

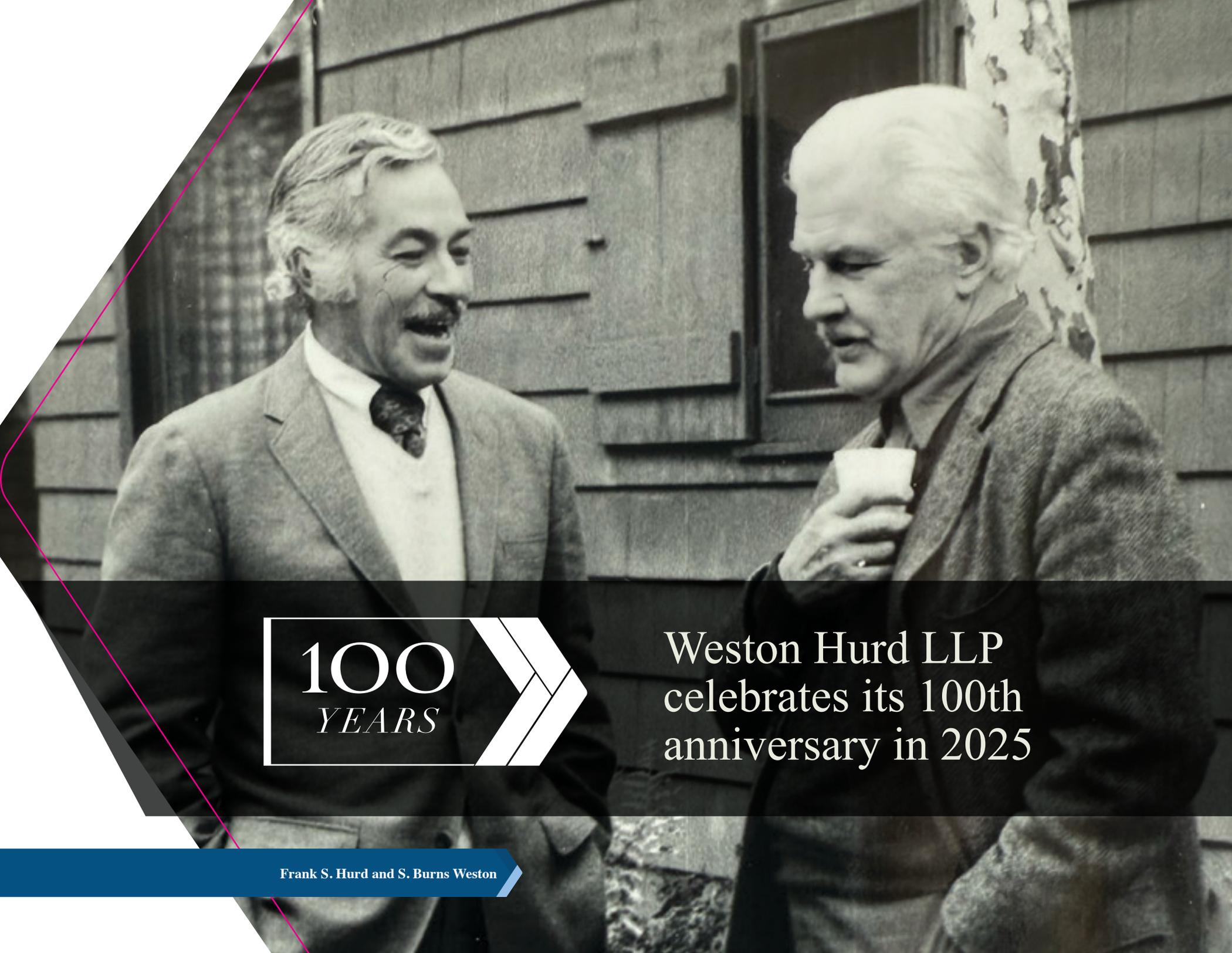
Weston Hurd LLP



Attorneys at Law
A Century of Legal Excellence

A Hundred Year History

By Warren Rosman



100
YEARS

Weston Hurd LLP
celebrates its 100th
anniversary in 2025

Frank S. Hurd and S. Burns Weston

There are many ways to measure the success of a business entity: its revenues, the number of employees, the number of offices it has. Continuity of service is another metric and the fact that any business entity has turned 100 is noteworthy.

Weston Hurd began in 1925. In that year, Calvin Coolidge was president and America was in the middle of the roaring twenties. There were many new mass-produced commercial products like automobiles, phones and radios. New products included electric traffic signals (patented by Cleveland's Garrett Morgan), convertibles, Band-Aids® and electric blenders. Women had received the right to vote in 1920.

With the end of World War I in November 1918, the world tried to return to "normalcy." There were many new countries in Eastern Europe in the 1920s, but only one of these, Czechoslovakia, managed to maintain a stable democracy. Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania all became dictatorships. Russia was led by Lenin and the Communists. Germany had the Weimar Republic, but the government was weak and political assassinations of democratic German leaders had begun. Mussolini was in power in Italy with his brown shirts. Great Britain, France and Spain were democracies and

were joined by the Irish Free State in 1923.

Much of Africa and Asia remained in a colonial state with Britain and France as the major colonial powers. America, Belgium, Holland and Portugal also retained colonial outposts. China was in the midst of a campaign against various warlords. Japan had democratic institutions and for three decades had purposefully educated itself in various western ways in terms of clothing, the role of women in society, and the military, among others.

Known as the Sixth City, Cleveland in 1925 was a powerhouse among American cities. Cleveland was the fifth largest city in America behind only New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. It had a 3.7% growth rate. Ohio was the fourth largest state in population behind only New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Of the 13 U.S. presidents during the period from the end of the Civil War to 1925, almost half of them, six to be exact, were born in Ohio. Cleveland was a center of power, and downtown's Euclid Avenue was a huge retail destination with the May Company, Halle's, Sterling Linder Davis and soon-to-be Higbee's department stores.

The new firm, McConnell, Blackmore & Cory was located in Room 1014 of the Hippodrome Building located at 720 Euclid Ave.



1925-2025

Beginnings



What is now Weston Hurd began as McConnell, Blackmore and Cory in 1925. Clark McConnell, born in 1892, was a well-known high school athlete at Central High in Cleveland. In the summer of 1912, he was ready to go to college and had an athletic scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania. About 10 days before college was to start, he received a phone call from Penn's athletic director saying that the university was dropping all its athletic scholarships for that year.

Unable to afford Penn, he began attending Cleveland Law School, the forerunner to Cleveland State's law school. At that time, graduation from college was not a prerequisite to admission to law school. In spring 1913, a group of Western Reserve alumni offered to pay his undergraduate tuition to Western Reserve. Clark attended Western Reserve during the day and played left halfback on the varsity football team, while attending Cleveland Law School, then part of Baldwin-Wallace College, at night. At times he worked in the claims department of the Royal

Indemnity Company. McConnell graduated law school in spring 1916, and finished his third year of college. He then took and passed the Ohio Bar. Clark began practicing in a small firm, and during that time he defended several cases for various insurers, including Royal. Very quickly, he, along with five others, founded the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, now part of Kent State University. For the next 80 years, the podiatric college was represented in many matters first by Clark, and then by several members of the firm he came to establish.

In 1924, William Blackmore was about to graduate from Western Reserve Law School. Blackmore, born in 1894, had gone on to be a flier with Captain Rickenbacker's 94th Aero Squadron during World War I. He had been badly shot up on one of his flights and crashed his plane. Clark McConnell knew Blackmore from high school and Western Reserve. They were fraternity brothers at Alpha Tau Omega during college.

In 1925, McConnell convinced Blackmore to form a new law partnership and invited Virgil Cory to join them. Cory, from Springfield, Ohio had been an undergraduate at Wittenburg College and then went to Western Reserve

Law School where he, Clark McConnell and Blackmore were fraternity brothers.



Virgil Cory

During World War I, Mr. Cory was a sergeant major in the U.S. Army artillery. Once the war ended, Cory went back to law school where he graduated with the Order of the Coif. Mr. Cory practiced since 1919 and brought experience with him. The new firm was named McConnell, Blackmore & Cory and was located in room 1014 of the Hippodrome Building located at 720 Euclid Avenue on the south side of the street. The building was also home to the huge Hippodrome Theatre which seated over 3500 people.

In 1928, the firm moved to the new Terminal Tower. In fact, Clark McConnell reported that the Terminal was still being constructed when the firm moved onto the 12th floor. The firm experienced a growth spurt when an adjuster from the Royal Indemnity Company brought over 20 files from another Cleveland law firm with instructions that these files were now to be worked on by Mr. McConnell. With this influx of work from Royal, the firm made the decision to hire an associate – Baird Johnson, who had spent his undergraduate years at Yale and then went to Michigan Law School. In time, the firm started to become known for its insurance defense work. Other insurers—Globe Indemnity, New Amsterdam Casualty, Eagle Indemnity and Home Indemnity—all began sending files. By 1932, the firm became McConnell, Blackmore, Cory & Griffith with the addition of Arthur Griffith, also from Western Reserve.

Clark McConnell's work segued into what we now call transactional work. He became involved in the transportation area and organized the Cleveland-Akron Bus Company, the Cleveland-Ashtabula-Conneaut Bus Line, the Cleveland-Lorain-Sandusky Bus Line and the Cleveland-Elyria-Toledo Bus Line. At first,



Top: William Blackmore, 1916 Reserve Yearbook

Bottom: 2145 Adelbert Road. Western Reserve School of Law



Packard seven-seat passenger cars were used as buses, but then the Bender Body Co. of Cleveland built bus bodies for use on chassis manufactured by the White Co.—some of the earliest buses built in America. William Blackmore did much of the legal work on these deals. In later years, the taciturn Baird Johnson in many ways acted as Clark McConnell's attorney. Eventually, Greyhound Lines, which was acquiring eastern routes, needed the certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Cleveland-Ashtabula route and purchased the same, generating large revenues for the firm. In a similar transaction, rights to the Cleveland-Pittsburgh route were also purchased by Greyhound. Thomas Dolan was involved in this deal and through this, a packing company, Dobeckmun, was created in 1957; it became part of Dow Chemical, which the firm represented as local counsel for many years.

Another client developed at this time was Bonnie Bell, Inc. The company had been started by Mr. J. G. Bell, and Clark McConnell was a key person in its organization. When funds were scarce during the depression, the firm was paid in Bonnie Bell stock. The firm represented Bonnie Bell in many matters over the next 60 years.

In 1937, Thomas A. Burke joined the firm as a partner to provide more litigation skills. The firm now became McConnell, Blackmore, Cory & Burke. Tom Burke was from Cleveland, graduated from Holy Cross and then went to Western Reserve Law School. In 1930, he had joined the county prosecutor's office and became one of the more high-profile prosecutors. In 1941, Burke took leave to become law director for the City of Cleveland under Mayor Frank Lausche. When Lausche became governor in 1944, Burke became mayor. He stayed in that position and won the general election as mayor. During that time, the city began construction of the lakefront airport now named for Burke, and also built the widely used municipal parking lot. A popular mayor, Burke won re-election multiple times.

