

The image shows a close-up, low-angle shot of the Gallagher Sharp logo mounted on a building's exterior. The logo consists of the words "Gallagher" and "Sharp" in a white, sans-serif font, with each letter being a thick, three-dimensional block. The building's facade is made of dark, rectangular panels. The background is a deep blue, suggesting a clear night sky. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the edges of the logo letters against the dark background.

Gallagher
Sharp

2025
Year in Review

LET'S GET STARTED

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A NOTE FROM MONICA



Looking back on 2025, I was proud of the growth and evolution that once again defined Gallagher Sharp as a firm. We welcomed five talented attorneys to our team, expanding our presence across Ohio and Michigan, including our Toledo office. Most notably, we celebrated the elevation of Jennifer L. Gardner and Liz R. Phillips to Partner—two exceptional attorneys whose leadership, expertise, and commitment to excellence exemplified the best of our firm’s values.

We also strengthened our operational foundation with key leadership additions. Traci Sage joined us as Chief Operating Officer, bringing strategic vision to our operations and business development, while Bojana Bebic came on board as Legal Operations Manager, enhancing efficiency and support for our legal team. These additions positioned us to deliver even more responsive and sophisticated service to our clients.

The year also brought bittersweet farewells as we celebrated the retirements of three

longtime colleagues who shaped Gallagher Sharp for decades. Marcy Kanner concluded an extraordinary 46-year career leading our accounting department, Nancy Markham retired after 30 years of exceptional support as a legal secretary, and Linda Long-Gant brought her warmth and professionalism to our reception area for 26 years. Their contributions left an indelible mark on our firm, and we wished them all the happiness their well-deserved retirements would bring.

As we looked toward the new year, we remained committed to the same principles that have guided us for over a century: exceptional legal representation, investment in our people, and unwavering dedication to our clients. From everyone at Gallagher Sharp, we wished you and yours a prosperous year ahead!

Monica Sansalone

Monica A. Sansalone
Managing Partner



PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Legal Malpractice

Professional liability claims, especially against lawyers, continue to rise



By [Monica Sansalone](#)

2025 brought significant developments that will reshape professional liability defense for years to come: the Ohio Supreme Court's proposed First Amendment protection for attorneys, and the arrival of the largest wealth transfer in American history and how that transfer affects probate practice.

The proposed amendment to Prof. Cond.R. 8.4(b) would establish that “it is not professional misconduct for an attorney to engage in speech or conduct protected by the United States and Ohio Constitutions,” codifying constitutional protections that recent disciplinary cases

have threatened to erode. This proposal directly responds to controversial sanctions imposed against attorneys for criticizing judicial decisions—most notably *Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Assn. v. Morton* (2021-Ohio-4095), in which an attorney received a one-year suspension for characterizing appellate decisions as politically motivated, and second, *Columbus Bar Assn. v. Bahan* (2022-Ohio-1210), involving profane statements made by an attorney about a judge. The public comment period closed August 28, 2025, and while not yet formally adopted, this amendment represents a critical protection



against the chilling effect disciplinary proceedings for speech.

Simultaneously, 2025 marked the acceleration of an unprecedented demographic shift that is fundamentally reshaping estate planning malpractice exposure. Baby Boomers control approximately \$80-100 trillion in household wealth, with \$30-100 trillion projected to transfer to heirs and charities by 2048—a structural shift dwarfing any wealth transfer in recorded U.S. history. The peak transfer years are occurring now, in the 2025-2035 decade, creating what insurers recognize as a perfect storm: the estate, trust, and probate practice has become the number one practice area for malpractice claims nationwide, as reported by the ABA. This convergence of massive wealth transfers, aging populations experiencing higher rates of dementia and Alzheimer's diagnoses, and increasingly complex estates (IRAs, digital assets, cryptocurrency, closely-held LLCs) has dramatically expanded risk exposure. Common

claim triggers include testamentary capacity and undue influence disputes where attorneys become targets when wills or trusts are invalidated, conflicts of interest when a client's attorney improperly advocates for that client's family member, poor documentation of key conversations ("I don't recall that conversation" being the most expensive words in malpractice depositions), technical errors like leaving a trust unfunded or missing a beneficiary designation, and expanding liability to non-client beneficiaries who are identifying new pathways to bring claims beyond traditional attorney-client relationships. The emotional volatility of significant assets intersecting with loss means that when outcomes don't meet expectations, disappointed heirs increasingly blame the attorney who facilitated the transfer.

2025 also delivered important defensive victories strengthening immunity protections for Ohio attorneys. Gallagher Sharp attorneys Monica Sansalone, Maia Jerin, and Jeremy

Ribando secured an appellate win when the Eleventh District Court of Appeals affirmed summary judgment in a third-party legal malpractice case, reinforcing that Ohio law provides attorneys immunity from non-client claims absent proof of malice. Critically, the court held that "malice cannot be predicated on actions by the attorney that the attorney is permitted to take, or even negligently may take, as part of the representation of plaintiffs' adversarial client." The appellant's allegation that attorneys conspired to disinherit her through trust amendments failed because evidence of "generalized suspicious behavior" could not reasonably support a malice finding. This ruling provides crucial protection for estate planning attorneys against disappointed beneficiaries and confirms that Ohio courts will not permit third parties to weaponize malpractice claims against legitimate adversarial representation.

