

National Association of Dealer Counsel 2024 Attorney Directory



1800 M Street, NW, Suite 400 South
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NADC History

In 2004, Jonathan Harvey (a dealer attorney and trial lawyer from Albany, New York) had the idea to create a national organization comprised of attorneys who represent vehicle dealers. Mr. Harvey sought assistance from nationally recognized consumer finance attorney, Tom Hudson of Hudson Cook, LLP. Together, they selected a team of 11 other prominent dealer attorneys that would become the NADC's first Board of Directors. Mr. Harvey became the first President of the NADC and served until March of 2007. Michael Charapp was next elected President and served until April of 2009 at which time Rob Cohen became the third President of the NADC. Patty Covington with *Hudson Cook, LLP* was elected in April 2011 to serve as the fourth President of the NADC; Oren Tasini, was elected in April 2013 to serve as the fifth President of NADC; Stephen P. Linzer, previously with *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.*, was elected in April 2015 to lead the organization as the sixth President of NADC; Andrew J. *Weill of Weill & Mazer* was the seventh President of NADC; Johnnie Brown from *Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC* was elected in 2019 and served as the eighth President of NADC. Jami Farris was elected in 2021 as the ninth President for the organization. Scott Silverman of *DSR Motor Group* was elected in 2023 and serves as the current President of NADC.

NADC Purpose

The National Association of Dealer Counsel (NADC) is a nationwide professional organization of attorneys who represent automobile and other vehicle dealers.

The NADC provides a forum for members to share information, common experience, and advice related to manufacturer franchise issues, lemon laws, vehicle finance, regulatory complexities, insurance laws, tax laws, buy/sell agreements, employment law, and many other issues facing dealers and their counsel today.

NADC Member Benefits

Since 2004, the NADC has been providing valuable benefits to its members. In 2024, membership in the NADC continues to thrive. The NADC offers:

- Advanced website with searchable knowledgebase
- Dealer-related legal publications
- Members-only conferences and webinars
- Members-only email list-serve (an active forum for attorney members to ask questions and share critical information about dealer law)
- Online resource library and member directory

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Suite 400 South
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-293-1454 Fax: 202-530-0659
www.dealercounsel.com

Staff:

Erin H. Murphy, *Executive Director*
Jennifer Polo-Sherk, *Program Manager*
Kira Forster, *Membership & CLE Coordinator*

2024 NADC Attorney Directory

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NADC Board of Directors

President: Scott Silverman is the Vice President and General Counsel of *DSR Motor Group* that owns and operates dealerships throughout New England. Scott previously served as the General Counsel of Prime Automotive Group. From 2011 to the middle of 2017 Scott operated his own firm (Silverman Advisors) and concentrated his practice in the areas of complex commercial litigation, automotive franchise law, business consulting, and employment law. Prior to starting Silverman Advisors, Scott was a Partner with McCarter & English, LLP in Boston and before that a Partner with Gadsby Hannah LLP where he began his career in 1997. Contact: ssilverman@dsrmotorgroup.com or 781-929-8231.

Vice President: Eric Baker is a private-practice attorney at *Wisconsin Dealer Law* in Madison, Wisconsin. Eric represents automobile, heavy truck, farm implement, and equipment dealers in a variety of franchise, consumer, and other business litigation, in administrative proceedings, state and federal courts, arbitrations, and appeals. Eric also advises clients in litigation avoidance, state and federal regulatory compliance, and employment matters, and teaches compliance seminars for dealer groups and associations. Eric also represents dealerships in buy/sell transactions and succession planning. Contact: eric@widealerlaw.com or 608-285-9200.

Treasurer: Donald W. Gould II is a shareholder in the Houston based firm, *Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould P.C.* The firm has a large dealer practice. Mr. Gould has been practicing dealer law for over 30 years. He regularly represents both publicly and privately owned dealerships and dealership groups in all aspects of dealer law. Practice areas include defending consumer litigation, manufacturer disputes, lender disputes, labor and employment litigation, administrative enforcement actions, premises liability, landlord disputes, advertising compliance, buy-sells, licensing and just about any other dealer related matter that arises. Mr. Gould obtained his BBA from Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business and his JD from Southern Methodist University. Contact: Dgould@jdkglaw.com or 832-527-0630.

Secretary: Timothy D. Robinett joined the law firm *Manning, Leader, Bruder & Berberich* in 1994, and has been a partner since 2002. Mr. Robinett's practice areas for the firm include general litigation, consumer and commercial litigation, automotive dealer law, automotive finance law, business purchase and sales transactions, real estate transactions, administrative law, and construction law. Mr. Robinett's practice encompasses litigation, internal investigations and prelitigation counseling for the firm's clients. He has successfully litigated cases throughout California in state court, federal court, before the California New Motor Vehicle Board, and through private arbitration.

Immediate Past President: Jami Farris is a neutral with *Miles Mediation and Arbitration*. She was formerly a partner in the law firm of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina. For more than twenty years, she advised and represented large automotive groups and individual dealers on a wide variety of issues, including the Motor Vehicle Act, federal regulation, contract drafting, consumer claims, social media and the internet, contract and commercial torts litigation, buy-sell issues, real estate, and construction. She received her B.A. from the College of William and Mary and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law. Contact: jfarris@milesadr.com or 704-231-2349.

Past President: Johnnie Brown is an equity member in the law firm of *Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC*, in Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Brown acts as both litigation and compliance counsel for medium and small businesses in the areas of employment and automobile industry related issues. Mr. Brown serves as outside general counsel for the West Virginia Automobile and Truck Dealers Association and privately represents dozens of new motor vehicle dealers in West Virginia. He represents motor vehicle dealers in consumer complaints, employment law, and manufacturer disputes, and provides compliance training to motor vehicle dealers on consumer obligations, advertising, finance and insurance practices and employment law. He served as the drafter and lead negotiator of the West Virginia franchise law. Mr. Brown is a graduate of Marshall University and the West Virginia College of Law. Contact: jbrown@pffvw.com or 304-344-0100.

Past President: Andrew J. Weill, Principal, *Weill & Mazer*, a leading business and tax planning and dispute firm in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mr. Weill's practice includes complex business, tax and estate disputes across the nation, with a focus on tax and regulatory issues affecting the automobile dealer finance and insurance (F&I) industry. He graduated from Yale University in 1973 and obtained his J.D. from Berkeley Law School in 1976. He is a Certified Specialist in Taxation Law and a frequent speaker and writer on tax and litigation issues. Contact: weill@weillmazer.com or 415-421-0730.

Past President: Stephen P. Linzer retired from the practice of law in April 2021 after being a shareholder at *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.* in Phoenix, Arizona where he founded its automobile and RV industry practice group. He is a graduate of Tufts University and Northwestern University School of Law. Contact: stevlinzer@gmail.com or 480-220-3545.

Past President: Oren Tasini is retired from the practice of law. Prior to his retirement, he was the General Counsel for the Qvale Auto Group. Mr. Tasini was also a shareholder with the law firm of Haile, Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A. in Palm Beach, Florida. Oren has over 30 years of experience working with automotive dealerships assisting them with legal compliance, regulatory and franchise matters, and in the purchase and sale of automotive franchises. He is a founding member of the National Association of Dealer Counsel and he serves on the Florida Automobile Dealers Association's Legislative Committee. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Law center, where he was a member of The Tax Lawyer. Oren is an adjunct professor at Keiser University, teaching business law. Oren is a 1983 graduate of Connecticut College, cum laude with distinction, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Oren has published a work of fiction, "First Tuesday". Contact: oren@orentasini.com or 561-389-4475.

Past President: Patricia E.M. Covington is a Partner in the law firm of *Hudson Cook, LLP* in Richmond, Virginia. Her practice focuses on consumer finance, F&I, voluntary protection products law, UDAP, UDAAP, data privacy, security and information management, electronic commerce, and marketing, as well as matters involving the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.. She received her J.D. from T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond. Contact: pcovington@hudco.com or 410-980-5038.

Past President: Rob Cohen is Principal at *Rob Cohen, a Professional Law Corporation*, and previously served as President, Managing Partner, and Chairman at Auto Advisory Services before selling the business in 2018. Rob continued with Auto Advisory Services, a leading compliance consulting company with a client base of over 600 retail automotive dealerships, in a consulting role until May of 2020. From 2011 through 2020, Rob was Senior Automotive Counsel with Arent Fox, LLP, which operates offices in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and New York. Arent Fox is a recognized leader in areas including automotive, sports, white collar, intellectual property, real estate, telecommunications, health care, international trade, bankruptcy, and complex litigation. Rob is Co-Founder, and served as General Counsel and Secretary of Motor Vehicle Software Corporation (now Vitu) from January 2006 through September 2015. Vitu provides electronic title and registration solutions in California, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, Virginia and most recently, Pennsylvania. In addition to in-state transactions, Vitu provides national, 50-state title and registration processing with Vitu Interstate. Rob has served as an attorney and consultant to a number of clients in the automotive industry, has authored several books and articles on automotive dealer legal compliance matters, and has been featured in numerous industry seminars where he shares insights and experience gained from his over thirty years in the automotive industry. Rob earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Whittier Law School, his BA from UC Irvine, and his MBA from the University of California, Irvine Graduate School of Management with a concentration in Finance. Contact: rob@robcohen.law or 714-393-6624.

Past President: Michael Charapp (deceased), spent his life in and around the automobile business, including working in his family's Dodge dealership until he graduated from college. Michael represented and advised numerous business clients, including well over 200 automobile dealers and several automobile dealer trade associations, including the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. He was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and of the Georgetown University Law Center.

Past President: Jonathan P. Harvey is Senior Partner of the *Jonathan P. Harvey Law Firm*, Saratoga Springs, New York where he concentrates on complex commercial litigation and the representation of automobile dealerships. He is the originator and first President of the NADC. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Albany Law School of Union University. Contact: jpharvey@jpharveylaw.com or 518-463-4491.

Jim Appleton

New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers, Inc.
Trenton, NJ
jappleton@njcar.org or 609-883-5056

Ronald Campione

DOWC, LLC
Parsippany, NJ
ron.campione@dowc.com or 551-325-3547

Victor Danhi

ArentFox Schiff LLP
San Francisco, CA
victor.danhi@afslaw.com or 415-757-5505

Kate Kelley

CarMax
Richmond, VA
kate_kelley@carmax.com or 804-986-3731

Evan Nahmias

City Enterprises, LLC
Franklin, TN
evan@cityllc.com or 901-213-6738

Sarah Seedig

Holland & Knight LLP
Denver, CO
Sarah.seedig@hklaw.com or 303-974-6535

Michael Semanie

Killgore, Pearlman & Semanie, P.A.
Orlando, FL
msemanie@kpsds.com or 407- 425-1020

Robert Shimberg

Hill Ward Henderson
Tampa, FL
robert.shimberg@hwhlaw.com or 813-227-8469

Kyle Sipples

Autosaver Group
St. Johnsbury, VT
ksipples@autosavergroup.com or 802-745-1452

Todd Sprinkle

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
Atlanta, GA
toddsprinkle@parkerpoe.com or 678-690-5750

Erin H. Murphy

NADC Executive Director
Washington, DC
emurphy@dealercounsel.com or 202-293-1454

NADC Attorney Members

Alabama

Boone, Jess, *Friedman Dazzio & Zulanis, PC*, 3800 Corporate Woods Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35242, Voice: 205-278-7060, Fax: 205-278-7001, jboone@friedman-lawyers.com, www.friedman-lawyers.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management.

Ingram, Jeffrey, *Ingram, Kalupa & Butler, P.C.*, 203 Kenimer Avenue, Suite 100, Trussville, Alabama 35173, Voice: 205-870-0663, Fax: 205-870-0681, jeff@ikblawyers.com, www.ikblawyers.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

McDonald, David, *SE & Associates Management*, 29732 Frederick Boulevard, Daphne, Alabama 36526, Voice: 251-439-6176, david@seamautogroup.com, www.easternshoretoyota.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

Taylor, George, *Burr & Forman LLP*, 420 N. 20th Street, Suite 3400, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, Voice: 205-251-3000, Fax: 205-244-5711, gtaylor@burr.com, www.burr.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Arizona

Broberg, Lance, *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.*, 2525 E. Camelback Road, 7th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-255-6061, Fax: 602-255-0103, lrb@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com/attorneys/lance-r-broberg. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation.

Davis, Darrell, *Clark Hill PLC*, 14850 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 500, Scottsdale, Arizona 85254, Voice: 480-684-1104, Fax: 480-684-1164, ddavis@clarkhill.com, www.clarkhill.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Draper, Robert, *O'Rielly Chevrolet, Inc.*, 6160 E. Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85711, Voice: 520-571-2210, Fax: 520-844-6868, robert.draper@comcast.net, www.orielly.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.



Ezzell, Tina, *Tiffany & Bosco*, 7th Floor, Camelback Esplanade II, 2525 East Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-452-2747, Fax: 602-255-0103, tme@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com. Practice Areas: Add points, advertising, after market issues, buy sell agreements, civil liability, commercial and real estate, litigation, complex dealer appeals, compliance, consumer fraud, consumer issues, constitutional law, corporate law, credit advertising, dealer arbitration, dealer fraud, dealer mediation/negotiation, dispute resolution, employment issues, employment law, finance and regulatory complexities, financing documentation, franchise issues, fraud, governmental regulation, government relations, insurance laws, lemon laws, liability, litigation, manufacturer franchise issues, multiple regulatory requirements, product liability, real estate, regulatory compliance, rights of first refusal, termination disputes. Tina is a trial and appellate attorney with experience in cases involving contract, tort, business dissolution, real property issues, employment law, and attempted franchise terminations. Besides her work with the automobile industry, Tina actively litigates a wide array of civil cases, including employee fraud and embezzlement matters, partnership and limited liability company membership disputes, and real property disputes.

Fann, Emily, *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.*, 2525 E. Camelback Road, 7th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-288-7893, esf@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com/attorneys/emily-s-fann. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning.

Jones, Brady, *Jones Auto Group*, 1932 N. Pinal Avenue, Casa Grande, Arizona 85122, Voice: 480-773-4886, bradyjonesjd@gmail.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Law, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Real Estate, Tax Laws.

McClatchey, Joshua, *Earnhardt Management Company*, 7300 W. Orchid Lane, Chandler, Legal Department, Arizona 85226, Voice: 480-783-4618, Josh.McClatchey@earnhardt.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning.

McCormley, J. Lawrence, *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.*, 2525 E. Camelback Road, 7th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-255-6000, Fax: 602-255-0103, jlmc@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com. Practice Areas: Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate.

Mudge, Kayla, *DriveTime*, 1720 W Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, Arizona 85281, Voice: 309-258-0800, kayla.mudge@drivetime.com, www.drivetime.com. Practice Areas: Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Intellectual Property, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Norling, John, *Jennings, Strouss & Salmon PLC*, One East Washington Street, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, Voice: 602-262-5882, Fax: 602-495-2672, jnorling@jsslaw.com, www.jsslaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.



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Arizona

Rodgerson, Michael, *La Mesa RV Center, Inc.*, 7525 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85035, Voice: 623-204-2936, MRodgerson@LaMesaRV.com.

Scheitzach, Clay, *DriveTime*, 1720 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, Arizona 85281, Voice: 214-228-0872, Fax: 602-852-6632, clay.scheitzach@drivetime.com, www.drivetime.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Shill, Otto, *Jennings Strouss*, 1 East Washington Street, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2554, Voice: 602-262-5956, oshill@jsslaw.com, www.jsslaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Snyder, John, *Van Tuyl Companies, Inc.*, 14747 N. Northsight Boulevard, Suite 111-431, Scottsdale, Arizona 85260, Voice: 602-230-3542, jsnyder@vtcompanies.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Stabbert, Gerd, *Rusing Lopez & Lizardi PLLC*, 6363 N. Swan Road, #151, Tucson, Arizona 85718, Voice: 520-529-4283, gstabbert@rlaz.com, www.rlaz.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Intellectual Property, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues

Theisen, Chuck, *Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale and Mercedes-Benz of Arrowhead*, 4725 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251, Voice: 480-409-0409, chuck.theisen@gmail.com, www.mbscottsdale.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Employment Issues, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, International, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Warshawsky, Kimberly, *DriveTime*, 1720 West Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, Arizona 85281, Voice: 623-810-1595, kimberly.warshawsky@drivetime.com, www.drivetime.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Intellectual Property, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Termination Disputes.

Wrapp, Michael, *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.*, 2525 E. Camelback Road, 7th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-452-2741, Fax: 602-255-0103, maw@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com/attorneys/michael-a-wrapp. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Corporate Law, Financing Documentation, Litigation, Real Estate.

Young, Tara, *Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.*, 2525 E. Camelback Road, 7th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-255-6084, tmy@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com/attorneys/tara-m-young. Practice Areas: Litigation.

Arkansas

Davidson, Charles, *Davidson Law Firm*, 724 Garland, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Voice: 501-912-0020, Fax: 501-374-5917, skipd@dlf-ar.com, www.Davidsonlawfirm.net. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Product Liability, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Kirkpatrick, Greg, *Arkansas Automobile Dealers Association*, P.O. Box 9150, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72119, Voice: 501-372-2596, Fax: 501-372-4389, greg@arkautodealers.com, www.aadaonline.com.

California



Amir, Hen M., *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West Fifth Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7539, Fax: 213-629-7401, hen.amir@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Ms. Amir counsels clients in various aspects of real estate transactions, including the acquisition, sale, leasing, and financing of commercial real properties for automobile dealerships. She assists clients with every stage of the transaction, from the initial negotiations through due diligence and closing, and advises them regarding any post-closing issues or lease administration matters. Ms. Amir regularly advises clients on title issues and negotiates contracts relating to property management, lease assignments, CC&Rs, easements, and other general real estate agreements. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Baeza, Andrew, *Envision Motors*, 2010 E. Garvey Avenue S., West Covina, California 91791, Voice: 626-859-1269, abaeza@envisionmotors.com, www.envisionmotors.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Fraud, Franchise Issues.

Barone, James, *Ferruzzo & Ferruzzo, LLP*, 3737 Birch Street, Suite 400, Newport Beach, California 92660, Voice: 949-608-6900, Fax: 949-608-6994, jbarone@ferruzzo.com, www.ferruzzo.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal.

Bento, Anthony, *California New Car Dealers Association*, 1517 L Street, Sacramento, California 95814, Voice: 916-441-2599, abento@cncda.org, www.cncda.org. Practice Areas: Compliance, Franchise Issues, Government Relations.

Berberich, Daniel, *Manning, Leaver, Bruder & Berberich, LLP*, 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1150, Los Angeles, California 90017, Voice: 323-937-4730, dberberich@manningleaver.com, www.manningleaver.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Fraud, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation.

Berberich, Joseph, *Manning, Leaver, Bruder & Berberich, LLP*, 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1150, Los Angeles, California 90017, Voice: 323-937-4730, jberberich@manningleaver.com, www.manningleaver.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.



Bronstein, John, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West Fifth Street, 48th West Fifth Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7561, Fax: 213-629-7401, john.bronstein@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Practice areas: more than 35 years of legal experience in the automotive sector including advertising, after-market sales issues, buy-sell agreements, employment issues, franchise issues, lemon laws, consumer protection laws, and manufacturer franchise issues. Mr. Bronstein advises automotive dealership groups, trucking companies, and related entities in federal and state regulatory and compliance matters and aids in the defense of consumer litigation on individual and class action matters. Mr. Bronstein further assists and responds to government inquiries and investigations. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Brophy, Gary, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West 5th Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7624, gary.brophy@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Liability, Product Liability.



Danhi, Victor, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 55 Second Street, 21st Floor, San Francisco, California 94105. Voice: 415-757-5505, Fax: 415-757-5501, victor.danhi@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Practice areas: Commercial, labor and employment and class action litigation and dispute resolution; buy-sell agreements; lender workouts; franchise litigation; partnership disputes; privacy and data security issues and other legal affecting auto dealers and other companies in the automotive industry. Mr. Danhi brings over 20 years of legal experience, successfully representing clients in franchise disputes, consumer class action and complex litigation and commercial and business litigation in State and Federal Courts and administrative agencies. He has successfully defended cases at trial before judges, juries, and arbitrators. He has extensive experience in the effective resolution of high-stakes litigation and counsels clients in litigation avoidance and regulatory compliance. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Dolenac, Franjo, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West Fifth Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7579, franjo.dolenac@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Ebin, Robert, 19100 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 250, Irvine, California 92612-6555, Voice: 800-785-2880, rebin@kpaonline.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Fraud, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Lemon Laws, Product Liability.

Erdman, Jeffrey, *Scali Rasmussen PC*, 300 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2750, Los Angeles, California 90071, Voice: 213-239-5622, Fax: 213-239-5623, jerdman@scalilaw.com, www.scalirasmussen.com. Practice Areas: Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Litigation.

Ferruzzo, Gregory, *Ferruzzo & Ferruzzo, LLP*, 3737 Birch Street, Suite 400, Newport Beach, California 92660, Voice: 949-608-6900, Fax: 949-608-6994, gferruzzo@ferruzzo.com, www.ferruzzo.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation.



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Aaron H. Jacoby

Managing Partner, LA;

Chair, Automotive

213.443.7568

aaron.jacoby@afslaw.com

Victor P. Danhi

Partner, SF

415.757.5505

victor.danhi@afslaw.com

Russell P. McRory

Partner, NY

212.484.3942

russell.mcrory@afslaw.com

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California

Ferruzzo, Thomas, *Ferruzzo & Ferruzzo, LLP*, 3737 Birch Street, Suite 400, Newport Beach, California 92660, Voice: 949-293-2573, Fax: 949-608-6994, tferruzzo@ferruzzo.com, www.ferruzzo.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.