Top: Clark T. McConnell

Bottom: In 1928, the firm moved to the Terminal Tower

The Post-War Years



The post-war years in America saw an explosion in its economy, particularly with returning soldiers coming home, many of whom then began families. There were major post-war additions to McConnell, Blackmore, Cory & Burke. In 1946, S. Burns Weston joined the firm. Burns was born and grew up in Yellow Springs, Ohio where his father was a professor at Antioch College. Burns attended Antioch as an undergraduate, then went to the Sorbonne in Paris for a year where he met his wife, and then went to Yale Law School. Burns came to Cleveland to practice law, but in 1935, in the middle of the Depression, he began serving as the Ohio administrator of the National Youth Administration, a New Deal project that was part of the Work Projects Administration, the WPA. The NYA provided work for young people under the age of 25. Burns then moved to Washington, D.C., where he became the executive director of the NYA's advisory committee. Subsequently, he served as executive secretary of the U.S. section of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, part of the

U.S. Department of State. The purpose of this body was to improve the social and economic conditions of the Caribbean area and to deal with its wartime issues.

Before the end of the war, Weston returned to Cleveland and became the director of the Greater Cleveland Planning Council. In 1946 he joined the McConnell, Blackmore firm. In short time he became the firm's primary litigator specializing in insurance defense matters. The loquacious Burns Weston was a workaholic and expected those who worked with him to share the same view. Due to Burns's efforts and the team he developed, there was an expansion of the firm's representation of insurance companies. One of his longtime opponents said of Burns that he was an "indomitable advocate with jugular instincts." One of his partners commented that Burns was "an extraordinary combination of so many good qualities – energy, drive, competitiveness, dynamism [and] public spirit . . ." He became Cleveland's top civil defense attorney through the 1950s and 1960s.

For many years, Burns was on the board



of trustees of Antioch College. In 1968, Burns was elected president of the Cleveland Bar Association. During his term as bar president, the Bar Association moved to the tenth floor of the Terminal Tower. While bar president, Mr. Weston was not quiet regarding his views supporting civil rights. His garage was fire-bombed because of his statements. Burns also stated the position of the bar association that local Judge Steele, who was accused of murdering his wife, should voluntarily step down from the bench.

When Burns retired, he moved permanently to the cottage he and his wife had in the Adirondacks in upstate New York with a view of Mount Marcy. Burns, who was active in the park for many decades, has a mountain and a trail named after him.



View of Weston Mountain in the Adirondacks
Preceding page: S. Burns Weston

Shortly after Burns Weston joined the firm, three other attorneys were added who would have a huge influence over the next five decades. In 1949, Louis Paisley joined the firm straight out of Harvard Law School. Lou was born in Detroit, but when he was six, his family moved to Toronto. He grew up there and obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto in 1944. Lou had been in the Royal Canadian Army Reserves and inquired of a colonel if he might someday become an officer. The answer was a curt “no.” With that, Lou returned to Detroit, volunteered, joined the U.S. Army and went through officer candidate school. He became a lieutenant in April 1945. He was on a ship headed for the Philippines and staging for the invasion of Japan when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending World War II. Staying in the Philippines for the next year, he was assigned to a war crimes unit investigating atrocities committed by the Japanese in the Philippines.

Lou Paisley was discharged from the Army in September 1946 and was admitted to Harvard Law School. He went straight through law school without stopping for vacations. Lou was induced to come to Cleveland and joined McConnell, Blackmore, Cory & Burke. He was

the seventh attorney at the firm. Lou worked well with the demanding Burns Weston and soon had first chair trial responsibilities. Quickly, he was trying anywhere from six to ten cases a year. Lou eventually focused his energies on defending products liability cases. With Burns Weston and Mark O’Neill, Lou tried some of the first Corvair cases representing General Motors.

Lou was involved in several early “roll-over” cases, and one of them, *Leichtamer v American Motors Corp.*, 67 Ohio St.2d 456 (1981), gained national attention. *Leichtamer* involved a Jeep CJ-7 which pitched over coming down from the top of a hill causing one plaintiff passenger to suffer paralysis, the other a head injury. The Supreme Court of Ohio held that there could be strict liability in tort for injuries caused or enhanced where a protective roll bar was fastened to the automobile in such a way by the factory as to be displaced during an accident sequence.

Mr. Paisley, along with Burns Weston and Virgil Cory earlier, became president of the Cleveland Bar Association. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. For years, he worked on the Cleveland Bar’s Task Force on Violent Crime.



Lou Paisley



Lou became known for his willingness to mentor younger attorneys, his mannerliness and his commitment to diversity. He emphasized the need to remain focused on the task at hand, making all reasonable arguments that could be made for a particular point, and the need to communicate in a simple, understandable manner.

The second of these men was Frank S. Hurd, better known as “Bud.” He was one of the many offspring of Judge Joy Seth Hurd, who for many years served on the Eighth District Court of Appeals. Bud joined the firm in 1951 as a partner, bringing with him the St. Paul Insurance Co. as a client. St. Paul remained with the firm for decades until it eventually merged with another insurer. Bud had been their head claims person in Cleveland for several years. Bud was also law director for the City of Lakewood.

At the firm, Mr. Hurd became a top-notch trial attorney and was known for his abilities in the courtroom. Bud became a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He was friendly, approachable and had a thin white Clark Gable mustache; jurors loved him.

Bud Hurd and others were responsible for the formation of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA); the organization’s annual Member of the Year Award is named for him.

The third of these new attorneys was Mark O’Neill, who in 1953 became an associate, also out of Harvard Law School. Mark grew up in Cleveland Heights; his father was a reporter for the *Cleveland News*. Mark had been accepted into Harvard, but WWII was going on, so he enlisted to become a Naval aviator. Unfortunately, he found himself harvesting crops in North Carolina. Being an officer candidate, he was allowed to disengage from the aviation program and enlist in the Marine Corps in November 1944. He became an MP on a ship and was on his way to the Pacific on the U.S.S. Providence, a light cruiser, when the war ended. Mark then attended Harvard as an undergraduate and law student.

Mark was a lawyer’s lawyer. He became known as one of the best trial attorneys in Cleveland. He tried over 150 cases to a jury verdict. Never limiting himself to one area of the law, Mark tried cases involving commercial contracts, construction, civil rights, school desegregation, personal injury, medical, psychologic and legal malpractice.

Top: Frank S. Hurd
Bottom: Mark O’Neill and Burns Weston

He represented Ohio for 23 years in the Cleveland schools' desegregation case. He had an ability to size up major cases in minutes. A federal judge said of Mark: "He is and has been for many years recognized as one of the most qualified trial lawyers within Cleveland and Ohio and enjoys the highest professional reputation." *Reed v Rhodes*, 934 F.Supp. 1492, 1504 (N.D. Ohio 1996).

Mark O'Neill was a teacher; as head of the firm's litigation section, he instituted monthly meetings that focused on associate reviews of new case decisions, cases that had been taken to trial, and discussions with attorneys regarding new rules: civil, evidentiary and professional ethics as they came into being. The soft-spoken and authoritative O'Neill earned the nickname "Whispering Death" from associates. The firm's youngest lawyers had another nickname for Mark: "Yoda." It seemed to fit him perfectly; his large body of knowledge, combined with a fresh approach to issues.

Mark became the fourth member of Weston Hurd to become president of the Cleveland Bar Association. Mr. O'Neill was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Law Institute, and was the

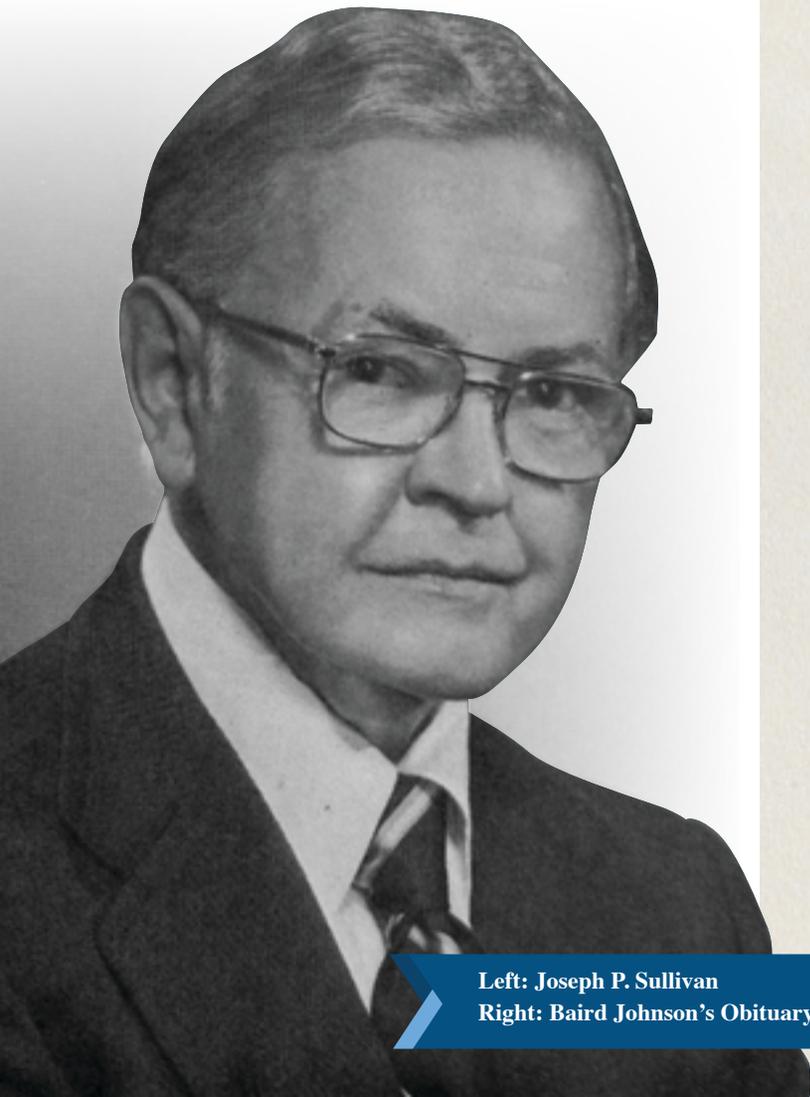
recipient of the American Inns of Court Justice Lewis F. Powell award for professionalism and ethics.

In 1953, Tom Burke was appointed to the U.S. Senate to fill the seat of Robert Taft, who had recently died. Being an appointee, Burke faced a special statewide election in November 1954 when he was defeated by Rep. George Bender by a margin of only 7,000 votes. Burke then returned to McConnell, Blackmore. Burke brought with him Joseph P. Sullivan, who had been his executive assistant while Burke was mayor. In the '40s, Sullivan had been the youngest Cleveland municipal court judge in history.

In 1950, the firm moved from 1208 Terminal Tower to 2500 Terminal Tower. The firm did not have the whole 25th floor at that time; it shared the 25th floor with the New York Central and Nickel Plate railroads. At various points, the firm took over more space on the 25th floor. In February 1959, Tom Burke left the firm; firm lore has it that this was due to an argument Burke had with Burns Weston as to which one of them would occupy the oak-paneled office on the 25th floor.



Joseph P. Sullivan, who had been Burke's assistant throughout his political career, stayed with the firm until his death. The firm remained with its address at 2500 Terminal Tower for 55 years. With Tom Burke's departure, the firm changed its name from McConnell, Blackmore, Cory and Burke to Johnson, Weston, Blackmore, Cory & Hurd.



Left: Joseph P. Sullivan
Right: Baird Johnson's Obituary

Baird Johnson Dies, Corporate Lawyer

Baird Johnson, a specialist in corporate law and a member of the law firm of Johnson Weston Blackmore Cory & Hurd since his admission to the Ohio bar in 1931, died yesterday in Hanna House of University Hospitals. He was 58.

