

International Law Committee

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (by order of presentation)

Brent O.E. Clinkscale

*Clinkscale Legal & Global Dispute Resolution LLC
Greenville, SC
(Course Planner)*

Brent Clinkscale is an Independent Arbitrator, Mediator, Facilitator and Litigation Consultant. He is the Managing Member of Clinkscale Global ADR. He is a veteran advocate with experience in both trials and arbitrations. He worked for over 25 years as counsel and lead counsel in complex litigation trying numerous cases in both federal and state courts in the United States. Brent's concentration is in business litigation, including both domestic and international arbitrations, but he has experience across a broad spectrum of civil dispute resolution. He also has significant experience in class action and multi district litigation.

Brent is a member of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) Domestic Panels of Commercial, Complex and Consumer Arbitrators and a member of the International Center for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) International Panel of Commercial Arbitrators. Brent is also a Member of the AAA-ICDR Council and he serves on the Council's Arbitrator Committee. He is Immediate Past President and present Executive Committee Member of the Atlanta International Arbitration Society (AtLAS), Chair of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) Southeastern Arbitration Subcommittee and Chair of the South Carolina Bar International Committee.

Brent is also a member of the ABA ROLI Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI) Council. He serves as a Coach for the Charleston School of Law Vis Moot Team and the University of South Carolina Law School Vis Moot Team in the Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition in Vienna.

Allen C. Ladd

*Allen C. Ladd P.C.
Greenville, SC
(Moderator)*

Allen Ladd is a native of New York. He attended the University of Virginia and Albany Law School of Union University. He has practiced United States immigration law, exclusively, for 35 years. He is admitted to practice in New York, Texas, and South Carolina and has represented immigration clients throughout the United States and internationally. He has written for the *South Carolina Lawyer* and presented for the bar, most recently a video, "US Immigration Law for the General Practitioner." Mr. Ladd is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the Federal Bar Association, and the Association of

European Lawyers. He is fluent in French and proficient in Spanish. He and his wife Kathie make their home in Greenville.

Melissa B. Drennan

*Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel, LLP
Charleston, SC*

Melissa B. Drennan is a senior attorney in Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP's internationally recognized Immigration practice with over a decade of experience in immigration. She advises clients on a variety of employment-based business immigration matters across a diverse range of industries, including financial services, advertising, technology, law, medical, scientific research, education, art, fashion, and management consulting. Melissa advises Fortune 500 multinational corporations, startups, nonprofits, and other organizations, as well as individuals, in seeking immigrant and nonimmigrant visas. She also defends companies facing Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations and Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of State (DOS) inquiries. She is a Member of the South Carolina Bar Association International Law Committee and Charleston County Bar Association. She is also a Member of the Charleston Pro Bono Human Trafficking Legal Network. In addition, she is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)'s Carolinas, New York, and New Jersey Chapters, and is currently serving as a Co-chair of the Employment Committee and member of the CBP Liaison Committee for the AILA New York Chapter. She has spoken on a variety of CLEs and panels on immigration, and is a pro bono speaker on Immigration Law for the SC Bar Association's Law School for Non-Lawyers. She also serves as member of the International Medical Graduate (IMG) Taskforce. She is a graduate of Lafayette College and Seton Hall University of Law and is licensed in South Carolina, New York, and New Jersey.

Ali C. Raffety

*Mercedes-Benz Vans LLC
Ladson, SC*

Alison Raffety currently works at Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC in Ladson, SC as Corporate Counsel. As Corporate Counsel, Alison works on a variety of legal areas such as immigration, employment, and contracts. Raffety has worked for Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC for over two years. She graduated from the Charleston School of Law and from the University of Missouri, Magna Cum Laude, with a B.A. in political science and a Master's in Public Affairs. Alison is a member of the SC Bar's In-House Counsel Committee. She is also a 2023-2024 South Carolina Port Ambassador. Raffety is a licensed attorney in South Carolina and North Carolina.

Christopher Richardson

*BDV Solutions
Charleston, SC*

Christopher Richardson is an immigration attorney, consultant, and former U.S. Diplomat. Richardson is currently the General Counsel and COO of BDV Solutions, LLC. Richardson is a nationally recognized thought leader on immigration policy.

