

Shane A. Lawson

Partner | Cleveland Office

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Shane Lawson is a partner at Gallagher Sharp who focuses on defending lawyers against claims of professional liability. He represents attorneys against legal malpractice claims at the trial court level and on appeal arising from a variety of underlying matters that include business transactions and business-related torts, intellectual property, probate and estates, and personal injury. He also defends attorneys in their capacity as an executor, trustee, or guardian in actions alleging breach of fiduciary duty or breach of trust. Shane provides risk management and legal ethics consulting, and represents attorneys and judges in grievance proceedings both at the state level and before federal administrative agencies such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Department of Justice. He lectures regularly on issues related to legal malpractice and legal ethics. Shane has significant experience representing businesses and insurers in cases involving catastrophic injury, fire loss, and construction disputes in both trial and appellate courts.

Practice Areas

- Professional Liability
- General Litigation

Bar Admissions

- 2010, Ohio
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

Education

- **Case Western Reserve University School of Law** (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2010)
Senior Editor (2009-2010), Associate Editor (2008-2009), *Case Western Reserve University Law Review*
The Order of the Coif
- **Bowling Green State University** (B.S., International Business & Business Pre-Law, *cum laude*, 2006)
Herbert R. Hipp International Business Scholarship Recipient
Outstanding Pre-Law Senior Award

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Honors & Recognition

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America*, Litigation – Insurance, 2023-2024 editions
- Rising Star, Professional Liability Defense, Ohio Super Lawyers 2014, 2018-2024

Professional Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (Former Chair, Ethics & Professionalism Committee)
- William K. Thomas American Inn of Court (member)

Publications & Presentations

- “The Countless & Curious Ways Lawyers Behave Badly,” November 2023
- Co-Presenter, “The Disciplinary Process: Recent Trends and Considerations,” U.S. Attorneys and Prosecutors Bi-Annual Ethics & Professionalism CLE Seminar, September 27, 2023
- “Misconduct from the Bench: The Recent Increased Focus on Judicial Disciplinary Cases,” November 2022
- Co-Presenter, “Client Funds & Fee Agreements,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s Office Practice Management, December 2021
- “I Quit! Now What? Ethical Considerations When a Lawyer Departs A Firm,” November 2021
- Panelist, “Tricks and Treats: A Professional Responsibility Update for Lawyers,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s Professional Conduct 2021: Super Scary Edition, Cleveland, Ohio, October 27, 2021
- “Current Issues Concerning Professionalism: Mind Your Money-IOLTA Updates,” November 2020
- “Law Practice Update: Navigating Settlement Restrictions and File Maintenance,” November, 2019
- Co-Presenter, “Networking Effectively and Ethically,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s Small and Solo Expo, Cleveland, Ohio, October 18, 2019
- “Mind Your Money: IOLTA Updates,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s “The Nuts & Bolts of Law Practice Management,” Cleveland, Ohio, May 10, 2019
- “A Cautionary Note on UPL: Practicing Law in a State is Not Limited to Practicing that State’s Law,” October 2018
- “It’s not You, It’s Me: Ethical and Legal Considerations When Declining, Withdrawing From, and Referring Legal Representation,” November 2017

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- “Winding Down a Law Practice: Succession Planning, Safeguarding Client Interests, and Insurance Concerns,” November 2016
- “To Remove or Not to Remove: Court, Venue and Other Jurisdictional Considerations,” Gallagher Sharp Annual Spring Seminar, May 2013
- “Are you at Risk when Outside of your Jurisdiction: Legal and Ethical Pitfalls Arising from Multijurisdictional Practice,” November 2012

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