[Contact Monica >](#)

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

In Case You Missed It

Estate Planning in an Era of Wealth Transfer: Protecting Your Practice

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The Invisible Threshold: Where Professional Decisions Become Legal Liabilities

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When the Warning Signs Appear: A Professional's Guide to Handling Potential Liability

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Medical Malpractice Plaintiffs May Add "Additional" Defendants Discovered Within 180 Days After Suit is Filed Pursuant to R.C. 2323.451 Without Complying with Civ.R. 15.

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Continuing Course of Conduct Does Not Extend Ohio's Four-Year Statute of Repose for Legal Malpractice Actions

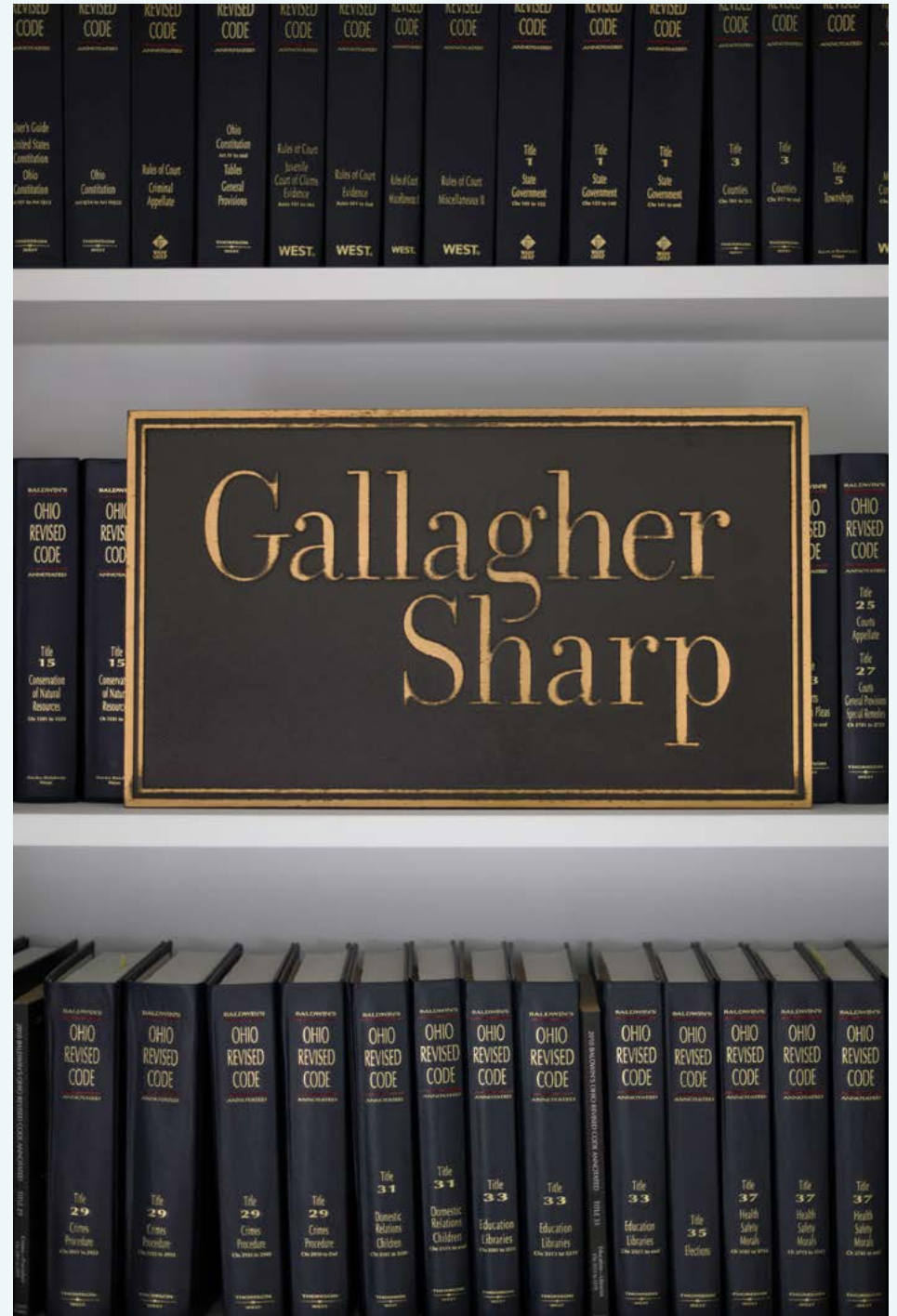
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Save the Date

Friday, November 6, 2026

Professional Liability Seminar: Legal Ethics/ Professionalism & Risk Management for Lawyers

Together with Professional Liability Services, Inc., this annual event offers engaging discussions on critical topics facing today's legal professionals and great networking.