Goldberg, Justin, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West Fifth Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7662, Fax: 213-629-7401, justin.goldberg@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. Goldberg specializes in corporate law and commercial transactions, including corporate structuring, finance, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, corporate compliance, real estate, and sponsorships. He advises clients within food and beverage, sports, insurance and reinsurance, cannabis, and automotive industries. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Gubernick, Jeffrey, *Bishton Gubernick*, 6701 Center Drive West, Suite 925, Los Angeles, California 90045, Voice: 310-337-4866, Fax: 310-337-4860, jeff@bishgub.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Litigation.

Hochman, Kevin, *Dealer Advisory Group*, 4109 Prado de la Puma, Calabasas, California 91302, Voice: 213-340-4472, www.dealerag.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Environment, Health, and Safety, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning.

Hoffman, Christopher, *Fisher & Phillips LLP*, 4747 Executive Drive, Suite 1000, San Diego, California 92121, Voice: 858-597-9600, Fax: 858-597-9601, choffman@fisherphillips.com, www.fisherphillips.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law.

Holloway, Steven, *Rusnak Auto Group*, P.O. Box 70489, Pasadena, California 91117, Voice: 626-229-2720, sholloway@rusnakgroup.com, www.rusnakonline.com.

Hughes, Gavin, *Law Offices of Gavin M. Hughes*, 4360 Arden Way, Suite 1, Sacramento, California 95864, Voice: 916-900-8022, gavin@hughesdealerlaw.com, www.hughesdealerlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.



Jacoby, Aaron, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West Fifth Street 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7568, Fax: 213-629-7401, aaron.jacoby@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. Jacoby is Managing Partner of the Firm's Los Angeles Office and Chair of the firm's national Automotive Industry Practice Group, which the Los Angeles Daily Journal calls the most forward-thinking in the automotive sector. Mr. Jacoby is focused on federal and state regulatory matters, franchise disputes, business transactions, class actions, and government investigations. His exclusive automotive industry focus enables him to counsel clients on a wide variety of transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

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California

Kackstetter, Wade, Manning, Leaver, Bruder, and Berberich, LLP, 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1150, Los Angeles, California 90017, Voice: 323-937-4730, wkackstetter@manningleaver.com, www.manningleaver.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Land Use, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.

Kolar, Esq., Elizabeth, Kolar & Associates, 12241 Newport Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92705, Voice: 714-544-0041, Fax: 714-544-0051, elizabeth@kolarandassociates.com, www.kolarandassociates.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Lemon Laws.

Koumbis, George, Penske Motor Group, LLC, 3534 N. Peck Road, El Monte, California 91731, Voice: 626-580-6006, George.Koumbis@PenskeMotorgroup.com, www.penskemotorgroup.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.



Lee, Nathan, Gray Duffy LLP, 21700 Oxnard Street, Suite 1950, Woodland Hills, California 91367, Voice: 818-907-4000, nlee@grayduffylaw.com, www.grayduffylaw.com. Practice Areas: Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Maas, Brian, California New Car Dealers Association, 1517 L Street, Sacramento, California 95814, Voice: 914-441-2599, bmaas@cncta.org, www.cncta.org. Practice Areas: Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.



Meyer, David, ArentFox Schiff LLP, 555 West Fifth Street 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013. Voice: 213-443-7647, Fax: 213-629-7401, david.meyer@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. Meyer is a transactional lawyer who provides effective counsel to auto dealers and dealership groups throughout the business life cycle from formation through operations, expansion, and eventual sale. His practice focuses on buy/sell transactions, real estate, financings, and succession planning. A major focus of Mr. Meyer's practice is advising buyers and sellers in acquisitions and dispositions of dealerships and dealership groups and in the related real estate matters. Mr. Meyer and the ArentFox Schiff Automotive Group has also been active in advising technology companies servicing and disrupting the auto retail industry in compliance and contractual matters. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Molino, Anthony, The Molino Firm, APLC, 4751 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 207, Los Angeles, California 90010, Voice: 323-692-4010, Fax: 323-692-4015, molino@molinolawfirm.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Lemon Laws, Litigation.



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Manning, Leaver, Bruder & Berberich, LLP
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California

Morrissey, Sean, *Ferruzzo & Ferruzzo, LLP*, 3737 Birch Street, Suite 400, Newport Beach, California 92660, Voice: 949-608-6900, smorrissey@ferruzzo.com, www.ferruzzo.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Fraud, Lemon Laws, Litigation.

O'Connor, Thomas, *Callahan, Thompson, Sherman & Caudill*, 2601 Main Street, Suite 800, Irvine, California 92614, Voice: 949-261-2872, toconnor@ctsclaw.com, www.ctsclaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Odisho, Hannibal, *Saber Law Group*, 101 Howard Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94105, Voice: 408-887-2481, hannibal.odisho@gmail.com, www.saberlaw.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Litigation.



Paras, Gus, *ArentFox Schiff LLP*, 555 West 5th Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7612, gus.paras@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. Paras counsels automobile dealers on transactional and regulatory matters including mergers and acquisitions, commercial lending agreements, corporate reorganization, legal compliance, franchise obligations, and real estate transactions. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Ponce, Carmen, *Trophy Automotive Dealer Group, LLC*, 21140 S. Avalon Boulevard, Carson, California 90745, Voice: 818-744-0783, carmen.ponce@tadg.us. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance.

Prudian, Gary, *Manning Leaver Bruder & Berberich, LLP*, 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1150, Los Angeles, California 90017, Voice: 323-937-4730, Fax: 323-937-6727, gprudian@manningleaver.com, www.manningleaver.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Lemon Laws, Litigation.

Qutami, Leila, *Galpin Motors, Inc.*, 15505 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, California 91343, Voice: 818-778-2988, lqutami@galpin.com, www.galpin.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.



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California

Rakhshanifar, Ali, *Auto Legal Group, LLP*, 4300 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 126, San Jose, California 95129, Voice: 408-357-4014, alir@autolegalgroup.com, www.autolegalgroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws.

Rasmussen, Halbert, *Scali Rasmussen*, 300 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2750, Los Angeles, California 90071, Voice: 213-239-5622, Fax: 213-239-5623, hrasmussen@scalilaw.com, www.scalirasmussen.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Rasmussen, Richard, *Lagerlof LLP*, 155 N. Lake Avenue, 11th Floor, Pasadena, California 91101, Voice: 626-535-1900, rasmussen@lagerlof.com, www.lagerlof.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Rho, Angela, *Cliff LLP*, 425 Page Mill Road, Suite 211, Palo Alto, California 94306, Voice: 650-814-0082, angela@cliffllawgroup.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Litigation, Risk Management.

Robinet, Timothy, *Manning, Leaver, Bruder & Berberich, LLP*, 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1150, Los Angeles, California 90017, Voice: 323-937-4730, Fax: 323-937-6727, trobinett@manningleaver.com, www.manningleaver.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Rogers, Michael, *ROGERS | SMITH, APC*, 10620 Treena Street, Suite 230, San Diego, California 92131, Voice: 619-393-7150, Fax: 619-330-3785, mrogers@rogerssmithlaw.com, www.rogerssmithlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Sanborn, Mark, *Oremor Automotive Group*, 1377 Kettering Drive, Ontario, California 91761, Voice: 909-544-9236, Mark@oremor.net, www.oremorautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.

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Scali, Christian, *Scali Rasmussen*, 300 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2750, Los Angeles, California 90071, Voice: 213-239-5622, Fax: 213-239-5623, cscali@scalilaw.com, www.autodealeradvice.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Siegler, Edward, *Law Office of Edward J. Siegler*, 16633 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 900, Encino, California 91436, Voice: 818-906-9892, e.siegler@verizon.net. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues.

Singer, Lisa, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 W. 5th Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-988-6691, lisa.singer@afslaw.com, www.arentfox.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Skobin, Alan, *Galpin Motors, Inc.*, 15505 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, California 91343, Voice: 818-778-2970, Fax: 818-778-2973, askobin@galpin.com, www.galpin.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Smith, Brent, *Manning, Leaver, Bruder & Berberich, LLP*, 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1150, Los Angeles, California 90017, Voice: 323-937-4730, bsmith@manningleaver.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Stearns, Andrew, *Robards & Stearns*, 718 University Avenue, Suite 216, Los Gatos, California 95032, Voice: 408-214-6432, Fax: 408-560-9592, astearns@RobardsStearns.com, www.robardsstearns.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management.



Tenner, Erin, *Gray Duffy, LLP*, 21700 Oxnard Street, Ste. 1950, Woodland Hills, California 91367 15760, Voice: 818-907-4071, Fax: 818-783-4551, etenner@grayduffylaw.com, www.grayduffylaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, EPLI, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal.

Thomas, Cynthia, *SoCal Penske*, 9136 E. Firestone Boulevard, Downey, California 90241, Voice: 562-904-5693, Fax: 562-904-5689, cthomas@socalpenske.com.

Thompson, Robert, *Callahan, Thompson, Sherman & Caudill*, 2601 Main Street, Suite 800, Irvine, California 92614, Voice: 949-261-2872, rthompson@ctsclaw.com, www.ctsclaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Wang, Shirley, *Saber Law Group*, 101 Howard Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94105, Voice: 415-278-1400, Fax: 415-278-1401, swang@saberlaw.com, www.saberlaw.com. Practice Areas: Employment Law.

Weill, Andrew, *Weill & Mazer*, 201 Spear Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, California 94105, Voice: 415-421-0730, Fax: 415-421-2355, Weill@weillmazer.com, www.weillmazer.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.



Wheatley, Sean, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 555 West Fifth Street, 48th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013, Voice: 213-443-7586, Fax: 213-629-7401, sean.wheatley@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Sean's practice includes state regulatory, legislative, and government affairs within ArentFox Schiff's Automotive practice. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Colorado

Blake, Melissa, *Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP*, 410 17th Street, Suite 2200, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 303-921-7481, mkblake@bhfs.com, www.bhfs.com. Practice Areas: Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Cohen, Rob, *Rob Cohen, PLC*, 110 Omaha Drive, Breckenridge, Colorado 80424, Voice: 714-393-6624, rob@robcohen.law. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Croy, Lacey, *Holland & Knight LLP*, 1801 California Street, Suite 5000, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 386-290-6522, lacey.croy@hklaw.com, www.hklaw.com/en/professionals/l/lowe-henry-irving.

Dietrich, Stephen, *Holland & Knight LLP*, 1801 California Street, Suite 5000, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 303-974-6500, stephen.dietrich@hklaw.com, www.hklaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Colorado

Dommermuth, Michael, *Fairfield and Woods P.C.*, 1801 California Street, Suite 2600, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 303-894-4432, Fax: 303-830-1033, mdommermuth@fwlaw.com, www.fwlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Earnest, J. Randolph, *Fairfield and Woods P.C.*, 1801 California Street, Suite 2600, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 303-894-4423, Fax: 303-830-1033, rearnest@fwlaw.com, www.fwlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Groves, Matthew, *Colorado Automobile Dealers Association*, 290 East Speer Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80203, Voice: 303-282-1449, matthew.groves@colorado.auto. Practice Areas: Advertising, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Compliance, Dealer Fraud, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Internet, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Hutchinson, Patrick, *McDonald Automotive Group*, 6060 S. Broadway, Littleton, Colorado 80121, Voice: 303-795-1100, phutchinson@mcdonaldag.com, www.mcdonaldag.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Joyce, Craig, *Fairfield and Woods P.C.*, 1801 California Street, Suite 2600, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 303-830-2400, Fax: 303-830-1033, cjoyce@fwlaw.com, www.fwlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Law, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Seedig, Sarah, *Holland & Knight LLP*, 1801 California Street, Suite 5000, Denver, Colorado 80202, Voice: 303-974-6535, Fax: 303-974-6659, Sarah.seedig@hklaw.com, www.hklaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Connecticut

Fryxell, Sarah, *Connecticut Auto Retailers Association*, 36 Trumbull Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, Voice: 860-293-2500, sfryxell@ctcar.org, www.ctcar.org. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dealer Fraud, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.



Taylor, Christine, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, Fax: 518-452-6435, christine.taylor@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws. Mrs. Taylor has represented auto dealerships with compliance issues, including annual filings with the NY State Department of Financial Services, DMV Registration Applications with required zoning compliance, required state registration of company and d/b/a, appropriate tax filings and employment classifications. Mrs. Taylor also counsels on employment issues, website ADA issues, town violations, Variance Requests and Article 78 proceedings, as well as Attorney General Consumer Issues.

Delaware

Henrick, Randy, *Randy Henrick & Associates, LLC*, 206 Baldy Lane, Middletown, Delaware 19709, Voice: 267-481-5636, wrhenrick@gmail.com, www.autodealercompliance.net. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Sheridan, Chip, *Sheridan Auto Group*, 114 S. Dupont Highway, New Castle, Delaware 19720, Voice: 302-319-3951, csheridan@sheridanautogroup.com, www.sheridannissan.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

District of Columbia

Andricos, Catharine, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 1909 K Street NW, 4th Floor, Washington, District of Columbia 20006, Voice: 202-327-9706, candricos@hudco.com.

Benoit, Michael, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 1909 K Street NW, 4th Floor, Washington, District of Columbia 20006, Voice: 202-327-9705, Fax: 202-223-6935, mbenoit@hudco.com, www.hudco.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Buchman, Barry, *Haynes and Boone, LLP*, 800 17th Street, Suite 500, NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20006, Voice: 202-654-4574, Fax: 202-654-4271, barry.buchman@haynesboone.com, www.haynesboone.com. Practice Areas: Insurance Laws, Litigation, Risk Management.

Chareq, James, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 1909 K Street NW, 4th Floor, Washington, District of Columbia 20006, Voice: 202-327-9711, Fax: 202-223-6935, jchareq@hudco.com, www.hudco.com.



Natesan, Shalini, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, shalini.natesan@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues. Ms. Natesan focuses largely on representing auto dealerships in their transactional matters. Ms. Natesan has handled legal matters arising from franchise issues, change of ownership, buy-sell agreements, drafting necessary documents for corporate formations and transactions, and creating subsidiary entities to handle specific areas of a dealer's business. Ms. Natesan has also worked in navigating all aspects of large commercial real estate transactions.

O'Donnell, John, *Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association*, 5301 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 210, Washington, District of Columbia 20015, Voice: 202-237-7200, Fax: 202-237-9090, jod@wanada.org, www.wanada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.



Taylor, Christine, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, Fax: 518-452-6435, christine.taylor@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws. Mrs. Taylor has represented auto dealerships with compliance issues, including annual filings with the NY State Department of Financial Services, DMV Registration Applications with required zoning compliance, required state registration of company and d/b/a, appropriate tax filings and employment classifications. Mrs. Taylor also counsels on employment issues, website ADA issues, town violations, Variance Requests and Article 78 proceedings, as well as Attorney General Consumer Issues.

Florida

Allen, Jason, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, Fax: 850-942-4869, jallen@bsm-law.com, www.bsm-law.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Constitutional Law, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Andrews, Micah, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-877-6404, mandrews@dealerlawyer.com, www.dealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Termination Disputes.

Awner, Jonathan, *Akerman LLP*, 98 SE 7th Street, Suite 1100, Miami, Florida 33131, Voice: 305-982-5615, jonathan.awner@akerman.com, www.akerman.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Bader, Nicholas, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, Fax: 850-942-4869, nbader@bsm-law.com, www.bsm-law.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Constitutional Law, Dealer Fraud, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Bell, Jill, *Hill Ward Henderson*, 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3700, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-222-8521, jbell@hwlaw.com. Practice Areas: Land Use, Real Estate.

Benter, Tim, *Blue Compass RV*, 301 East Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 700, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301, Voice: 480-200-1257, tim.benter@bluecompassrv.com, www.bluecompassrv.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Bethel, Alison, *AutoNation, Inc.*, 200 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 1400, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301, Voice: 954-769-3071, Fax: 954-769-6445, bethela@autonation.com, www.autonation.com. Practice Areas: Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Bissell, William, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, kbissell@dealerlawyer.com, www.dealerlawyer.com.

Brandes, Marc, *Kurkin Forehand Brandes LLP*, 18851 NE 29th Avenue, Suite 303, Aventura, Florida 33180, Voice: 305-929-8500, Fax: 305-675-0564, mbrandes@kfb-law.com, www.kfb-law.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes.

Branton, Christopher, *Hill Ward Henderson*, P.O. Box 2231, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-221-3900, Fax: 813-221-2900, chris.branton@hwlaw.com, www.hwlaw.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Fraud, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes.

Florida

Buchanan, Janet, *Automotive Management Services, Inc. (AMSI)*, 505 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, Voice: 561-655-8900, jbuchanan@amsinet.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Law, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Caldarelli, Jennifer, *JM&A Group*, 500 Jim Moran Boulevard, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, Voice: 954-418-5350, jennifer.caldarelli@jmagroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Casso, Jennifer, *Pompano Automotive Associates, LLC dba Joey Accardi Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Subaru*, 909 South Federal Highway, Pompano Beach, Florida 33062, Voice: 954-510-2248, Fax: 877-440-1915, jennifer@cassolaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Internet, Labor Law, Risk Management.

Cato, Carmen, *Hill Ward Henderson*, 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3700, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-221-3900, carmen.cato@hwlaw.com, www.hwlaw.com.

Cook, Ejola, *AUTO LEGAL GROUP FLORIDA, PLLC*, 4201 Vinkemulder Road, Coconut Creek, Florida 33073, Voice: 754-282-4961, ejola@autolegalgroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Davey, Brian, *St. Denis and Davey, PA*, 1300 Riverplace Boulevard, Suite 401, Jacksonville, Florida 32207, Voice: 904-396-1996, brian@sdtriallaw.com, www.stdenisdavey.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Lemon Laws.

Dayhoff, Cynthia, *Phil Smith Automotive Group*, 4250 N. Federal Highway, Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064, Voice: 954-545-7204, cindyd@philsmithmanage.com. Practice Areas: Employment Law, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Diaz-Rousselot, William, *Murgado Automotive Group, Inc.*, 665 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33130, Voice: 305-777-2867, Fax: 305-777-2881, w.diaz@murgadoautogroup.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Feffer, Lauren, *Automotive Management Services, Inc.*, 505 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, Voice: 561-655-8900, lfeffer@amsinet.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

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Florida

Forehand, John, *Kurkin Forehand Brandes LLP*, 1089 W. Morse Boulevard, Suite D, Winter Park, Florida 32789, Voice: 850-391-7705, Fax: 850-391-2645, jforehand@kfb-law.com, www.kfb-law.com.

Foster, Dana, *JM&A Group*, 350 Jim Moran Boulevard, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, Voice: 954-429-2140, dana.e.foster@jmagroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Goldsmith, Glen, *Glen R. Goldsmith PA*, 9500 S. Dadeland Boulevard, Suite 601, Miami, Florida 33156, Voice: 305-670-5500, Fax: 305-670-5596, ggoldsmith@goldsmithpa.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation.

Graham, Alex, *Scott McRae Automotive Group*, 1725 Memorial Park Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204, Voice: 904-380-4244, agraham@smagcorp.com, www.scottmcraejobs.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Grecsek, Timothy, *Braman Management Association*, 2060 Biscayne Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33137, Voice: 305-576-1889, Fax: 305-576-9898, timothyg@bramanmanagement.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Griffin, Janice, *Phil Smith Management, Inc.*, 4250 N. Federal Highway, Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064, Voice: 954-545-7212, Fax: 954-867-5603, janiceg@philsmithmanage.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

Guttuso, Maria, *JM&A Group*, 500 Jim Moran Boulevard, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, Voice: 954-429-2057, Fax: 954-429-2598, maria.guttuso@jmagroup.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Hamner, Frank, *Frank A. Hamner, P.A.*, 1011 N. Wymore Road, Winter Park, Florida 32789, Voice: 407-645-4549, Fax: 407-539-2257, fhamner@fahpa.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management.

Hawkes, Jeremiah, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, jhawkes@dealerlawyer.com, www.dealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Civil Liability, Constitutional Law, Dealer Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Termination Disputes.

Hayes, Christopher, *Akerman LLP*, 420 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1200, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-419-8435, chris.hayes@akerman.com, www.akerman.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate.

Hill, D. Graham, *Williams Automotive Group*, 5350 Eagleston Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, Florida 33544, Voice: 561-715-4138, ghill@wagfl.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Hudock, Leslie, *Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC*, 401 E. Jackson Street, Suite 2400, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-222-3376, Leslie.Hudock@bipc.com, www.bipc.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Humphries, J., *Shutts & Bowen LLP*, 300 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1600, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-835-6940, Fax: 407-425-8316, jhumphries@shutts.com, www.shutts.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Jezierny, Paul, *Winston & Strawn LLP*, 200 South Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 2400, Miami, Florida 33131, Voice: 305-910-0676, Fax: 305-910-0505, pjezierny@winston.com, www.winston.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Financing Documentation.

