

FACULTY

Karen M. Balavich, *Exponent*, is a Manager in Exponent's Vehicle practice based in its Detroit office. Karen has over 20 years of experience in the automotive industry. She is a subject matter expert in occupant restraints with extensive knowledge in Side Impact and Rollover Airbag function and design. Her technical leadership was demonstrated through development and implementation of the industry's first rollover curtain safety technology at Ford Motor Company.

Thomas P. Branigan, *Bowman and Brooke LLP*, is a Partner in the firm's Detroit office and serves as an Executive Committee member. He routinely defends high exposure claims involving complex technical issues and products against automobile makers and other vehicle manufacturers. Recognized by his peers, Tom is rated AV by Martindale Hubbell. He has also been recognized as one of America's top forty trial lawyers under 40 by the National Law Journal, was named in The Legal 500 U.S. and Chambers USA, was called a Top Lawyer, Product Liability and Commercial Litigation, 2009 by DBusiness Magazine, and was named to the Irish Legal 100, in 2009, 2010 and again in 2011. He is the co-author of a handbook entitled: Michigan Product Liability and Automobile No-Fault Reform Legislation.

Erinn D. DePorre, *Chrysler Group LLC*, is Senior Staff Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel. Ms. DePorre manages various domestic and international product liability matters for Chrysler Group LLC, focusing her expertise in the areas of restraints, airbags and roll over claims. She also provides risk management and regulatory support to various Chrysler engineering groups, including vehicle telematics. Prior to joining Chrysler Group LLC, Ms. DePorre represented automotive manufacturers throughout the United States in complex product liability litigation, including counseling and advising clients in international matters.

Nicholas G. Even, *Bowman and Brooke LLP*, has been with the firm for the last eight years. Nicholas has served as a paralegal, law clerk and currently as an associate in the firm's Detroit office. With his primary focus is automotive product liability litigation, Nicholas has defended cases involving air bag non-deployment, inertial unlatch, and seatbacks. He is currently part of the team that serves as lead trial counsel for a major recreational vehicle manufacturing company. He also defends manufacturers of motorcycles, ATVs and watercrafts against consumer warranty claims.

Jeffrey T. Gorcycya, *Bowman and Brooke LLP*, is Co-Managing Partner of the firm's Detroit office. He has been trying cases for almost 20 years with heavy emphasis on defending manufacturers and suppliers in automotive product litigation. He has tried high-exposure, technically complex cases to verdict in state and federal courts across the United States for OEMs, tier-one suppliers, heavy-duty equipment manufacturers, hospital/health systems, and public transit systems. He frequently cross-examines plaintiff technical experts in automotive design, engineering, accident reconstruction, medicine, and biomechanics. Jeff was again named a Michigan Super Lawyer in 2011 and is recognized by his peers with Martindale Hubbell's top rating, AV.

Robert C. Lange, *Exponent*, is Principal and Group Vice President of Vehicle Engineering based in Detroit. Robert has almost 40 years of experience in automotive engineering, specializing in motor vehicle safety and public health. He has worked in areas including: safety technology development; collision causal factors; collision and injury risk assessment; occupant performance; owners' manuals and warnings; vehicle dynamics, responsiveness, and control; tire and wheel systems; chassis systems and collision avoidance; rollover vehicle dynamics, occupant kinematics, and injury mechanisms; occupant protection technologies; fire cause, origin and propagation; fuel system design and performance; post-collision performance and response; defect investigations; among many others.

Richard S. Levick, Esq., *Levick Strategic Communications*, is President of his firm and is well considered to be the global leader in legal media. His firm manages media strategies for many of the world's highest profile matters – from Guantanamo Bay to the Wall Street crisis. Richard and his firm have managed the media in nearly 3,000 legal matters and crises as well as published acclaimed books, including *Stop the Presses: The Litigation PR Desk Reference*. Richard speaks globally on high stakes communications. Recent engagements have included keynote addresses in China, Hong Kong, Australia, India and New Zealand as well as hundreds of speeches throughout the U.S. He is a frequent commentator on radio and television on high-profile cases.