Richardson served in Nigeria, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and Spain as a Consular Officer. He was an American Citizens Services Chief, a visa officer, Deputy Nonimmigrant Visas Chief, Acting

Nonimmigrant Visas Chief, Immigrant Visas Chief, and a Deputy Consular Section Chief. For his service, Richardson won several awards including Meritorious Honors Awards and a Superior Honors Award.

In drafted Pete Buttigieg's immigration policy for his 2020 campaign and advised the Biden campaign on immigration as well. He has worked with both Democratic and Republican members of Congress on immigration policy.

Richardson has been featured In Mother Jones, Slate Magazine, Reuters, NPR, Embedded, All Things Considered, SCOTUS Blog, BBC, Georgia Public Radio, Intercept, and the Atlanta Journal Constitution. He has also been interviewed by the New York Times, CNN and CBS. Richardson has written several wellreceived opinion columns for the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Slate Magazine, Chicago Sun-Times, The Hill, the Nation and the New York Times.

Richardson is licensed in both North Carolina and Georgia. He graduated from Duke School of Law and summa cum laude from Emory University. He is also author of the Historical Dictionary of the Civil Rights Movement (2014)

Garrett D. Steck

*Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
Greenville, SC*

Garrett D. Steck is an attorney with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA, and is a member of the firm's corporate and employment practice groups. He represents multinational corporations, healthcare facilities, universities and colleges, and local businesses of all sizes in facilitating the movement of key executives, management, and technical personnel and their family members into and out of the US by successfully obtaining and maintaining temporary and permanent employment-based visas. Additionally, Mr. Steck regularly advises clients on compliance issues, including I-9 completion, re-verification, and retention, and provides additional guidance with site investigations and audits conducted by ICE-HSI. Mr. Steck also supports clients with matters involving foreign sourcing, international financing, and customs compliance. He holds a BA in Economics from Wofford College, MPH in Environmental Health Science, and a JD, both from the University of South Carolina. He is admitted to practice in South Carolina.

Usher Winslett

*Winslett Studnicky McCormick & Bomser, LLP
Georgetown, SC
(Moderator)*

Usher Winslett is an international and domestic arbitrator, mediator, and litigator. He has been an ADR professional for more than 25 years, working out of Georgetown, South Carolina and New York City. Usher is Co-Chair of the ABA Dispute Resolution Section Arbitration Committee and Co-Chair of the ABA Arbitration Training Institute. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a former Fellow of the ABA Dispute Resolution Section. Usher serves on the arbitration and mediation panels of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR), the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the court panels for the United States District Courts for the District of South Carolina, the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York. Usher graduated from Washington and Lee University and then received his J.D. from New York University School of Law. On both the business and legal side, Usher has been involved in international transactions and disputes for more than 35 years.

Dale Davis

Cummins Inc.

Greenville, SC

Mr. Dale J. Davis is the Chief IP Counsel and Deputy General Counsel at Cummins. He is a member of the Cummins Legal Leadership Team. Dale leads and manages a global team of lawyers that provide strategy and legal advice for a wide range of IP, Commercial, and Branding matters including the following. Litigation, cross-border transactions, strategic alliances, joint ventures, development and licensing, R&D, technology transfer, and mergers and acquisitions. His team also evaluates patents and potential product infringement issues; and directs outside counsel's preparation of patent applications for filing.

Previously he was the Executive Counsel – Intellectual Property at General Electric, where he left after 21 total years of service. His broad legal, engineering, and military experiences are integrated with a passion for solving complex matters. He resolves a wide array of complex legal and technical issues. He is also an accomplished inventor, co-authoring over twenty (20) patents.

He was a lead strategist and lawyer on many IP/M&A deals; including ten (10) that were each valued over 1B US Dollars and another twenty-five (25), each valued at over 100M US Dollars. These deals involved the following countries: Russia, China, South Korea, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, France, Switzerland, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia.

Dale's engineering career began as an International Technical Advisor for GE, where he was responsible for the commissioning of large power plants. His resident assignments were on the continent of Europe, the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and throughout North America. He then accepted a role as Lead Engineer in Advanced Controls Development, developing control systems software for a wide range of energy applications. He is a graduate of GE's FEP, Advanced Controls, and Advanced Engineering programs.

Dale took a leave of absence to attend law school. He chose to attend North Carolina Central University – School of Law on a full scholarship. He was a Sidney B. Williams IP scholar and Magister for Phi-Delta-Phi. Upon graduation, he was an IP Associate with Moore & Van Allen in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar, the State Bar of North Carolina, and is a Registered Patent Attorney.