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Jacksonville, FL 32207

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600 Brickell Avenue, #1715
Miami, FL 33131

PANAMA CITY OFFICE

132 Harrison Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401

TAMPA OFFICE

601 Bayshore Boulevard, #630
Tampa, FL 33606

Florida

Jockers, Alan, *Craig Zinn Automotive Group*, 1841 North State Road 7, Hollywood, Florida 33021, Voice: 954-967-4110, ajockers@czag.net. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Katz, John Cameron, *Shutts & Bowen LLP*, 300 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1600, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-835-6787, katzj@shutts.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Real Estate, Tax Laws.

Kendrick, John, *Automotive Management Services, Inc.*, 505 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, Voice: 561-655-8900, jkendrick@amsinet.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate.

Killgore, Jr., Frank, *Killgore, Pearlman & Semanie PA*, 800 N. Magnolia Avenue, Suite 1500, Orlando, Florida 32803, Voice: 407-425-1020, Fax: 407-839-3635, fhkillgore@kpsds.com, www.kpsds.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Koenig, Christopher, *Greenway Automotive Group*, 9001 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32817, Voice: 407-203-0119, Fax: 407-367-0671, christopherkoenig@greenwayauto.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Corporate Law, International, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Kornsuwan, Sai, *Automotive Management Services, Inc.*, 505 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, Voice: 561-655-8900, skornsuwan@amsinet.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Kuhl, Lewis, *Attorney at Law*, 2150 N. Bayshore Drive, PH 11, Miami, Florida 33137, Voice: 954-821-4294, ldkuhl@aol.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, International, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management.

Kurkin, Alex, *Kurkin Forehand Brandes LLP*, 18851 NE 29th Avenue, Suite 303, Miami, Florida 33180, Voice: 305-929-8500, Fax: 305-675-0564, akurkin@kfb-law.com, www.kfb-law.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.



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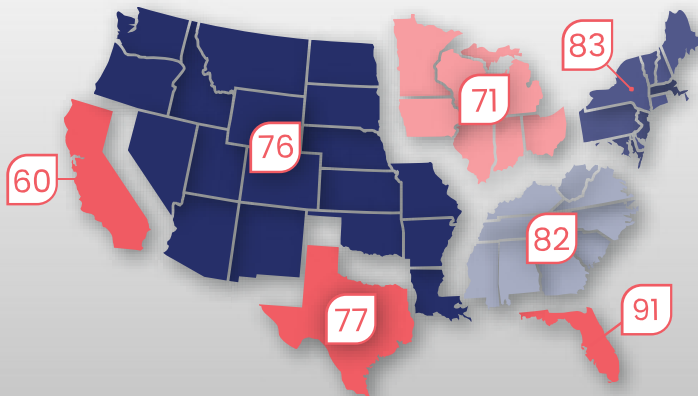
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Florida

Leibowitz, David, *Braman Management Association*, 2060 Biscayne Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33137, Voice: 305-576-1889, Fax: 305-576-9898, davidl@bramanmanagement.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Little, Michael, *Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP*, 311 Park Place Boulevard, Suite 300, Clearwater, Florida 33759, Voice: 727-461-1818, mikel@jpfirm.com, www.jpfirm.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Lohmann, Brianna, *Shutts & Bowen*, 300 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1600, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-835-6901, briannalohmann2012@gmail.com, www.shutts.com. Practice Areas: Corporate Law, Tax Laws.

Lovett, C., *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 863-781-3544, LLovett@DealerLawyer.com, www.dealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

McCaffrey, Ivania, *Automotive Management Services, Inc.*, 505 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, Voice: 561-655-8900, Fax: 561-584-5001, imccaffrey@amsinet.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Bankruptcy, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance.

Ornstein, Mark, *Jenkins Auto Group*, 2025 SW College Road, Ocala, Florida 34471, Voice: 321-695-4360, mlo@jenkinscars.com, www.jenkinsautogroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Paretti, Kenneth, *Quinton and Paretti, P.A.*, 1 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 1405, Miami, Florida 33131, Voice: 305-358-2727, Fax: 305-358-0779, kparetti@quintonparetti.com, www.quintonparetti.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Parker, Logan, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, lparker@dealerlawyer.com, www.dealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Quinton, III, A. Edward, *Quinton & Paretti, P.A.*, 1 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 1405, Miami, Florida 33131, Voice: 305-358-2727, equinton@quintonparetti.com, www.quintonparetti.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Rubin, Stefan, *Shutts & Bowen LLP*, 300 South Orange Ave, Suite 1600, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-835-6735, srubin@shutts.com, www.shutts.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Intellectual Property, Internet, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Sanchez, Michael, *Kurkin Forehand Brandes LLP*, 1089 W. Morse Boulevard, Suite D, Winter Park, Florida 32789, Voice: 407-559-6552, msanchez@kfb-law.com.

Semanie, Michael, *Killgore, Pearlman & Semanie PA*, 800 N. Magnolia Avenue, Suite 1500, Orlando, Florida 32803, Voice: 407-425-1020, Fax: 407-839-3635, msemanie@kpsds.com, www.kpsds.com/author/msemanie. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.

Shack, Brian, *Braman Management Association*, 2060 Biscayne Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33137, Voice: 305-576-1889, bshack@bramanmanagement.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Shimberg, Robert, *Hill Ward Henderson*, 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3700, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-227-8469, robert.shimberg@hwhlaw.com, www.hwhlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Florida

Sickles, Robert, *Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP*, 201 N. Franklin Street, Suite 3050, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-543-9817, robert.sickles@dinsmore.com, www.dinsmore.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Siegel, Jacob, *Armen Cadillac, Inc.*, 19667 Turnberry Way, Apartment 14H, Aventura, Florida 33180, Voice: 305-935-5248jjsiegel@msn.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Sox, Richard, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, Fax: 850-942-4869, rsox@bsm-law.com, www.bsm-law.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Spickard, Craig, *Kurkin Forehand Brandes LLP*, 1089 West Morse Boulevard, Suite D, Winter Park, Florida 32789, Voice: 850-391-7704, Fax: 805-391-2645, cspickard@kfb-law.com, www.kfb-law.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.



St. Denis, Donald, *St. Denis and Davey, P.A.*, 1300 Riverplace Boulevard, Suite 401, Jacksonville, Florida 32207, Voice: 904-396-1996, Fax: 904-396-1991, don@sdtriallaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Lemon Laws. Mr. St. Denis is Senior Shareholder in St. Denis & Davey P.A. With 16 lawyers in offices in Jacksonville, Miami, Panama City and Tampa. Practice Areas: Insurance Defense, General Liability, class action litigation, advertising, employment issues, employment law, finance and regulatory complexities, financing documentation, lemon laws.

Straske, Stephen, *Ferman Automotive Management Services*, 1306 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33606, Voice: 813-251-2765, x1228, Fax: 813-254-4798, sstraske@ferman.com, www.ferman.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Tax Laws.

Sutton, Kevin, *Hill Ward Henderson*, 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3700, Tampa, Florida 33602, Voice: 813-227-8492, kevin.sutton@hwlaw.com, www.hwlaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Taylor, Lane, *Automotive Management Services, Inc.*, 505 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, Voice: 561-655-8900, Fax: 561-584-5001, ltaylor@amsinet.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws.

Thomas, Andrew, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 2822 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Voice: 850-878-6404, athomas@dealerlawyer.com, www.dealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Walsh, John, *South Motors / Vista Motors*, 16165 South Dixie Highway, Miami, Florida 33157, Voice: 305-256-2090, john.walsh@southmotors.net, www.southmotors.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Warfield, Leann, *Shutts & Bowen LLP*, 300 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1600, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-423-3200, lwarfield@shutts.com, www.shutts.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Wasserman, Scott, *Akerman LLP*, 98 SE 7th Street, Miami, Florida 33131, Voice: 305-982-5661, scott.wasserman@akerman.com, www.akerman.com.

Webb, Abbigail, *ACMGMT*, 5875 NW 163rd Street, Suite 105, Miami Lakes, Florida 33014, Voice: 305-779-9160, ABBIGAIL@DODGEMIAMI.COM. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

White, Frank, *Sandy Sansing Dealerships*, 5705 Pensacola Boulevard, Pensacola, Florida 32505, Voice: 850-748-9025, frank@sandysansing.com, www.sandysansing.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Georgia

Baker, Kelly, *Asbury Automotive Group, Inc.*, 2905 Premiere Parkway, Suite 300, Duluth, Georgia 30097, Voice: 770-418-8200, Fax: 678-829-0691, kbaker@asburyauto.com, www.asburyauto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Bauman, C. Davis, *C. Davis Bauman P.C.*, P.O. Box 1609, Clayton, Georgia 30576, Voice: 602-284-3508, cdavisbauman@gmail.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Calloway, Dean, *Asbury Automotive Group, Inc.*, 2905 Premiere Parkway, Suite 300, Duluth, Georgia 30097, Voice: 770-418-8228, dcalloway@asburyauto.com, www.asburyauto.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Georgia

Carmona, Hugo, *Cox Automotive*, 6205A Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30328, Voice: 470-829-3529, hugo.carmona@coxautoinc.com, www.coxautoinc.com.

Cleveland, Blair, *Butler Automotive Group*, 4517 Forsyth Road, P.O. Box 7468, Macon, Georgia 31209, Voice: 478-314-2366, blair@butlercars.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Litigation, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning.

Fetter, Steven, *Cohen Pollock Merlin Turner, P.C.*, 3350 Riverwood Parkway, SE, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, Voice: 770-858-1288, Fax: 770-857-4825, sfetter@cpmtlaw.com, www.cpmtlaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Land Use, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning.

Gregory, John, *Gregory Law LLC*, 3925 Merriweather Woods, Johns Creek, Georgia 30022, Voice: 404-483-1212, Fax: 770-255-0713, eric.gregory@thegregorylawgroup.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Hill, JonVieve, *Fisher & Phillips LLP*, 1230 Peachtree St NE, Suite 3300, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Voice: 404-240-5856, jhill@fisherphillips.com, www.fisherphillips.com. Practice Areas: Employment Law, Litigation.

Hurley, James, *Asbury Automotive Group, Inc.*, 2905 Premiere Parkway, Suite 300, Duluth, Georgia 30097, Voice: 770-418-8244, jhurley@asburyauto.com, www.asburyauto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, Internet, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate.

Jones, Ken, *Five Star Automotive Group*, 3109 Clairmont Road NE, Suite A-1, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, Voice: 404-382-8733, Fax: 404-254-1823, ken.jones@fivestaronline.net. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, EPLI, Litigation, Risk Management.

Jordan, Benjamin, *Georgia Automobile Dealers Association*, 2060 Powers Ferry Road SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, Voice: 912-996-5300, Fax: 770-431-9341, ben_jordan@gada.com.

Kirschner, Lea, *Georgia Automobile Dealers Association*, 2060 Powers Ferry Road SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, Voice: 770-432-1658, lea_kirschner@gada.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

McKinley, John, *Mozley, Finlayson & Loggins LLP*, 1050 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 1500, Atlanta, Georgia 30338-7704, Voice: 404-256-0700, Fax: 404-250-9355, jmckinley@mflaw.com, www.mflaw.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws.

Overstreet, James, *Klosinski Overstreet, LLP*, 1229 Augusta West Parkway, Augusta, Georgia 30909, Voice: 706-863-2255, jco@klosinski.com, www.klosinski.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Bankruptcy, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Intellectual Property, Liability, Litigation, Real Estate, Tax Laws.

Perrin, James, *Perrin Automotive Group*, 2160 Whitekirk St NW, Kennesaw, Georgia 30152, Voice: 678-524-5541, jperrin@perrinautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Tax Laws.

Press, Steven, *Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, & Berkowitz P.C.*, 3414 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, Voice: 404-221-6534, Fax: 404-238-9634, spress@bakerdonelson.com, www.bakerdonelson.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Lemon Law, Litigation, Real Estate.

Simpson, Matthew, *Fisher & Phillips LLP*, 1075 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 3500, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Voice: 404-231-1400, msimpson@fisherphillips.com, www.fisherphillips.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Labor Law, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws.

Sprinkle, A. Todd, *Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP*, 1075 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 1500, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Voice: 678-690-5750, toddsprinkle@parkerpoe.com, www.parkerpoe.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Bankruptcy, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Liability, Litigation.

Stone, Matthew, *Stone Kalfus LLP*, One Midtown Plaza, 1360 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 1250, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Voice: 404-736-2602, Fax: 877-736-2601, Matt.Stone@StoneKalfus.com, www.StoneKalfus.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Villasana, George, *Asbury Automotive Group, Inc.*, 2905 Premiere Parkway, Suite 300, Duluth, Georgia 30097, Voice: 770-418-8246, gvillasana@asburyauto.com, www.asburyauto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Warren, Frederick (Rick), *Ford & Harrison LLP*, 271 17th Street, NW, Suite 1900, Atlanta, Georgia 30363, Voice: 404-888-3828, rwarren@fordharrison.com, www.fordharrison.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Labor Law, Litigation.

Idaho

Crane, Tracy, *Dennis Dillon Auto Group Office of General Counsel*, 9599 West Fairview Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83704, Voice: 208-985-7586, tcrane@dennisdillon.com, www.dennisdillon.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Industry Relations, Internet, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

McCleery, Abby, *Kendall Automotive Group Inc*, 3449 E. Copper Point Drive, Meridian, Idaho 83642, Voice: 541-335-4549, abbymcCleery@kendallauto.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Governmental Regulation, Intellectual Property, Litigation, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Piel, Loren, *Kendall Automotive Group Inc.*, 3449 E. Copper Point Drive, Meridian, Idaho 83642, Voice: 541-335-4575, Fax: 208-985-7705, lorenpiel@kendallauto.com, www.kendallautogroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Intellectual Property, Internet, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Illinois

Bills, Katherine, *Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.*, 233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 9400, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Voice: 414-298-8435, kbills@reinhartlaw.com, www.reinhartlaw.com. Practice Areas: Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Real Estate.

Blum, David, *Akerman LLP*, 71 S. Wacker Drive, 46th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Voice: 312-870-8018, Fax: 312-424-1900, david.blum@akerman.com, www.akerman.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Internet, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Burnett, Justin, *Hardt, Stern & Kayne, P.C.*, 2610 Lake Cook Road, Suite 200, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015, Voice: 847-597-2146, jburnett@hsklaw.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Labor Law, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Cardosi, Julie, *Law Office of Julie A Cardosi, PC*, 3040 Spring Mill Drive, Suite B, Springfield, Illinois 62704, Voice: 217-787-9782, Fax: 217-787-9783, jcardosi@autocounsel.com, www.autocounsel.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation,

Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Christen, Lindsey, *Camping World and Good Sam*, 444 W. Lake Street, Suite 270, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Voice: 312-759-4366, Ichristen@campingworld.com, www.campingworld.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

DeBerry, Brandon, *Camping World and Good Sam*, 444 West Lake Street, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Voice: 614-314-2141, brandon.deberry@campingworld.com, www.campingworld.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Doll, Lawrence, *Illinois Automobile Dealers Association*, 300 W. Edwards Street, Suite 400, Springfield, Illinois 62704, Voice: 217-753-0220, Fax: 217-753-3424, Idoll@illinoisdealers.com, www.illinoisdealers.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Elias, John, *Elias, Meginnes & Seghetti, P.C.*, 416 Main Street, Suite 1400, Peoria, Illinois 61602, Voice: 309-637-6000, Fax: 309-637-8514, jelias@emrslaw.com, www.emrslaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Internet, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Henderson, Kate, *Camping World and Good Sam*, 250 Parkway Drive, Suite 270, Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069, Voice: 843-830-9151, kate.henderson@campingworld.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Kayne, Joseph, *Hardt, Stern & Kayne, P.C.*, 2610 Lake Cook Road, Suite 200, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015, Voice: 847-597-2150, Fax: 847-597-2144, jkayne@hsklaw.com, www.hsklaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Levin, Ira, Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C., 330 North Wabash Avenue, 21st Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Voice: 312-840-7065, Fax: 312-840-7900, ilevin@burkelaw.com, www.burkelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Illinois

Lyman, Mark, *Lyman Law Firm*, 227 West Monroe Street, Suite 2650, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Voice: 312-762-9524, Fax: 312-704-4500, mark@lymanlawus.com, www.lymanlawus.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

O'Keefe, Dennis, *Dennis M. O'Keefe PC*, 1025 W. Everett Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045, Voice: 847-482-0400, dokeefe@dmokeefepc.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Pelinski, Shermin, *Fields Auto Group*, 2100 Frontage Road, Glencoe, Illinois 60022, Voice: 847-242-3262, Fax: 847-835-0854, shermin@fieldsauto.com, www.fieldsauto.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Risk Management.

Pestell, David, *Hardt, Stern & Kayne, P.C.*, 2610 Lake Cook Road, Suite 200, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015, Voice: 847-597-2140, dpestell@hsklaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Consumer Fraud, Corporate Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning.

Riccione, John, *Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP*, 111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2800, Chicago, Illinois 60601, Voice: 312-436-4173, Fax: 312 276-8085, jriccione@taftlaw.com, www.taftlaw.com. Practice Areas: Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Constitutional Law, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate.

Ross, Kimberly, *FordHarrison LLP*, 180 N. Stetson Avenue, Suite 1660, Chicago, Illinois 60601, Voice: 312-960-6111, kross@fordharrison.com, www.fordharrison.com/KimberlyRoss. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Litigation, Termination Disputes.

Scott, David, *Napleton Automotive Group*, One Oakbrook Terrace, Suite 600, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181, Voice: 630-455-2917, david.scott@napleton.com, www.napleton.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Sieracki, Julie, *Currie Motors Automotive Group*, 8401 W. Roosevelt Road, Forest Park, Illinois 60130, Voice: 708-488-2202, Fax: 708-771-2785, julie@curriemotors.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Litigation, Real Estate.

Statland, Jay, *Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.*, 330 N. Wabash, Suite 2100, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Voice: 312-840-7101, Fax: 312-840-7900, jstatland@burkelaw.com, www.burkelaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Stracher, Les, *Napleton Automotive Group*, One Oakbrook Terrace, Suite 600, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181, Voice: 630-530-3955, les@napleton.com, www.napleton.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Strong Marks, Angelique, *CARS.COM, Inc*, 300 S. Riverdale, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Voice: 313-801-8077, astrongmarks@cars.com, www.cars.com.

VanderPloeg, Eric, *Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.*, 330 N. Wabash Avenue, 21st Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Voice: 312-840-7129, evanderploeg@burkelaw.com, www.burkelaw.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Employment Issues, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Indiana

Bosak, Cameron, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, The Emelie Building, 334 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 219-789-0833, cbosak29@gmail.com, www.skofirm.com/office/indianapolis.

Burt, Robert, *Okeley Automotive Group*, P.O. Box 49, Anderson, Indiana 46015, Voice: 765-378-3062, Fax: 765-378-8070, rburt@indianafinance.net, www.oakmotors.com.

Gjerdingen, Erick, *Mallor Grodner LLP*, 511 S. Woodscrest Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, Voice: 812-272-4908, egjerdingen@lawmg.com, www.lawmg.com. Practice Areas: Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Financing Documentation, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Grodner, Geoffrey, *Mallor Grodner LLP*, 511 Woodscrest Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, Voice: 812-332-5000, Fax: 812-961-6161, gmg@lawmg.com, www.lawmg.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Termination Disputes.

Halbert, Jeffrey, *Bose McKinney & Evans LLP*, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 2700, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 317-684-5247, Fax: 317-223-0247, jhalbert@boselaw.com, www.boselaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, International, Labor Law, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Termination Disputes.

Ivers, William, *Mallor Grodner, LLP*, 101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 1600, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 317-627-6081, Fax: 317-631-1314, wivers@lawmg.com, www.lawmg.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Langerak, Joseph, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, One Main Street, Suite 201, Evansville, Indiana 47708, Voice: 812-759-3817, joe.langerak@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com.

INDIANA DEALER COUNSEL

a division of Mallor Grodner LLP



Geoffrey M.
Grodner



Michael P.
Shanahan



Dustin L.
Plummer



William N.
Ivers



Patrick A.
Ziepolt



Erick T.
Gjerdingen

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MALLOR | GRODNER
Attorneys

Bloomington	511 Woodscrest Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401	812.332.5000
Indianapolis	101 W. Ohio, Ste. 1600, Indianapolis, IN 46204	317.453.2000



INDIANA'S PREMIER DEALER AUTOMOTIVE TEAM



Ronald C. Smith



Donn. H Wray



Joseph H. Langerak



Joel T. Nagle



Jason P. Lueking



Amy L. Miles



Sarah J. Bishop



J. David Smith



Mary C. Garris



Cameron J. Bosak

334 N Senate Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317.822.6778
skofirm.com

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Indiana

Lueking, Jason, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, The Emelie Building, 334 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 317-464-1593, Jason.Lueking@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com. Practice Areas: Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Land Use, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning.

Nagle, Joel, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, The Emelie Building, 334 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 317-822-6784, joel.nagle@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com/office/indianapolis. Practice Areas: Advertising, Civil Liability, Credit Advertising, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes.

Plummer, Dustin, *Mallor Grodner LLP*, 511 S. Woodcrest Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, Voice: 812-332-5000, Fax: 812-961-6161, dplummer@lawmg.com, www.lawmg.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Senk, Jeremy, *Carson LLP*, 301 West Jefferson Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, Voice: 260-423-9411, Fax: 260-423-4329, senk@carsonllp.com, www.carsonllp.com.

Senk, Monica, *Tom Kelley Buick GMC*, 555 Grand National Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804, Voice: 260-449-6696, msenk@kelleyauto.com, www.drivekelley.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Financing Documentation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Risk Management.