TRANSPORTATION

Trucking and Broker Liability

Legal Landscape Shifts



By [Adam Zwicker](#)

2025 marked a pivotal year in trucking litigation, dominated by the ongoing evolution of FAAAA preemption and its application to freight broker liability claims, as well as several nuclear verdicts.

Throughout the year, multiple federal and state courts grappled with whether the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994 preempts negligent hiring/selection claims against freight brokers and whether the “safety exception” in 49 U.S.C. § 14501(c)(2)(A) saves these claims from preemption. The legal landscape became increasingly divided. In previous

years, the Seventh and Eleventh Circuits held that such claims are preempted and not saved by the safety exception, while the Ninth and—significantly—the Sixth Circuit ruled that the safety exception does apply. This circuit split intensified throughout the year, with favorable decisions in the Northern District of Indiana, Southern District of Texas, Middle District of Alabama, and Wyoming District Court all following the Seventh Circuit’s reasoning in *Ye v. GlobalTranz*. We also saw Ohio state courts apply FAAAA preemption principles to claims against Amazon, demonstrating the defense’s viability in state courts as well.



The year’s most significant development came in October when the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in *Montgomery v. Caribe Transport II, LLC*, agreeing to resolve the circuit split once and for all. This decision, expected in the first half of 2026, will provide definitive guidance on whether FAAAA preempts negligent hiring/selection claims against freight brokers nationwide.



2025 also saw a number of multimillion dollar jury verdicts across the country, and the ongoing trend of “nuclear verdicts” in the trucking industry shows no signs of slowing.

While the Court’s ruling will not address respondeat superior theories of vicarious liability—which remain dependent on state-specific control analyses—it will establish binding precedent across all federal and state courts. The stakes could not be higher: a favorable ruling would eliminate negligent hiring/selection claims against freight brokers nationwide, while an unfavorable ruling would make such claims viable everywhere, fundamentally altering the risk landscape for the industry.

Beyond the courtroom, 2025 brought important regulatory and legislative developments designed to address longstanding industry concerns. In January, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 403, providing commercial motor vehicle owners with legal recourse against predatory towing practices—a measure that should reduce costly disputes and expedite the return of trucks to service. In April, President Trump signed an Executive Order reinstating English proficiency requirements for commercial drivers

and reintroducing “out-of-service” penalties for violations, strengthening enforcement of existing FMCSR 391.11 requirements. The FMCSA also issued practical guidance in December 2024 regarding rear impact guard certification labels, advising that missing or illegible labels would not constitute violations so long as guards meet physical safety standards. Additionally, in May, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget reconciliation bill containing a safe harbor provision for brokers and freight forwarders who rely on a new FMCSA website to verify motor carrier compliance—language that could establish a clear standard for broker due diligence and reduce exposure to negligent selection claims.

2025 also saw a number of multimillion dollar jury verdicts across the country. The ongoing trend of “nuclear verdicts” in the trucking industry shows no signs of slowing. A jury in Jefferson County, Ohio awarded \$82.1 million in damages against the operator of a commercial truck who struck a motorcyclist. The

33-year old plaintiff lost his left leg and arm and suffered a traumatic brain injury. 2025 also saw a \$54 million verdict in Florida against a trucking company following a fatal crash, and a \$44.1 million wrongful death verdict in Ft. Worth, Texas after a truck rear-ended a stopped vehicle in an ice storm. Nationally, defendants in truck accident litigation have seen a spike in damages awarded at trial ever since the COVID-19 pandemic and onset of increased levels of inflation in 2022. It seems that jurors continue to feel the squeeze in their own pocket books, and are taking their personal experiences into account when awarding damages.

Looking ahead to 2026, the industry stands at a crossroads. The Supreme Court's decision in *Montgomery* will either provide comprehensive protection

against negligent hiring/selection claims or usher in a new era of expanded broker liability across all fifty states. Motor carriers and freight brokers should prepare for either outcome by continuing to assert FAAAA defenses early in litigation, maintaining robust carrier selection and vetting protocols, and ensuring compliance with the strengthened English proficiency requirements. The potential passage of the safe harbor legislation through the Senate would provide additional clarity and protection for brokers regardless of how the Supreme Court rules. While uncertainty remains, the trajectory of 2025's legal developments—combined with the Court's willingness to resolve the circuit split—suggests that 2026 will bring the clarity and consistency that the industry has long needed in navigating freight broker liability exposure.



Nuclear Verdicts in Trucking: Essential Lessons for Transportation Companies

An \$82 million verdict in one of the nation's largest amputation awards demonstrates that catastrophic injuries combined with safety documentation failures create nuclear exposure in any jurisdiction. Our transportation defense team has developed a comprehensive presentation analyzing how aggressive, nationally-connected plaintiff's counsel successfully deployed Reptile Theory tactics, and identifying specific prevention strategies including evidence preservation protocols, driver preparation techniques, and defensible safety program implementation. This presentation examines the compounding errors that transformed a comparative negligence case into a devastating defense loss and provides actionable steps to protect your company from similar exposure.



Contact attorney
Sarah Beaubien
or Drew Price to
schedule this critical
presentation for
your team.