Mr. Johnson worked on a number of industrial mergers including the merger of the Dobeckmun Co. with the Dow Chemical Co. as a division of Dow Chemical.

HE WAS A MEMBER of the Cleveland, Ohio State and American bar associations and had served on many committees of those associations.

Mr. Johnson was a member of the advisory council of the Salvation Army for a number of years and was a member of the Cleveland Skating Club and the Mid-Day Club.

In 1952 he was a member of the Republican National Committee and was active in the first campaign of President Dwight D. Eisenhower



Baird Johnson

His residence was at 2679 Ashley Road, Shaker Heights.

1960s



The 1960s were years of rapid change. With the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, segregation was now outlawed. The youth culture burgeoned, while towards the end of the '60s there were demonstrations concerning the war in Vietnam, and the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

Just as President Kennedy's inauguration speech spoke of a new generation of leadership, the same happened to the firm. Early in the decade, William Blackmore, Virgil Cory and Baird Johnson died. Burns Weston, Mark O'Neill and Lou Paisley rose to take their places. The firm saw slow and steady growth in the '60s. Several key attorneys were added including Harold Fallon, Jason Blackford, Bob Rosewater, C. Reynolds Keller, Tom Curran and John Baker.

Harold Fallon, who joined the firm in 1961, graduated from Glenville High School and then went to Western Reserve for both his undergraduate and law degrees. He began as a law clerk at Cuyahoga County Common Pleas

Court and after several years of practice joined Weston Hurd. Harold's practice emphasized estate planning, labor, corporate tax and real estate law. For many years, he was the head of the firm's general (business) section. His outside interests focused on the arts. Harold was a member of several important Cleveland cultural institutions including the Print Club and the Rowfant Club, and he served on the board of trustees of the Cleveland Play House, Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He was a co-founder of the Cleveland Play House Club and Suburban Temple.

Right: William Blackmore's Obituary
Below: Mark O'Neill, Harold Fallon, Lou Paisley,
Burns Weston, Bud Hurd



William C. Blackmore

Memorial services for William Cameron Blackmore, widely known Cleveland attorney, will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the First Baptist Church of Shaker



Heights. Graveside services were yesterday.

Mr. Blackmore died Tuesday in his home, 3185 Belvoir Boulevard, Shaker Heights, after a long illness.

WILLIAM C. BLACKMORE

He was 66 and a native Clevelander. He was a graduate of old Central High School and obtained his law degree from Western Reserve University. He was a member there of Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

In World War I he served in France as a test and pursuit pilot with the famed Rickenbacker group. He was a member of the Cleveland Aviation Club.

Mr. Blackmore began his practice here in 1924 with Clark T. McConnell and J. Virgil Cory. Later, former mayor Thomas A. Burke joined the firm.

Surviving Mr. Blackmore are his wife, the former Elizabeth Bell; a son, William C. Jr.; a daughter, Beverley Ann, and a grandchild.



Jason Blackford, who began with the firm in 1964, became a giant in the field of Ohio corporation law. Jason was a graduate of Denison University and Yale Law School. He is the author of Blackford, Ohio Corporation Law and Practice published by Banks-Baldwin and wrote numerous law journal articles on corporate law and antitrust issues. He was known for his prickly but fair dealings with other attorneys. Jason was particularly active in the Cleveland Bar Association, including chairing its grievance committee in 1973.

Ren Keller, a native of Toledo, Ohio came to the firm in 1963 after graduating from Michigan Law School. Ren concentrated on products liability and was involved in the trial of several large automobile crash cases. General Motors was his main client. Ren also litigated several aircraft cases. Ren was a great teacher, and helped many associates concerning trial issues. He was the firm's managing partner from 1987 until 1991.

Bob Rosewater was a double Harvard graduate and joined the firm in 1965. He focused on real estate issues and was known for his studious approach to matters. Bob met his untimely death (heart attack) while doing

volunteer teaching at the Cleveland public schools through the local bar association. The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's annual award for Excellence in Real Estate Law is named for Bob.

Mary Phillips was the first female attorney at the firm. Ms. Phillips was a graduate of Smith College and was an Order of the Coif graduate of Western Reserve Law School. After helping Cleveland Bar grievance committee chair Burns Weston win a bar grievance case at the Ohio Supreme Court, Mary became an associate in 1961. She did both trial work and appellate advocacy, although the latter was her strength. Hope Balint, who graduated from Ohio State's law school, came to the firm as a probate attorney. Later in the '70s, Mary Agnes Lentz, a former teacher in the Cleveland public schools, and a former assistant prosecutor, became the firm's one-person school law department; she authored Baldwin's treatise on Ohio school law for many years.

In 1964, Baird Johnson died. Two years later, the firm became Weston, Hurd, Fallon, Sullivan and Paisley. During this period, the firm began having annual Christmas parties for its clients. The parties first were at houses, and then were

Jason Blackford

held at such places as the English Oak Room in the Terminal Tower, the Cleveland Athletic Club, the University Club and the Play House Club. In light of the new attorneys coming to the firm, new space was added in the late '60s – part of the 26th floor of the Terminal Tower was added to the firm's lease.

Two more litigators were added in the late '60s. Thomas Curran was a graduate of Western Reserve Law School. From there he went to the Department of Justice in Washington working under Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Tom returned to Cleveland in 1968 and was with Weston Hurd for 20 years, defending a wide range of cases. After leaving Weston Hurd, Tom became a Common Pleas Court judge and was on the trial bench for over 20 years.

John Baker was another Clevelander who went east for his law degree, which he obtained from Boston College. A prodigious worker, John was a key member of the litigation department from the late '60s through the '70s and '80s. He litigated a wide range of cases, including medical malpractice and products liability. He was on the boards of trustees of both John Carroll University and the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine.



Harold Fallon, Bob Rosewater

1970s

The 1970s featured the Watergate scandal and the resignation of Richard Nixon, the end of the war in Vietnam, and two middle-of-the-road presidencies (Ford and Carter) featuring leaders not quite able to deal with the issues at hand. The largest of these issues was a double-digit inflation brought on by the expense of the Vietnam War. This inflation lasted for the entire second half of the decade.

On the legal side, in mid-decade, Ohio adopted the federal rules of procedure and evidence (with small changes) making a wealth of federal procedural and evidentiary law pertinent to the state's litigators.

A significant number of attorneys joined the firm in the 1970s. John Jeffers, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, worked first as an associate at Rosenthal, Roesch, Buckman & McLandrich, then came to Weston Hurd in 1970. John was soon recommending that the new firm merge with his old one. A meeting was organized at the Union Club; the two sets of partners liked each other from the outset, and a merger was arranged in January 1971. For his

Merged Firm circa 1971
Top Row: Harold Fallon,
C. Reynolds Keller,
Herb Buckman,
Andy McLandrich, Lou Paisley.
Middle Row: Burns Weston,
John Baker, Joseph P. Sullivan.
Bottom Row: Bud Hurd.



practice, John concentrated on the defense of doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice cases. For years, his two top clients were Parma Community Hospital and Southwest General Hospital. A great teacher, John was instrumental in bringing along multiple associates who also became practitioners in this field. A lifelong dabbler in politics, he became a member of Hudson's city council. John had a wonderful sense of humor, as evidenced by his willingness to serve as a prop for young associates at the Christmas luncheons, where he wore Mr. Potato Head disguises.

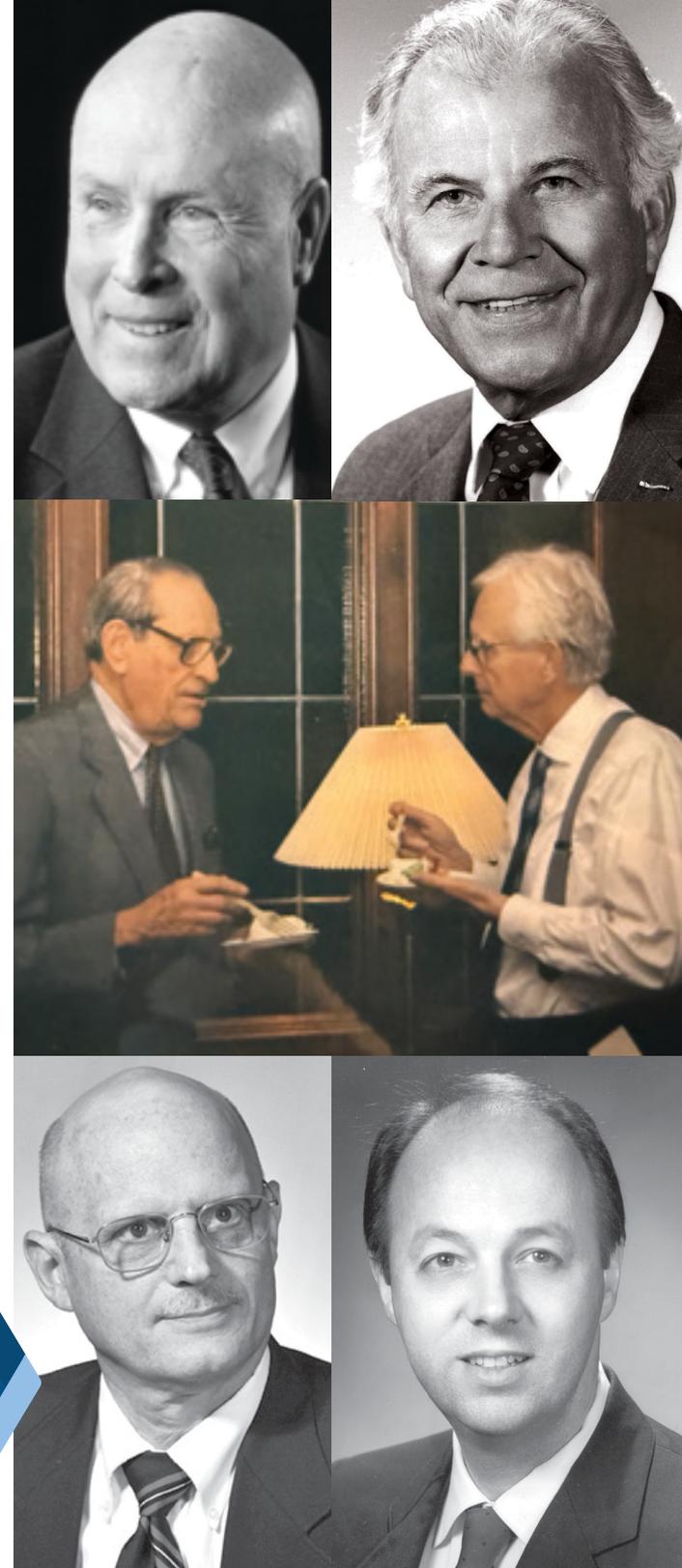
With the merger in 1971, two of the attorneys who came to Weston Hurd were Andy McLandrich and Herb Buckman. During WWII, Andy had been a paratrooper. He participated in the D-Day invasion of Europe. As an attorney, Andy represented many corporations and represented a multiplicity of area car dealerships. His level-headedness and business acumen were quickly recognized, and he became the managing partner from 1981 to 1986.

Herb Buckman, who came along with Andy, was a double Yale graduate. During World War II he served in the Coast Guard. His practice focused on probate law. Very giving of his time and resources, Herb would take much time to mentor young associates. Each year the firm's summer picnic was held at his house in Shaker Heights. Herb kept on practicing into his nineties.