Shanahan, Michael, *Dealer Counsel Mallor Grodner LLP*, 8103 E US Highway 36, Suite 365, Avon, Indiana 46123, Voice: 317-374-5713, Fax: 317-839-1796, Mike@IndianaDealerCounsel.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Smith, Ronald, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, The Emelie Building, 334 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 317-464-1591, Fax: 317-464-1592, ron.smith@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Spieß, Geoffrey, *Gurley Leep Automotive Management*, 5201 North Grape Road, Mishawaka, Indiana 46545, Voice: 574-272-2073, Fax: 574-243-9262, gspiess@gurleyleep.com, www.gurleyleep.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Intellectual Property, Land Use, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

Wray, Donn, Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC, The Emelie Building, 334 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Voice: 317-464-1591, Fax: 317-464-1592, Donn.wray@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Environment, Health, and Safety, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance.

Ziepolt, Patrick, Mallor Grodner LLP, 511 Woodcrest Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, Voice: 812-332-5000, patrick@lawmg.com, www.lawmg.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Iowa

Anderson, Bruce, Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, 1111 Office Park Road, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265, Voice: 515-440-7630, Fax: 515-226-1988, banderson@iada.com, www.iada.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Arenson, James, Arenson Law Group, PC, 425 Second Street SE, Suite 900, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401, Voice: 319-363-8199, Fax: 319-363-8448, jarenson@arensonlaw.com, www.arensonlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Epperly, Brad, Nyemaster Goode, PC, 700 Walnut Street, Suite 1600, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, Voice: 515-283-3100, bcepperly@nyemaster.com, www.nyemaster.com. Practice Areas: Governmental Regulation, Government Relations.

Hofmeyer, John, Arenson Law Group, PC, 425 2nd St SE, Suite 900, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401, Voice: 319-363-8199, Fax: 319-363-8448, jhofmeyer@arensonlaw.com, www.arensonlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Stefani, Richard, Gray, Stefani & Mitvalsky, PLC, 425 Second Street, SE, Suite 700, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406, Voice: 319-364-1535, Fax: 319-364-1562, rickstefani@gsmllawyers.com, www.gsmllawyers.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Employment Issues, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning.

Kansas

Molle, John, *Molle Law Firm, LLC*, 5200 W. 94th Terrace, Suite 200, Prairie Village, Kansas 66207, Voice: 913-515-8286, Fax: 913-273-1288, john@mollelawfirm.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Shadid, Todd, *Klenda Austerman LLC*, 301 N. Main, Suite 1600, Wichita, Kansas 67202, Voice: 316-267-0331, Fax: 316-267-0333, tshadid@klendalaw.com, www.klendalaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Kentucky

Atwell, Kevin, *Performance Automotive Network*, 633 W. Third Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011, Voice: 859-547-5350, Fax: 859-547-5320, katwell@mldevco.com, www.shopperformance.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Lemon Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Bishop, Sarah, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, 201 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 5130, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Voice: 502-875-6245, sarah.bishop@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com.

Miles, Amy, *Stoll Keenon Odgen PLLC*, 500 West Jefferson Street, Suite 2000, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, Voice: 502-568-5751, amy.miles@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Labor Law.

Nintrup, Jason, *Performance Automotive Network*, 633 W. Third Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011, Voice: 859-547-5375, jnintrup@performanceautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.



KENTUCKY'S PREMIER DEALER AUTOMOTIVE TEAM



Ronald C. Smith



Sarah J. Bishop



Amy L. Miles



J. David Smith



Mary C. Garris



Joseph H. Langerak



Stephen A. Sherman



Cameron J. Bosak

400 W Market Street
Louisville, KY 40202
502.333.600
skofirm.com

LEGAL HORSEPOWER®

Kentucky – Louisiana

Sherman, Stephen, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, 500 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 2000, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, Voice: 502-586-5405, Fax: 502-562-0904, stephen.sherman@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com. Practice Areas: Corporate Law, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Tax Laws.

Smith, David, *Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC*, 300 West Vine Street, Suite 2100, Lexington, Kentucky 40507, Voice: 859-321-6473, david.smith@skofirm.com, www.skofirm.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Louisiana

Arnold, Lance, *Roedel Parsons Plache Fontana Pointek & Pisano*, 1555 Poydras Street, Suite 1700, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112, Voice: 504-566-1801, Fax: 504-565-5626, larnold@roedelparsons.com, www.roedelparsons.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Brohamer, Monika, *Premier Automotive Management*, 13040 I-10 Service Road, New Orleans, Louisiana 70128, Voice: 619-333-9150, mbrohamer@premierautomotive.com, www.premierautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes.



Comeaux, Jeanne, *Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP*, P.O. Box 3197, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, Voice: 225-387-4000, Fax: 225-381-8029, Jeanne.comeaux@bswillp.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal. President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, 2016. Represents automobile dealers in franchise contract disputes with manufacturers before the Louisiana Motor Vehicle Commission and in various courts, and the Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association and Baton Rouge New Car Dealers. As a member of the firm, Ms. Comeaux serves as General Counsel to the Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association, the Baton Rouge New Car Dealers Association, and several Chevrolet Local Marketing Associations.

Furr, Brett, *Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips*, P.O. Box 2471, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, Voice: 225-387-3221, Fax: 225-349-8049, brett.furr@taylorporter.com, www.taylorporter.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Hebert, Jeremy, *Becker & Hebert, LLC*, 201 Rue Beaugard, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508, Voice: 337-233-1987, Fax: 337-235-1748, jeremy@lawbecker.com, www.lawbecker.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.



Hensgens, Scott, *Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP*, P.O. Box 3197, 301 Main Street, Suite 2300 (70801), Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, Voice: 225-387-4000, snh@bswllp.com, www.bswllp.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Intellectual Property, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes. Scott Hensgens is the Managing Partner and practices in the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P. Scott's principal areas of practice include business and commercial litigation, contract litigation, consumer credit litigation, and trademark and copyright registration and litigation. His experience includes representing individuals, small and large businesses, insurance companies, hospital service districts, trustees, corporate shareholders, automobile dealerships, and credit reporting agencies.



Kinchen, Lance, *Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP*, P.O. Box 3197, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, Voice: 225-381-8053, ljk@bswllp.com, www.bswllp.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws. Serving as co-chair of the firm's Automobile Industry Team, Mr. Kinchen represents automobile dealerships throughout the state in the purchase and sale of automotive franchises, buy/sell agreements, factory dealer relations and dispute resolution, and regulatory compliance. He advises dealer-principals and their families in corporate matters, tax planning, and business succession planning. Mr. Kinchen serves as General Counsel to the Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association.

Mayhall, Sunny, *The LDS Group and The Versant Group*, 10543 South Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810, Voice: 225-229-5896, Sunny.Mayhall@theLDSgroup.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Compliance, Corporate Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

McKay, Michael, *All Star Automotive Group*, 13000 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, Voice: 225-490-1825, mike.mckay@allstarautomotive.com, www.AllStarAutomotive.com.



Reynaud, Jr., Claude, *Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP*, P.O. Box 3197, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, Voice: 225-387-4000, Fax: 225-381-8029, cfr@bswllp.com. Practice Areas: Advertising Disputes, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues. Represents dealers in disputes with manufacturers, consumers and class actions and has also represented multiple dealers in the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies. As a member of the firm, Mr. Reynaud serves as Chief General Counsel to the Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association since 1998 and General Counsel for Baton Rouge New Car Dealers Association. Mr. Reynaud represents several General Motor's Local Marketing Associations (LMA's) and the Southern Quality Ford Dealers.

Scott, Timothy, *Fisher & Phillips LLP*, 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 3710, New Orleans, Louisiana 70170, Voice: 504-529-3834, Fax: 504-529-3850, tscott@fisherphillips.com, www.fisherphillips.com. Practice Areas: Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Fraud, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Litigation, Risk Management.

Searcy, Jr., Lawrence, *Walker Automotive*, 1616 Macarthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301, Voice: 318-445-6421, Fax: 318-445-0028, lsearcy@walkerautomotive.com, www.walkerautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Vanderhooft, Joshua, *Supreme Automotive Group*, 400 East Howze Beach Road, Slidell, Louisiana 70461, Voice: 504-346-1130, jvanderhooft@supremeauto.net, www.supremeautomotivegroup.com.

Maine

Gerrity, Bruce, *Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau & Pachios, LLP*, P.O. Box 1058, Augusta, Maine 04332-1058, Voice: 207-623-5300, Fax: 207-623-2914, bgerrity@preti.com, www.preti.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Issues, Constitutional Law, Credit Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Higgins, Nicholas, *Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson*, P.O. Box 9729, Portland, Maine, 04104-5029, Voice: 207-228-7191, nhiggins@bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Macdonald, Robert, *Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson*, P.O. Box 9729, Portland, Maine 04104, Voice: 207-228-7338, Fax: 207-774-1127, bmacdonald@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Murphy, Daniel, *Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.*, 100 Middle Street, P.O. Box 9729, Portland, Maine 04104, Voice: 207-228-7120, dmurphy@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com/who/attorney-directory/daniel-j-murphy. Practice Areas: Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Termination Disputes.

Patient, Noreen, *Darling's*, 262 Bath Road, Brunswick, Maine 04011, Voice: 207-249-0260, noreen.patient@darlings.com, www.darlings.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate.

Maryland

Atwood, Robert, *National Automobile Dealers Association*, 515 Valcour Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228-3249, Voice: 410-336-9600, batwood@nada.org.

Bruce, M Celeste, *Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC*, 4800 Hampden Lane, Suite 820, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, Voice: 301-466-5055, cbruce@rwllaw.com, www.rwllaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Land Use, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Campisi, Charlie, *Redwood Holdings*, 7301 Parkway Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076, Voice: 410-579-4028, ccampisi@redcapinv.com. Practice Areas: Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

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Maryland



Hoff, Alan, *Sellman Hoff LLC*, 2201 Old Court Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21208, Voice: 410-332-4151, ahoff@sellmanhoff.com. Practice Areas: Business and Transactions; Buy/Sell Agreements; Civil Liability; Consumer Litigation; Commercial and Real Estate Transactions and Litigation; Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements; Succession and Estate Planning.

Long, Trevor, *MileOne Auto Group*, 1 Olympic Place, Towson, Maryland 21204, Voice: 410-427-5805, tlong@mileone.com. Practice Areas: Compliance.

Lynch, Timothy, *Offit Kurman*, 7021 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, Maryland 21046, Voice: 410-209-6436, tlynch@offitkurman.com, www.offitkurman.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Corporate Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Real Estate.

Lynton, Wingrove, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 7037 Ridge Road, Suite 300, Hanover, Maryland 21076, Voice: 410-865-5408, Fax: 410-684-2001, Email: wlynton@hudco.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Financing Documentation, Litigation.

Martz, Travis, *Maryland Automobile Dealers Association*, 7 State Circle, Suite 301, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, Voice: 410-269-1710, tmartz@mdauto.org, www.mdauto.org.

Munro, Nicole, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 7037 Ridge Road, Suite 300, Hanover, Maryland 21076, Voice: 410-865-5430, Fax: 410-684-2001, nmunro@hudco.com, www.hudsoncook.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Murphy, Gerard, 7807 Pearson Knoll Place, Potomac, Maryland 20854, Voice: 301-294-3393, gerardmurphy@comcast.net. Practice Areas: Advertising, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Tax Laws.

Olivieri, Lisa, *MileOne Autogroup*, 1 Olympic Place, Suite 1200, Towson, Maryland 21204, Voice: 443-872-0738, LOlivieri@mileone.com, www.mileone.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Snyder, Caitlin, *MileOne Autogroup*, 1 Olympic Place, Suite 1200, Towson, Maryland 21204, Voice: 410-559-5290, Caitlin.Snyder@mileone.com, www.mileone.com.

Steinbarth, Gregg, *Fitzgerald Auto Mall*, 11411 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Voice: 301-881-5268, gregg@fitzgeraldautomall.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Tate, Amy, *Tate Automotive Companies*, 4 Kueth Road NE, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060, Voice: 410-760-2815, amyate@tatelawyers.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Corporate Law, Labor Law, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Walker, Douglas, *McAllister, DeTar, Showalter & Walker, LLC*, 100 N. West Street, Easton, Maryland 21601, Voice: 410-820-0264, dwalker@mdswlaw.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements.

Wilson, Timothy, *Aaron & Wilson, LLP*, 101 Bay Street, Suite 12B, Easton, Maryland 21601, Voice: 410-989-6444, tim@aw-law.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Employment Law, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws.

Massachusetts

Doran, John, *McGovern Automotive Group*, 105 Boston Providence Highway, Norwood, Massachusetts 2062, Voice: 617-870-7714, jdoran@mcgovernauto.com.

Harris, Paul, *Burns & Levinson LLP*, 125 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Voice: 617-345-3854, Fax: 617-345-3299, pharris@burnslev.com, www.burnslev.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

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Judge, Sara, Burns & Levinson LLP, 125 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Voice: 617-345-3211, Fax: 617-345-3299, sjudge@burnslev.com, www.burnslev.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Macdonald, Robert, Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson, P.O. Box 9729, Portland, Maine 04104, Voice: 207-228-7338, Fax: 207-774-1127, bmacdonald@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Martin, James, Pullman & Comley, LLC, 1500 Main Street, Suite 1600, Springfield, Massachusetts, 01115, Voice: 413-233-5132, jmartin@pullcom.com, www.pullcom.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Alternative Energy, Business & Finance, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Franchise Issues, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Real Estate, Real Estate Acquisitions and Sales, Succession and Estate Planning.



Natesan, Shalini, The Towne Law Firm, P.C., 500 New Karner Road, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, shalini.natesan@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues. Ms. Natesan focuses largely on representing auto dealerships in their transactional matters. Ms. Natesan has handled legal matters arising from franchise issues, change of ownership, buy-sell agreements, drafting necessary documents for corporate formations and transactions, and creating subsidiary entities to handle specific areas of a dealer's business. Ms. Natesan has also worked in navigating all aspects of large commercial real estate transactions.

Paonessa, Gregory, Burns & Levinson LLP, 125 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Voice: 617-345-3427, gpaonessa@burnslev.com, www.burnslev.com. Practice Areas: Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Litigation.

Silverman, Scott, DSR Motor Group, 40 Brewster Drive, Needham, Massachusetts 2492, Voice: 781-929-8231, ssilverman@dsrcmotorgroup.com, www.dsrcmotorgroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Vangel, Thomas, Murtha Cullina LLP, 99 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Voice: 617-457-4072, tvangel@murthalaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Michigan

Anthes, Todd, *Scholten Fant*, 100 N. Third Street, Grand Haven, Michigan 49417, Voice: 616-842-3030, Fax: 616-846-6621, tanthes@scholtenfant.com, www.scholtenfant.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Baiardi, Kristen, *Abbott Nicholson, P.C.*, 1900 Big Beaver Road, Suite 203, Troy, Michigan 48084, Voice: 313-566-2500, klbaiardi@abbottnicholson.com, www.abbottnicholson.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Employment Issues, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

Bowden, Eric, *Colombo & Colombo PC*, P.O. Box 2028, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303-2028, Voice: 248-645-9300, Fax: 248-645-5418, erb@colombopc.com, www.colombopc.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Czarnecki, Walter, *Walter P. Czarnecki, Jr., PLLC*, 1010 Bowers Street, Suite B, Birmingham, Michigan 48009, Voice: 248-686-0505, walt@wpcjrlaw.com, www.wpcjrlaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate.

Salach, Marc, *Dawda Mann, PLC*, 39533 Woodward Avenue, Suite 200, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304, Voice: 248-642-2530, msalach@dmms.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Sekulich, Monica, *DP Fox Ventures / Fox Motors*, 200 Ottawa Avenue, Suite 800, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, Voice: 616-774-3499, msekulich@dpfox.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Spradlin, Shane, *Penske Automotive Group, Inc.*, 2555 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302, Voice: 248-648-2560, sspradlin@penskeautomotive.com.

Tomasik, Mark, *DP Fox Ventures, L.L.C.*, 200 Ottawa Avenue, NW, Suite 800, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, Voice: 616-742-5226, Fax: 616-774-2292, mtomasik@dpfox.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law.

Tu, Veronique, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 350 South Main Street, Suite 210, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104, Voice: 734-222-1505, veronique.tu@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Governmental Regulation, Internet, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

Weller, II, Robert, *Abbott Nicholson PC*, 1900 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 203, Troy, Michigan 48084, Voice: 313-566-2500, Fax: 313-566-2502, ryweller@abbottnicholson.com, www.abbottnicholson.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Michigan – Mississippi

Youngblood, John, *Abbott Nicholson P.C.*, 1900 W. Big Beaver, Suite 203, Troy, Michigan, Voice: 313-566-2500, Fax: 313-566-2502, jfyoungblood@abbottnicholson.com, www.abbottnicholson.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Minnesota

Blustin, Sholly, *Blustin & Associates*, 19230 Evans Street NW, Suite 103, Elk River, Minnesota 55330, Voice: 763-355-9072, sablustin@blustinlaw.com, www.blustinlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, Internet, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Brennan, John, *Walser Automotive Group*, 7700 France Avenue South, Suite 410N, Edina, Minnesota 55435, Voice: 952-653-3575, jbrennan@walser.com, www.walser.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Liability, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Dady, J Michael, *Dady & Gardner, PA*, 80 S. 8th Street, Suite 5100, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, Voice: 612-359-9000, jmdady@dadygardner.com, www.dadygardner.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Industry Relations, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Ellingson, Samantha, *Thom Ellingson PLLP*, 45 South 7th Street, Suite 2610, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55402-2704, Voice: 612-286-0506, athom@thomellingson.com, www.thomellingson.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Constitutional Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Louismet, Dan, *Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association*, 200 Lothenbach Avenue, West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118, Voice: 651-789-2948, louismet@mada.org.

Uding, Kate, *Luther Landers Automotive Group*, 3701 Alabama Avenue, St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416, Voice: 952-258-8821, Fax: 952-258-8921, kate.uding@lutherauto.com, www.lutherauto.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Mississippi

Watson, J. Kevin, *Watson Jones PLLC*, PP Box 23546, Jackson, Mississippi, Voice: 601-939-8900, Fax: 601-932-4400, kwatson@wjpllc.com, www.wjpllc.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.



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Dr. Cristina Benton
Director of Market and
Industry Analysis



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Missouri

Blood, Jill, *Maritz Automotive*, 1375 North Highway Drive, Fenton, Missouri 63099, Voice: 314-323-4365, jill.blood@maritz.com, www.maritzautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Carrillo, Wesley, *Sooner Consulting, LLC*, 1362 NE Windsor Drive, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64086, Voice: 417-483-2312, wesley@soonerconsulting.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Cowan, Jeffrey, *Enterprise Holdings, Inc.*, 600 Corporate Park Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63105, Voice: 314-512-4274, Fax: 314-512-5823, jeffrey.cowan@ehi.com, www.enterprise.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Foster, Laura, *Protective Life Insurance Company - APD*, 14755 N. Outer Forty Road, Suite 400, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017, Voice: 636-536-5667, laura.foster@protective.com, www.protectiveassetprotection.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Federal Privacy Law, Insurance Laws, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes.

Hackett, Richard, *Attorney at Law*, 317 Arbor Glen Drive, Ballwin, Missouri 63021, Voice: 314-494-5751, atyhackett@aol.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Kanzler, Christopher, *Kanzler Law Firm*, 1 Athletic Way, St. Louis, Missouri 63045, Voice: 314-757-0858, chris@kanzlerlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Fraud, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Real Estate.

Mitchell, Gregory, *Brydon, Swearingen & England PC*, P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-0456, Voice: 573-635-7166, gregbse@brydonlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Napolitano, Christopher, *Ensz & Jester, P.C.*, 1100 Main Street, Suite 2121, Kansas City, Missouri 64105, Voice: 816-474-8010, Fax: 816-471-7910, cnapolitano@enszjester.com, www.enszjester.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Labor Law, Liability, Litigation.

Pell, Erin, *Enterprise Holdings, Inc.*, 600 Corporate Park Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63105, Voice: 314-512-2788, Erin.M.Pell@ehi.com, www.enterpriseholdings.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Compliance, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Regulatory Compliance.

Porter, Stephanie, *Thoroughbred Ford*, 8501 N. Boardwalk Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64154, Voice: 816-505-1818, stporter@thoroughbredford.com.

Press, Allen, Jacobson Press P.C., 18 Lille Court, Lake St. Louis, Missouri 63367, Voice: 314-378-7611, press@archcitylawyers.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Litigation, Real Estate.

Richardson, Johnny, Brydon, Swearngen & England PC, 312 East Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456, Voice: 573-635-7166, Fax: 573-635-3847, johnnyr@brydonlaw.com, www.brydonlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Montana

Charlton, Craig, Smith Law Firm, P.C., P.O. Box 1691, Helena, Montana 59624, Voice: 406-442-2980, Fax: 404-449-3817, ccharlton@smithlawmt.com, www.smithlawmt.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Corporate Law, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning.