[Contact Sarah >](#)



[Contact Drew >](#)

Maritime

Great Lakes Maritime Legacy: 50 Years After the Edmund Fitzgerald

Gallagher Sharp Maritime Practice Group partnered with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association for an in-person maritime symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald tragedy. The event brought together industry leaders, legal experts, and maritime professionals to reflect on one of the Great Lakes' most significant maritime disasters while examining how the industry has evolved and where it's heading.



L to R, Manager of Vessel Operations at Interlake Steamship, Patrick Murray and Port Authority COO Dave Gutheil



L to R, retired Thompson Hine Partner Harold (Hal) Henderson, Proctor in Admiralty Markus Apelis, Admiralty attorney Sandra M. Kelly and retired Coast Guard Commander Jack Deck III.

Off-Site CLE
Great Lakes Maritime Legacy
50 Years After the Edmund Fitzgerald
 Wednesday, Nov. 12
 2 - 5:30 PM
 Great Lakes Brewery Tasting Room
 2751 Carroll Ave., Cleveland
 2.0 Hours of CLE, 1.0 Person Only

Gallagher Sharp LLP **CMBA CLE**

Sandra M. Kelly
 Managing Partner and Owner of Ray Robinson Law LPA

Commander John Deck III
 U.S. Coast Guard, Retired; Principal Coast Guard Investigator to the Marine Board

Dave Gutheil
 Chief Operating Officer, Port Authority

Harold W. Henderson
 Retired Partner, Thompson Hine LLP

Patrick Murray
 Manager of Vessel Operations, The Interlake Steamship Company

[Watch the full event >](#)

In Case You Missed It

A Potential Shift Toward Case-by-Case Competitive Access in Rail Freight as Surface Transportation Board Unanimously Proposes Repeal of Part 1144

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U.S. Supreme Court Agrees to Decide Whether FAAAA Preempts Negligent Hiring/Selection Tort Claims Against Motor Freight Brokers

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Circuit Court Split Alert: The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Rules That Negligent Selection Claims Against Freight Brokers Are Not Preempted by the FAAAA Because They Are Saved by the “Safety Exception”

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U.S. House Reconciliation Bill Includes Safe Harbor Provision for Broker and Freight Forwarder Selection of Motor Carriers

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President Trump Signs Executive Order Reinstating English Proficiency Requirements for Commercial Drivers

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FMCSA's New Guidance on Rear Impact Guard Labels

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Ohio Governor Signs Bill That Should Stop Predatory Towing Practices

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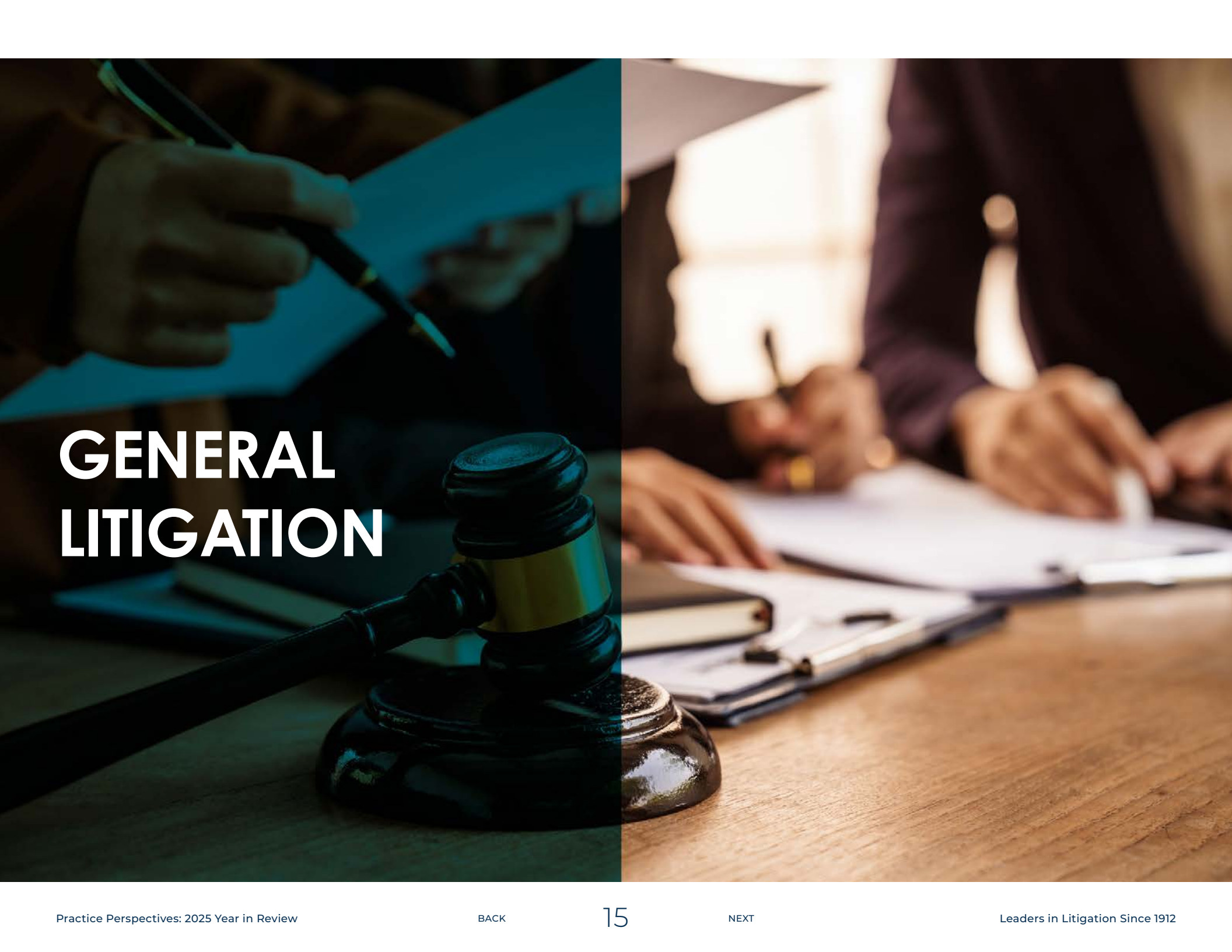
Save the Date

