

ALFA International

# Business Litigation

Practice Group Newsletter - November 2018

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Featured Member
- 3 Guest Columnist
- 3 Subcommittee Focus
- 3 Upcoming Events



**Robert F. Chapski**



**LEWIS THOMASON**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

## Featured Member – Robert F. Chapski

### Practice Description

Bob is a trial lawyer and Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator, representing and counseling businesses and individuals who seek cost effective and client-defined successful solutions. His experience includes a variety of litigation-related practice fields, such as product liability, tort, commercial/business litigation, consumer litigation and employment law. Bob practices law out of Nashville, Tennessee, with Lewis Thomason, P.C., a full service, statewide law firm with a regional and national practice. He serves on the firm's Board of Directors, and is the Practice Group Leader for the firm's Product Liability Practice Group. Bob routinely represents local and national clients in complex, high-exposure federal and state court matters throughout the nation. His jury trial experience includes product liability cases, as well as other tort and business litigation disputes. Bob is a Sustaining Member of PLAC (formerly the Product Liability Advisory Council), a Member of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), and a Member of the Defense Research Institute. He also participates on the steering committees for ALFA's Product Liability and Business Litigation practice groups.

### Interesting Career Highlight

In an era of dwindling trials, Bob's sixteen-year career has included several high stakes trials that have lasted upwards of five weeks in the far corners of the country ranging from San Jose, California, to Victoria, Texas, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in addition to multiple venues in Bob's home state of Tennessee. While several trials have been memorable, a particularly memorable one involved a catastrophic motor

vehicle crash that was tried for three weeks for an automaker, resulted in a unanimous defense verdict, followed by a mini-trial by a rogue trial judge who entered a post-trial verdict in favor of the plaintiff, and then resulted in a complete reversal and final defense verdict on appeal. All told, the case lasted nearly half of Bob's career and drove home the lesson that the practice of law is indeed a marathon, not a sprint.

### Interests Outside the Law

Bob's interests outside the practice of law are varied – and these days largely involve his young children - and perhaps would be considered mundane by most (Notre Dame football fanatic (!), avid fiction reader, sci-fi movie enthusiast, tech geek, running/indoor cycling/fitness/health nut, etc.). At the end of 2016, however, Bob and his wife Cherie decided that they were fed up with the kids' relentless desire for all things “electronic” (iPads, iPhones, Xbox, gaming computer, etc.) and that the family would focus on gaining “experiences,” especially during the holidays. While only somewhat successful in this endeavor, the entire family (including Sydney, Sean and Cole, now ages 11, 9 and 7) renewed their passports and solemnly promised to use them at least once a year. In two years, Bob and Cherie's young family has traveled, via ultra-discount airlines and Airbnb rentals, to five countries including Iceland, Italy, England, France, and the Netherlands.

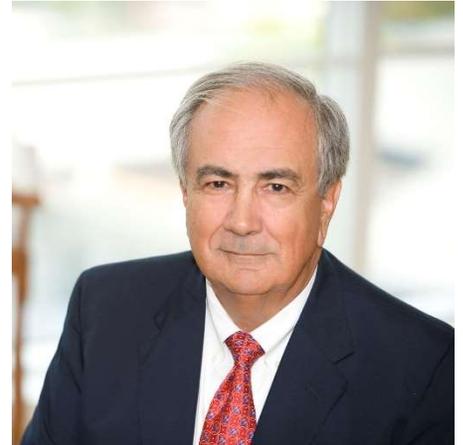


Bob and the kids,  
overlooking  
Florence, Italy

## Guest Columnist – Edward M. McNally

### Are Directors Liable for Unforeseen Calamities?

The answer to the question posed in the title to this article may seem devious to you. After all, the answer must be “no” if we want anyone to serve on a corporate board of directors. Yet this question continues to pop up as discussed in the recent decision of the Delaware Court of Chancery in *Marchand v. Barnhill*, C.A. No. 2017-0586-JRS (Sept. 27, 2018). [Read the full article here.](#)



## Subcommittee Focus – Bankruptcy

The BLPB Bankruptcy Subcommittee is hard at work preparing its presentation for the ICS in March, 2019. The presentation will be in the form of a game show, highlighting just how fun and entertaining bankruptcy law can be. Stayed tuned for more details!

## Upcoming Events

**December 10, 2018** – ALFA International Webinar: How the Politics and Policies of Washington Today are Impacting Your Business. [Learn more about the webinar.](#)

**February 28 to March 2, 2019** – ICS at the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel | Dana Point, California.