Sewell, Jr., R. J. Jim, Smith Law Firm, P.C., P.O. Box 1691, Helena, Montana 59624-1691, Voice: 406-442-2980, Fax: 406-449-3817, jim.sewell@smithlawmt.com, www.smithlawmt.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Nevada



Ezzell, Tina, Tiffany & Bosco, 7th Floor, Camelback Esplanade II, 2525 East Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, Voice: 602-452-2747, Fax: 602-255-0103, tme@tblaw.com, www.tblaw.com. Practice Areas: Add points, advertising, after market issues, buy sell agreements, civil liability, commercial and real estate, litigation, complex dealer appeals, compliance, consumer fraud, consumer issues, constitutional law, corporate law, credit advertising, dealer arbitration, dealer fraud, dealer mediation/negotiation, dispute resolution, employment issues, employment law, finance and regulatory complexities, financing documentation, franchise issues, fraud, governmental regulation, government relations, insurance laws, lemon laws, liability, litigation, manufacturer franchise issues, multiple regulatory requirements, product liability, real estate, regulatory compliance, rights of first refusal, termination disputes. Tina is a trial and appellate attorney with experience in cases involving contract, tort, business dissolution, real property issues, employment law, and attempted franchise terminations. Besides her work with the automobile industry, Tina actively litigates a wide array of civil cases, including employee fraud and embezzlement matters, partnership and limited liability company membership disputes, and real property disputes.

Walker, Jason, Findlay Automotive Group, 310 N. Gibson Road, Henderson, Nevada 89014, Voice: 702-540-1338, jwalker@findlayauto.com, www.findlayauto.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Fraud, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

New Hampshire

Buckley, Kevin, *Dan O'Brien Auto Group*, 10 AL Paul Lane, Suite 102, Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054, Voice: 603-460-5445, kbuckley@danobrienaugroup.com, www.danobrienaugroup.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Employment Law, Litigation.

Macdonald, Robert, *Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson*, P.O. Box 9729, Portland, Maine 04104, Voice: 207-228-7338, Fax: 207-774-1127, bmacdonald@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Rheume, Hilary, *Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.*, 670 N. Commercial Street, Suite 108, P.O. Box 1120, Manchester, New Hampshire 03105, Voice: 603-665-8839, hrheume@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Sackman, Edward, *Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.*, 670 N. Commercial Street, Suite 108, Manchester, New Hampshire 03105, Voice: 603-623-8700, Fax: 603-623-7775, nsackman@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Employment Law, Intellectual Property, Product Liability.

New Jersey

Abouyoun, Joseph, *Fox Rothschild LLP*, 49 Market Street, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, Voice: 973-575-9600, Fax: 973-992-9125, jabouyoun@foxrothschild.com, www.foxrothschild.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Appleton, James, *New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers, Inc.*, P.O. Box 7510, Trenton, New Jersey 08628, Voice: 609-883-5056, Fax: 609-883-1093, jappleton@njcar.org, www.njcar.org. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Campione, Ronald, *DOWC, LLC*, 199 Pomeroy Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054, Voice: 551-325-3547, ron.campione@dowc.com, www.dowc.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, International, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Chase, Eric, *Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C.*, 325 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932, Voice: 973-514-1200, Fax: 973-514-1660, echase@bressler.com, www.bressler.com.

Church, Lori, *Holman Automotive Group, Inc.*, 4001 Leadenhall Road, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08054, Voice: 303-419-2625, Lori.Church@Holman.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Fraud, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Dobbs, Seth, *Fox Rothschild LLP*, 49 Market Street, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, Voice: 908-770-2563, Fax: 973-992-9125, sdobbs@foxrothschild.com, www.foxrothschild.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Egan, Andrew, *Bressler Amery & Ross PC*, 325 Columbia Turnpike, Suite 301, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932, Voice: 973-809-6593, aegan@bressler.com, www.bressler.com/people-andrew-egan. Practice Areas: Franchise Issues, Litigation, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Einhorn, Kathleen, *Genova Burns*, 494 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, Voice: 908-413-3074, keinhorn@genovaburns.com, www.genovaburns.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Real Estate, Termination Disputes.



Eric L. Chase, Esq.

echase@bressler.com
973.514.1200



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With offices in New Jersey, New York, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina and Texas, the firm has been providing services to hundreds of clients across a broad spectrum of practice areas for nearly 40 years.

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www.bressler.com



Fetten, John, *Montgomery Fetten P.A.*, 745 Route 202/206, Suite 101, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807, Voice: 908-203-8833, Fax: 908-203-8839, jfetten@mfnjlaw.com, www.mcfnjlaw.com. Practice Areas: Statutory and regulatory compliance, audits and counseling for risk management; Litigation, arbitration, mediation, alternative dispute resolution representation for governmental investigations, individual consumer and class actions involving fraud, sales practices including advertising, after market issues, new and used lemon law, product defects, credit, privacy and data protection, warranty, service department; Counseling and litigation in discrimination, wage and hours; Insurance policy representation; Franchise- Manufacturer Issues.

Fox, Ross, *Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C.*, 325 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932, Voice: 973-937-6799, rfox@bressler.com, www.bressler.com/people-ross-fox. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Termination Disputes.

Fuirita, Joseph, *Schiller, Pittenger & Galvin, P.C.*, 1771 Front Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, Voice: 908-490-0444, jfuirita@schiller.law, www.schiller.law. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning.

Gallagher, Paul, *Avis Budget Group*, 6 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054, Voice: 973-496-8393, Fax: 973-496-3975, paul.gallagher@avisbudget.com, www.avisbudgetgroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Guzman, Brian, *Guzman Advisory Partners, LLP*, 156 West 56th Street, c/o Guzman Advisory Partners, LLP, New York, New Jersey 10019, Voice: 646-957-2034, bguzman@guzmanadvisory.com, www.guzmanadvisory.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

Hannigan, Greyson, *New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers*, 856 River Road, Trenton, New Jersey 08628, Voice: 609-883-5056, ghannigan@njcar.org. Practice Areas: Compliance, Governmental Regulation, Tax Laws.

Heller, Craig, *Schiller Pittenger & Galvin PC*, 1771 Front Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, Voice: 908-490-0444, Fax: 908-490-0420, cheller@schiller.law. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Environment, Health, and Safety, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Hickey, John, *Holman*, 4001 Leadenhall Road, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08054, Voice: 484-433-7834, John.Hickey@holman.com, www.holman.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Internet, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Risk Management.

Horn, Michael, *Archer & Greiner, P.C.*, Court Plaza South, West Wing 21 Main Street, Suite 353, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601, Voice: 201-498-8529, mhorn@archerlaw.com, www.archerlaw.com.

Klein, Steven, *Cole Schotz P.C.*, 25 Main Street, Hackensack, New Jersey 07602-0800, Voice: 201-525-6265, Fax: 201-678-6265, sklein@coleschotz.com, www.coleschotz.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, and Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Lauletta, Frank, *Lauletta Birnbaum, LLC*, 591 Mantua Boulevard, Sewell, New Jersey 08080, Voice: 609-617-6563, flauletta@lauletta.com, www.lauletta.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, Internet, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Rights of First Refusal.

Melzer, Eric, *Berkowitz Lichtstein Kuritsky Giasullo & Gross L.L.C.*, 75 Livingston Avenue, 1st Floor, Roseland, New Jersey 07068, Voice: 973-325-7800, emelzer@blkgg.com, www.blkgg.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, Internet, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Mullin, Kathy, *Holman Automotive Group*, 4001 Leadenhall Road, P.O. Box 5004, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08054, Voice: 856-486-7122, Fax: 856-665-3444, kmullin@holmanauto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Padilla, Magdalena, *New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers*, 856 River Road, Trenton, New Jersey 08628, Voice: 609-403-7584, MPADILLA@NJCAR.ORG, www.njcar.org. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Environment, Health, and Safety, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Pittenger, Perry, *Schiller & Pittenger, P.C.*, 1771 Front Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, Voice: 908-490-0444, Fax: 908-490-0420, perry@carlawyernj.com, www.sp-lawyers.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Ruccolo, Laura, *Capehart & Scatchard PA*, 8000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300S, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054, Voice: 856-234-6800, Fax: 856-235-2786, lruccolo@capehart.com, www.capehart.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Semanie, Michael, *Killgore, Pearlman & Semanie PA*, 800 N. Magnolia Avenue, Suite 1500, Orlando, Florida 32803, Voice: 407-425-1020, Fax: 407-839-3635, msemanie@kpsds.com, www.kpsds.com/author/msemanie. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.

New Jersey – New Mexico

Schiller, Theodore, *Schiller Pittenger, & Galvin P.C.*, 1771 Front Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, Voice: 908-490-0444, Fax: 908-490-0420, ted@carlawyernj.com, www.schiller.law. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.



Smith, Laurence, *CSG Law (www.csglaw.com)*, 105 Eisenhower Parkway, Roseland, New Jersey 07068, voice: 973-943-9367; email: lsmith@csglaw.com; leads a multi-disciplinary team at CSG Law that focuses on buy-sell agreements, financing transactions, franchise issues, operational issues, manufacturer disputes, and litigation involving automobile dealerships. CSG Law offers the combination of dealership industry experience and subject matter expertise in mergers and acquisitions; joint ventures; floorplan financing; real estate leasing, land use and financing; estate and succession planning; franchise law; and federal and state court litigation. Larry has been engaged to testify as an expert witness in litigation involving failed purchase and sale transactions. CSG Law is a firm of approximately 175 attorneys with offices in New York and New Jersey with a national transactional practice.



Taylor, Christine, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, Fax: 518-452-6435, christine.taylor@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws. Mrs. Taylor has represented auto dealerships with compliance issues, including annual filings with the NY State Department of Financial Services, DMV Registration Applications with required zoning compliance, required state registration of company and d/b/a, appropriate tax filings and employment classifications. Mrs. Taylor also counsels on employment issues, website ADA issues, town violations, Variance Requests and Article 78 proceedings, as well as Attorney General Consumer Issues.

Wells, James, *Holman Enterprises & Subsidiaries*, 4001 Leadenhall Road, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054, Voice: 856-727-6999, jim.wells@holman.com, www.holman.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, International, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

New Mexico

Chapman, Donna, *Chapman Law, P.C.*, 4100 Osuna NE, Suite 2-202, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, Voice: 505-242-6000, donna@chapmanlawnm.com, www.chapmanlawnm.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Decker, Benjamin, *Decker Griffel, LLC*, 4308 Carlisle Boulevard NE, Suite 202, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107, Voice: 602-818-1703, ben@deckerlawoffice.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate.

Park, Alfred, *Park & Associates*, 3840 Masthead, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, Voice: 505-246-2805, apark@parklawnm.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Compliance, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Government Relations, Risk Management.

New York

Bassler, Megan, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, Albany, New York 12205, Voice: 518-452-1800, megan.bassler@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Batt, Jamie, 5500 Main Street, Suite 310, Williamsville, New York 14221, Voice: 716-854-3400, batt@ruppbaase.com, www.ruppbaase.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.



Bellavia, Leonard, *Bellavia Blatt, PC*, 200 Old Country Road, Suite 400, Mineola, New York 11501, Voice: 516-873-3000, lbellavia@dealerlaw.com, www.dealerlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal. Leonard A. Bellavia is national recognized in the field of automotive franchise law in all aspects of commercial litigation and buy-sell transactions. He has achieved national recognition in litigation to recover reasonable compensation for warranty parts reimbursement. Regularly quoted for Automotive News, Mr. Bellavia is also a regular speaker for national automotive organizations. He serves as Chair of the Automotive Franchise Law Section of the Franchise Law Committee of the NYS Bar Association and served as Chairperson of the Litigation Section of the NADC and as a member of its Board of Directors. Upstate and on Long Island, his practice covers aspects of Real Estate, Business, Complex Federal and State Court Litigation, Automotive Franchise Law, Dealership, Buy-Sell Transactions, Dealership Corporate Matters, and Personal Injury Law.

Bieber, Susan, *Greater NY Automobile Dealers Association*, 1810 Whitestone Expressway, Whitestone, New York 11357, Voice: 718-746-5900, Fax: 718-508-4773, susan@gnyada.com, www.gnyada.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Labor Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.



Blatt, Steven, *Bellavia Blatt, P.C.*, 200 Old Country Road, Suite 400, Mineola, New York 11501, Voice: 516-873-3000, Fax: 516-873-9032, SBlatt@dealerlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes. Mr. Blatt has extensive experience in the fields of complex commercial litigation and employment law. Since graduating from Georgetown University Law Center, Mr. Blatt's over 20 years of complex commercial litigation experience, in both Federal and State courts, includes franchise litigation, out of trust workouts, lender liability litigation, New York State contracts, and violation of restrictive covenants not to compete. In addition, Mr. Blatt has substantive experience advising companies regarding all employment related issues including wrongful discharges, terminations, wage hour matters and responding to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, State Human Rights, Department of Labor and National Labor Relations Board charges and complaints. With Bellavia Blatt, PC, Mr. Blatt has represented dealers in civil actions throughout New York State in both Federal and State courts.

Boulia, Trudy, *Jonathan P. Harvey Law Firm, PLLC*, 358 Broadway, Suite 404, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866, Voice: 518-463-4491, Fax: 518-463-5665, tboulia@jpharveylaw.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Casion, Joseph, *Harter Secrest & Emery LLP*, 1600 Bausch & Lomb Place, Rochester, New York 14604, Voice: 585-231-1407, Fax: 585-232-2152, jcasion@hselaw.com, www.hselaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Liability, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning.

Clark, Douglas, *Greater NY Auto Dealers Association*, 121 State Street, 4th Floor, Albany, New York 12207, Voice: 518-407-5800, Douglas.clark@srclawoffices.com. Practice Areas: Consumer Issues, Constitutional Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

Collins, Daniel, *Harter Secrest & Emery LLP*, 1600 Bausch and Lomb Place, Rochester, New York 14604, Voice: 585-231-1322, Fax: 535-232-2152, dcollins@hselaw.com, www.hselaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.



Gallaer, Charles, *ArentFox Schiff LLP*, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 42nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-492-3292, Fax: 212-484-3990, charles.gallaer@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. Gallaer focuses his practice on representing motor vehicle dealers in all aspects of their business matters. He represents automobile dealerships in the acquisition and sale of franchises, litigation, and regulatory compliance. Mr. Gallaer is licensed to practice in New York, New Jersey, and Florida. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

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Gentile, John, *Atlantic Auto Group*, 193 Sunrise Highway, West Islip, New York 11795, Voice: 631-587-0746, Fax: 631-587-3401, jgentile@aagny.net. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.



Harvey, Jonathan P., *Jonathan P. Harvey Law Firm, PLLC*, 358 Broadway, Suite 404, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866, Voice: 518-463-4491, jpharvey@jpharveylaw.com. Practice areas: dealer relationships with manufacturers, focusing on high line manufacturers, litigation avoidance, owner counseling, buy sell agreements, mergers and acquisitions, employment issues, financing documentation, insurance law, lemon law, manufacturer franchise issues, government regulatory requirements, rights of first refusal.

Hoover, Bruce, *West Herr Automotive Group*, 3552 Southwestern Boulevard, Orchard Park, New York 14127, Voice: 716-926-7076, bhoover@westherr.com, www.westherr.com.



LaBonte, Stevan, *LaBonte Law Group, PLLC*, 333 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 200, Jericho, New York 11753, Voice: 516-280-8580, Fax: 631-794-2434, slabonte@labontelawgroup.com, www.labontelawgroup.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Massaroni, Christopher, *Hodgson Russ, LLP*, 677 Broadway, Suite 401, Albany, New York 12207, Voice: 518-573-5346, cmassaroni@hodgsonruss.com, www.hodgsonruss.com/professionals-Christopher-Massaroni.html. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.



McMahan, Michael, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 42nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-484-3982, Fax: 212-484-3990, michael.mcmahan@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. McMahan focuses his practice on representing automobile dealerships and their principals and has litigated numerous high-stakes disputes with automotive manufacturers. He has prevailed for dealer clients in multiple forums, including: winning a jury trial in federal court in Florida, defending against manufacturer aggression over warranty programs; after trials in the New York DMV, which rejected a new incentive program instituted by Maserati, and, in a separate case, held Fiat Chrysler to account for its illegal support of brokers; on appeal to the New York Court of Appeals, where New York's highest court rejected GM's use of segment-adjusted market share to evaluate a local family dealership's compliance with its franchise agreement; and in Florida, where a Florida ALJ held that Maserati could not carve out electric vehicles from its Dealer Agreement.

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McRory, Russell, *ArentFox Schiff LLP*, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 42nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-484-3942, Fax: 212-484-3990, russell.mcrory@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. McRory leads the firm's automotive practice in New York and focuses on representing automobile dealerships and their principals in all aspects of their business and personal matters. He represents automobile dealerships in the acquisition and sale of franchises, factory relations and dispute resolution, and regulatory compliance. Mr. McRory also advises dealer-principals and their families in general corporate matters, generational tax planning, and asset protection. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.



Natesan, Shalini, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, shalini.natesan@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues. Ms. Natesan focuses largely on representing auto dealerships in their transactional matters. Ms. Natesan has handled legal matters arising from franchise issues, change of ownership, buy-sell agreements, drafting necessary documents for corporate formations and transactions, and creating subsidiary entities to handle specific areas of a dealer's business. Ms. Natesan has also worked in navigating all aspects of large commercial real estate transactions.



Potter, Shayshari, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 42nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-457-5478, Fax: 212-484-3990, shayshari.potter@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Ms. Potter focuses her practice on complex civil litigation within the automotive and consumer products industries. She specializes in representing corporations and automotive dealerships in pre-litigation and litigation matters related to relocation, violations of state dealership acts, and violations of franchise agreements. Her impact resides within federal and state courts as well as arbitral forums. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Reese, Don, *Franchise Equity Partners*, 1330 Sixth Avenue, Suite 3600C, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 574-876-3448, don.reese@fep-us.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning.



Roman, Marc, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, marc.roman@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Federal Privacy Law, Fraud, Internet, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance. With 20+ years as an IT professional with a firm understanding of federal and state cybersecurity law, Mr. Roman is uniquely positioned to assess and identify the physical and digital security risks that threaten auto dealerships in today's technology-driven world. At an executive level, Mr. Roman specializes in providing cybersecurity and data breach prevention services to auto dealerships as a collaborative and consultative resource. These services include the identification and minimization of security risks, the optimization of business processes, and the implementation of policies, processes, and procedures to ensure compliance with cybersecurity and data privacy laws. A skilled litigator, Mr. Roman also vigorously pursues legal action against employees or other business partners who put companies or customers at risk by unlawfully using protected data.

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Semanie, Michael, *Killgore, Pearlman & Semanie P.A.*, 800 N. Magnolia Avenue, Suite 1500, Orlando, Florida 32803, Voice: 407-425-1020, Fax: 407-839-3635, msemanie@kpsds.com, www.kpsds.com/author/msemanie. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.



Sexton, Daisy, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 42nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-457-5426, Fax: 212-484-3990, daisy.sexton@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Ms. Sexton focuses her practice on complex civil litigation within the automotive and transportation industries. Her impact resides within federal and state courts as well as arbitral forums. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.



Smith, Laurence, *CSG Law (www.csglaw.com)*, 105 Eisenhower Parkway, Roseland, New Jersey 07068, voice: 973-943-9367; email: lsmith@csglaw.com; leads a multi-disciplinary team at CSG Law that focuses on buy-sell agreements, financing transactions, franchise issues, operational issues, manufacturer disputes, and litigation involving automobile dealerships. CSG Law offers the combination of dealership industry experience and subject matter expertise in mergers and acquisitions; joint ventures; floorplan financing; real estate leasing, land use and financing; estate and succession planning; franchise law; and federal and state court litigation. Larry has been engaged to testify as an expert witness in litigation involving failed purchase and sale transactions. CSG Law is a firm of approximately 175 attorneys with offices in New York and New Jersey with a national transactional practice.

Snyder, E.J., *West Herr Automotive Group*, 3552 Southwester Boulevard, Orchard Park, New York 14127, Voice: 716-926-7081, esnyder@westherr.com, www.westherr.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate.



Staiano, Christine, *Labonte Law Group*, 333 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 200, Jericho, New York 11753, Voice: 516-280-8580, Fax: 631-794-2434, cstaiano@labontelawgroup.com, www.labontelawgroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation-local, State and Federal, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination.



Stanciu, Samantha, *LaBonte Law Group*, 333 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 200, Jericho, New York 11753, Voice: 516-280-8580, Fax: 631-794-2434, sstanciu@labontelawgroup.com www.labontelawgroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy-Sells, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Contracts, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Human Resources, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon laws, Litigation, Loans, Mortgages, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Transactional.

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Jonathan P. Harvey, Esq.
Jonathan P. Harvey Law Firm, PLLC
358 Broadway, Suite 404
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Telephone: (518) 463-4491
E-Mail: jpharvey@jpharveylaw.com

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Taylor, Christine, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, Fax: 518-452-6435, christine.taylor@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws. Mrs. Taylor has represented auto dealerships with compliance issues, including annual filings with the NY State Department of Financial Services, DMV Registration Applications with required zoning compliance, required state registration of company and d/b/a, appropriate tax filings and employment classifications. Mrs. Taylor also counsels on employment issues, website ADA issues, town violations, Variance Requests and Article 78 proceedings, as well as Attorney General Consumer Issues.



Timson, Kevin, *ArentFox Schiff LLP*, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 42nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-457-5513, Fax: 212-484-3990, kevin.timson@afslaw.com, www.afslaw.com. Mr. Timson specializes in automotive dealership law and has experience handling legal matters for dealers such as mergers and acquisitions, real estate, manufacturer/owner disputes, litigation, licensing/regulatory issues, succession planning, and commercial contracts. He counsels dealers with multi-store and multi-brand operations across the Northeast and other regions. ArentFox Schiff LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.



