompasses a variety of civil litigation matters, including contract disputes, products liability, and wrongful death litigation. Although I spend some of my time in the courtroom, most of my time is spent working with clients, investigating for cases, and drafting pleadings.

Prior to joining RDDJ as an attorney, I worked for the firm as a law clerk for two years. I received both my B.A. in Honors Psychology and my J.D. from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. In law school, I took multiple advocacy-focused classes and graduated with a concentration in Advocacy and Dispute Resolution.



My family and I have lived in Knoxville since 2007. While I was growing up, my family and I also lived in Illinois, Oregon, and Arizona. In my personal time, I love drinking coffee, cooking, baking, and spending time with my pups and family!



Kimberly West, Esq.

Hello, my name is Kim (or Kimberly) West. I am attorney in Birmingham, Alabama, and I have been in practice since 1984 – during which time it feels like I’ve done a bit of everything. I clerked with Frank M. Johnson, Jr., a federal judge who was a hero of the civil rights movement; I was in solo private practice for 3 years, trying both civil rights and criminal federal and state district cases, handling appeals, and doing basically anything that walked in the door. I was present at the creation of health insurers’ claims in mass tort/antitrust litigation, beginning with the Dow Corning breast implant case centralized in Birmingham with Judge Pointer. Since 1997, I have practiced in that area of law, among others, with Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, a

medium-sized Birmingham law firm.

At the urging of my oldest son Jack, I decided to follow-up my interest in English literature, and I entered a masters program in English literature at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, graduating in 2007. My first summer included a course in Shakespeare in performance, taught by a gifted scholar and Vanderbilt professor, Ann Jennalie Cook (the reigning queen of Shakespeare academia and the world’s authority on Elizabethan matrimonial law). I was hooked, and since then I research, write, lecture, and teach in the area of Shakespeare and the law – specifically Shakespeare and trial advocacy. Put broadly, I use the text of the trial scenes in the Shakespearean canon as fact patterns to illustrate courtroom techniques. Then Cumberland Dean John Carroll was kind enough to allow me to experiment on Cumberland law students, and in 2009, I began teaching Shakespeare and Trial Advocacy as an adjunct professor, and I continue to teach that course each spring semester. In addition, for the past two summers, I have taught this course in an international English law program sponsored by Cumberland, Chapman and Coleman Law Schools at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, England. I love teaching, and I love this intersection between the law and literature.

While I teach in this area, I have not tried a jury trial in some time. I am excited about brushing up on my trial skills, working within the English system, and being near the Folger Library all at the same time! To make it even better, I am a trustee of the American Shakespeare Center, and I will be leaving for Staunton, Virginia for a long weekend of the Roman plays after the NATP. Could life be any better?