

December 2024
ACC Litigation Network Monthly Newsletter

Message from the Network Chair – Ivan Hannel, General Counsel, Zoe Holding Company



Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on where we've been and where we're heading—like observing a ship's wake to catch a glimpse of its course. First, let me say how grateful I am for your participation in the Litigation Network. We have plenty of exciting plans in store for 2025, including an online chess tournament where we can connect in a more relaxed setting. There's also some terrific programming lined up—details to come in the new year.

Reflecting on our profession, it's clear that being a lawyer can be uniquely challenging. The law's fluidity and the unpredictability of judges and opposing counsel can sometimes leave us feeling unmoored. Then there's the delicate balancing act of collaborating with internal teams and various constituencies, not to mention the demands of personal life. All of this can feel like a form of legal motion sickness—where you find yourself asking, "Where am I, who are these people, and what on earth do they want?" And yet, despite the rollercoaster ride, I remain optimistic because I believe wholeheartedly in all of us.

This year proved to be trying for me personally: I had to let go of the entire C-suite that hired me; I dove into the bizarre realm of UFOs, managing to keep my psyche mostly intact; and my poor dog was on the wrong end of a skunk. Strange times, indeed. But amid it all, I have so much to be thankful for.

I want to express my profound gratitude to the Litigation Network leadership: Jennifer, Abby, Michael, Shane, Max, Julia, and now Beverly, Julianna, and Brian, for their support and generosity of time. I'm grateful for all the remarkable attorneys I know—imperfect though we may be, we are part of what keeps civilization running, which is no small feat. I'm also thankful for our Congress, which, for all its faults, still operates in a democratic republic—an achievement worth recognizing.

On a more personal note, I'm thankful for the beauty of California, especially the town I call home. Its people are kind, the spirit is lively, and the landscape offers a stunning interplay of shadows and twinkling light. I'm thankful for the steadfast circle of friends who bring joy and perspective to my life—and for my lovely wife and our wonderfully inquisitive almost-12-year-old son, who reminds me every day of life's possibilities.

For all these blessings, my heart is full. Thinking of them makes me eager to embark on a new year together, challenges and all. Wishing you all a warm and joyful holiday season—and cheers to a bright New Year ahead!

Upcoming Events

- January 9, 2025 –** PART THREE – COZEN O’CONNOR MASTERCLASS SERIES ON SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS: Drafting Effective and Enforceable Settlement Agreements. [ONLINE LEARNING CENTER](#)
- January 21, 2025 -** Re-thinking Compliance and Litigation Risk Assessments in a World of Digital Transactions: Modern Third-Party Risks Need Modern Risk-Rating Models – [REGISTER HERE](#)
- January 28, 2025 -** Litigation Network January Legal Update – [REGISTER HERE](#)

Have an idea or request for a legal update topic? Email the program chairs at: S. Michael Lee at Smichael.lee@engaging.ai or Julianna Hanlon at jihanlon@mgb.org.

Spotlight on Cozen O’Connor –



Jeffrey Klamut, Counsel, jklamut@cozen.com

Jeff focuses his practice on labor and employment and artificial intelligence. Jeff has over 15 years of experience as both in-house and outside counsel, which he routinely draws up to provide practical, day-to-day guidance to clients in all aspects of the employment lifecycle. Jeff also uses his experience in the AI sector to drive cutting-edge AI solutions for the firm and its clients.

Jeff previously served as corporate counsel to an autonomous vehicle startup, where he handled a broad range of compliance matters, such as multi-national employment agreements, global independent contractor compliance, staffing agency contracts, global workforce management, and workforce restructurings.

Jeff’s experience also includes working as an AI trainer within the large language model (LLM) space with a focus on improving recognition of and responses to legal-related inputs. Jeff uses this first-hand experience and foundational knowledge in AI to provide clients with practical and tailored approaches to AI policies and emerging regulations.

Jeff earned his B.A., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D., with high honors, from Rutgers University School of Law.

Litigation Network Member Spotlight - Brian J. Murren – Pennsylvania Automotive Association



Brian recently joined the Pennsylvania Automotive Association in 2024 serving as Assistant General Counsel. Brian provides guidance to the Association’s membership of franchised new and used car dealerships, powersports dealers and truck dealers, assisting to manage and resolve general commercial, business, franchise, customer, regulatory and employment/labor issues. Brian also assists the Association’s membership with compliance and educational programs, and with government agency activities involving regulatory compliance. Brian manages outside counsel for the Association handling its contractual, employment and litigation matters.

Brian graduated from James Madison University in 2011, and from the Dickinson School of Law – Penn State University in 2017. In between law school and undergraduate, Brian obtained his paralegal certificate from a local community college in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Brian began his career as a litigation and estate paralegal for a regional firm in Harrisburg. Following law school, he joined a large nationwide insurance defense firm representing large insurers in coverage determinations and bad faith claims, and representing public entities in civil rights, employment and land use matters.

Brian left the insurance defense realm in 2019 to join the law firm of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. where he focused on complex commercial litigation, defense of class action lawsuits, and estate/fiduciary litigation. Brian also maintained an estate planning and administration practice at the firm. As a result of his Estate and Litigation background, Brian excelled representing local and national banks in an array of intricate matters. Brian’s fiduciary litigation practice encompassed will contests, estate disputes, breach of fiduciary duty disputes, trust modifications, guardianship proceedings, accounting disputes and cases involving financial abuse. Brian’s work earned him recognitions by Best Lawyers in America® and Super Lawyers® in the fields of Commercial Litigation, and Trusts and Estates.

Brian remains involved with his local Bar Associations, recently serving as chair of the Young Lawyers Division for his local association. He also serves on the Board of Directors for several local charities, including his current service as Vice-Chair of the Board to the United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania.

In his spare time, Brian enjoys spending time with his wife, two children and golden retriever. Brian enjoys golfing and attending live shows and sporting events.

Would you like to be featured in an upcoming Litigation Newsletter? We would love to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to feature your role, your company, or your #morethanalawyer achievements!

Have you ever considered joining our committee? The Litigation Network committee is always open to potential new members for upcoming years. If you have any questions about available roles, time commitments, etc., please reach out to shane@neweraadr.com with your interests and questions!

Litigation Laughs

BREAKING NEWS: The Tesla robot has figured out how to look at a legal situation and say "It depends." The robot has landed a job in Cravath's litigation department.



Encountering any nuanced procedural or case law issues?

Need any general guidance on navigating new legislation or regulations?

Let's hear from you in the [Litigation Discussion Forum](#)!

2024 ACC Litigation Network Leadership		
Chair	Ivan Hannel General /Counsel Zoe Holding Company (602) 710-7573 ihannel@zoeholdingco.com	
Vice-Chair	Jennifer Denny Senior Litigation Counsel Cardinal Financial Company, LP (636) 565-0716 jennifer.denny@cardinalfinancial.com	
Legal Update Program Chairs	S. Michael Lee COO & CLO Engaging.ai (408) 431-1224 Smichael.lee@engaging.ai	Julianna Hanlon Legal Counsel Mass General Brigham jihanlon@mgb.org
Annual Meeting Chairs	Abby Adams VP, General Counsel National Association of Home Builders (212) 266-8345 aadams@nahb.org	Beverly Garner Associate General Counsel Bunge (314) 292-02514 Beverly.Garner@bunge.com
Membership Chairs	Shane Mulrooney Co-Founder & General Counsel New Era ADR (630) 853-8536 shane@neweraadr.com	Brian Murren Assistant General Counsel Pennsylvania Automotive Association bmurren@paa.org
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