Towne, Jr., James, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, Fax: 518-452-6435, james.towne@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes. Mr. Towne has been representing auto and truck dealerships and related entities for over 40 years largely throughout the North East, addressing and handling a range of matters, he has worked at the request of both factory representatives and floor plan lenders to extricate a variety of dealers from the problems presented by a changing economic landscape over the past 35 years.

Valenza, Vincent, *Whitman Osterman & Hanna LLP*, One Commerce Plaza, Albany, New York 12260, Voice: 518-339-5855, vvalenza@woh.com, www.woh.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Westerlind, James, *ArentFox Schiff, LLP*, 1675 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, Voice: 212-484-3900, Fax: 212-484-3990, james.westerlind@afslaw.com, www.arentfox.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Buy Sell Agreements, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Termination Disputes.



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Shalini Natesan, Esq.
Partner
Licensed in NY, MA, PA, D.C.

Marc S. Roman, Esq.
Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
Licensed in NY

Christine E. Taylor, Esq.
Partner
Licensed in NY, CT, NJ, D.C.

James T. Towne, Jr., Esq.
Partner
Licensed in NY & VT



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Anderson, Eric, *Nolen, PLLC*, 6000 Monroe Road, Suite 350, Charlotte, North Carolina 28212, Voice: 704-531-9355, eric.anderson@nolenpllc.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Branch, Denise, *Crossroads Automotive Group*, P.O. Box 2069, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588, Voice: 919-488-8600, denise.branch@crossroadscars.com, www.crossroadscars.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Coss, Stephen, *Sonic Automotive, Inc.*, 4401 Colwick Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28211, Voice: 704-566-2420, Steve.Coss@sonicautomotive.com, www.sonicautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Federal Privacy Law, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance.

Crook, Michael, *Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP*, 301 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1400, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, Voice: 919-835-4522, michaelcrook@parkerpoe.com, www.parkerpoe.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Land Use, Litigation, Real Estate.

Dillow, Emily, *Underwood & Roberts PLLC*, 3110 Edwards Mill Road, Suite 300, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612, Voice: 919-664-8803, Fax: 919-664-8975, edillow@rlulaw.com, www.rlulaw.com/index.php. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Farris, Jami, *Miles Mediation and Arbitration*, 3625 Augusta Court, Gastonia, North Carolina 28056, Voice: 704-231-2349, jfarris@milesadr.com.

Gach, Gregory, *Gregory Gach, Attorney at Law*, 2014 Craigmere Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28226, Voice: 704-905-2509, greg.gach@gachlaw.com.

Mercer, Shawn, *Bass Sox Mercer*, 4208 Six Forks Road, Suite 1000, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609, Voice: 919-847-8632, Fax: 919-847-8633, smercer@dealerlawyer.net, www.dealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Nolen, Brian, *Nolen PLLC*, 6000 Monroe Road, Suite 350, Charlotte, North Carolina 28212, Voice: 704-531-9355, Brian.Nolen@NolenPLLC.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Policastro, T. John, *North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association*, 1029 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27605, Voice: 919-828-4421, Fax: 919-829-9525, jpolicastro@ncada.com, www.ncada.com.

Pridgen, Eric, *Underwood & Roberts, PLLC*, 3110 Edwards Mill Road, Suite 300, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612, Voice: 919-664-8803, Fax: 919-664-8146, epridgen@rlulaw.com, www.rlulaw.com.

Rogers, Morgan, *Parker Poe*, 620 South Tryon Street, Suite 800, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, Voice: 704-335-9846, morganrogers@parkerpoe.com, www.parkerpoe.com. Practice Areas: Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Litigation, Real Estate, Tax Laws.

Sparks, J. Timothy, *Sonic Automotive Inc.*, 4401 Colwick Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28211, Voice: 744-566-2498, tim.sparks@sonicautomotive.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Vinegar, Richard, *Johnson, Hearn, Vinegar, Gee & Glass, PLLC*, P.O. Box 1776, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602, Voice: 919-743-2200, Fax: 919-743-2201, richard@vinegarlaw.com, www.jhvgglaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Ohio

Bruce, Sara, *Ohio Automobile Dealers Association*, 6515 Longshore Loop, Dublin, Ohio 43017, Voice: 614-923-2243, Fax: 614-766-9600, sbruce@oada.com, www.oada.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Chacey, Matthew, *Ohio Automobile Dealers Association*, 6515 Longshore Loop, Suite 320, Dublin, Ohio 43017, Voice: 614-923-2232, Fax: 614-766-9600, mchacey@oada.com, www.oada.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Connelly, John, *Acura Columbus*, 4340 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017, Voice: 513-290-5646, jcclawyer@gmail.com, www.acuracolumbus.com.

Dever, A., *A Steven Dever Co LPA*, 13363 Madison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44107, Voice: 440-331-9142, Fax: 216-228-3484, steve@astevender.com, www.astevender.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Land Use, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Termination Disputes.

DeVito, Chris, *Morganstern, MacAdmas & DeVito Co., L.P.A.*, 623 West Saint Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, Voice: 216-687-1212, Fax: 216-621-2951, ChrisMDeVito@gmail.com, www.mydealerlawyer.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Ohio

Edelman, Mark, *McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC*, 3401 Tuttle Rd, Suite 200, Cleveland, Ohio 44122, Voice: 216-378-9934, Fax: 216-378-9910, medelman@mcglinchey.com, www.mcglinchey.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Friedman, Eugene, *Gertsburg Licata*, 600 E. Granger Road, Suite 200, Independence, Ohio 44131, Voice: 216-573-6000, info@gertsburglicata.com, www.gertsburglicata.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Hanna, Nicholas, *GCADA*, 9150 South Hills Boulevard, Broadview Heights, Suite 150, Ohio 44147, Voice: 440-746-1500, Fax: 440-746-1504, nhanna@gcada.org, www.gcada.org. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Harrington, Patrick, *Greater Cleveland Auto Dealers Association*, 9150 South Hills Boulevard, Suite 150, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147, Voice: 216-215-8807, Fax: 440-746-1504, PatHarrington@gcada.org, www.gcada.org. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Issues, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Product Liability, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Harrison, Allison, *ALH Law Group*, 100 E. Broad Suite, Suite 320, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Voice: 614-440-1395, allison@alhlaw.com, www.alhlaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Kerschner, Karl, *Reineke Family Dealerships, Inc.*, 12000 C.R. 99, Findlay, Ohio 45840, Voice: 614-395-7739, karl.kerschner@driveineke.com, www.driveineke.com.

Krone, Bruce, *Kerry Automotive Group*, 700 Walnut Street, Suite 311, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, Voice: 513-241-1234, Fax: 513-241-2731, bak@baklaw.com, www.kerrycars.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Mastrangelo, Ellen, *Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers Association*, 9150 South Hills Boulevard, Suite 150, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147, Voice: 440-746-1500, Fax: 440-746-1504, emastrangelo@gcada.org, www.gcada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

McNair, Brian, *Jeff Wyler Automotive Family, Inc.*, 401 Milford Parkway, Milford, Suite A, Ohio 45150-9101, Voice: 513-752-7450, Fax: 513-752-1923, Brian.McNair@JeffWyler.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Corporate Law, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance.

Miller, Matthew, *Weston Hurd, LLP*, 1300 E. 9th Street, Suite 1400, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, Voice: 216-687-3236, Fax: 216-621-8369, MMiller@westonhurd.com, www.westonhurd.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Nichols, Philip, *Shayne Nichols, LLC*, 4653 Trueman Boulevard, Suite 121, Hilliard, Ohio 43026, Voice: 614-221-2220, Fax: 614-221-9020, phil@cmhlegal.com, www.cmhlegal.com. Practice Areas: Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Real Estate.

LEGAL ADVISORS to the TRANSPORTATION and other VEHICLE INDUSTRIES on matters involving:

- Advertising/cyberspace
- Aftermarket products/services
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- Corporate acquisitions and divestitures
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- Franchisor-franchisee disputes
- Governmental compliance and regulatory issues
- Insurance
- Social media
- Warranty audits
- Working capital and floor plan issues



Robert A. Poklar, Esq.

216.687.3243

rpoklar@westonhurd.com

Author of *You Auto Know*, the e-newsletter focused on topics of interest to the transportation industry.

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Weston Hurd LLP
Attorneys at Law

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Ohio

O'Hara, Patrick, *Liberty Auto Group, Ltd.*, 5500 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, Voice: 216-662-3673 ext. 2612, pohara@libertyford.com, www.libertyford.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.



Poklar, Robert, *Weston Hurd, LLP*, 1300 E. 9th Street, Suite 1400, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, Voice: 216-687-3243, rpoklar@westonhurd.com. Practice Areas: dealership/corporate acquisitions and divestitures, franchisor-franchisee disputes, consumer litigation, advertising/cyberspace, aftermarket products/services, employment, finance, governmental compliance, regulatory, insurance, social media, warranty audits, and working capital and floor plan issues. Bob represents automobile, RV, boat and motorcycle dealers and other businesses. He develops and presents seminars on business-related issues including regulatory compliance, Truth-in-Lending and the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act. He has tried complex and class action litigation. Since 1982, Bob has published an e-newsletter, "You Auto Know," which discusses current legal topics. He is certified as a Mediator through the Institute for Conflict Management.

Roman, Bridgette, *Bridgette Roman, Attorney at Law, LLC*, 8825 Dunsinane Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017, Voice: 614-371-4433, BridgetteRoman@hotmail.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Rose, Charles, *Beechmont Automotive Group*, 3997 McMann Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245, Voice: 513-624-1154, Fax: 513-388-3724, arose@theautomile.com, www.theautomile.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Sonkin, Rick, *Sonkin & Koberna LLC*, 3401 Enterprise Parkway, Suite 400, Cleveland, Ohio 44122, Voice: 216-514-8300, Fax: 216-514-4467, rsonkin@sklawllc.com, www.sonkinkoberna.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Stockamp, Deanna, *Stockamp & Brown, LLC*, 6017 Post Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017, Voice: 614-761-0400, Fax: 614-761-0303, dstockamp@stockampbrown.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Tucci, Michael, *Auto Services Unlimited, Inc.*, 5755 Granger Road, Independence, Ohio 44131, Voice: 216-503-2353, mtucci@autoservicesunlimited.com, www.autoservicesunlimited.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Dispute Resolution, Internet, Lemon Laws, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Vitantonio, Louis, *Greater Cleveland Auto Dealers Association*, 9150 South Hills Boulevard, Suite 150, Roadview Heights, Ohio 44147, Voice: 440-746-1500, Fax: 440-746-1504, lvitt@gcada.org, www.gcada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Governmental Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Tax Laws.

Oklahoma

Atkins, Jeffrey, *Atkins Law Group, PLLC*, 17209 Whimbrel Lane, Edmond, Oklahoma 73012, Voice: 405-834-2459, JAtkins@jeffatkinslaw.com, www.JeffAtkinsLaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Dealer Fraud, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Calvert, Randall, *Calvert Law Firm*, 1041 NW Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, Voice: 405-848-5000, Fax: 405-848-5052, rcalvert@calvertlaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Dittrich, Melanie, *David Stanley Auto Group*, 614 SW 74th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73139, Voice: 405-921-1499, melanie@davidstanleyautogroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Financing Documentation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Hoenshell, Monica, *Calvert Law Firm*, 1041 NW Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, Voice: 405-848-5000, Fax: 405-848-5052, mhoenshell@calvertlaw.com, www.calvertlaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Johnson, Eric, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 918 SW 107th, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73170, Voice: 405-602-3812, Fax: 405-602-3853, ejohnson@hudco.com, www.hudco.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Williams, Sean, *Integrity Auto Group*, 7113 Crossroads Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73149, Voice: 405-456-6305, Fax: 405-456-6309, swilliams@integrityautogroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

Oregon

Boender, Steven, *Stoel Rives LLP*, 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000, Portland, Oregon 97205, Voice: 503-294-9292, Steven.Boender@stoel.com.

Fullerton, Ky, *TEC Equipment, Inc.*, P.O. Box 11272, Portland, Oregon 97211, Voice: 503-247-4064, kfullerton@tecequipment.com, www.tecequipment.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Law, Government Relations, Labor Law, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Oregon – Pennsylvania

Impert, Edward, *Lithia Motors Inc.*, 150 N. Bartlett Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, Voice: 541-774-7545, eimpert@lithia.com, www.lithia.com.

Kurka, Will, *Lithia Motors, Inc.*, 150 N. Bartlett Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, Voice: 541-734-3024, willkurka@lithia.com, www.lithia.com. Practice Areas: Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements.

Sacks, Jeremy, *Stoel Rives LLP*, 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000, Portland, Oregon 97205, Voice: 503-294-9646, Fax: 503-220-2480, jeremy.sacks@stoel.com, www.stoel.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

Southard, Karolina, *Lithia Motors Inc.*, 150 N. Bartlett Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, Voice: 541-774-7584, karasouthard@lithia.com, www.lithia.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Weisman, Aaron, *Lithia Motors, Inc.*, 150 N. Bartlett, Medford, Oregon 97501, Voice: 614-314-9095, aaronweisman@lithia.com, www.lithia.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Land Use, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Pennsylvania

Bauer, Peter, *Peter Bauer Dealer Law*, 6445 Gallop Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111, Voice: 717-979-6465, pbdealerlaw@gmail.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Calore, Mark, *McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC*, 100 Pine Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101, Voice: 570-209-7226, mcalore@mcneeslaw.com, www.mcneeslaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Capobianco, Amy, *McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC*, P.O. Box 1166, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Voice: 717-237-5415, acapobianco@mwn.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Conseavage, John, *Dilworth Paxson LLP*, 2 North 2nd Street, Suite 1101, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101, Voice: 717-448-4022, jconseavage@dilworthlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Industry Relations, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

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Pennsylvania

Darkes, Barbara, *McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC*, P.O. Box 1166, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1166, Voice: 717-237-5381, Fax: 717-260-1677, bdarkes@mcneeslaw.com, www.mcneeslaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Davidson, Clayton, *McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC*, 100 Pine Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101, Voice: 717-237-5496, cdavidson@mcneeslaw.com, www.mcneeslaw.com/people/clayton-w-davidson. Practice Areas: Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation.

DeAngelo, James, *McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC*, P.O. Box 1166, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17108-1166, Voice: 717-237-5470, Fax: 717-260-1679, jdeangelo@mcneeslaw.com, www.mcneeslaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, International, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Hickey, John, *The Potamkin Companies*, 130 Spruce Street, Suite 30-B, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19380, Voice: 610-909-2539, Fax: 610-594-3883, hickeyjph@verizon.net, www.potamkinautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Marsar, Chad, *Pennsylvania Automotive Association*, P.O. Box 2955, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105, Voice: 717-255-8311, cmarsar@paa.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Menkowitz, Michael, *Fox Rothschild, LLP*, 2000 Market Street, 20th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103-3291, Voice: 215-299-2756, mmenkowitz@foxrothschild.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.



Natesan, Shalini, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, shalini.natesan@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Land Use, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues. Ms. Natesan focuses largely on representing auto dealerships in their transactional matters. Ms. Natesan has handled legal matters arising from franchise issues, change of ownership, buy-sell agreements, drafting necessary documents for corporate formations and transactions, and creating subsidiary entities to handle specific areas of a dealer's business. Ms. Natesan has also worked in navigating all aspects of large commercial real estate transactions.

Oyler, David, *Faulkner Organization*, 4437 Street Road, Trevoise, Pennsylvania 19053, Voice: 215-364-7720, doyler@faulknertobesure.com, www.faulknertobesure.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Oyler, John, *Faulkner Organization*, 2215 Country Club Drive, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006, Voice: 717-645-1104, joyler@mwn.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Puerto Rico

Vega, Ramon, *Autos Vega Group*, P.O. Box 364252, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-4252, Voice: 787-782-4030, Fax: 787-782-5222, ramon.vega22@gmail.com, www.autosvegaford.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

South Carolina



Becker, James, *Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.*, P.O. Box 11889, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, Voice: 803-540-7706, jbecker@hsblawfirm.com, www.hsblawfirm.com. James Becker focuses exclusively on complex business litigation. He represents automotive dealers in claims involving allegations of breach of contract, fraud, unfair trade practices, financing irregularities, and other consumer protection claims, including class actions regarding consumer protection code compliance. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America® for Consumer Law (2021-2024) and Litigation - Banking and Finance (2012-2024).



Caskey, Mary, *Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.*, 1201 Main Street, 22nd Floor, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, Voice: 803-540-7870, mcaskey@hsblawfirm.com, www.hsblawfirm.com. Practice Areas: Bankruptcy, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Financing Documentation, Liability, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance. Mary Caskey is a Certified Bankruptcy and Debtor-Creditor Law Specialist who represents automotive dealers in consumer warranty, financing, and statutory compliance claims, including class actions involving consumer protection code compliance. She is listed in The Best Lawyers in America® for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2020-2024) and Consumer Law (2019-2024).

Moses, John, *Hudson Automotive Group*, 100 Coastal Drive, Suite 400, Charleston, South Carolina 29492, Voice: 901-552-7877, jmoses@hudsonauto.com, www.hudsonauto.com.



Walker, Clay, *Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.*, 134 Meeting Street, 3rd Floor, Charleston, South Carolina 29401, Voice: 843-720-4434, cwalker@hsblawfirm.com, www.hsblawfirm.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, EPLI, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management, Termination Disputes. Clay Walker chairs Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd's Automotive Sales & Service Industry Team and has more than 20 years of experience representing dealers in matters involving unfair trade practice, Dealers Act defense claims, business practice disputes, mergers & acquisitions, employment, consumer complaints, and personal injury. He advises dealers on risk management issues and reviews and audits existing documents for compliance with regulations and procedures. Clay defended more than 150 automotive dealers in class actions involving consumer protection code compliance. He has served as a Uniform Law Commissioner since 2012, including Vice Chair of the Highly Automated Vehicle Act Committee and a member of the Event Data Recorders in Cars Study Committee. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America® Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants (2020-2024).

Tennessee

Bromley, Samma, *Harper Auto Square*, 9735 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37922, Voice: 865-803-6286, sammaharper@gmail.com, www.harperautosquare.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Tax Laws.

Cameron, James, *Cameron Worley P.C.*, 112 Westwood Place, Suite 240, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, Voice: 615-515-1080, Fax: 615-515-1081, jwc@cameronworley.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Edge, Beverly, *HHM CPAs*, 1200 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402, Voice: 423-756-7771, bedge@hhmcpas.com.

Fields, Rodney, *Lewis Thomason*, 620 Market Street, 5th Floor, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, Voice: 865-548-5228, rfields@lewisthomason.com, www.lewisthomason.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Liability, Litigation.

Mason, Jonathon, *Cameron Worley P.C.*, 112 Westwood Place, Suite 240, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, Voice: 615-515-1091, jdm@cameronworley.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Labor Law, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Termination Disputes.

Nahmias, Evan, *City Enterprises, LLC*, P.O. Box 680775, Franklin, Tennessee 37068, Voice: 901-213-6738, evan@cityllc.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Internet, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Peters, R. Wayne, *Gearhiser, Peters, Elliott & Cannon, PLLC*, 320 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402, Voice: 423-756-5171, Fax: 423-266-1605, wpeters@gearhiserpeters.com, www.gearhiserpeters.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Weaver, Roberts, *Tennessee Automotive Association*, 2521 White Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37204, Voice: 615-269-3433, Fax: 615-292-1353, bob@taaonline.biz. Practice Areas: Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

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Scott A. Womack, ASA, MAFF
womacks@mercercapital.com
615.345.0234



Nicholas J. Heinz, ASA
heinzn@mercercapital.com
901.685.2120



David W. R. Harkins, CFA, ABV
harkinsd@mercercapital.com
615.345.0272



Harrison Holt
holth@mercercapital.com
615.345.6881

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Texas

Anderson, Nathan, *DriveTime*, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Tower 3, Suite 1250, Dallas, Texas 75240, Voice: 469-774-1448, nathan.anderson@drivetime.com, www.drivetime.com. Practice Areas: Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Regulatory Compliance.

Brooks, Anna, *Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton*, Voice: 405-973-5454, abrooks@shackelford.law. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate.

Brunson, Rustin, *Brunson Law, PLLC*, 550 N. Walnut Creek Drive, Suite 110, Mansfield, Texas 76063, Voice: 817-945-6600, rustin@brunsonlaw.com, www.brunsonlaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Fraud, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance.

Burman, Darryl, *Group 1 Automotive, Inc.*, 800 Gessner, Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77024, Voice: 713-647-5764, Fax: 713-647-5869, dburman@group1auto.com, www.group1auto.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Burns, Parker, *Sewell Automotive Companies*, Voice: 214-366-7392, pburns@sewell.com.



Bush, William, *Bush & Ramirez, PLLC*, 5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 900, Houston, Texas 77005, Voice: 713-626-1555, Fax: 713-622-8077, wsbush@bushramirez.com, www.bushramirez.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws. William Bush received his BA from Tulane University in 1972 and his JD from The University of Texas at Austin in 1976. He practices primarily in the areas of automobile dealership representation and commercial and insurance litigation. He represents franchised automobile dealers in hearings before the Texas Motor Vehicle Commission, general litigation and mergers and acquisitions. He is "AV Preeminent" rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

Cain, Jay, *Jay Cain, PLLC*, 8150 N. Central Expressway, 10th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75206, Voice: 432-934-0081, jay@jaycain.law, www.jaycain.law. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Real Estate, Tax Laws.