Joe Swartz was a Clevelander who attended Middlebury College in Vermont. He was on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1963 through 1965, during which he went to flight school specializing in short field takeoff and landing. He then went to Cornell Law School in upstate New York and graduated in 1970. One of the first cases Joe dealt with was the TAG Airline crash into Lake Erie in January 1970. Joe helped defend this, along with Ren Keller. Subsequently, Joe's practice focused on labor and employment law when employment law was in its infancy. He was instrumental in the growth of the Ohio Bar Association's Midwest Labor and Employment Law Conference held annually in Columbus. The conference has grown to crowds of over 500 attendees. He was a great teacher and quietly achieved wonderful results.

Early in the new decade, Ron Rispo joined the firm. A Clevelander, he graduated from Holy Cross and Michigan Law School, and then became a lieutenant in the Navy. Ron was in the Navy JAG Corps and was stationed on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bennington. In his practice, Ron became a pre-eminent expert in insurance law and the direct representation of insurers in bad faith lawsuits. Ron obtained favorable results and the carriers that he represented stayed with him for decades. His awards include distinguished service awards from the Defense Research Institute (DRI), and the Cleveland and Ohio Associations of Civil Trial Attorneys. Having generated so many cases, Ron became a teacher to many Weston Hurd associates; he was a tough but fair taskmaster who recognized good results. In the latter part of his career, he became the firm's ethicist following Mark O'Neill's role, and was known for solid advice when ethical issues arose. Ron was the firm's managing partner from 1992 until 1994.

Top: John Jeffers, Andy McLandrich
Middle: Herb Buckman, Mark O'Neill
Bottom: Joe Swartz, Ron Rispo





In 1974, with the death of Joseph Sullivan, the firm became Weston, Hurd, Fallon and Paisley. In 1975, Lee Howley, who had been general counsel of Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. (CEI) and law director of the City of Cleveland, became a partner in the firm. At that time, the firm's name changed to Weston, Hurd, Fallon, Paisley & Howley. Also joining the firm in 1975 was John K. Sullivan, a Case-trained probate attorney. John had been in the Marine Corps during World War II. He was known for his courteous demeanor and his willingness to mentor younger attorneys.

David Arnold joined the firm in 1977. Dave, a graduate of Ohio State and its law school, focuses on domestic relations and has a rare ability to communicate with all, be they dispirited clients, partners or court staff. David became the managing partner of the firm in 1995 and stayed in that position until 2000. Dave has always been active in bar association matters, being a past president of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association and active at the leadership level of the Ohio State Bar Association.

First joining the firm as a docket clerk while a student at Cleveland State University Law School, Carolyn Cappel went on to become one

of the firm's premier trial practitioners. Carolyn flourished under the tutelage of Lou Paisley and focused on defending products liability cases. She was elected often to the firm's management committee, and on that committee became known for her level-headed views and for her fairness. She became managing partner in 2007 and held that position until 2019. Carolyn was the firm's first female managing partner, and to date is the longest-serving managing partner.

Also joining the firm in the late '70s was Hilary Taylor. Hilary was a graduate of Central State University, where he ran track, and CSU Law School. He served in the Army as a decorated captain during the Vietnam War, leading gasoline supply convoys through the jungles. At Weston Hurd, Hilary was a litigator who practiced in many different fields, but particularly in employment law and civil rights litigation. He was involved in multiple high-profile lawsuits involving alleged police use of force. Hilary was also lead counsel in an important voting rights case involving Euclid's city council and its particular makeup of wards and at-large council positions. *U.S. v City of Euclid*, 580 F. Supp.2d 584 (2008). Hilary was active in several bar associations and defense



Top: Lee Howley, Bottom: David Arnold

groups – the Hilary S. Taylor Inclusion and Equity Scholarship given annually by the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys is named for him. Hilary’s warm personality endeared him to the judiciary as well as members of the plaintiffs’ and defense bars.

In the mid-to-late ‘70s, several other attorneys joined Weston Hurd and, along with Carolyn and Hilary, formed an impressive cadre of young lawyers. Joseph LoPresti, who concentrated on corporate matters, eventually became managing partner of McDonald, Hopkins. Don Switzer, who focused on medical malpractice, later went on to found his own firm. James Lincoln McCrystal, a graduate of John Carroll and Notre Dame, and who served on the firm’s management committee for several years, went on to found another insurance defense firm. John Jackson, a former assistant county prosecutor, won a large verdict in an early premises liability case involving a shooting in a parking lot that the jury found should have been guarded better in light of past gun-related crimes committed on the property. He focused on insurance defense work for the next several decades. Andrew Buckner, Jerry Kalur and Patrick Murphy all became eminent medical malpractice defense attorneys.

Jim Conroy, who had been on the Ohio State football team, has enjoyed a long career as a corporate attorney.

Top: Hilary Taylor and Warren Rosman
Bottom Left: Carolyn Cappel
Bottom Right: Jim McCrystal,
Carolyn Cappel and John Baker



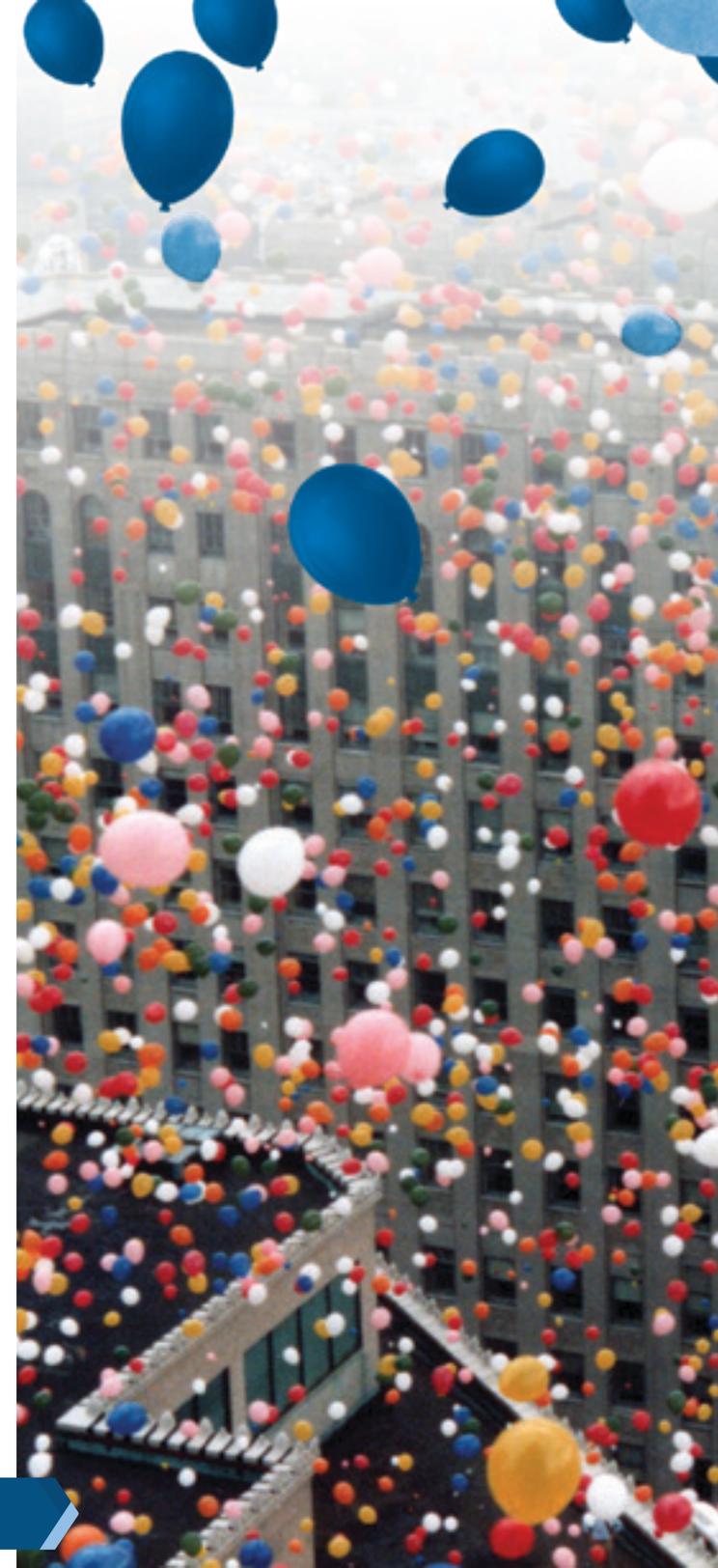
1980s

The 1980s witnessed a major increase in litigation activity and the growth of the firm reflected this. With juries willing to give larger verdicts, plaintiffs' counsel filed more cases, and defense attorneys were needed to defend these matters in court. The increase in cases also reflected reforms in the law. The Ohio legislature passed legislation that ended such old tort rules as the Good Samaritan rule, which precluded passengers from suing their potentially negligent automobile drivers. The legislature replaced contributory negligence with comparative negligence, allowing more cases to go to verdict. The legislature also dealt with the immunity issue and created a statutory three-tiered analysis (Chapter 2744 of the Revised Code) to determine political subdivision immunity. This continues to be controlling law today.

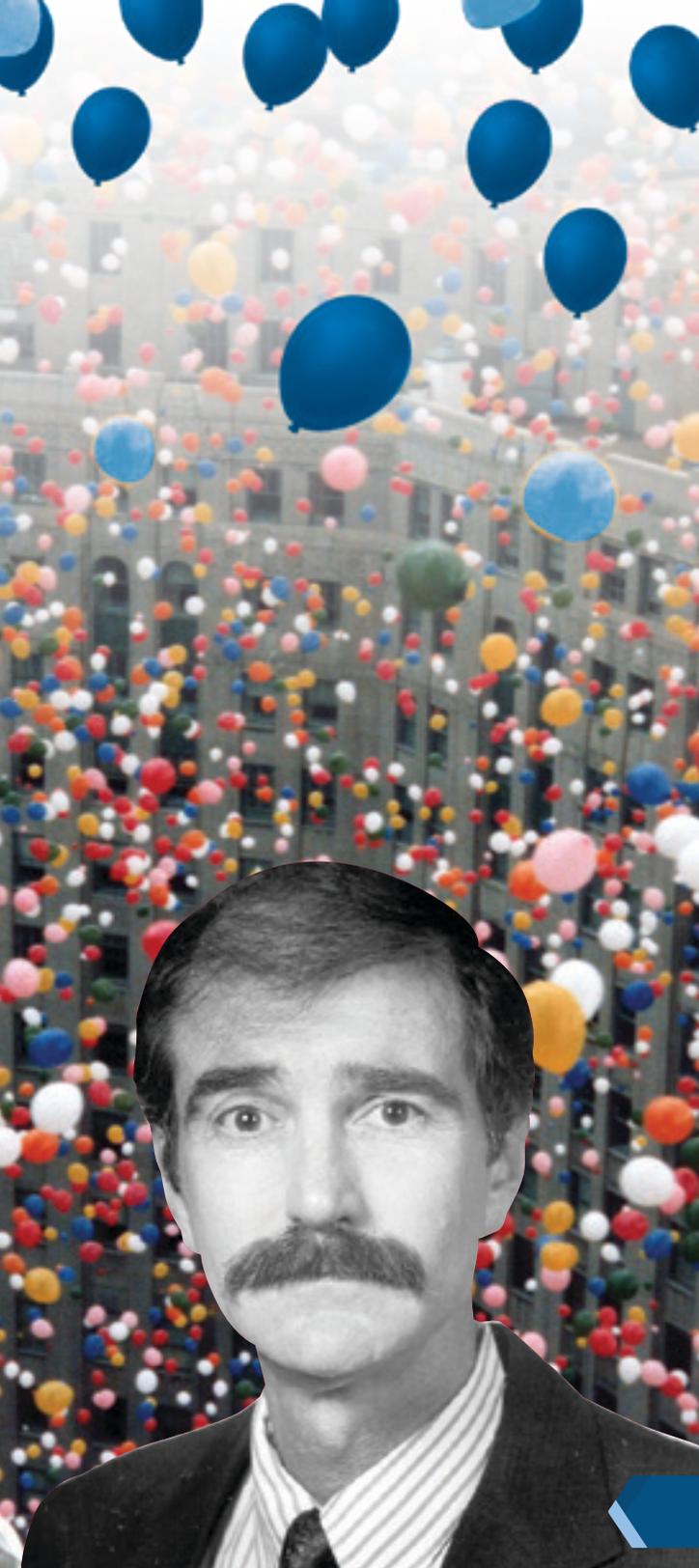
The firm, now located on the 25th, 26th and part of the 24th floors of the Terminal Tower, had a small two-person word processing department in 1981, and later in that year, the firm's library obtained its first dedicated computer legal research terminal.