May 20, 2026

Recreational Boating Claims: Understanding Coverage & Defense Tactics

In recognition of National Safe Boating Week, join maritime litigation attorneys Markus Apelis and Sarah Beaubien as they navigate the complexities of recreational boating insurance coverage and litigation. You'll gain practical insights into coverage issues, common disputes, and key considerations when representing clients in recreational boating matters. More details to follow.





GENERAL LITIGATION

General Litigation

The Rise of AI-Assisted Pro Se Litigation



By [Jim Tyminski](#)

The tentacles of artificial intelligence reach in varied and often surprising ways. In civil litigation, we're on the precipice of a seismic shift where the AI tools will be used by both lawyers and self-represented/pro se litigants. In 2025, we saw the beginnings of that shift with the breadth and depth of the shift yet to be determined. What we are experiencing is more pro se litigants filing more motions albeit without the knowledge of whether the motion is ripe, necessary, and/or appropriate. The AI tools assist the non-lawyer litigant in terms of accuracy and formatting. Often the cases cited in an AI-driven motion are non-existent or the holding of the case is different rendering



the motion less than credible. However, this takes time, effort and resources to respond to AI-driven motions that can be generated in mere minutes. In a case in our office, a pro se litigant has filed 29 separate motions over the course of the case. Many of the motions were not ripe, necessary or appropriate but they all have to be responded to, and the cost of defending the case far exceeds what we would have seen prior to AI assisting a self-represented litigant.

The potential for exponential growth in terms of more pro se litigants exists because AI makes it easier to file a complaint and much easier to file

motions after that complaint has been filed. Prior to AI proliferation, a litigant lacked the skill to generate colorable pleadings that can now be generated with a few strokes of the keyboard. AI assisted self-represented litigation has the potential to overwhelm Court dockets, preoccupy staff attorneys and Judges with less than impactful, unnecessary, and/or unripe motion play.

We're starting to see AI impact in real time both in Ohio and nationally. The litigation cost factor is not just measured in responding to motions but also in responding to voluminous discovery requests. AI allows for

boilerplate discovery requests as well as specifically tailored requests to be generated by a pro se litigant in short order. In the case previously mentioned, the self-represented litigant propounded 236 interrogatories, 144 requests for admissions and 38 requests for production of documents. Obviously, AI in this instance had not factored in civil procedure rules and limitations on discovery. The volume of discovery served, and motions filed not only drives up litigation costs and clogs dockets, but it lengthens the time frame for a case to move from beginning to end.

Many courts have put in place limitations on AI use by attorneys with penalties that can be significant for inaccurate AI-driven products being filed. Pro se litigants do not face the same penalties or scrutiny,

at least not yet. I suspect there will be similar limitations put in place for pro se litigants. In crafting penalties and rules for AI use by unrepresented litigants, governing bodies must be mindful that AI is helping people who might otherwise not have representation or access to court systems and justice.

The increase in AI-driven self-represented litigants was marginal but detectable in 2025 and certainly time will tell if advances in AI and increased familiarity with it by the general public will lead to a significant increase in pro se litigation, but the anecdotal evidence points to a substantial increase in unrepresented litigation growth in 2026 and beyond.

[Contact Jim >](#)

AI assisted self-represented litigation has the potential to overwhelm Court dockets, preoccupy staff attorneys and Judges with less than impactful, unnecessary, and/or unripe motion play.

Retail/Hospitality

TVPRA Litigation: Breaking New Ground in 2025



By [Steven Keslar](#)

TVPRA (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act) litigation in Ohio and nationwide broke new ground in 2025. Filings in the Southern District of Ohio continue to accumulate. Among the earliest filed cases in SDOH, *M.A. v. Wyndham et al.*, was the first in this district to reach the summary judgment phase of litigation, where three franchisee defendants were denied summary judgment. A TVPRA case has not yet been tried to verdict in the SDOH. Elsewhere around the country, TVPRA cases

have begun to get tried with a significant verdict for the plaintiff coming out of Georgia, and an equally significant verdict for the defense coming out of Oregon. In 2026, we expect more summary judgment decisions to help shape the boundaries of these claims. We will be keeping a close eye on trials around the country, and it remains to be seen whether a case will reach the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 2026.

