



# QUARTERLY UPDATE

**MARCH 2022**

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY UPDATE OF ACC MICHIGAN

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow ACC Michigan members:

I can't believe spring is here! After navigating the stress, uncertainty, and sometimes chaos of the last two years, I hope that you take some time for yourself to refresh and recharge, whether that's through a vacation somewhere warm, picking back up a hobby, starting a new hobby, or doing some other activity that you enjoy.

After working remote for the past two years and hosting most ACC events on a virtual basis, I know I am looking forward to getting back to in-person events and reconnecting with our membership. We have one more virtual event sponsored by Littler on March 24 that will be a perfect segue to our in-person events and will cover legal issues for employers bringing their employees back to work. Zausmer will follow the Littler program with our first in-person event of the year on April 28th at the new Henry Ford Pistons Performance Center for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion discussion. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

If you have any feedback on programming you would like to see in the future, or are interested in getting more involved with ACC MI, feel free to reach out to me directly or to [michigan@accglobal.com](mailto:michigan@accglobal.com).

Happy Spring!

**Robert Fine**

[rfine@bcbsm.com](mailto:rfine@bcbsm.com)

Assistant General Counsel, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan  
ACC Michigan President



## ACC MICHIGAN PRO BONO UPDATES

### Update #1

The 2022 ACC Michigan Pro Bono Opportunity Form is now available on the ACC Michigan website!

All organizations in need of pro bono attorneys are encouraged to fill out the form online so that the details can be shared with the ACC Michigan membership.

One of ACC Michigan's strategic pillars for 2022 is a renewed focus on pro bono activities.

Send us your information today!

[Access the Online Form](#)

### Update #2

The 2022 ACC Michigan Pro Bono Grant Application is now available on the ACC Michigan website! If you know an organization that would benefit from the resources a grant could provide, please share the application with them.

[Access the Grant Application](#)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER ACRISURE, LLC!

ACC Michigan is excited to welcome Acrisure, LLC and their team as new members in 2022!

Drinan Gorney, Assistant General Counsel, Corporate - [dgorney@acrisure.com](mailto:dgorney@acrisure.com)

Ryan Foley, Chief Legal Officer - [rfoley@acrisure.com](mailto:rfoley@acrisure.com)

Brian Wheeler, SVP and General Counsel, Corporate - [bwheeler@acrisure.com](mailto:bwheeler@acrisure.com)

Christopher Spain, SVP and General Counsel, Litigation - [cspain@acrisure.com](mailto:cspain@acrisure.com)

Joel Brusk, Assistant General Counsel - [jbrusk@acrisure.com](mailto:jbrusk@acrisure.com)





## STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW SECTION

The IPLS Proceedings are available electronically. You can save them on your computer or view them on your mobile device.

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## JACKSON LEWIS AND ACC CONNECTICUT HOSTING VIRTUAL EVENT ON APRIL 6TH

Join Jackson Lewis and ACC Connecticut at their upcoming webinar “Internal Investigations in the New Era and the Role of In-House Counsel” on April 6 from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM. Since the Me-Too era in 2017, internal investigations have become of greater significance to company boards and senior management. This presentation will discuss these changes and include an overview of the role of in-house counsel and attorney client privilege.

**Presenter:** David R. Jimenez, Principal & National Co-Chair of the Corporate Governance & Internal Investigations Practice Group at Jackson Lewis P.C.

**CLE:** 1 Hour of CLE credits pending (Jackson Lewis is an accredited provider of CLE in Connecticut, California, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas)

**Questions?** Please contact Julie Smith - [julie.smith@jacksonlewis.com](mailto:julie.smith@jacksonlewis.com)

[Register Here](#)





## 2022 ACC MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE!

ACC Michigan is proud to support law school students looking to pursue a career as in-house counsel. Every year, ACC Michigan awards a scholarship to one law student from each major law school in our state.

Contact the following ACC Michigan Scholarship Committee members for more details!

Matt Case - [matthew.a.case.law@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.a.case.law@gmail.com) (Wayne State University)

Stephanie Barr - [sbarr@itctransco.com](mailto:sbarr@itctransco.com) (Michigan State University)

Rob Fine - [rfine@bcbsm.com](mailto:rfine@bcbsm.com) (University of Detroit Mercy)

Bernie Lourim - [bernard.lourim@fanucrobotics.com](mailto:bernard.lourim@fanucrobotics.com) (University of Michigan)

Michael Qaqish - [mqaqish@iacgroup.com](mailto:mqaqish@iacgroup.com) (Western Michigan University Cooley Law School)

*The 2022 ACC Michigan Scholarship Recipients will formally receive their scholarships at the April 28th Educational and Social Event being sponsored by Zausmer at the Lexus Loft within the Pistons Performance Center in Detroit. The event runs from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm. **Register today!***



## ACC SHARES SANCTIONS RESOURCE COLLECTION DUE TO UKRAINE CONFLICT

The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) is comprised of in-house counsel from around the world who are dedicated to respecting and upholding the rule of law in service to our organizations and communities. As such, we stand with our members and the global community to support the brave Ukrainian people.