In the '80s, the Terminal Tower was the site of several major events. In June 1980, there was an incident in which the Cleveland Cavaliers then owner, Ted Stepien, dropped softballs from the observation deck on the 42nd floor. Several people in the crowd below were injured, generating lawsuits which the firm defended. Later that fall, Ronald Reagan, running for president, gave a speech directly in front of the Terminal that was attended by a large crowd. In 1986, Balloonfest occurred: approximately 1.2 million balloons were let go from Public Square in front of the Terminal, creating a huge scene and some negative environmental impact. Sports were a big firm activity at this time; the firm had a team in the bar association's softball, basketball and volleyball leagues.

Hired six months apart in 1981 were Jack Kluznik and Warren Rosman, both from the eastside of Cleveland. Brought up on his family's farm in Mentor, Jack graduated from Ohio University with a B.A. and M.A. in political science, and then received his law degree from Yale. Although having wide ranging experience



Balloonfest 1986



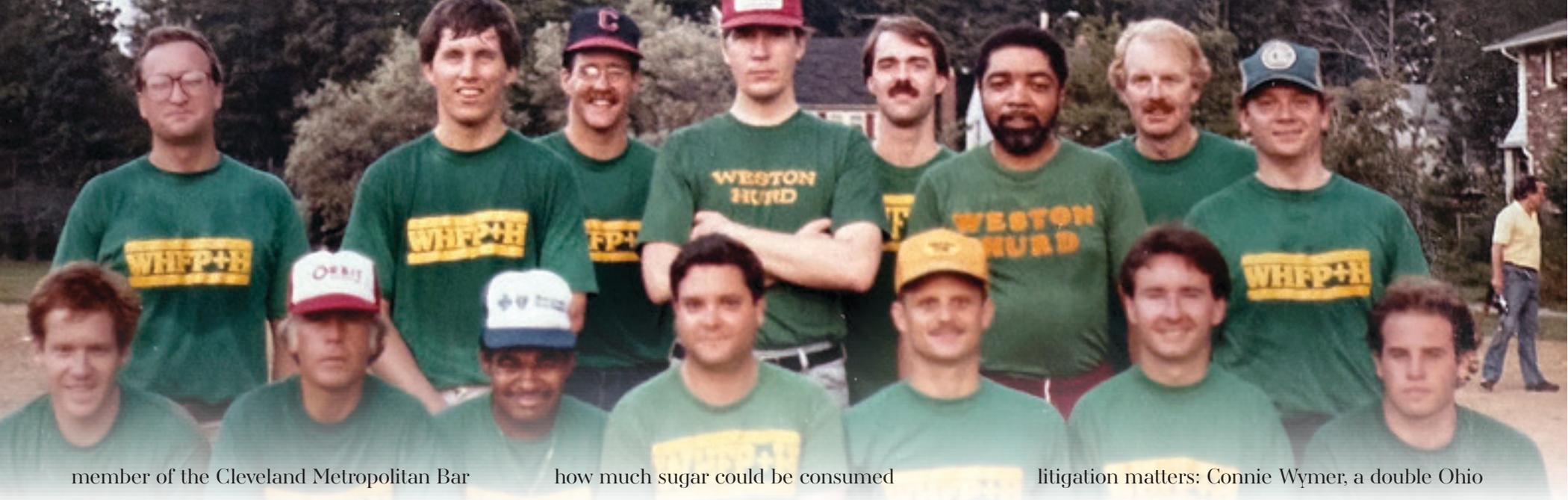
in intellectual property law, Jack, upon joining Weston Hurd, soon concentrated on employment and civil rights issues.

With a great mind for detail and case organization, Jack has successfully defended many cases. Typical of such is *Kaltenberger v Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine*, 162 F.3d 432 (6th Cir. 1998), where the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals found that the district court had appropriately granted summary judgment in an ADA case where the plaintiff student complained that more time should have been given for test-taking. Jack has also been involved in several cases involving non-compete clauses, and has been involved in multiple cases dealing with universities, standardized testing and student rights. Jack defended the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine multiple times, most importantly in federal court litigation involving a national testing organization, which unsuccessfully sought to punish an entire class of O.C.P.M. graduates. For more than two decades, Jack has been involved with teaching National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) courses, and for the past several years he has been head of the firm's litigation section.

Jack Kluznik

Warren Rosman traveled to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore for his undergraduate degree and received his law degree from Case Western Reserve Law School. Warren did a smorgasbord of litigation. His first trial, which involved defending a landowner sued on a judgement lien, eventually ended up in the Supreme Court of Ohio. Proving that Ohio still recognized oral trusts in land, he defended this case successfully to a 7-0 outcome in the Ohio Supreme Court. *Marital Trust of Casto v Lungaro*, 22 Ohio St. 3d 298 (1986).

In the 1990s, Jack and Warren began to work together on employment cases, many having civil rights issues, with Jack being the head trial attorney while Warren performed much of the discovery, briefing and handled the economic issues. This work eventually segued into representing numerous school boards, municipalities and some other political subdivisions in their employment-related matters. Jack is a member of the Court of Nisi Prius following in the footsteps of Lou Paisley and John Baker. The group takes an irreverent view of the foibles of politics and the legal profession. Warren has written movie reviews for the firm for several years, and is an active



member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, having written multiple articles for its journal on a wide variety of topics, and having served on its Bar Admissions committee for four decades, heading it twice.

In the early 1980s, a cabal of young partners and associates created a video parody of Weston Hurd named “Terminal Law” inspired by the then popular TV show “LA Law.” At about the same time, the firm, which had taken over the Terminal’s entire 24th floor, remodeled that space, with a green and dark chocolate motif and held First Friday parties in the large conference room on the 24th floor. Soon the 23rd floor was occupied and redone in light oak and blues. At Christmas time the firm began having Cookie Day, a good excuse for everyone’s children to see

how much sugar could be consumed in one outing.

Gary Johnson came to the firm from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, having gained a wealth of trial practice. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Toledo Law School. Gary maintained his trial practice focusing on products liability cases, but also gained a large circle of clients for whom he does much corporate and probate work. Gary was the firm’s managing partner from 2001 to 2004. Gary’s brother Tim was also a member of the firm for several years. During that time, Tim was the fifth Weston Hurd partner who served as president of the Cleveland Bar Association.

During the 1980s, there was a team of associates who met the growing volume of

litigation matters: Connie Wymer, a double Ohio State graduate, Bob Keough from Milwaukee, worker’s compensation attorney Deirdre Henry, and Case grads Harry Sigmier from Youngstown who came to focus on products liability cases, Bob Linton, who later became a plaintiff’s attorney, and David Leopold, who eventually became an immigration attorney.

In the mid-1980s, two veteran litigators, Bill Baughman and Ken Torgerson, came to Weston Hurd. Bill Baughman had spent nine years at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey. Bill grew up near Greensburg, Pa.; he graduated from nearby St. Vincent College and then went to Notre Dame Law School. Bill clerked for two judges on the U.S. Seventh Circuit, including then Judge John Paul Stevens, who subsequently was chosen to

serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bill did a variety of litigation, including commercial, employment, products liability and appellate litigation. Eventually, Bill became a magistrate judge in the Northern District of Ohio and served in that position for 24 years. Bill was a true gentleman of stellar integrity.

Ken Torgerson was a graduate of Dartmouth and Northwestern Law School. He was a member of the Army's JAG Corps during the Vietnam conflict. He then became a partner at Baker & Hostetler. Ken was a litigator who practiced in multiple areas of substantive law and an intellectual. He loved books and was a dedicated member of the running community.

In 1986, Weston Hurd hired its first professional administrative staff person, Randy Wetzel. Randy, who received his undergraduate degree from Mount Union, has been with Weston Hurd for almost 40 years. He is the secretary to the management committee, attends all partners' meetings, creates and provides the financial tables which the partners use, and is the general administrator of the firm. Working with Randy concerning human resource issues was Jean Turrin, who was with the firm for several decades.

John Farnan came to the firm as a summer associate and then began as an attorney in 1985. John hails from Philadelphia and graduated from Georgetown and from Notre Dame Law School. John came to Weston Hurd because of his interview with fellow Notre Dame graduate Bill Baughman. John focuses much of his practice on the direct defense of insurance companies. He has developed an expertise in dealing with insurance coverage issues and bad faith issues. He has been elected to the firm's management committee for two decades now. He is a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel. For years, John has drafted and edits the firm's "Desktop Legal Primer for Ohio Claims." In his spare time, John is a championship winning CYO girls basketball coach.

In 1987, Weston Hurd merged with the venerable Cleveland firm of Burgess, Steck, Andrews & Stickney. That firm had its beginnings in 1875. It was also located in the Terminal Tower. Coming to Weston Hurd from Burgess, Steck was Jeff Fincun, who already had an established practice focused on life insurance and maritime issues. Jeff, who was at the firm for several decades, had a unique talent for seeing both sides of an issue.

Two years later in 1989, Dana Rose, from Pasadena, California, joined the firm. He received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown and then went to Case for his law degree. Dana practiced with Buckingham, Doolittle in Akron for five years before coming to Weston Hurd. Here, he began with much work in the environmental area. His practice at Weston Hurd, which is nearing four decades, involves a focus on non-profit organizations and real estate transactions. He is fluent in Spanish and has traveled to El Salvador to translate for American medical teams.

By the late 1980s, the firm had expanded to the 22nd and 28th floors of the Terminal Tower. Part of that expansion included a new main conference room on the 28th floor, complete with stained glass and dark wood. In 1989, Bill Joseph also came to the firm. Bill, a graduate of Columbia University and Columbia Law, had been a summer associate at Weston Hurd 20 years earlier in 1969. Bill came to us from what was then Arter & Hadden. Bill, well-known in the local arts community, paired with Bill Blair and carried on a large state lobbying effort that specialized in obtaining grants for Ohio arts projects. Bill Joseph died in 2012.



1990s



The 1990s were a time of continued expansion of the nation's economy. This was Bill Clinton's decade—for good and bad. With the seeming end to the Cold War, the nation and Europe could focus on economic growth, while the former Eastern Bloc nations began to switch to open market economies and modeled their political systems after western European parliamentary systems. In the United States, major new laws were passed particularly affecting employment law such as the ADA, which gave disabled Americans powerful new rights and FMLA, which provided for time off for family medical issues.