[Contact Steven >](#)



Case Spotlight

Slip and Falls: Turning Video Evidence into Summary Judgment



By [Jennifer Gardner](#)

For business owners in the retail, restaurant, and hospitality industry, slip-and-fall cases, particularly in this long and icy winter, can be a real burden. And while there are many effective ways to combat these lawsuits both practically and legally, one particularly efficient way is with clear video evidence of the incident.

The United States Supreme Court in the case of *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S. 372 (2007) established that video evidence can be considered undisputed evidence in summary judgment motions, particularly when it contradicts testimony. As the Court held, “Where, as here, the record blatantly contradicts the plaintiff’s version of events so that no reasonable jury could believe it, a court should not adopt that

version of the facts for purposes of ruling on a summary judgment motion.” *Id.*, syllabus ¶ b.

As the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio explained in ruling on a motion for summary judgment, “When video evidence exists clearly depicting all of the relevant facts, the facts are viewed ‘in the light depicted by the videos.’” *Raimey v. City of Niles*, 676 F.Supp.3d 547, 554 (N.D. Ohio 2022); quoting *Gordon v. Bierenga*, 20 F.4th 1077, 1079 (6th Cir. 2021).

Other states have, in the premises liability context, applied *Scott* and held that video evidence may serve as the basis for summary judgment in the face



of a plaintiff's testimony to the contrary. For example, in *Tolson v. Hyatt Corporation*, 2019 WL 6699790, the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas found before it a plaintiff who maintained that she tripped over a cracked tile and sustained injury. In reviewing video evidence, the Court observed that the injured individual had walked past the cracked tile and lost her balance thereafter:

If there were no video evidence, this testimony might be enough to get a plaintiff to trial. But there is a video of the fall, and it conclusively disproves the Plaintiff's theory that the cracked tile caused her fall.

Tolson at *3.

What these rulings mean is that a properly-authenticated security video of a slip-and-fall should be used as a central piece of evidence to support a defendant's motion for summary judgment. If that video contradicts the plaintiff's testimony about the conditions of the floor, lighting, stairs, or presence of water, the Court need not give weight to any testimony that is not supported, or is blatantly contradicted, by the video. See, *State v. Jarosz*, 2013-Ohio-5839, ¶ 20 (Ohio App. 11th Dist. Dec. 31, 2013).

As a business owner, or an advisor to business owners, how can we best utilize this information?

- » Make sure security cameras are installed and operational in hallways, stairwells, doorways, and all high-traffic areas.
- » If a slip-and-fall incident occurs, even prior to any litigation or threat of a claim, retain the video from the incident.
- » Know which employee can authenticate the process of retention of the video for affidavit purposes.
- » Turn over all relevant videos to your insurer and counsel in full, high-resolution format.
- » Ensure that the video is utilized during the plaintiff's deposition in order to set up any contradictory testimony.

While a picture may be worth a thousand words, a well-shot video may be worth the seven you most like to hear: "Defendant's motion for summary judgment is granted."

[Contact Jennifer >](#)

In Case You Missed It

Michigan No-Fault Law

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No Catastrophic Injury, No Cap: An Update on the Application of Ohio's Cap on Non-Economic Damages

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Ohio Unfair Claims Practices: Essential Guide for Claims Adjusters

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Non-Resident Drivers May Recover Tort Damages Despite Extended Michigan Use

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Michigan Supreme Court Declines to Hear Case on Michigan's Third-Party Liability Limits