In an effort to provide ongoing support to our members, we are developing this webpage focused on issues arising from the conflict in Ukraine, including the many sanctions being levied by other countries. We are working as quickly as we can to create and curate additional articles and information to help ACC members be informed to counsel their organizations and navigate the numerous legal and ethical issues arising from these events.

If you are aware of additional resources ACC should consider, please let us know at [legalresources@acc.com](mailto:legalresources@acc.com).

As a non-profit association, ACC and its chapters support humanitarian, non-political, and non-military charities and organizations.

In light of the war in Ukraine, ACC has provided a Sanctions Resource Collection to assist attorneys who are dealing with direct issues related to the situation.

[Access Sanctions Resource Collection](#)



## MICHIGAN MAKES CASE EVALUATION VOLUNTARY

*This is an article from our 2022 Sustaining Sponsor Jackson Lewis. It was written by Marlo Johnson Roebuck.*

Michigan has changed its rules to allow parties in most civil cases brought in Michigan state courts to choose a different alternative dispute resolution after the close of pretrial discovery than the mandatory alternative dispute resolution process called “case evaluation.”

### Previous Rules

Under the mandatory program, the parties submit briefs to a panel of three neutral evaluators (attorneys or retired judges), then appear at a hearing for oral arguments. If both parties accept the award issued by the panel, the case settles for the recommended amount. If both parties reject the award, the case continues toward trial. However, if only one party rejected the award and the panel’s award was unanimous, the rejecting party was subject to sanctions.



Case evaluation is generally favored by judges, but less popular among attorneys. Considering these disparate views, starting in 2011, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) began a study to explore the effectiveness of case evaluation. The SCAO’s efforts culminated in amendments to the Michigan Court Rules that took effect on January 1, 2022.

### New Rules

The amendments to Michigan Court Rules 2.403, 2.404, and 2.503 render case evaluation voluntary. Parties that wish to pursue other alternative dispute resolution methods may do so on court-approved stipulation.

Should the parties elect case evaluation, failure to timely submit materials will result in monetary penalties.

The amendments also require that the case evaluation panel issue an award within seven days of the hearing.

The most controversial change is elimination of sanctions when one party rejects a case evaluation award. This change prompted Michigan Supreme Court Justice David F. Viviano, joined by Justice Brian K. Zahra, to write a dissenting opinion. Justice Viviano wrote that the elimination of penalties would “sound the death knell of case evaluation as an effective dispute resolution tool.” On the other hand, Justice Megan K. Cavanagh wrote a concurrence, outlining the benefits of the amendments: removing sanctions levels the playing field between plaintiffs and defendants and avoids forced settlements not based on the merits of a case.

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The long-range impact of these amendments remains to be seen, although fewer cases certainly will be settled through the case evaluation process.

Should you have questions about these amendments and their possible bearing on your business, please reach out to one of the attorneys at Jackson Lewis’ Michigan office.

(KM Attorney Jennifer Burgess contributed significantly to this article.)

# UPCOMING ACC MICHIGAN 2022 EVENTS

## MARCH 2022



### ***Preparing the Workplace and Workforce for the Return to Work***

***Thursday, March 24th | 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Virtual***

Sponsored by: Littler Mendelson

Nearly two years into this global pandemic and many Michigan employers still have a largely remote workforce. But things are changing. During this webinar, we will provide practical guidance for Michigan employers as they move from a remote to in person workforce and everything in between. We will discuss the latest on vaccine guidance, employee health and safety, accommodation issues, and many other potential legal risks that employers may confront in this new environment.

[Register Here](#)

## APRIL 2022



### ***Crain's 2022 Corporate Counsel Summit: "Rewriting the Workplace Handbook"***

***Tuesday, April 26th | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM | One Campus Martius, Detroit***

In partnership with ACC Michigan

Hear from peers how corporate law practice innovations driven by the pandemic and sociopolitical events can sharpen strategy and bolster crisis management. Topics include freedom of expression in the workplace, cybersecurity, and the labor market.

Join us for an information-packed program with plenty of time built in for networking!