At Weston Hurd, the '90s began calmly, but ended with an avalanche of litigation work involving two events. First came the PIE debacle – Physicians Insurance Exchange, a Columbus-based insurer, had managed to corner most of the physicians' malpractice coverage and with that they had their own captive law firm which handled the claims that emanated from those policies. Everything collapsed when PIE became insolvent. Thousands of malpractice lawsuits had

to be defended, and these were inherited by the Ohio Insurance Guaranty Association (“OIGA”). Through the efforts of Ron Rispo and John Farnan, Weston Hurd was assigned to handle a large portion of those cases in Northern Ohio.

A new attorney who learned his craft from handling these matters was Dan Richards, who joined the firm in 1994. Dan remembers an impressionable visit to the firm with his lawyer father when he was a young school kid in the 1970’s. He attended Miami University of Ohio and Cleveland State Law School. Dan handled several of the PIE cases mentioned above, as did most of the litigators in the office. Dan’s practice blossomed, so much so that he has been inducted into the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel. In addition to his busy trial practice, Dan handles appellate cases and for many years co-chaired the firm’s appellate section. Dan is active in both the state and local defense bar associations, serving as vice president of the Ohio organization for 2025. Dan became the managing partner of Weston Hurd in 2020. Recently, he was inducted into CSU Law School’s Hall of Fame.

Also joining the firm at this time was Tim Ristau, a veteran insurance defense practitioner. Tim was a graduate of Bradley University in

Illinois and Case law school. Over his career, he took some 75 cases to trial.

A second wave of cases came into the firm. In 1999, the Supreme Court of Ohio ruled in *Scott-Pontzer v Liberty Mutual Fire Ins. Co.* 85 Ohio St. 3d 660 (1999), that in the regular comprehensive general liability business policy language issued to most large companies and corporations in Ohio, the definition of “who is an insured” was vague. The Court ruled this meant that there was liability coverage for all corporate employees not only at work, but also at all times. As a practical matter, this meant that for most automobile accidents in Ohio, there was now coverage provided by the driver’s own personal coverage – which usually had anywhere from \$25,000 to perhaps \$250,000 limits, and also a corporate policy which often had \$5,000,000 limits.

Something around 10,000 cases were generated because of this one ruling. Several carriers represented by the firm experienced a huge influx of new claims. Weston Hurd’s entire litigation department was involved in the effort to defend these cases, and leading the way were our two coverage gurus John Farnan and Ron Rispo. New attorneys were added to deal with the huge influx of cases to the firm, including

Bob Goff, whose practice subsequently focused on construction and commercial matters.

Another addition was Victor DiMarco, a graduate of Baldwin Wallace and CSU Law School, whose practice subsequently focused on nursing home litigation and catastrophic injuries including pharmaceutical litigation involving the opioid crises. Victor is a motorcycle enthusiast who has made several cross-country rides. Also joining the firm was Shawn Maestle, a graduate of CSU and Ohio Northern School of Law. Shawn, along with Dan Richards, was the co-chair of our appellate litigation section for many years. Shawn has appeared in 20 cases before the Supreme Court of Ohio and numerous Court of Appeals cases in his 20+ years at Weston Hurd.

The firm defended *Scott-Pontzer* cases all over the state, and in Kentucky and Indiana. There soon was great dissatisfaction with this ruling (the same rationale had been rejected in almost every other jurisdiction where the issue arose), and in 2003, with different personnel on the Ohio Supreme Court, the *Scott-Pontzer* ruling was significantly limited. *Westfield Ins. Co. v Galatis*, 100 Ohio St. 3d 216, 2003-Ohio-5849.

Top: Angela Carlin, Gene Kratus
Middle Top: Karen Davey, Pat McIntyre
Middle Bottom: Dan Richards
Bottom: Josh Miklowski, Dana Rose



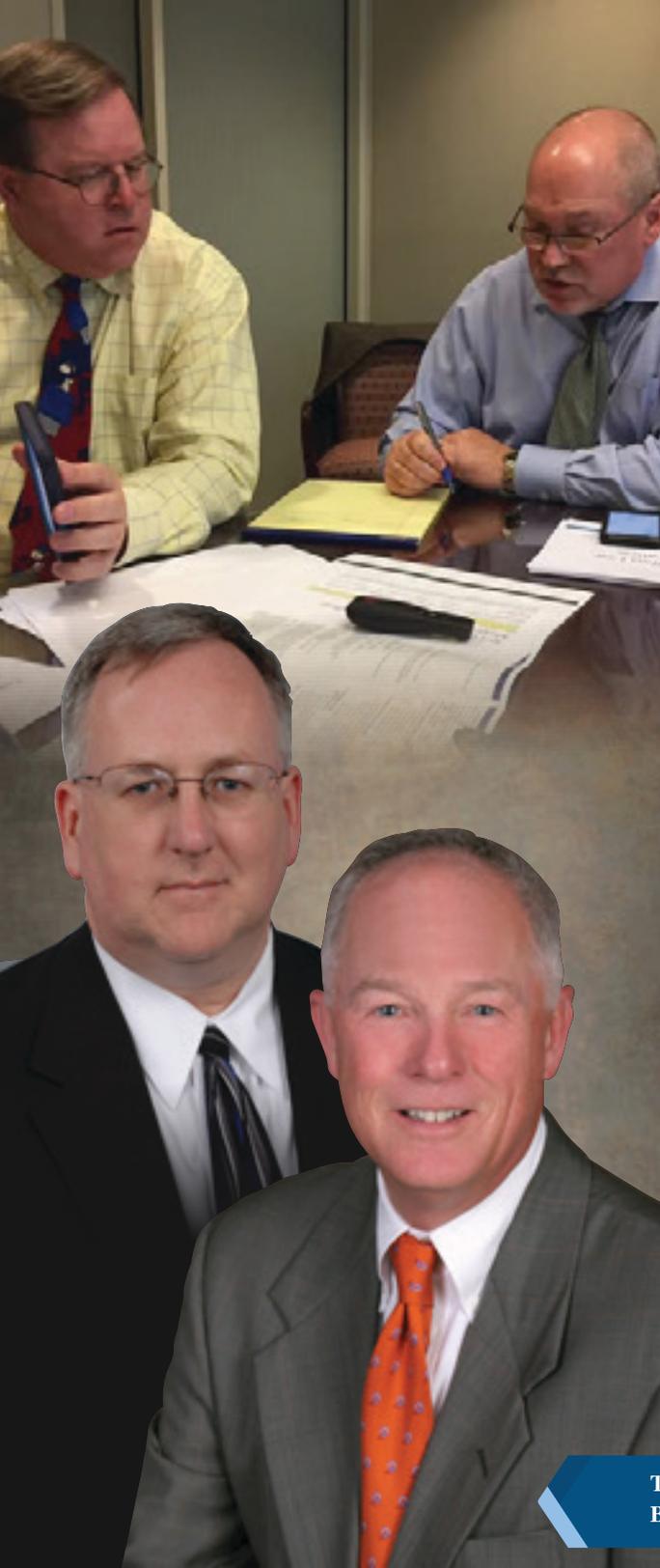
2000s

The 2000s witnessed important history – the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, which killed 3,000 civilians in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Shanksville, Pa., with follow-up wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There was also a large economic downturn in 2008 caused by the failure of financial obligations backed by sub-prime real estate mortgages. In the same year, Barack Obama was elected the first African American president of the United States. While the internet had been invented several years before, it wasn't until 2000 that Weston Hurd attorneys began using the internet regularly for communications.

Jurisprudentially, with the ending of the *Scott-Pontzer* rationale, there was a recognition in Ohio that it was time for tort reform and a fairly comprehensive set of laws were passed to effectuate this. Capped were amounts that a jury could render for pain and suffering and for punitive damages. Apportionment of liability was introduced, including apportionment among unnamed defendants. A new set of laws regarding product liability was passed in Ohio.

For the firm, the 2000s were a period of growth, mergers and movement. A few months after 9/11, Angela Carlin and Karen Davey came to the firm from Rippner, Schwartz and Carlin, a firm known for its probate practice. Angela, a graduate of Bowling Green and CWRU Law School, has focused on probate law during her lengthy career. She is the longtime author of *Merrick-Rippner on Probate Law* published by Banks-Baldwin. Karen Davey from Mayfield, Ohio graduated magna cum laude from John Carroll and then CSU Law School, where she was an associate editor of the law review. During her entire career, Karen has concentrated on probate litigation and probate administration.

Later in the decade, they were joined in the probate section by Gene Kratus, a veteran estate and tax planning practitioner who had been managing partner at Spieth Bell. Gene hails from Buffalo, was a high school All-American freestyle swimmer and New York state champion, then graduated from Notre Dame, where he was on the varsity swim team. A graduate of CSU Law School, Gene is a member of the prestigious Society of Benchers of Case Western Reserve School of Law.



In 2005, the firm—which for many years had been located on six floors of the Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland—decided to move to Erievue Tower at East 9th Street and St. Clair Avenue. There the firm was located on two floors, the 18th and 19th, with entirely new space and a well-thought-out wiring program for the firm’s computer system. Joining the firm in 2005 was Pat McIntyre, a native of the Pittsburgh area and a graduate of Penn State and CSU Law School. Pat had extensive hands-on business knowledge from years with the Marriott Corporation in a management capacity. His legal practice reflects this, with a strong concentration on corporate matters including mergers and acquisitions, divestitures and corporate governance.

Within a year, the firm expanded for the first time outside of Cleveland, merging with the Columbus firm of Curley, Patterson & Bush, which also focused on insurance defense. With the merger, the Columbus office soon moved to new quarters on the northwest corner of the intersection of Broad and High streets in Columbus.

Coming to Weston Hurd in the merger was Chuck Curley, one of the top defense litigators in the Columbus area. Chuck litigated in many different areas of the law and defended the Meijer supermarket chain in many cases. He also represented several churches facing litigation. One of his most famous cases is *Simpkins v Grace Brethren Church*, 149 Ohio St. 3d 307, 2016-Ohio-8118, where the Ohio Supreme Court upheld the new tort reform cap on non-economic (pain and suffering) damages.

Chuck’s longtime partner, Dave Patterson, also joined Weston Hurd. Dave represents architects and engineers statewide in transactional work and litigation. Known for his level-headed leadership skills, Dave served for 22 years in the Navy; four years of that time was active service, and the last eighteen years were in the reserves. He reached the rank of Captain and twice commanded Navy JAG Corps units.

