

WWEMA 113th Annual Meeting Speaker Bios

Robert Folland, Barnes & Thornburg LLP



Robert Folland is a Partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Rob focuses his practice on the defense of public and privately held companies in complex commercial and financial disputes. Rob also has an active insolvency practice where he assists financial institutions' debtors and creditors' committees, trustees, receivers, and creditors. Assisting clients with high stakes business disputes and contract-related matters, Rob is dedicated to listening carefully to what his clients want to achieve, and then sets out to realize those ends. After decades of practice, he strives to solve even the most multifaceted and intricate challenges his clients are facing, particularly with regard to interpretation of contracts and loan documents and in the enforcement of settlement agreements. Rob has represented national mortgage servicers against class action allegations in the context of forced-placed insurance claims, failure to honor oral modification of loan payment

terms, and in the context of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. He has also represented mortgage servicers and financial institutions in litigation concerning the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, Telephone Consumer Protection Act, and Truth in Lending Act. Appreciated by clients and colleagues alike for his perseverance, even in the face of serious financial consequences and difficulty, Rob strives to remain available to those he serves and to provide advice that is practical for their business and strategic objectives. Rob is a member of the American Bar Association Section on Business Law, American Bar Association Committee on Consumer Financial Services, Turnaround Management Association Northern Ohio Chapter, and Florida State Bar Association, Business Law Section.

Kyle Gerlach, Barnes & Thornburg LLP



Kyle Gerlach is a Staff Attorney at Barnes & Thornburg LLP. With an interest in the litigation process and experience in guiding clients through that process, Kyle has a wide-ranging commercial litigation practice. His practice focuses on arbitration matters related to multistate tobacco litigation as well as large-scale commercial disputes involving multi-national companies. Specifically, he assisted in the representation of the Ohio Attorney General in the ongoing complex NPM Adjustment arbitration under the Master Settlement Agreement involving the tobacco industry. Kyle also advises on litigation involving creditors' rights, oil and gas, products liability, and general commercial disputes. Additionally, he handles matters unique to education institutions and college greek-affiliated organizations. In the course of his practice, Kyle not only represents clients before courts and arbitration tribunals, he also handles various aspects of pre-trial practice, including drafting pleadings, coordinating discovery, and drafting case dispositive and pre-trial motions. Kyle is a member of the American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, and Columbus Bar Association.

Erich Kron, KnowBe4 USA



Erich Kron is a Security Awareness Advocate at KnowBe4. Erich is a veteran information security professional with over 25 years' experience in the medical, aerospace manufacturing, and defense fields. He is the former security manager for the U.S. Army's 2nd Regional Cyber Center-Western Hemisphere and holds CISSP, CISSP-ISSAP, MCITP, and ITIL v3 certifications, among others. Erich has worked with information security professionals around the world to provide the tools, training, and educational opportunities to succeed in information security.

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John Manzella, Manzella Trade Communications, Inc.



John Manzella is the Founder of Manzella Trade Communications, Inc. John is a world-recognized speaker, author of several books, and a nationally syndicated columnist on global business, trade policy, labor, and the latest economic trends. His views have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Bloomberg*, *NPR*, and many other publications in the United States and across the globe. John also is founder of both the ManzellaReport.com, a premier source for global business and economic analysis, and Manzella Trade Communications, Inc., a public affairs, publishing, and consulting firm. Additionally, he is chair of the Upstate New York District Export Council, a position appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Melissa Meeker, The Water Tower



Melissa Meeker is Chief Executive Officer of The Water Tower, a nonprofit located in Buford, Georgia focused on creating a campus and ecosystem of water innovation. She has 28 years of experience in water resources management with an emphasis on alternative water supply development and research, workforce development, and public engagement. Melissa previously served as CEO of the Water Environment and Reuse Foundation and was instrumental in the merger of three critical water-related research foundations. She also served as Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District and Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

David Ross, Troutman Pepper



David Ross is a partner in the environmental and natural resources practice group at Troutman Pepper, a national law firm with 23 offices throughout the United States. Before rejoining the private sector, Dave served as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as Director of the Environmental Protection Unit for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and as the lead water lawyer for the Wyoming Attorney General's Office. While at EPA, Dave managed the development and early implementation of the National PFAS Action Plan and currently advises water sector clients on the growing challenge of PFAS to their business operations.

Bill Wooditch, The Wooditch Group



Bill Wooditch is the President and CEO of the Wooditch Group. Bill built a multi-million-dollar company from the philosophy: "To receive value, you first have to give value." For over 25 years, he has created and implemented proven concepts, structures, and narratives that support leadership development. He inspires the quest for innovation, enrichment, and self-fulfillment in personal and professional undertakings. As a results-based professional speaker, Bill uses his experiences to inspire individuals to pursue personal development and professional success with single-minded fervor. He is the author of "Always Forward" and "Fail More," a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller. The hard-won lessons he shares in his books and keynotes are designed to shorten the distance between where you are now and where you are determined to go in the future.