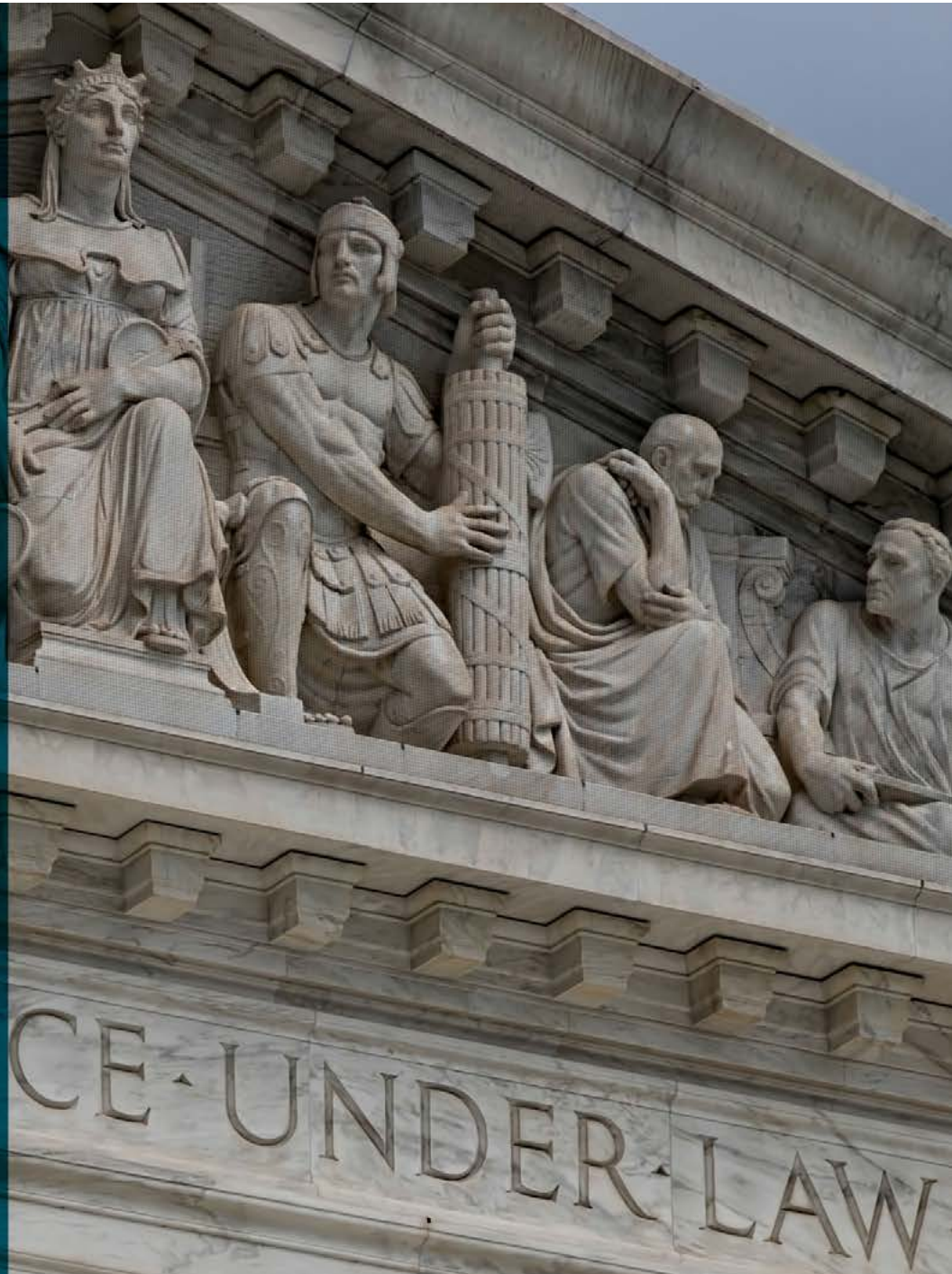
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The Informal vs. Formal Dance in Ohio Practice: Navigating IME Requests Under Ohio Civil Rule 35

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APPELLATE



Appellate

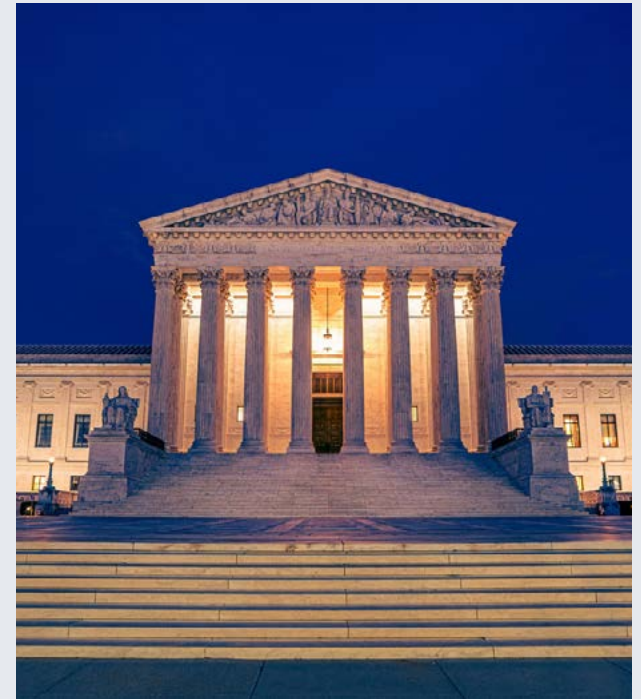
Supreme Court Petitions Surge as Shifting Precedents and Lower Costs Drive Appeals Strategy



By [Rich Rezie](#)

2025 will be remembered as a watershed year in federal civil procedure, marked by the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Trump v. Casa, Inc.*, which rejected “universal injunctions” and fundamentally shifted the landscape of injunctive relief. The Court held that district courts may no longer issue injunctions barring a law across all jurisdictions and as to all people, reasoning that such relief contravenes traditional equity by allowing courts to adjudicate matters affecting non-parties. While closing the door on universal injunctions, the Court explicitly pointed to Rule 23 class actions as the proper vehicle for plaintiffs seeking nationwide

relief—characterizing class actions as the modern equivalent of the founding-era “bill of peace.” This creates a critical strategic advantage for defense counsel: plaintiffs who previously relied on universal injunctions to achieve sweeping relief without meeting rigorous standards must now navigate the demanding Rule 23 framework requiring numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequate representation. Class certification provides numerous procedural checkpoints to defeat or narrow claims before reaching the merits, and we anticipate this will become one of the most heavily litigated areas in coming years.