Kevin Bush’s practice has focused on the defense of tort cases: he has represented Auto-Owners insureds for several decades. In addition, he has defended many cases on behalf of Kroger. Kevin hails from Zanesville, graduated from Ohio Northern and Capital Law School, where he was on law review. He and Steve Carlino were

Top: John Farnan, Kevin Bush
Bottom: Chuck Curley, David Patterson

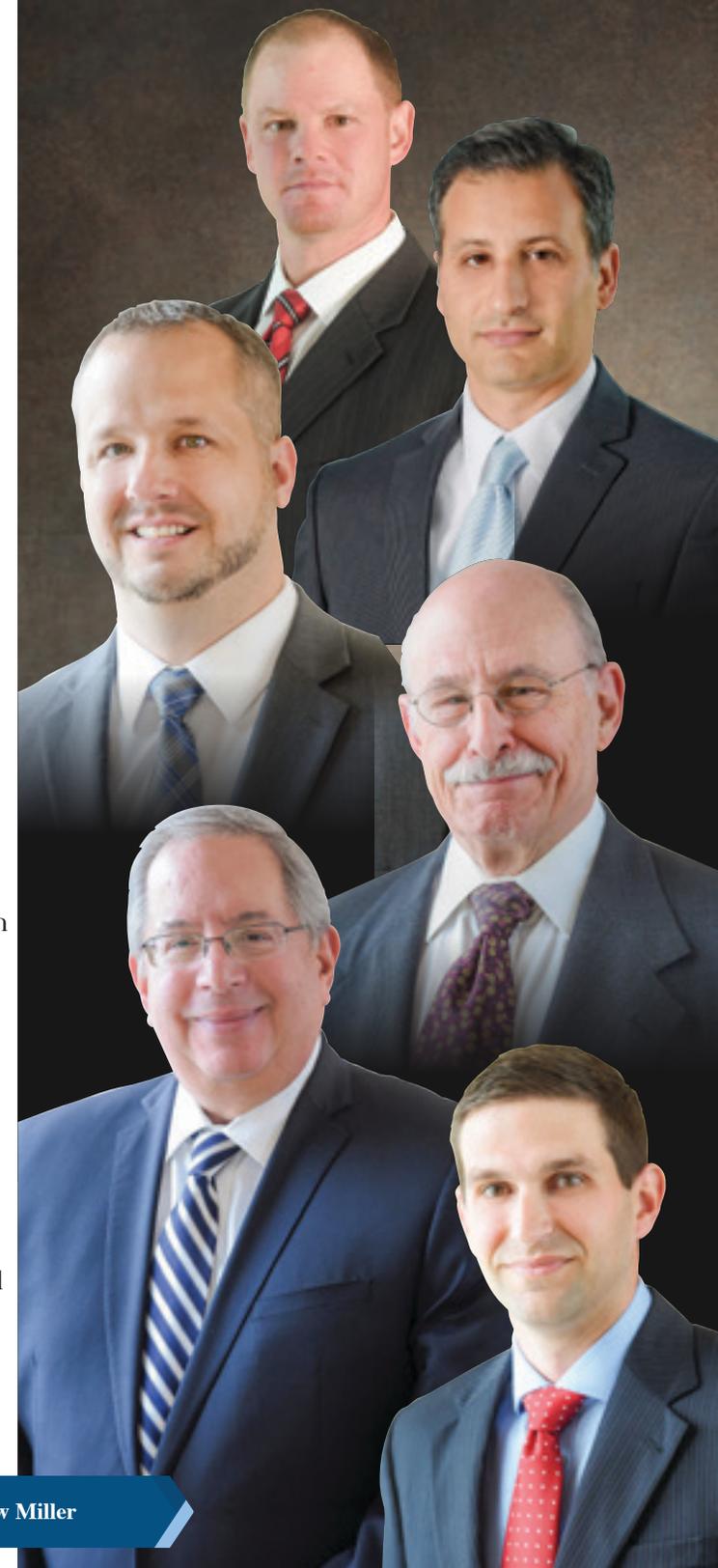
responsible for the important Supreme Court of Ohio decision in *Lang v Holly Hill Motel, Inc.*, 122 Ohio St. 3d 120, 2009-Ohio-2495, which established that breach of administrative rules are evidence of negligence, but do not establish negligence. Kevin is also the village solicitor for Millersport, Ohio in Fairfield County.

Steve Carlino is presently the partner-in-charge of the Columbus office. His father was a television executive, and Steve grew up in several places: Chicago, Detroit, Toledo and Baltimore, where he graduated high school. During his youth, he often was in local television commercials and other promotions. During college at Ohio University, he spent two summers interning in Washington for the Department of Energy. He was in a communications unit and several of his mentors emphasized the value of a law degree. Because of that, Steve enrolled at Capital Law School, where he graduated magna cum laude. His first legal employment was at Crabbe, Brown, but he soon switched firms and came under the tutelage of Dave Patterson, Chuck Curley and Kevin Bush. Steve, who is known for his energetic style, now focuses on defending catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases.

A year later, in late 2007, the firm combined

with the Persky, Shapiro & Arnoff firm. Two of its members have been with Weston Hurd now for almost 20 years – Fred Arnoff, a graduate of Miami University and Akron Law School, is the longtime head of the firm’s Business Practice group. Fred has a full set of small- to medium-sized clients, many of whom he has represented over multiple generations and who he counsels concerning commercial, corporate and general business issues. Jerry Goldstein advises clients in estate planning and wealth transfer matters, with a focus on taxation issues and probate administration. He is a graduate of Ohio State and Case Western Reserve Law School.

Other additions to the firm in this decade include Samuel Lauricia III and Walter “Scott” Lucas. Sam is a graduate of Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. and a magna cum laude graduate of CSU Law School. His practice focuses on tax planning at all governmental levels, general corporate transactions including mergers and acquisitions, and white-collar crime. He served as lead outside counsel in the untangling of a massive, complex credit union fraud, the St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union case, considered to be the “largest fraud case ever in credit union history,” (Credit Union Times, March 14, 2013)



Top Down: Scott Lucas, Steve Carlino, Sam Lauricia, Jerrold Goldstein, Fred Arnoff, Matthew Miller

In this role, Sam managed the civil side of the money laundering investigation for the National Credit Union Association. Sam's team included Bob Goff, Scott Lucas and Matt Miller.

Another major piece of litigation won by Sam Lauricia is *Mann Construction, Inc. v U.S.*, 27 F.4th 1138 (6th Cir. 2022), in which the U.S. Sixth Circuit ruled for the taxpayer finding that the I.R.S. had not followed the APA, the

Administrative Procedure Act, in creating its rule concerning reportable (i.e., listed) transactions. Aiding Sam on this and other restricted property trust ("RPT") cases was a team which included Scott Lucas, Bob Goff and Matt Miller.

Scott Lucas is involved in these complex commercial cases and also emphasizes white-collar criminal defense in both state and federal court. He graduated from Baldwin Wallace

University in Berea and received his law degree from CSU, cum laude. Bob Goff graduated from the University of Dayton and CSU Law School. Bob has done a little bit of everything, including the commercial work discussed above and insurance defense work involving construction issues. He is now a city council member in Highland Heights.



Partner Retreat at Westfield Conference Center, 2015

2010s and 2020s



The 2010s and early 2020s have been a period of change and uncertainty. The long war in Afghanistan continued throughout the decade and ended with an American withdrawal producing few results, save for the demise of the leadership of the 9/11 attacks. Repeating the interesting feat Grover Cleveland accomplished in the late 1800s, well-known personality Donald Trump was elected president to split terms in 2016 and 2024, losing to Joe Biden in 2020. Meanwhile in Russia, Vladimir Putin executed various political opponents and drew the former Soviet Union into a more aggressive anti-western strategy. When an active war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, Sweden—with a 200-year history of neutrality—and Finland—with a 100-year history of neutrality from its founding as a nation directly after World War I—decided to join NATO.

Jurisprudentially, the U.S. Supreme Court moved to the right, with decisions ending *Roe v Wade* and the *Chevron* doctrine which had given deference to decisions of federal administrative agencies. Weston Hurd,

which had been in Erieview Tower in Cleveland, moved across the street to the nicely renovated office building at 1300 East Ninth Street. There, for the first time in several decades, the firm was located on one floor, aiding communications greatly. The Columbus office moved too; it is now located in the heart of Columbus's legal district at 101 East Town Street.

Robert Poklar joined the firm in 2010. Bob, a former Chevrolet dealer, represents many local automobile, RV, boat and motorcycle dealerships. Several times a year Bob publishes

“You Auto Know®” a publication for auto dealers covering topics ranging from advertising practices to electric battery protocols. Bob has represented over 300 auto dealerships. His practice involves buy/sell agreements, consumer litigation, dealer relocation, employment issues and franchise disputes, among other things. Aiding Bob with regard to dealership transaction work and litigation is Matt Miller, who has been mentioned earlier. Matt works on large-scale commercial cases, including restricted property trust matters he works on with Sam Lauricia. Matt graduated from Bucknell University, where he played Division I varsity football as a wide receiver. Matt received his law degree from CSU.



Victor DiMarco, Bob Poklar,
David Arnold, Lyn Kiley, Jack
Kluznik, Bob Goff

In 2017, several members of the former Kahn Kruse Co. LPA joined Weston Hurd. Mark Kruse, a graduate of Bowling Green State University and CSU Law School, brought to Weston Hurd a practice which concentrates on commercial litigation and especially construction disputes. He also does much work with environmental service agreements. Mark has traveled extensively. He has been in the Oval Office of the White House and has met both Presidents Carter and Clinton. Mark has been a member of the Weston Hurd management committee for several years. He is presently the firm's assistant managing partner. Mark helped push through the firm's pension reform measure that improved the firm's financial outlook.

Scott Kahn's practice focuses on construction issues and also includes commercial real estate and securities litigation. Scott is a graduate of John Carroll and CSU Law School. Glenn Wilson, a graduate of Bowling Green and the University of Toledo's law school, focuses on intellectual properties matters. In addition, he has a third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Fred Bills joined the Columbus office in 2017. He came from the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office where he participated in major criminal trials. At Weston Hurd, he has partnered with

Dave Patterson in their construction industry representation, which focuses on architectural and engineering issues. Fred went to college at Ashland University, where he was an outside linebacker and sometime safety on the football team. In his spare time, Fred has helped develop a youth soccer program in Clintonville where he and his family reside; the program features 23 teams in six different age groups.

Joining the firm in 2019, Jonathan Good came from Roetzel and Andress and before that, practiced with the Ohio Attorney General, representing that office many times before the Ohio Supreme Court in labor and employment-related matters. Jon graduated from Dartmouth College and CSU Law School. His practice involves advising clients regarding labor and employment issues, dealing with the complexities of Title VII, the Fair Labor Standards Act, Ohio's Civil Rights Act, and other legislation dealing with employees.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit in March 2020 and made changes to Weston Hurd like other firms. Most of the firm worked remotely for a little over a year. Beginning in spring 2021, Weston Hurd attorneys began returning to the office, although perhaps a third of the firm's attorneys still work remotely.





In January 2023, the firm received a substantial infusion of legal talent. Eric Johnson, whose career began at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey and who then moved to Walter Haverfield, joined Weston Hurd, along with Walter Haverfield's entire education law group and part of its labor and employment group. Eric is exhibit A of the all-American success story. Eric grew up in Collinwood and Willowick, and went to Denison University on a scholarship. Graduating summa cum laude, he then attended Duke University for law school. Working at Squire Sanders one summer, he became interested in their education law practice. After moving to Walter Haverfield, Eric put together a general practice education law group from scratch.

Besides working on employment-related matters for various school boards, Eric is also deeply involved with labor negotiations and general counsel concerns. The whole education section is set up as a collaborative effort where any number of attorneys can help with an issue, whether it's a staff issue, a student behavior issue or even an athletic issue.

The Weston Hurd education section provides general counsel and other related services to school districts throughout Ohio. Over 100 different school boards now receive services through Weston Hurd, besides multiple local colleges.

Joining Eric's education group was Christina Henagen Peer. Eric and Christina worked together at Squire Sanders and Walter Haverfield, where she too focused on education and employment law. Christina grew up in Zanesville, graduated from Miami of Ohio summa cum laude, and then went to Washington University in St. Louis, where she was on the law review and graduated with the Order of the Coif. Christina focuses on special education issues ranging from school meetings and Title IX administrative hearings through to appeals to federal court. She is also involved in dealing with student issues ranging from discipline to records disputes. While her practice still includes special education issues, she now provides a wide range of school law knowledge for many school district clients in what is a relationship-driven area.