[Register Here](#)



### ***Practice Makes Perfect: Avoiding Unexpected Pitfalls in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives***

***Thursday, April 28th | 3:30 - 7:00 PM***

***Lexus Loft, Pistons Performance Center, 6201 Second Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202***

Sponsored by: Zausmer

Please note that the ACC Michigan Scholarship Committee will host a presentation immediately following the education portion of the afternoon. Every year, ACC Michigan bestows a scholarship on one student from each of the major Michigan law schools who plans to pursue a career as in-house counsel. We look forward to honoring these individuals that evening, and we thank Zausmer for their support of our scholarship program.

[Register Here](#)

## MAY 2022

### **Government Investigations, Data Breaches, Cyber Responses, Privacy Concerns**

Sponsored by Varum LLP | May 11, 2022 | TBD

# UPCOMING ACC NATIONAL 2022 EVENTS

## MAY 2022

### 2022 ACC In-House Counsel Certification Program

Finally, there is an intensive program designed specifically to help in-house attorneys become proficient in the essential skills identified as critical to an in-house legal career—and a certification that recognizes those who have mastered the requisites.

This unique program will help you position yourself—and members of your team—as indispensable to the corporate client and raise the stature of your law department overall.

#### **May Series**

Dates: 2-12 May 2022 | Location: Online

[Learn More](#)

### 2022 ACC-Boston University Mini MBA for In-House Counsel

In today's evolving climate, it is more important than ever for in-house lawyers to take on a more strategic role, investing in the company's ability to grow. ACC and the Boston University Questrom School of Business are bringing their popular Mini MBA program virtual. Master the executive skills needed to ensure that you—and your organization—continue to move forward. In-person programs are scheduled to take place in fall 2022.

#### **May Virtual Series**

Monday, May 2, 6 - 9:30 PM ET

Wednesday, May 4, 6 - 9 PM ET

Monday, May 9, 6 - 9:30 PM ET

Wednesday, May 11, 6 - 7:30 PM ET

Monday, May 16, 6 - 9 PM ET

[Learn More](#)

### 2022 ACC Europe Annual Conference

**May 22-24, 2022 | Hotel Riu Plaza España, Madrid, Spain**

Dear friends, sponsors, speakers & in-house colleagues,

You are invited to the beautiful city of Madrid to embrace New Beginnings from an inspiring perspective with ACC Europe.

While we continue to live in unprecedented times, life goes on and has gone on in a rapidly changing world. Since our triumphant 25th annual conference in Edinburgh in 2019 with over 450 conference attendees, we have all been called upon to dig deep and overcome personal and professional challenges. Now it's time to look forward, celebrate New Beginnings, and be inspired by fresh perspectives for the in-house legal community. There's no better venue to host this exciting conference than Madrid, Spain's vibrant capital, with its rich culture, delicious food and inspiring architecture.

[Register Now](#)



# ACC MICHIGAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ACC Michigan Board of Directors is made up of a variety of members representing a wide range of corporate employers across the state of Michigan. The Board is eager to meet and network with prospective and new members, so anyone looking for a personal connection or a quick chat is encouraged to reach out. The 2021-2022 Board of Directors is as follows:



**Robert Fine**  
**President**  
BCBSM  
rfine@bcbsm.com



**Christopher Haven**  
**Immediate Past President**  
Meijer  
christopher.haven@meijer.com



**Pervin Taleyarkhan**  
**1st Vice President**  
Whirlpool  
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**Samantha Borden**  
**2nd Vice President**  
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**Joshua Birk**  
**Treasurer**  
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**Andrea Johnson**  
**Secretary**  
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**Heather Betts**  
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**Donelle Buratto**  
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**Matthew Case**  
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jill.soubel@kla.com



**Julie Westra**  
**Director at Large**  
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jwestra@steelcase.com

## ACC MICHIGAN STAFF

ACC Michigan contracts with Ngage Management to provide full service association benefits to ACC Michigan members. The ACC Michigan staff is comprised of the following individuals:



Mariam Robinson  
**Executive Director**  
michigan@accglobal.com



Ariel Backus  
**Event Manager**  
mievents@accglobal.com



Lauren Edson  
**Visual Communications Designer**  
lauren@teamngage.com



Zach Wilber  
**Marketing and Analytics Strategist**  
zach@teamngage.com

## FOLLOW ACC MICHIGAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

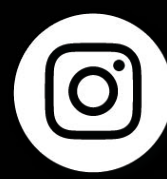
ACC Michigan is up and running on multiple social media platforms, so give us a like or a follow, and don't forget to share this information with your colleagues!



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@AccMichigan



@acc\_michigan