

Monica A. Sansalone

Managing Partner | Cleveland Office

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Monica Sansalone is the Managing Partner of Gallagher Sharp and serves as the Practice Group Manager of the firm's Professional Liability Group. She represents lawyers and judges in grievance proceedings at the state level and before federal administrative agencies such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Department of Justice. She also defends lawyers against malpractice and third-party claims, in contempt and sanctions proceedings, and in their fiduciary capacity. Monica also serves as an expert, both consulting and testifying, on the standard of care, ethical concerns, fee issues, and sanctions.

As part of her practice, Monica provides ethical consulting and risk management counseling, including general counsel services. She regularly lectures on ethics, malpractice, and professionalism. She provides representation in trial courts and on appeal, including matters before the Supreme Court of Ohio. She has been a partner at Gallagher Sharp since 2003 and is also a member of the firm's Appellate Practice Group.

Practice Areas

- Professional Liability
- Appellate

Bar Admissions

- 1995, Ohio
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States District Court Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court Southern District of Ohio

Education & Clerkship

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Terrance O'Donnell, Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth Appellate District (1996-1997)
- **Cleveland-Marshall College of Law** (J.D., *cum laude*, 1995)
- **Loyola University of Chicago** (B.A., 1992)

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Honors & Recognition

- Hon. William K. Thomas Professionalism Award, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, 2021
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America*®, Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law, 2020-2024 Editions
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated
- Top 25 Women Cleveland Super Lawyer and Top 50 Women Ohio Super Lawyer for 2019-2024
- 2011-2024 Ohio Super Lawyer, 2006 Rising Star

Professional Boards

- Advisory Committee, Solo Practitioner Incubator, Cleveland- Marshall College of Law
- Supreme Court of Ohio Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Board of Commissioners 2016-2022 (Chair 2021-2022)
- Commission on Professionalism of the Supreme Court of Ohio 2004-2011 (Chair 2007-2008)

Professional Memberships

- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- American Bar Association (Lawyers Professional Liability Committee)
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (The 3rs Volunteer)
- Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (Professional Liability Committee, Chair, 2013; Vice-Chair 2012)

Community Involvement

- Shaker Heights Country Club Board Member (2020-Present)
- Hathaway Brown Parent Board (2019-2020)

Publications & Presentations

- "Lawyer Trust Accounts: What to Know & How to Avoid Ethical Traps," Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's New Lawyer Boot Camp, January 17, 2024
- "I Quit! . . . Now What?: Ethical Considerations when a Lawyer Departs a Firm," November 2023

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- Panelist, “Respondents’ Counsel Roundtable,” 2023 Miller Becker Center Annual Seminar, October 20, 2023, Columbus, Ohio
- Co-Presenter, “The Disciplinary Process: Recent Trends and Considerations,” Northern District U.S. Attorneys Bi-Annual Ethics and Professionalism Seminar, September 27, 2023
- “Lawyer Trust Accounts: What to Know & How to Avoid Ethical Traps,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s New Lawyer Boot Camp, February 22, 2023
- Panelist, “Hot Talks: Employment Leave Policies & Practices: The Intersection (and Clash) of Employer and Employee Expectations,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Webinar, January 17, 2023
- Co-Presenter, “Learning to Dance – Understanding the Rules and Risks of Practicing Law Without Injury,” Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus, Ohio, November 9, 2022
- “The Countless & Curious Ways Lawyers Behave Badly,” November 2022
- “Lawyer Trust Accounts: What to Know & How to Avoid Ethical Traps,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s New Lawyer Boot Camp, January 26, 2022
- Co-Presenter, “Client Funds & Fee Agreements,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s Office Practice Management, December 2021
- “More Dos & Don’ts: Recent Advisory Opinions & Ethics Opinions,” November, 2021
- Co-Presenter, “Lawyers in Trouble and Ways to Stay Out,” Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus, Ohio, November 2, 2021
- Panelist, “Perspectives from Female Leaders and Rainmakers,” FDCC Ladder Down Cleveland, June 23, 2021.
- Co-Presenter, “Lawyers in Trouble and Ways to Stay Out,” Ohio State Bar Association Professional Conduct Webinar, November 11, 2020
- “Conduct in Court and Depositions: Lawyers Behaving Badly,” 2020 Federal Court Practice Update, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Virtual Training, August 14, 2020
- “Avoiding IOLTA Ethical Traps,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association New Lawyer Training, Cleveland, Ohio, December 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- “Current Trends in Grievances and Discipline: Sex, Lies & Videotapes,” November 2019
- “Conduct in Court and Depositions: Lawyers Behaving Badly,” 2019 Federal Court Practice Update, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, June 14, 2019, Cleveland, Ohio
- Panelist, “Grievance Process and Current Cases,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, December 19, 2018, Cleveland, Ohio
- “Current Trends in Attorney Grievances and Discipline in Ohio,” Northeast Ohio Law Directors Association, December 13, 2018, Cleveland, Ohio
- Panelist, “Legal Malpractice vs. Lawyer Discipline,” Annual Miller-Becker Seminar, Ohio State Bar Association, October 19, 2018, Columbus, Ohio