Dale is recognized as an expert in Intellectual Property and Engineering. He has lectured as a CLE panelist and as a Visiting Law Professor. He is an appointed member of the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO), and the American Inns of Court.

He is on the Board of Trustees of Rochester Institute of Technology. He also serves as an advisor to an Ambassador, startups and small businesses.

Earlier achievements include a distinguished military career in the United States Army Reserves, holding positions in the Infantry and Civil Affairs. He graduated from Rochester Institute of

Technology with B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and was inducted into the RIT Engineering Academy in 2016.

Shelby R. Grubbs

*JAMS
Atlanta, GA*

Shelby Grubbs works as an arbitrator, mediator and special master. He has served on arbitration panels for JAMS, American Arbitration Association, CPR Institute, International Centre for Dispute Resolution and the International Chamber of Commerce. Recent work includes the successful mediation of class cases arising under securities laws, ERISA and the Eighth Amendment. He has been appointed special master on multiple occasions and currently serves special master for the US District Court for the District of Columbia in a matter brought under an exception to the federal Foreign Sovereign Immunities in Act. In 2023 he was named Atlanta, Georgia's Lawyer of the Year for International Commercial Arbitration by Best Lawyers in America. He co-edits the AtlAS Desk Book, a guide for international dispute resolution lawyers, now in its fifth edition. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. He has taught international commercial arbitration as an adjunct professor at the law schools at Georgia State University, Emory University and Vanderbilt University.

Abigail "Abby" Miranda

*Mercedes Vans Plant
Ladson, SC*

Abigail Miranda represents Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC as General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, and Local Compliance Officer, where she has served as in-house counsel since 2020. Abigail primarily focuses on corporate governance, transactions, as well as overseeing the Legal Department's management of all legal matters facing the organization. Abigail began her career in Connecticut working in a private litigation practice representing businesses, individuals, and municipalities, before moving to Charleston in 2019 to begin her in-house career. Abigail is admitted to practice in South Carolina, Connecticut, as well as to the U.S. District Court bar.

Barbara L. Wojtysiak

*Volvo Car USA LLC
Ridgeville, SC*

Barbara Lacerda Wojtysiak is an attorney with Volvo Cars responsible for assisting the procurement and supply chain teams (add more). Barbara has a background in legal operations outsourcing, having worked with large international law firms and corporate law department clients to improve customers' contractual infrastructure, workflow, and processes. Prior to her work in outsourcing, Barbara began her career as a litigation associate at a Charleston law firm. A native of Brazil, she moved to the United States to attend the University of Central Oklahoma, and is also a graduate of the Charleston School of Law. During her time at Charleston Law, she was a member of the Charleston Law Review and a competitor in the school's JESSUP International Moot Court team, and Barbara now serves as a memorial judge for the JESSUP competition. She is admitted to practice in the State of South Carolina.

J.H. “Sam” Hines
Hines & Gilsenan, LLC
N. Charleston, SC
(Moderator)

Julius “Sam” Hines has been practicing law since 1992. He attended law school at the University of Virginia, where he served on the Virginia Law Review. After law school, Hines joined Buist Moore Smythe & McGee, where he handled maritime, commercial and appellate matters. He has tried many cases and argued appeals in several courts, including the South Carolina Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

After his original firm merged with what is now Womble Bond Dickenson, Hines moved to the international firm of K&L Gates, LLP, where he practiced for six years. In 2019, Hines formed Hines Law LLC, which, with the addition of a new partner, became Hines & Gilsenan LLC. In addition to his private law practice, Hines serves as an adjunct professor at the Charleston School of Law, where he teaches courses in maritime law and international trade.

Education

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1992

Virginia Law Review, Notes Editor

Order of the Coif

M.A. English, University of Virginia, 1989

B.A. English, College of William & Mary, 1985

Byron Miller
South Carolina Ports Authority
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Byron Miller leads all sales, marketing and business development efforts at SC Ports, growing and diversifying South Carolina’s cargo base.

Byron joined SC Ports in 1993 and worked in many leadership positions across the organization. Since he joined the commercial group in 2012, the Port of Charleston earned the title of the nation’s fastest growing top 10 seaport.