Cooke, Earl, *Texas Independent Automobile Dealers Association*, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 101, Austin, Texas 78750, Voice: 571-229-2565, earl.cooke@txiada.org, www.txiada.org. Practice Areas: Compliance, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Liability, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Corrales, Anna-Lisa, *Vroom*, 3600 West Sam Houston Parkway S., Houston, Texas 77042, Voice: 201-819-4412, annalisa.corrales@vroom.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance.



Counts, Mark, *The Counts Company*, 1403 N. Thompson Street, Conroe, Texas 77301, Voice: 713-222-7100, Fax: 713-222-7102, mark@thecountscompany.com, www.cbllp.com. Practice Areas: DMS/IT consulting, real estate transactions, buy sell agreements, franchise disputes, EEOC complaint defense, DMV/OCCC violation defense, license applications, executive compensation agreements and consumer complaint defense.



Crocker, Wm. R. (Bill), *Wm. R. Crocker, Attorney*, P.O. Box 1418, Austin, Texas 78767, Voice: 512-478-5611, Fax: 512-474-2540, crockerlaw@earthlink.net. Practice Areas: Dealership sales/purchases, licenses, advertising, consumer credit regulation, franchise application documentation, administrative litigation regarding licensing, add points, terminations and other dealer/manufacturer issues. General Counsel for Texas Motorcycle Dealers Association and Austin Automobile Dealers Association. Former Chief Counsel, Texas Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner; Former Executive Director, Texas Motor Vehicle Commission; Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating for 35 years. Baylor University, Bachelor of Business Administration and Juris Doctor degrees.

Dahlen, Carl, *Foundation Automotive Corp.*, 211 Highland Cross Drive, Houston, Texas 77073, Voice: 832-995-8965, carld@foundationauto.com, www.foundationauto.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Intellectual Property, International, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Drakeley, James, *Spencer Fane LLP*, 5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 650, Plano, Texas 75024, Voice: 972-324-0350, jdrakeley@spencerfane.com, www.spencerfane.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Driscoll, Ian, *Berkshire Hathaway Automotive*, 8333 Royal Ridge Parkway, Suite 100, Irving, Texas 75063, Voice: 469-242-5796, idriscoll@berkshirehathawayautomotive.com, www.berkshirehathawayautomotive.com.

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5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 900
Houston, Texas 77005
Phone 713 626 1555
Fax 713 622 8077

Durant, Thomas, *Classic Chevrolet Inc.*, 1101 W. State Highway 114, Grapevine, Texas 76051, Voice: 817-421-1200, bently@classicchevrolet.com.

Floyd, Cory, *Floyd Law, PLLC*, 3211 McKnight Crossing, Texarkana, Texas 75503, Voice: 903-306-0373, cory@txklawyers.com, www.txklawyers.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Gould, II, Donald, *Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould, P.C.*, 1221 Lamar, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77010, Voice: 713-652-2525, Fax: 713-652-5130, dgould@jdkglaw.com, www.jdkglaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Hamilton, Jeffrey, *Sewell Automotive Companies*, 3860 W. Northwest Highway, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75220, Voice: 214-366-7394, jhamilton@sewell.com, www.sewell.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Hardig, J.J., *Gray Reed & McGraw, PC*, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77056, Voice: 713-986-7225, Fax: 713-986-7000, jhardig@grayreed.com, www.grayreed.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Hewlett, David, *Hewlett Auto Group*, P.O. Box 799, Georgetown, Texas 78627, Voice: 512-681-3006, dhewlett@donhewlett.com, www.donhewlett.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Hobson, Gillian, *Group 1 Automotive, Inc*, 800 Gessner Road, Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77024, Voice: 713-647-5877, ghobson@group1auto.com, www.group1auto.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management.

Hoops, Daniel, *Shackelford, Bowen, Mckinley & Norton, LLP*, 9201 N. Central Expressway, 4th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75231, Voice: 214-780-1492, Fax: 214-780-1405, dhoops@shackelfordlaw.net, www.shackelfordlaw.net. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Corporate Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Land Use, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.

Hwang, Steve, *Group 1 Automotive, Inc.*, 800 Gessner, Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77024, Voice: 713-647-5700, Fax: 713-647-5869, shwang@group1auto.com, www.group1auto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Kampmann, Abigail, *Principle Auto Group*, 153 Treeline Park, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78209, Voice: 210-437-3961, akampmann@principleauto.com, www.principleauto.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management.

Karabon, Anthony, 8800 Dewland Drive, McKinney, Texas 75070, Voice: 414-940-2639, tkarabon@gmail.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Kurisky, Jr., George, *Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould, P.C.*, 1221 Lamar, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77010, Voice: 713-652-2525, Fax: 713-652-5130, gkurisky@jdkglaw.com, www.jdkglaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Larrabee, Paige, *Westlex Corporation*, 1375 Enclave Parkway, Houston, Texas 77077, Voice: 713-580-3523, Fax: 713-580-7909, plarrabee@westsidelexus.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation.

Lassiter, Nickolas, *Bush & Ramirez*, 5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 900, Houston, Texas 77005, Voice: 713-626-1555, nlassiter@bushramirez.com, www.bushramirez.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Insurance Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Levine, Steve, *Ignite Consulting Partners*, 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1420, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, Voice: 817-875-0621, steve.levine@ignitecp.com, www.igniteconsultingpartners.com. Practice Areas: Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Privacy and Data Protection Laws.

Liljenwall, Emily, *Principal Auto Group*, 153 Treeline, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78209, Voice: 210-863-9468, elijenwall@principleauto.com.

Lowenfield, Luke, *Casa Auto Group*, 5815 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79925, Voice: 915-309-0065, luke@teamcasa.com, www.casaautogroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Lyons, Michael, *Rush Enterprises, Inc.*, 555 IH35 South, Suite 500, New Braunfels, Texas 78130, Voice: 830-626-5120, Fax: 830-626-5307, lyonsm@rushenterprises.com, www.rushenterprises.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Compliance, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.



Mayfield, Jordan, *Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee*, 400 Austin Avenue, Suite 800, Waco, Texas 76701, Voice: 254-755-4100, Fax: 254-754-6331, mayfield@namanhowell.com, www.namanhowell.com. Offices in the following Texas Cities: Austin, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Waco. Practice Areas: Purchase and sales of dealerships, new dealer formation, regulatory problems, consumer complaints, deceptive trade practices, taxation, employment, environmental, franchise termination, debt collection, product liability defense, condemnation/eminent domain.

Osterman, Lauren, *White, Starling & Osterman PLLC*, 700 N. Pearl Street, Suite 1610, Dallas, Texas 75201, Voice: 469-676-1061, losterman@wso-law.com, www.whiteandstarling.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Land Use, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Pannell, Aaron, *Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould, P.C.*, 1221 Lamar Street, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77010, Voice: 713-658-3352, apannell@jdkglaw.com, www.jdkglaw.com. Practice Areas: Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Labor Law, Litigation.

Phillips, Karen, Texas Automobile Dealers Association, 1108 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, Austin, Texas 78701, Voice: 512-476-2686, Fax: 512-476-5854, kphillips@tada.org, www.tada.org. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Constitutional Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Internet, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Rollins, Derek, *Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP*, 9201 N. Central Expressway, 4th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75231, Voice: 214-780-1425, Fax: 214-889-9725, drollins@shackelford.law, www.shackelford.law. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Scott, Christine, *Group 1 Automotive, Inc.*, 800 Gessner Road, Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77024, Voice: 713-647-5835, cscott@group1auto.com, www.group1auto.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Real Estate.

Shackelford, John, *Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley, & Norton, LLP*, 9201 N. Central Expressway, 4th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75231, Voice: 214-780-1400, Fax: 214-780-1405, jshack@shackelford.law, www.shackelford.law. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Starling, Brandon, *White & Starling PLLC*, 2003 N. Lamar Boulevard, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78705, Voice: 512-559-6299, bstarling@whiteandstarling.com, www.whiteandstarling.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Fraud, Product Liability.

Tran, Steven, *Bush & Ramirez*, 5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 900, Houston, Texas 77005, Voice: 713-626-1555, btran.atty@bushramirez.com. Practice Areas: Corporate Law, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Litigation, Product Liability, Real Estate.

Waites, Patrick, *Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould, P.C.*, 1221 Lamar Street, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77010, Voice: 713-652-2525, pwaites@jdkglaw.com, www.jdkglaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Wall, Chris, *Keating Auto Group*, 5802 N Navarro Street, Victoria, Texas 77904, Voice: 361-652-3698, chris@keatingauto.com.

White, Susan, *White & Starling PLLC*, 2003 N. Lamar Boulevard, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78705, Voice: 512-559-6394, swhite@whiteandstarling.com, www.whiteandstarling.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Termination Disputes.

Williams, Cameron, *Berkshire Hathaway Automotive*, 8333 Royal Ridge Parkway, Suite 100, Irving, Texas 75063, Voice: 469-242-5762, CWilliams@BerkshireHathawayAutomotive.com.

Williams, Kathryn, *Siddons Martin Emergency Group, LLC*, 1362 East Richey Road, Houston, Texas 77073, Voice: 281-606-4933, kwilliams@siddons-martin.com, www.siddons-martin.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Utah

Clinger, Christian, *Clinger Law Firm, LLC*, 6925 Union Park Center, Suite 550, Salt Lake City, Utah 84047, Voice: 801-273-3902, cwclinger@clingerlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

Creer, Michael, *Ken Garff Automotive Group*, 111 E. Broadway, Suite 900, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-5235, Voice: 801-257-3468, Fax: 801-428-1968, mikec@kengarff.com, www.kengarff.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal.

Hart, Nicholas, *Young Automotive Group*, 645 North Main Street, Layton, Utah 84041, Voice: 801-927-1809, nick.hart@youngauto.net, www.youngautomotive.com.

Lee-Edwards, Anne Marie, *AutoSavvy Holdings Inc.*, 2023 S. 625 W., Woods Cross, Utah 84087, Voice: 801-316-2359, annemariel@autosavvy.com, www.autosavvy.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Madsen II, Richard, *Ray Quinney & Nebeker, P.C.*, 36 So. State Street, Suite 1400, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, Voice: 801-532-1500, Fax: 801-532-7543, rmadsen@rqn.com, www.rqn.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Romney, Kalani, *Larry H. Miller Dealerships*, 351 W. Opportunity Way, Suite 400, Draper, Utah 84020, Voice: 801-304-4961, kalani.romney@lhmauto.com. Practice Areas: Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Fraud, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Risk Management.

Savage, Gregory, *Ray Quinney & Nebeker, P.C.*, 36 So. State Street, Suite 1400, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, Voice: 801-323-3313, Fax: 801-532-7543, gsavage@rqn.com, www.rqn.com.

Vermont

Macdonald, Robert, *Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson*, P.O. Box 9729, Portland, Maine 04104, Voice: 207-228-7338, Fax: 207-774-1127, bmacdonald@bernsteinshur.com, www.bernsteinshur.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Sipples, Kyle, *Autosaver Group*, P.O. Box 408, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819, Voice: 802-745-1452, Fax: 802-748-4288, ksipples@autosavergroup.com, www.autosavergroup.com.



Towne, Jr., James, *The Towne Law Firm, P.C.*, 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 15072, Albany, New York 12212, Voice: 518-452-1800, Fax: 518-452-6435, james.towne@townelaw.com, www.townelaw.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes. Mr. Towne has been representing auto and truck dealerships and related entities for over 40 years largely throughout the North East, addressing and handling a range of matters, he has worked at the request of both factory representatives and floor plan lenders to extricate a variety of dealers from the problems presented by a changing economic landscape over the past 35 years.

Virginia

Adams III, Richard, *Walton & Adams, PC*, 1925 Isaac Newton Square, Suite 250, Reston, Virginia 20190, Voice: 703-790-8000, Fax: 703-790-8916, radams@walton-adams.com, www.walton-adams.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Bailey, Lauren, *NADA*, 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 500, McLean, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-556-8582, lbailey@nada.org. Practice Areas: Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Beaty, Barrett, *Mahdavi, Bacon, Halfhill & Young*, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 700, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Voice: 305-409-8058, bbeaty@mbhylaw.com, www.mbhylaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

Bowman, Maggie, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 540-292-9994, maggie_bowman@carmax.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Governmental Regulation, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Brown, Timothy, *NADA*, 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 500, Tysons, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-407-7456, tbrown@nada.org, www.nada.org. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Cafritz, Diane, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-747-0422 ext 4561, diane_cafritz@carmax.com, www.carmax.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Termination Disputes.

Colaw, Rebecca, *Lithia Motors*, 160 West Washington Street, Suffolk, Virginia 23434, Voice: 757-434-7081, rebecca.colaw@lithia.com, www.lithiadriveway.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation.

Covington, Patricia, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 10800 Midlothian Turnpike, Suite 307, Richmond, Virginia 23235, Voice: 804-212-1201, Fax: 804-272-0483, pcovington@hudco.com, www.hudco.com.

Dovodova, Lachina, *Mahdavi, Bacon, Halfhill & Young, PLLC*, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 700, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Voice: 703-731-0141, ldovodova@mahdavi Bacon.com, www.mbhylaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Ekey, Kristen, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-240-6906, kristen_ekey@carmax.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Finnegan, Maggie, *CarMax Legal Department*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-935-4594, Fax: 804-217-6819, maggie_finnegan@carmax.com, www.carmax.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Frost, Claire, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-935-3565, claire_d_frost@carmax.com, www.carmax.com. Practice Areas: Litigation, Regulatory Compliance.

Gambardella, Anne, *Virginia Auto Dealers Association*, P.O. Box 5407, Richmond, Virginia 23220, Voice: 804-545-3006, agambardella@vada.com.

Griffin, Jerry, *Rosenthal Companies*, 1902 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 20191, Voice: 703-553-4300, Fax: 703-553-8435, JGriffin@Rosenthalauto.com, www.rosenthalauto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Habeeb, Greg, *Gentry Locke*, 919 East Main Street, Suite 1130, Richmond, Virginia 23219, Voice: 804-297-3702, Fax: 540-983-9400, habeeb@gentrylocke.com, www.gentrylocke.com/habeeb. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Labor Law, Land Use, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Haist, Jonathan, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-935-1514, jon_a_haist@carmax.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Governmental Regulation, Lemon Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Haynes, Jr., J. Matthew, *McCandlish Holton, P.C.*, P.O. Box 796, Richmond, Virginia 23218, Voice: 804-775-3809, Fax: 804-775-3800, mhaynes@lawmh.com, www.lawmh.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Hunt, Lauren, *Hudson Cook, LLP*, 9211 Forest Hill Avenue, Suite 103, Richmond, Virginia 23235, Voice: 804-212-2697, lhunt@hudco.com, www.hudco.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation.

Ingber, Daniel, *NADA*, 8484 Westpark Drive, #500, Tysons, Virginia 22102, Voice: 202-670-8329, ingberd@nada.org, www.nada.org. Practice Areas: Compliance, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Governmental Regulation, Labor Law.

Kelley, Kate, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-986-3731, kate_kelley@carmax.com, www.carmax.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Internet, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance.

Koblentz, Andrew, *National Automobile Dealers Association*, 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 500, Tysons, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-821-7012, akoblentz@nada.org, www.nada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Virginia

Lynch-Sparks, Kaye, *National Automobile Dealers Association*, 8484 West Park Drive, Suite 500, Tysons, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-821-8170, klynchsparks@nada.org, www.nada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Labor Law, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

MacCumbee, Kimberly, *Mahdavi, Bacon, Halfhill & Young, PLLC*, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 700, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Voice: 703-352-1300, kmaccumbee@mbhylaw.com, www.mbhylaw.com. Practice Areas: Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues.

Metrey, Paul, *National Automobile Dealers Association*, 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 500, Tysons, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-821-7040, Fax: 703-448-5824, pmetrey@nada.org, www.nada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Internet, Liability, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Miller, Bradley, *National Automobile Dealers Association*, 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 500, Tysons, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-821-7040, Fax: 703-448-5824, bmiller@nada.org, www.nada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Oddo, Kevin, *Berglund Management Group, Inc.*, 2009 Williamson Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24012, Voice: 540-344-1461 ext.24212, kevinoddo@berglundcars.com.

Patish, Shari, *Hall Automotive, LLC*, 441 Viking Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452, Voice: 757-431-9982, Fax: 757-431-9967, patish@hallauto.com, www.hallauto.com.

Richardson, Brett, *National RV Dealers Association (RVDA)*, 3930 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Voice: 703-591-7130, Fax: 703-359-0152, brichardson@rvda.org, www.rvda.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Salisbury, Travis, *Mahdavi, Bacon, Halfhill & Young, PLLC*, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 700, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Voice: 703-352-1300, Fax: 703-352-1301, tsalisbury@mbhylaw.com, www.mbhylaw.com/attorneys/travis-f-salisbury. Practice Areas: Advertising, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Termination Disputes.

Stepanick, Evan, *Walton & Adams, P.C.*, 1925 Isaac Newton Square, Suite 250, Reston, Virginia 20190, Voice: 703-790-8000, estepanick@walton-adams.com, www.walton-adams.com.

Stuckey, John, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-747-0422, mac_stuckey@carmax.com, www.carmax.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Environment, Health, and Safety, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Risk Management.

Sundquist, Lewis, *CarMax*, 12800 Tuckahoe Creek Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23238, Voice: 804-935-4583, lewis_sundquist@carmax.com, www.carmax.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance.

Wall, Richard, *BWLAW PLC*, P.O. Box 8246, Roanoke, Virginia 24014, Voice: 540-798-2875, Fax: 540-301-2108, rwall@bwlawplc.com, www.bwlawplc.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Intellectual Property, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning.

Weiss, Brad, *Mahdavi, Bacon, Halfhill, & Young, PLLC*, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 700, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Voice: 703-352-1300, bweiss@mbhylaw.com, www.mbhylaw.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Washington

Coleman, Ronald, *Ronald L. Coleman Attorney at Law*, 602 N. Stadium Way, Tacoma, Washington 98403, Voice: 253-229-8089, rcoleman@wamail.net. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Imai, Bryan, *Washington State Auto Dealers Association*, 621 SW Grady Way, Renton, Washington 98057, Voice: 206-433-6300, bimai@wsada.org, www.wsada.org. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Product Liability, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

King, Brian, *Davies Pearson, P.C.*, 1498 Pacific Avenue, Suite 520, Tacoma, Washington 98402, Voice: 253-238-5119, Fax: 253-572-3052, bking@dpearson.com, www.dpearson.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Termination Disputes.

Newell, Matthew, *Holman*, 18505 SE Mill Plain Boulevard, Suite 100, Vancouver, Washington 98683, Voice: 360-553-7381, matt.newell@holman.com, www.holman.com.

Washington – West Virginia

Taylor, J. Todd, Randall | Danskin, P.S., 601 W. Riverside Avenue, Suite 1500, Spokane, Washington 99201, Voice: 509-747-2052, Fax: 509-624-2528, jtt@randalldanskin.com, www.randalldanskin.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Land Use, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Worth, Rachel, Holman Automotive Group, 18505 SE Mill Plain Boulevard, Suite 100, Vancouver, Washington 98683, Voice: 360-768-3524, rachel.worth@holman.com.

West Virginia



Brown, Johnnie, Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC, 901 Quarrier Street E., Charleston, West Virginia 25301, Voice: 304-344-0100, Fax: 304-342-1545, jbrown@pffvw.com, www.pffvw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Constitutional Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Labor Law, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Cullop, Geoffrey, Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC, 901 Quarrier Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301, Voice: 304-344-0100, Fax: 304-342-1545, gcullop@pffvw.com, www.pffvw.com/attorney-profiles/geoffrey-a-cullop. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Product Liability, Risk Management.

Pawlowski, Kelly, Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC, 901 Quarrier Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301, Voice: 304-720-5029, kpawlowski@pffvw.com. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Product Liability, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes.

Powell, Donovan, Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC, 901 Quarrier Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301, Voice: 304-720-5172, dpowell@pffvw.com, www.pffvw.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Risk Management.

Wisconsin



Baker, Eric, *Wisconsin Dealer Law*, 30 Mifflin Street, Suite 1001, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, Voice: 608-285-9200, eric@widealerlaw.com, www.widealerlaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes. Eric represents automobile and equipment dealers in franchise litigation, and a variety of business and consumer litigation, in administrative proceedings, state and federal courts, arbitrations, and appeals. Eric also advises clients in litigation avoidance, and state and federal regulatory compliance, and teaches compliance seminars for dealer groups. Eric also represents dealerships in buy/sell transactions and succession planning.

Bennett, Joseph, *Van Horn Automotive Group, Inc.*, W5073 County Road O, Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073, Voice: 920-892-6466, jbennett@vhcars.com.

Breen, Patrick, *Boardman & Clark LLP*, 1 S. Pinckney Street, Suite 410, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, Voice: 608-257-9521, pbreen@boardmanclark.com, www.boardmanclark.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Franchise Issues, Litigation, Termination Disputes.

Brown, Dane, *Authenticom, Inc.*, 400 Main Street, Suite 300, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601, Voice: 608-793-1140, dane.brown@authenticom.com, www.authenticom.com. Practice Areas: Civil Liability, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Corporate Law, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Intellectual Property, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws.