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- “Attorney Discipline: The process and Recent Trends,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Women in Law Section, April 4, 2018, Cleveland, Ohio
- Panelist, “Don’t Let It Be You: Professional Conduct for the Modern Practitioner,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, December 19, 2017, Cleveland, Ohio
- Panelist, Legal Aid Society Judicial Forum and Practice Update, November 30, 2017, Willoughby, Ohio
- “The Defense of Unclean Hands,” November 2017
- Co-Presenter, “Top 10 Ways to Avoid Malpractice & Discipline: Tips & Discussion of Trends,” Ohio State Bar Association, 54th Annual Midwest Labor & Employment Seminar, October 13, 2017, Columbus, Ohio
- Panelist, “Ethics CLE Breakout Session,” Ohio State Bar Association’s All-Ohio Legal Forum, August 24, 2017, Cleveland, Ohio
- Panelist, “Case Law Developments,” Spring National Legal Malpractice Conference, American Bar Association, April 20, 2017, Boston, Massachusetts
- “Lawyers Fund for Client Protection,” November 2016
- “Grievance & Discipline in Ohio” and “The Role of the Client Security Fund,” Parma Bar Association/Mayor’s Court Seminar, October 28, 2016, Parma, Ohio
- Panelist, “Identification and Application of Mitigating and Aggravating Factors,” Annual Miller-Becker Seminar, Ohio State Bar Association, October 21, 2016, Columbus, Ohio
- “The Top 5 Grievances,” November 2015
- “IOLTA: The Devil Wears Green,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Small Firm/Solo Expo, September 2015
- “Discipline Guidance for Lawyers: Know the Process and How to Avoid It,” November 2014
- “Attorney Grievance & Discipline Process,” Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Solo Practice Incubator, May 2014
- Ethics Panelist, 20th Conference of the Eighth Judicial District, October 2013
- “The Judiciary Factor: Elections, Bias, Temperament, and Their Effect on Claims,” Gallagher Sharp Annual Spring Seminar, May 2013
- Panelist, “Professionalism Panel,” The Responsible Practice of Law for New and Established Attorneys, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, November 2012
- Panelist, Ohio Women’s Bar Association Leadership Institute, October 2012
- Co-Author, “Attorney-Client Privilege in the Tech Age: How to Ensure Your Multimedia Communications are Protected,” Lawyers’ Professional Liability
- Update, LawyerCare, Vol. 12, No. 2, Summer/Fall 2012
- Co-Author, “The Malpractice Claim:
- “What to Do and Where to Turn When You Face the Moment

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- All Attorneys Dread,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 38-39, July/August 2011
- “The Legal Malpractice Trifecta by the Supreme Court of Ohio,” OACTA Quarterly Review, Spring 2010
- “Legal Malpractice in Ohio: A New Horizon?” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal, Vol. 1, No. 8, November 2008
- “The Tripartite Relationship: Ethical Considerations and the Insured Client’s Rights,” Gallagher Sharp Annual Spring Seminar, 2009
- “Recent Significant Decisions and Their Impact on Professionalism,” Ethics, Professionalism & Substance Abuse, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, November 2008

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