Byron held several roles including director of sales where he worked collaboratively with many of SC Ports’ largest customers in the automotive, manufacturing and distribution sectors and helped to develop solutions for their end-to-end supply chain objectives.

A South Carolina native, Byron has been active with various professional associations and community organizations and was previously named the Charleston region’s “Transportation Leader of the Year” and the Propeller Club Member of the Year.

He earned bachelor’s degrees in business and French from The College of Charleston, with a concentration in global logistics.

Dr. Bernard Powers, Jr.

*College of Charleston
Charleston, SC*

Bernard E. Powers Jr. earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American history at Northwestern University and in 2018 retired as professor emeritus of history at the College of Charleston. Currently Powers is the founding director of the College of Charleston's Center for the Study of Slavery in Charleston. He has presented papers at conferences and reviewed books and manuscripts for journals and presses. His work appears in book chapters and in scholarly and popular periodicals. He edited the 1999 ASALH Black History Month Kit entitled "The Legacy of African American Leadership for the Present and the Future." His article "Community Evolution and Race Relations in Reconstruction Charleston, S.C." was included in the Century of Excellence Centennial Volume 1900-2000 of The South Carolina Historical Magazine (July,2000). A recent book chapter is "Churches as Places of History: The Case of Nineteenth Century Charleston, South Carolina," in *Interpreting African American History and Culture at Museums and Historic Sites* (2015). Powers is the author of *Black Charlestonians: A Social History 1822-1885*, (1994) a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Book for 1995. He was an associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of South Carolina* (2006). Most recently he co-authored *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*(2016). His current research examines African Methodism in South Carolina. Bernard Powers has appeared in documentary films, including recently the PBS production, "African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" and "Emanuel: the Untold Story of the Victims and Survivors of the Charleston Church Shooting." Powers has been extensively involved in public history and has served as a consultant for historic sites. He is the founding past president of the Charleston Branch of ASALH. He was also president of the South Carolina Historical Association and of the Advisory Board of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. He is an emeritus trustee of the Historic Charleston Foundation and a former member of the City of Charleston Tourism Commission. Presently, Powers is interim president of the International African American Museum (IAAM) scheduled to open in 2021 in Charleston.

Michael Wang

*Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte, NC*

Michael Wang, President of the Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce (CCCC), plays a crucial role in promoting and facilitating business opportunities between Chinese and local businesses in the Carolinas. Under his leadership, the CCCC has become one of the most influential minority chambers, serving and supporting the local Asian business community while also fostering economic growth, and cultural exchange, and strengthening the mutual-benefiting relationship between the Chinese and Carolinas. Currently, the CCCC boasts over 200 member organizations, with a combined annual revenue exceeding \$2 billion.

Furthermore, Michael serves as a Senior Partner at The Edtech Fund, a venture capital fund focused specifically on investing in educational technology startup companies. Before this, he held senior positions at esteemed US financial institutions including Bank of America Merrill Lynch, US Bank, and FleetBoston Financial. During his tenure as Senior Vice President at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Michael successfully led an analytics team and provided oversight for the firm's \$100 billion Merrill Edge portfolio. His expertise spans risk management, financial analysis, international trade and investment.

Michael's educational background includes a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Zhejiang University and a Master's degree in Economics from Vanderbilt University. In 2002, he obtained the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.

Joseph W. Rohe, LCB CCS
6125 TRADE LLC
Greenville, SC

As a licensed U.S. Customs broker (LCB) and Certified Customs Specialist (CCS), Joseph is a logistics and international trade attorney who represents and advises clients on:

- Classification and valuation
- C-TPAT and supply chain security programs
- Fines, penalties and forfeitures
- Free trade agreements and preference programs
- Foreign trade zones and duty deferral programs
- Import/export compliance
- Inbond shipments
- Intellectual property protection
- Prior disclosures and voluntary self-disclosures
- Protests
- Regulatory audit and investigations
- Rules of origin and country of origin marking
- Rulings
- Transfer pricing programs

He regularly counsels clients on various matters pertaining to Customs and trade, representing both domestic and foreign importers and exporters in multiple aspects of international trade transactions.

Bar Admissions

- Georgia
- South Carolina

Honors & Awards

- Included in a list of South Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition, for International Law (2017-2020).
- Recognized among the “Legal Elite” for International Law (2017-2023) and Maritime Law (2021-2023) by Greenville Business Magazine.