Top: Scott Kahn, Mark Kruse, Patrick Cannell, Jon Good

Middle: Education Law Group – Top Row – Brad Zebedis, Dan Burley, Kathy Perrico, Hannah Markel Klang, Max Rieker

Bottom Row – Miriam Fair, Lisa Woloszynek, Megan Greulich, James McWeeney, Chistina Henagen Peer, Eric Johnson

Also coming to Weston Hurd as a full partner is Christine Cossler, who worked with Eric at Squire Sanders and Walter Haverfield. Her practice straddles the labor and employment side of the education group, besides the special education area. Christine graduated from Youngstown State and Case Law School, where she was the valedictorian of her class.

Two of the firm's newer partners are Beth Sebaugh and Scott Robinson. Beth has had a distinguished legal career. As a litigator, she has been involved in over 100 jury trials. While her main focus is on employment law, she also litigates in diverse areas, from nursing home cases to multi-district toxic tort cases. Beth is a graduate of Ohio University and CSU Law School. In life outside the firm, Beth and her husband and law partner, Bob Poklar, have a farm in Portage County where corn and soybeans are the two main crops.

Scott Robinson is a graduate of CWRU and CSU Law School. At Case, Scott played linebacker on the football team. Scott, formerly with Schneider, Smeltz, has had dozens of trials, mostly in the commercial area, but also in the probate area.



NOW!



For any firm to continue, new attorneys need to be added, whether they are law school graduates or come to the firm with a decade of experience. New attorneys bring new learning, new insights, new training, and new experience. Many lawyers have joined Weston Hurd in the past five years. Josh Miklowski began his work career as a bronze caster and mold maker. The foundry he worked for made the Bob Feller statue at Progressive Field. He then went to Ohio State and for law school he traveled to Loyola of New Orleans. Josh was a federal law clerk for many years, clerking for both Judge Daniel Polster and Judge Lesley Brooks Wells. Josh is a litigator and focuses mostly on products liability cases.

Working with her fellow attorneys is Tina Rhodes, a gifted researcher and writer. Tina graduated from CSU and North Carolina Central Law School in Durham, NC. She then clerked

for Judge Patricia Blackmon of the Eighth District Court of Appeals. In her early career Tina worked with Bob Poklar and does so once again now that both are with Weston Hurd.

In January 2022, several attorneys who had been with Lane, Alton & Horst, a Columbus litigation firm, came to Weston Hurd. Ed Hubbard focuses on defending legal malpractice claims and also does commercial real estate work. Claudia Spriggs, a fifth-generation attorney (her daughter is generation six) originally from California, has tried dozens of jury trials in California and Ohio. She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Her caseload centers around auto, trucking premises and hospitality issues. As an undergraduate at Notre Dame, Joseph Gerling was a catcher on the varsity baseball team. He majored in chemical engineering and began his career at the Battelle research institute

in Columbus, focusing on environmental research. He now defends product liability cases, industrial accident matters including fire, explosion, toxic tort and complex construction cases. Jim Seguin is another former Lane, Alton attorney who brings a wealth of expertise in estate planning, probate litigation, and commercial and real estate transactions.

Also coming to Weston Hurd around the same time was Robert Stoffers, who has over 35 years of litigation experience, including much involvement with construction defects involving residential property.



Center Top: Chuck Curley, Christine Cossler, David Patterson

Center Bottom: Gary Johnson, Jack Kluznik, Peggy Jonak, Dan Richards, Carolyn Cappel, Mark Kruse, Josh Miklowski, John Farnan

Top Right: Eric Johnson, Dawn Patten, Tina Rhodes

Coming to Weston Hurd from Walter Haverfield as part of the education or labor and employment groups were Peter Zawadski, Sara Ravas Cooper, James McWeeney, Megan Greulich and Max Rieker.

Peter Zawadski, a Clevelander, journeyed to Northfield, Minnesota for his college education at well-known Carlton College. He then moved to Colorado where he performed social work and improved his skiing skills. Peter came back to Cleveland and graduated from Case's law school. After a few years gaining experience, he went with Britton, Smith and then Walter Haverfield's education law group. Peter is an education law generalist; he works on student issues, employment issues, labor issues, construction matters and even transportation questions. Peter's father was a Weston Hurder in the 1990s, so Peter is our first legacy attorney.

Sara Ravas Cooper is a litigator and handles many lawsuits particularly in the employment area. Through her sharp and exacting work in this area she has developed special skill in handling electronically stored information ("ESI"). Sara is a graduate of Wheeling Jesuit and Case Law.

Miriam Fair's practice deals with litigation, special education and the voucher choice area. She grew up in the Boston area, went to Barnard for college, received a master's degree in education from Tufts, and subsequently went to Ohio State Law School, where she was on the law review. For several years before attending law school, Miriam worked as a school psychologist and was her district's director of special education. Lisa Woloszynek also worked as a school psychologist before going into the law and has co-hosted the podcast "Class Act: Updates in Education Law" with Miriam Fair for several years. She now concentrates on student services.

James McWeeney's career began as an elementary school teacher in the Mississippi Delta region. James went to Miami University and then the University of Virginia Law School where he was a Dillard fellow teaching first-year students research and writing skills. James's first job out of law school was with Jones Day. Well-spoken, he brings to Weston Hurd a solid base of knowledge in education law, and practices mostly in the employee relations area dealing with hiring, firing, discipline, FLSA and FMLA issues.

Max Rieker is a litigator and also does a fair amount of municipal law. Max is a graduate of John Carroll and CSU Law School. His practice emphasizes labor law, and he finds himself in many collective bargaining situations and labor arbitrations involving both municipalities and school districts. Gregarious and well-liked, Max is a bagpiper whose group has won the U.S. championship several times, the Canadian championship, and the North American championship once. The group has competed in the world championships held in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland on multiple occasions.



Jennifer Whitt joined the firm with her labor and employment colleagues from Walter Haverfield. Jennifer went to the University of Mount Union, where she was on the Division 3 runner-up women's basketball team. She then went to Akron for law school. For two decades, she has been involved with worker's compensation claims and other labor issues. Also joining the firm at this time was Megan Greulich, who handles education issues out of the Columbus office.

Once the new education group arrived at Weston Hurd, it quickly became apparent that new education attorneys needed to be added. Hannah Klang is a graduate of Western Michigan, and in addition to being on law review, a magna cum laude graduate of CSU's law school. Before Weston Hurd, she practiced as an insurance defense attorney at Gallagher Sharpe and then spent several years representing plaintiffs. One of her focuses is Title IX (gender discrimination) claims. Dan Burley focuses

on contractual work for the education group, including contracts for services, construction, employment and fringe benefits.

The firm's newest partner additions include the following in the Cleveland office. Stephanie Hand-Cannane is a skilled commercial litigator, focuses on corporate transactions and corporate litigation. Stephanie is an avid traveler, having visited some 30 foreign countries. From Michigan, Will Peseski, a graduate of CWRU's law school, practices in



commercial and insurance defense litigation. In his free time, the highly active litigator keeps his Geauga County farm equipment running. Theresa Turk, a graduate of Ohio University and CSU Law School, works in estate planning and administration. She and her family raise chickens, and their eggs often find their way to the firm's kitchen counter. Carolyn Soeder is a skilled family lawyer whose practice includes child custody matters, premarital agreements and child and spousal support. She is presently on the board of trustees of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and a member of the CSU Law Alumni Association Board. Matt Seeley, a graduate of Kenyon and Akron's law school, focuses on commercial litigation and has participated in several matters at the appellate level. Brad Zebedis came to the firm having worked on the labor side for several years. Brad grew up in Rock Hill, SC, near Charlotte, and attended Presbyterian College in South Carolina. There he played first base for their Division I baseball team. Brad was a two-time All-American and had offers from the Red Sox and Royals. Instead he chose to go into law. Patrick Cannell, a graduate of Xavier and a magna cum laude graduate of Akron Law

School, does mostly insurance defense work and in particular aids John Farnan regarding insurance coverage matters.

In 2025, the Cleveland office added several new partners. Lisa Roth, an experienced estate planner who hails from Norwalk, Ohio graduated from Bowling Green and Cleveland State Law School. Lisa is one of seven siblings and is an avid hiker.

Paul Cristallo comes to the firm with years of experience in defending governmental entities, particularly in Section 1983 litigation. Paul grew up in St Petersburg, Florida. In seventh grade his father announced that the family was moving to a small farm in Butler, Ohio, near Mohican State Park, even though the family had no connection to Ohio. Paul went on to graduate from CSU Law School; hired by the City of Cleveland Law Department he defended lawsuits filed against the police and then did further defense work in the employment and civil rights areas at Mazanec Raskin & Ryder in Solon.

Also joining the firm is Rina Russo. Rina focuses on labor and education employment law. She began her career as a law clerk to a federal judge in Kentucky. Rina practiced at

Walter Haverfield for several years and then became a trial attorney for the U.S.

Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor. There she litigated various matters concerning the myriad of federal labor and employment statutes.

In Columbus, Lorree Dendis joined with 20 years of litigation experience. Kaitlin Madigan, from Toronto, Canada, focuses on products liability matters and employer intentional tort claims. In her outside life, Kaitlin is a curler and a triathlete, having run in 16 marathons. Joshua Berns, who hails from Columbus and Chagrin Falls, and who graduated cum laude from Capital Law School, is involved in complex commercial construction, products and premises liability litigation. In his spare time, he coaches Little League where his two boys play.

Associates



In many ways, associates are the life blood of a law firm. Their work and success are integral to the functioning of the firm.

Associate Eric Kyser is a litigator whose practice focuses on commercial cases, and he works closely with Mark Kruse and Sam Lauricia. Kevin Kozak was a paramedic in Cleveland for several years. He is a magna cum laude graduate of CSU Law School, and before coming to Weston Hurd worked as a Lorain County assistant prosecutor in the civil division. Rebecca Singer-Miller, a native of southeast Michigan and a cum laude graduate of Case Law School, practices in the education and labor and employment law areas. In her free time, Rebecca and her husband have visited over 22 national parks and plan to visit all of them.

A recent addition is Dr. Paula Chan, who received her doctorate in special education from Ohio State. Dr. Chan became a tenured professor at Cleveland State in their education department. After teaching for a decade, she decided to go to law school. Under the mentorship of Dean Lee Fisher, she became part of the school's

commission that was assigned the task of dealing with the school's name issue. The firm's newest associate is Jacob Pullar, a summa cum laude graduate of Ohio University and a cum laude graduate of Cleveland State Law School. He has been with the civil division of the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office for the past several years focusing on zoning matters and the defense of public officials. Cooking, golf and soccer are his outside interests.

A Century of Legal Excellence



Born in the roaring '20s, Weston Hurd has now weathered through the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the fall of the Soviet Union, 9/11, the recession of 2008, and our present era of uncertainty. Other law firms, some considerably larger than Weston Hurd, have come and gone. Some have imploded spectacularly.

Weston Hurd remains. Weston Hurd has a distinguished history. Its story is one of

exceptionally loyal and ethical service to its clients combined with a consistent familial concern for its attorneys and staff.

Weston Hurd has grown and thrived as a mid-sized law firm, dedicated to providing its clients with solid, strong legal representation—representation that, among other things, involves great client communication. Mark O'Neill, one of Cleveland's greatest attorneys, often spoke about the need to produce beautiful lawyering. Weston Hurd has done so for 100 years through a combination of superior legal talent, having a firm based in care for professionalism, ethical standards and concern for its clients and the communities in which it practices.

Weston Hurd LLP



Attorneys at Law
A Century of Legal Excellence

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