The year also brought important appellate victories demonstrating the value of preserving issues for appeal and crafting sound jury instructions.

In *Herman v. Norfolk Southern*, the 11th District Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a complete defense verdict in a Federal Employers' Liability Act case where plaintiff sought over \$14 million, holding that plaintiff failed to properly preserve objections to jury instructions and forfeited appellate arguments. The Ohio Supreme Court accepted an appeal in *Devenport v. Progressive Direct Insurance Company* (2025-1102) to address Rule 23 requirements for certifying groups of insured plaintiffs in breach of contract cases—directly reflecting the emerging significance of class certification in the post-Trump v. Casa era. Additionally, the Court decided *Lewis v. MedCentral Health System* (2025-Ohio-4802), holding that medical malpractice plaintiffs may add “additional” defendants discovered within 180 days after filing suit under R.C. 2323.451 without complying with Civ.R. 15, impacting statute of limitations defenses.

Looking ahead to 2026, appellate practitioners must prepare for a dramatic increase in contested class certification proceedings across all litigation areas.

The elimination of universal injunctions means every plaintiff seeking broad-based relief must satisfy Rule 23's demanding requirements, creating substantial opportunities for early case resolution through successful opposition to certification. Defense counsel should invest resources in developing expertise regarding Rule 23 elements, as the Devenport case may provide important guidance while federal courts develop new precedent. For defense-oriented appellate litigators, 2025's developments have created a more favorable procedural landscape where careful preservation of issues, strategic litigation of class certification requirements, and thorough appellate advocacy can achieve complete case dismissals before ever reaching the merits.

[Contact Rich >](#)

In Case You Missed It

Paving the Way for Class Action Litigation: Trump v. Casa, Inc. and the Rejection of Universal Injunctions

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Standards of Review: The Hidden Determinants of Appellate Success

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Defense Verdict for Norfolk Southern Affirmed in Federal Employers' Liability Act Lawsuit

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Medical Malpractice Plaintiffs May Add “Additional” Defendants Discovered Within 180 Days After Suit is Filed Pursuant to R.C. 2323.451 Without Complying with Civ.R. 15.

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FIRM UPDATES



New Partners

Jennifer L. Gardner & Liz R. Phillips were elected Partner. We are proud to recognize Jennifer and Liz's exceptional contributions to the firm and look forward to their continued leadership.

About Jennifer

Jennifer L. Gardner brings extensive experience in general litigation and insurance defense, representing businesses, carriers, and individuals in matters involving breach of contract, construction defects, personal injury, and wrongful death. Admitted to practice in Ohio, Michigan, Colorado, and the District of Columbia, Jennifer has developed particular expertise in securing probate approval for settlements and navigating complex mass tort litigation. She is an active member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, where she serves as Social/Networking Co-Chair for the Women in Law Section and completed the Leadership Academy program.



About Liz

Liz R. Phillips has distinguished herself in construction and general liability litigation, providing strategic counsel to construction and design professionals on complex disputes involving project delays, cost overruns, and construction defects. A magna cum laude graduate of The University of Akron School of Law, Liz represents general contractors, subcontractors, architects, and engineers in matters spanning commercial, residential, and infrastructure projects. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of FDCC Ladder Down Cleveland, where she advances professional development opportunities for women attorneys.





Saying Hello

We're excited to welcome two new leaders to Gallagher Sharp this year. Traci Sage joined the firm as our Chief Operating Officer, bringing strategic leadership to our operations and business development initiatives. Bojana Bebic came on board as our Legal Operations Manager, enhancing our efficiency and supporting our attorneys with improved processes and resources.



L to R: Monica Sansalone, Marcy Kanner, Bob Moran, Tim Brick

Celebrating Goodbyes

This year, we said goodbye to three valued team members whose dedication shaped Gallagher Sharp for decades. Marcy Kanner, our longest-serving employee, retired after 46 years of leading the firm's accounting department with precision and expertise. Nancy Markham concluded a 30-year career as a legal secretary, providing invaluable support to our attorneys



L to R: John Travis, Nancy Markham, Tom Cabral

and contributing to countless client matters. Linda Long-Gant brought warmth and professionalism to our reception area for 26 years, greeting clients and colleagues alike with her signature bright smile. We are eternally grateful for everything they gave to the firm over the years, and we wish them nothing but the best in their well-deserved retirements.



Linda Long-Gant





PRACTICE GROUPS

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

APPELLATE

TRANSPORTATION

PRODUCT LIABILITY

GENERAL LITIGATION

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

INSURANCE

OUR OFFICES

Cleveland

1215 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
P: 216-241-5310 | F: 216-241-1608

Toledo

One SeaGate, Suite 1610
Toledo, Ohio 43604
P: 419-241-4860 | F: 419-241-4866

Columbus

35 North Fourth Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
P: 614-340-2300 | F: 614-340-2301

Detroit

211 West Fort Street, Suite 660
Detroit, Michigan 48226
P: 313-962-9160 | F: 313-962-9167



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