William N. Newberry, *Exponent*, is a Principal in the Biomechanics practice and is the Director of the Detroit office. Bill has over 15 years of experience in the biomechanics of traumatic injury and human injury tolerance. He specializes in vehicle occupant dynamics and vehicle occupant restraint system performance. Bill's research in vehicle rollover includes the study of occupant kinematics, restraint system performance, including seatbelt pretensioners, and the performance of vehicle roof structures. In addition, Bill has performed extensive research involving occupant kinematics, kinetics, and response strategies in off-road vehicles.

Shukri Sourì, Ph.D., *Exponent*, is Principal and Director of Exponent's Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Practice. He is based in Exponent's New York office. Dr. Sourì's background is in electrical and electronic engineering and computer systems. His professional activities include addressing issues related to electrical components, semiconductors, integrated circuits (ICs), electronics and software. He has extensive experience in automotive electronics and software with particular interest in the areas of reliability and safety. Dr. Sourì received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University and his BA in Engineering Science from Balliol College, Oxford University.

J. Karl Viehman, *Bowman and Brooke LLP*, is Co-Managing Partner of the firm's Dallas office. Karl concentrates his practice in defending U.S. and foreign corporations in product liability, commercial, toxic torts, personal injury, warranty, breach of contract, general negligence, securities and employment cases throughout the country. Karl has tried to verdict numerous catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases in multiple venues throughout Texas and across the country. Karl has extensive experience as lead counsel in the automotive field, and he currently manages the Texas MDL for Toyota Motor Corporation.

Paul J. Widzinski, *General Motors*, is an attorney on the company's Legal Staff in Detroit. He has been responsible for managing product liability cases for 23 years, handling both specialty and geographic cases throughout the United States, with an emphasis on rollover and seat belt litigation. He also counsels GM's vehicle sales, service and marketing organization and manages dealer litigation in the northeast United States. Prior to joining General Motors in 1988, he was in private practice in Michigan, defending and trying product liability cases.

Robert L. Wise, *Bowman and Brooke LLP*, is a partner in the firm's Richmond office. Rob focuses his practice on appeals and advanced trial motions support, products liability defense, and property litigation. His work also includes commercial, financial, and dealer and franchise litigation. Rob founded the firm's Appellate and Trial Support practice, and in addition to handling appeals as lead counsel, he also consults on appeals and other advanced legal issues and strategies.

Douglas E. Young, Ph.D., *Exponent*, is a Principal Scientist in Exponent's Human Factors practice, based in Los Angeles. He has over 25 years of experience examining issues related to human performance, human factors, and ergonomics in accidents, injuries, and safety. His scientific expertise includes the analysis of human movement control, coordination, injury assessment, and analysis of accident patterns, as well as reaction time, vision, and the operation of vehicles and machinery. His research examines the operation of controls, effectiveness of warnings, safety information, and accident and injury analyses, as well as human error and its determinants, including movement control, information processing, perception, memory, attention, stress, aging, and training. Dr. Young also holds the position of Professor in Kinesiology at the California State University in Long Beach (CSULB), is a co-investigator on a multi-year research grant sponsored by the National Institute of Health and is a member of the Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects at CSULB.

Jenny L. Zavadil, *Bowman and Brooke LLP*, is a Senior Counsel in the firm's Detroit office. Jenny's practice is concentrated on defending automobile manufacturers in product liability and consumer actions. Jenny regularly defends corporate clients in complex discovery matters and serves as national discovery counsel for a major automobile manufacturer in the areas of airbags and rollover curtains, event data recorders, and handling and stability. Jenny has significant experience in all areas of discovery management including collecting, processing, and producing hard copy documents and electronically stored information, as well as handling all aspects of written discovery.