Clair, Edward, *Kunes Auto Group*, 1234 Geneva Street, P.O. Box 546, Delavan, Wisconsin 53115, Voice: 773-844-7782, edward.clair@kunes.com, www.shopkunes.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, EPLI, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, International, Internet, Labor Law, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Liability, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Hogerty, II, John, *Bergstrom Automotive*, One Neenah Center, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956, Voice: 920-725-4444, Fax: 920-729-4034, jhogerty@bergstromauto.com, www.bergstromauto.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.

Nienhuis, Daniel, *The Boucher Group, Inc.*, 4141 S. 108th Street, Greenfield, Wisconsin 53228, Voice: 414-427-4141, daniel.nienhuis@boucher.com, www.Boucher.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Compliance, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

Norman, Paul, *Boardman & Clark LLP*, 1 S. Pinckney Street, 4th Floor, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, Voice: 608-283-1766, Fax: 608-283-1709, pnorman@boardmanclark.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal.

Snyder, Chris, *Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers Association*, 150 East Gilman Street, Suite A, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, Voice: 608-251-5577, Fax: 608-251-4379, csnyder@watda.org, www.watda.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property, Internet, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Statland, Jay, *Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.*, 330 N. Wabash, Suite 2100, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Voice: 312-840-7101, Fax: 312-840-7900, jstatland@burkelaw.com, www.burkelaw.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Fraud, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Land Use, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Storch, Jeffrey, *Boardman & Clark LLP*, 141 3rd Avenue, P.O. Box 443, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913, Voice: 608-283-1781, jstorch@boardmanclark.com, www.boardmanclark.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Torhorst, Richard, *Kunes Auto Group*, 1234 E. Geneva Street, P.O. Box 546, Delavan, Wisconsin 53115, Voice: 262-740-6403, r.torhorst@kunes.com, www.kunes.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Consumer Issues, Financing Documentation, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning.

Whitt, Jeremy, *LeadCar Systems, Inc.*, 476 Water Street, Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578, Voice: 414-881-8099, Fax: 608-299-3959, jwhitt@leadcar.com, www.leadcar.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Labor Law, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Product Liability, Real Estate, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Trade Association Executives

Sparrow, Bobbi, *Arizona Automobile Dealers Association*, 3419 E. University Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85034, Voice: 602-468-0888, bobbi@aada.com.

Green, Will, *Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association*, 7526 Picardy Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, Voice: 225-769-5500, Fax: 225-769-2085, wgreen@lada.org, www.lada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, Corporate Law, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Regulatory Compliance, Tax Laws.

Kitzmilller, J. Peter, *Maryland Automobile Dealers Association*, 7 State Circle, Suite 301, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, Voice: 410-269-1710, pkitzmilller@mdauto.org.

O'Koniewski, Robert, *Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association*, One McKinley Square, 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, Voice: 617-451-1051, rokoniewski@msada.org, www.msada.org. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

Burns, Terry, *Michigan Automobile Dealers Association*, P.O. Box 2525, East Lansing, Michigan 48826-2525, Voice: 517-351-7800, Fax: 517-351-6421, tburns@michiganada.org, www.michiganada.org.

Smith, Doug, *Missouri Automobile Dealers Association*, 3322 American Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65109, Voice: 573-634-3011, dsmith@mada.com, www.mada.com.

Knudsen, Bruce, *Montana Auto Dealers Association*, 501 N. Sanders, Helena, Montana 59601, Voice: 406-461-7680, Fax: 406-449-0119, bknudsen@mtada.com, www.mtada.com.

Todd, Loy, *Nebraska New Car & Truck Dealers Association*, 701 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, Voice: 402-475-1079, Fax: 402-475-7422, ltodd@neautos.com, www.nnctda.org. Practice Areas: Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Tax Laws.

Vancavage, Robert, *New York State Automobile Dealers Association*, P.O. Box 7347, Albany, New York 12224, Voice: 518-463-1148, bob@nysada.com, www.nysada.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Tax Laws.

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Anderson Economic Group, LLC, *Christina Benton*, 1555 Watertower Place, 100, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, Voice: 517-333-6984, Fax: 517-333-7058, cbentonaeg1.com, www.andersoneconomicgroup.com. Practice areas: Manufacturer franchise issues, regulatory requirements, buy-sell agreements, right of first refusal, tax law, EV transition strategies. Practice areas: Manufacturer franchise issues, regulatory requirements,

buy-sell agreements, right of first refusal, tax law, EV transition strategies. Anderson Economic Group is a premier consulting company in the automobile industry with offices in East Lansing and Chicago. Since 1996, hundreds of dealerships have benefitted from our market analyses, sales performance analyses, evaluation of “good cause” in dealer terminations, site selection and location analyses, economic damages calculations, dealership valuations, and EV sales and tax incentive analyses. Our studies are frequently referenced to inform legal proceedings, legislative bodies, and corporate boards, particularly regarding expert testimony and tax/public policy work. Our careful methodology in measuring dealership performance, business value, and market position helps dealers to maximize business decisions, improve business sale prospects, and conduct effective estate planning.



Armatus Dealer Uplift, *Joe Jankowski*, 50 Schilling Road, Suite 200, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031, Voice: 443-391-5701, FAX: 410-891-8252 joej@dealeruplift.com www.dealeruplift.com With over 13,800 approved submissions with

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Association of Dealership Compliance Officers, *Linda Robertson*, 4104 Felps Drive, Suite H, Colleyville, Texas, Voice: 817-821-9636, linda.robertson@adcocommunity.com, www.adcocommunity.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Docum.

Assurant Global Auto, *Eddie Rodrigue*, 11222 Quail Roost Drive, Miami, Florida 33157, Voice: 480-849-5833, eduardo.rodriguez@assurant.com, www.assurant.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Auto Finance Company, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Government Relations, Industry Relations, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.



AutoAp, Inc., *Mark Allen (President)*, 4804 NW Bethany Boulevard, Suite I-2, #342, Portland, Oregon 97229; 503-951-6152; mallen@autoap.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Governmental Regulation, Liability, Regulatory Requirements and Compliance, Risk Management. Dealers can avoid liability, increase disclosure compliance, generate additional profits, and save time and money, using AutoAp's industry-leading automated safety recall management services. They also improve operational performance with on-demand, mobile-based business intelligence insights regarding the liability and financial impacts due to safety recalls. AutoAp helps dealers increase profit during acquisition, avoid liability while vehicles are in inventory and during the sale, plus generate additional revenue (inventory and post-sale). In short, "AutoAp worries about safety recalls so dealers don't have to!" Dealers say it "pays for itself 10 times over, every month." Visit www.reduceliability.com.

Automotive Compliance Education (ACE), *Gilbert Van Over*, P.O. Box 673, Schererville, Indiana 46375, Voice: 312-961-9065, gil@acecert.org, www.acecert.org. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Compliance, Constitutional Law, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Credit Advertising, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Fraud, Government.

Bank of America, *Marisa Carnevale-Henderson*, 300 S Orange Ave, Suite 1250A, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-420-2799, marisa.carnevale-henderson@bofa.com, www.business.bofa.com/en-us/content/dealer-financial-services.html.

Bel Air Partners, LLC, *Todd Berko*, 578 Province Line Road, Hopewell, New Jersey 08525, Voice: 609-252-1125, Fax: 609-252-1322, tberko@belairpartners.com, www.belairpartners.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Buy Sell Agreements, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.



BMO, *George Pappas*, 111 West Monroe Street, Floor 18W, Chicago, Illinois 60603, Voice: 312-461-3755, George.Pappas@bmo.com, commercial.bmo.com/dealerfinance. Practice Areas: Auto, RV and Marine Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Real Estate. Whether you're looking for floor plan loans, commercial loans for real estate, acquisition financing or indirect lending solutions, it's important to partner with a financial institution that understands the needs of auto dealerships. At BMO our experienced and dedicated auto dealer relationship managers work with dealers nationwide, and will work with you to develop a strategic plan with industry-specific solutions, for your business' needs both now and as you grow. commercial.bmo.com/dealerfinance.

Botdoc, *Karl Falk*, 13395 Voyager Parkway, Suite 130, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921, Voice: 719-210-4225, kfalk@botdoc.io, www.botdoc.io. Practice Areas: Compliance, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management.

Capital Automotive Real Estate Services, Inc., *Daniel Garces*, 8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 200, McLean, Virginia 22102, Voice: 703-394-1313, dgarces@capitalautomotive.com, www.capitalautomotive.com. Practice Areas: Real Estate.

Celly Services, Inc., *Sanjay Celly*, 444 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90802, Voice: 562-716-6100, sam@cellyservices.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Environmental, Health, and Safety, Governmental Regulation.

CNA National Warranty Corporation, *Tanaaz Wheeler*, P.O. Box 2840, Scottsdale, Arizona 85252-2840, Voice: 800-345-0191 x764, tanaaz.wheeler@cnanational.com, www.cnanational.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Federal Privacy Law, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Litigation, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Regulatory Compliance.

ComplyAuto, *Hao Nguyen*, 350 South 200 East, Unit 305, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, Voice: 661-214-9760, hao@complyauto.com, www.complyauto.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, In.

ComplyNet, LLC, *Adam Crowell*, 422 Beecher Road, Columbus, Ohio 43230, Voice: 800-653-1869, adam.crowell@complynet.com, www.complynet.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Employment Issues, Employment Law, Environment, Health, and Safety, Federal Privacy Law, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Governmental Regulation, Insurance Laws, Land Use, Multiple Regulatory Requirements, Privacy and Data Protection Laws.

CounselorLibrary.com LLC, *Heather Medeiros*, 7037 Ridge Road, Suite 300, Hanover, Maryland 21076, Voice: 410 865-5420, hmedeiros@hudco.com, www.counselorlibrary.com. Practice Areas: Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Crowe LLP, *Christine Smith*, 401 East Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 1100, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301, Voice: 630-586-5154, jodi.kippe@crowe.com, www.crowe.com. Practice Areas: Add Points, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Dealer Fraud, Fraud, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.

Dave Cantin Group, *Dave Cantin*, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10111, Voice: 732-433-3824, Fax: 800-722-8621, info@davecantingroup.com, www.davecantingroup.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Real Estate, Risk Management, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws, Termination Disputes.

Dealer Risk Services, Inc., *Chad Voss*, 120 W. Virginia Street, Suite 200, McKinney, Texas 75069, Voice: 469-424-3419, chad@bevcapmanagement.com, www.dealerriskservices.com. Practice Areas: Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Employment Law, EPLI, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Insurance Laws, Lemon Laws, Liability, Product Liability, Risk Management, Tax Laws.

Dealer Solutions Mergers and Acquisitions (DSMA), *Farid Ahmad*, Founder & CEO, US Head Office: 4851 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 200 Naples, Florida | 34103, Voice: 416.844.5581, farid@dsma.com. DSMA Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dealer Arbitration, Dealer Fraud, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning, Termination Disputes.

F&I Profits, *John Noviello*, 91 Oakwood Lane, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19460-4644, Voice: 607-207-1148, jnov607@gmail.com, www.fiprofits.com.

FORVIS, *Adam Lawyer*, 100 Throckmorton Street, Suite 1600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, Voice: 817-276-4131, adam.lawyer@FORVIS.com, www.forvis.com/industries/dealerships.



GW Marketing Services, *Gordon Wisbach*, 18 Ripley Terrace, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459, Voice: 857-404-0226, Fax: 857-404-0227, Gordon@gwmarketingservices.com, www.gwmarketingservices.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Dispute Resolution, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal, Termination Disputes. Over the past 43 years GW Marketing Services

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Haig Partners LLC, *Alan Haig*, 500 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 1450, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33394, Voice: 954-646-8921, alan@haigpartners.com, www.haigpartners.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements. Haig Partners help dealers maximize the value of their

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HHM CPAs, *Travis Horton*, 1200 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402, Voice: 423-702-7275, thorton@hhmcpas.com, www.hhmdealership.com.

Legacy Automotive Capital, *Todd Marcelle*, 30 Liberty Boulevard, Suite 200, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355, Voice: 914-671-8871, todd@legacyautocapital.com, www.legacyautocapital.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Buy Sell Agreements, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Dealer Mediation/Negotiation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Real Estate, Rights of First Refusal, Succession and Estate Planning.



Kerrigan Advisors, *Erin Kerrigan*, 930 Tahoe Blvd. Suite 802, Incline Village, NV 89451. Voice: 949-439-6768, erin@kerriganadvisors.com. Practice Areas: Buy/sell brokerage, valuation, open point applications, buyer due diligence, and litigation support. Erin Kerrigan is Founder and Managing Director of Kerrigan Advisors, the nation's premier sell-side

advisor and thought partner for higher value dealerships and dealership groups. Since 2015, Kerrigan Advisors has represented on the sale of the industry's most valuable dealerships, including more of the Top 150 Dealership Groups than any other firm in the industry, achieving the highest sale price per transaction. In addition to sell-side services, Kerrigan Advisors provides consulting services to growing dealership groups, including acquisition valuation assessments. The lead author of The Blue Sky Report®, Erin is a recognized industry expert on dealership buy/sells and is a frequent speaker at leading auto retail conferences. She is licensed with FINRA to represent clients nationwide in asset, stock and real estate transactions.

MD Johnson, Inc., *Mark Johnson*, 43815 284th Avenue Southeast, Enumclaw, Washington 98022, Voice: 360-825-1756, nellie@mdjohnsoninc.com, www.mdjohnsoninc.com.

Mechanical Breakdown Protection Inc., *Daniel Porazzo*, 250 NE Mulberry, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64086, Voice: 816-875-2415, Daniel.Porazzo@MBPNetwork.com, www.mbpnetwork.com. Practice Areas: Auto Finance Company, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Corporate Law, Dealer Fraud, Dispute Resolution, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Liability.

Mercer Capital, *Scott Womack*, 104 Woodmont Boulevard, Suite 200, Nashville, Tennessee 37205, Voice: 615-345-0234, womacks@mercercapital.com, www.mercercapital.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements, Litigation.

Morgan Stanley, *Timothy Kasper*, 350 East Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 1500, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301, Voice: 954-892-0073, Timothy.Kasper@morganstanley.com, www.advisor.morganstanley.com/timothy.kasper. Practice Areas: After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Employment Issues, Succession and Estate Planning, Tax Laws.



Moss Adams LLP, *Kim Linebarger*, kim.linebarger@mossadams.com, 999 Third Avenue, Suite 2800, Seattle, Washington 98104, www.mossadams.com. Diane and Kim are Accredited Senior Appraisers (American Society of Appraisers). Areas of expertise: Business valuation and financial consulting for a variety of purposes, including buy-sell transactions; estate and gift planning; corporate planning; tax planning; personal goodwill; assistance with new point proposals, projections, or forecasts for expansion planning; and expert witness. Co-authors of NADA management guide: A Dealer Guide to Dealership Valuation. We serve hundreds of dealerships nationwide and are a leader in assurance, tax, consulting, risk management, transaction, and wealth services. Visit us online at mossadams.com/Industries/Automotive-Dealer-Services.

Nancy Phillips Associates, *Nancy Phillips*, 111 Water Street, P.O. Box 70, Exeter, New Hampshire 3833, Voice: 603-658-0004, carrie@nancyphillips.com, www.nancyphillips.com. Practice Areas: Agreements of Sale, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Rights of First Refusal.



National Business Brokers, Inc., *Brady Schmidt*, 100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 900, Irvine, California 92618-4974, Voice: 949-910-2060, Fax: 949-770-1965, brady@nationalbusinessbrokers.com, www.nationalbusinessbrokers.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Agreements of Sale, Asset-Backed Securitization Transactions, Auto Finance Company, Bankruptcy, Buy Sell Agreements, Civil Liability, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation, Complex Dealer Appeals, Compliance, Constitution. For 43 years, National Business Brokers has been helping new car dealers across the nation to sell their stores successfully. We are committed to helping car dealers reach their business goals, whether they are just starting out or moving toward retirement. We work with dealers to get an accurate valuation of their store then we connect them with qualified buyers, and negotiate a smooth closing. NBB has successfully closed over 850 transactions in the auto industry, more than any other brokerage firm. With five regional offices, the NBB team offers national reach with small-town familiarity. We appreciate any opportunity to partner with NADC members. Please contact us at info@nationalbusinessbrokers.com or 800-576-9875.

One View, Inc., *David DeHaven*, 6270 N Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220, Voice: 317-915-9039, Fax: 317-915-9045, mdehaven@one-view.com, www.one-view.com.

Owl Automotive Consulting, LLC, *Thomas Olney*, 1011 Charles Street, Unit D, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401, Voice: 770-377-6251, tom@owlautocs.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Project Management and Consulting – Buyer or Seller, Fractional CFO Services, Accounting and DMS Process Assessments, Treasury Management Assessments, DMS Contract Negotiations, DMS Conversion Project Management, Managed Network Services.



Performance Brokerage Services, Inc., *Moshe Stopnitzky*, 7545 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 200, Irvine, California 92618, Voice: 949-461-1372, Fax: 949-461-1358, oshe@performancebrokerageservices.com, www.performancebrokerageservices.com. Practice Areas: Buy Sell Agreements. Founder and President of Performance Brokerage Services, Inc., North America's highest volume automotive dealership brokerage firm. After 30 years, 900 dealerships sold, and with a 90% closing rate, our reputation is unmatched and governed by the utmost honesty and integrity. Family-owned, we treat clients like family, giving all clients the attention they deserve. Our agreements are flexible, straight-forward, and even allow for a termination clause. Our fees are reasonable, charging a success fee only with no upfront fees nor retainers. Headquartered in California and supported by regional offices in Utah, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Florida, New Jersey, Virginia, and Canada, we offer our clients national exposure to the top dealers across numerous industries. We pledge to do it right, every time, one client at a time.

PORTFOLIO, *Sora Kim*, 25541 Commercentre Drive, Suite 100, Lake Forest, California 92630, Voice: 949-789-6200 ext. 253, Fax: 949-900-8553, sora@portfolioco.com, www.portfolioreinsurance.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, After Market Issues, Buy Sell Agreements, Compliance, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Insurance Laws, Manufacturer F.

Privacy4Cars, *Andrea Amico*, 630 Kennesaw Due West Road, Kennesaw, Georgia 30154, Voice: 617-309-0937, andrea@privacy4cars.com, Privacy4Cars.com. Practice Areas: Compliance, Privacy and Data Protection Laws, Risk Management.

Reynolds and Reynolds Document Services, *Terry O'Loughlin*, 7201 NW 80th Street, Tamarac, Florida 33321, Voice: 954-718-9266, terrence_oloughlin@reyrey.com, www.reyrey.com.

Rosenfield and Company PLLC, *Kenneth Rosenfield*, Capital Plaza I, 201 East Pine Street, Suite 730, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-849-6400, Fax: 407-849-6700, ken@rosenfieldandco.com, www.rosenfieldandco.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Dealer Fraud, Employment Issues, Finance and Regulatory Complexities, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Tax Laws.



The Fontana Group, Inc., *Joseph Roesner*, 3509 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719, Voice: 520-325-9800, Fax: 520-325-9847, jroesner@fontanagroup.com, www.fontanagroup.com. Practice Areas: Franchise issues, right of first refusal, expert witness testimony. The Fontana Group has provided expert analysis and testimony involving franchisee/franchisor relations in the retail automotive industry since 1973. We use industry-specific knowledge & experience in economics, statistics, financial analysis, data management and GIS to solve complex business problems. We consult with dealers regarding Add Points, Relocations, Allocation, Sales and Customer Satisfaction Performance, Denied Buy/Sells, Area of Responsibility Analysis, Location Analysis, Financial Analysis, Credit Discrimination, Medium and Heavy Vehicles, Brand Elimination, Demographics, Wholesale Finance and others. We provide litigation support such as: Discovery, Expert Testimony, Deposition and Trial Preparation, Case Review and Analysis, Rebuttal Analyses and Testimony, Data Management and Analysis, Exhibit Preparation, Statistical and Economic Analysis, and Class Action Damages.

The Rawls Group - Business Succession Planners, *Kendall Rawls*, 1700 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32804, Voice: 407-578-4455, kendall@rawlsgroup.com, www.rawlsgroup.com. Practice Areas: Succession Planning & Family Business Issues.

TrueCar, *Patrick Watson*, 2631 Heyward Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29205, Voice: 803-360-6094, pwatson@truecar.com, www.truecar.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Compliance, Consumer Issues, Credit Advertising, Federal Privacy Law, Franchise Issues, Government Relations, Governmental Regulation, Industry Relations, Internet, Lemon Laws, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Multiple Regulatory Requirements.

Weiner LLC/ Dealer Forensics Division, *Larry Weiner*, 167 Franklin Turnpike, Waldwick, New Jersey 7463, Voice: 201-746-9700, Fax: 201-746-9708, lweiner@weinerllc.com, www.weinerllc.com. Practice Areas: Advertising, Buy Sell Agreements, Financing Documentation, Franchise Issues, Manufacturer Franchise Issues, Tax Laws.

Withum, *Marienne Badurina*, 200 S Orange Avenue, Suite 1200, Orlando, Florida 32801, Voice: 407-970-1722, mbadurina@withum.com, www.withum.com. Practice Areas: Dispute Resolution, Tax Laws.

Xakia Technologies, *Anne Post*, 4700 Belleview, Suite 404, Kansas City, Missouri 64112, Voice: 816-729-6535, anne.post@xakiatech.com, www.xakiatech.com.

Zurich, *Sandra Polanco*, 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196, Voice: 847-413-5103, Fax: 84-7413-5103, s.polanco@zurichna.com, www.zurich.com. Practice Areas: Insurance Laws, Intellectual Property.



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