

# GREGORY D. CONFORTI

Shareholder

[confortig@jbltd.com](mailto:confortig@jbltd.com)

T +1 312-984-0249

F +1 312-372-9818



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**Mary Lites**

[litesm@jbltd.com](mailto:litesm@jbltd.com)

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## SERVICE AREAS

Complex / Catastrophic

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## INDUSTRY SECTORS

Retail

Transportation



Gregory D. Conforti is co-chair of the Transportation group at Johnson & Bell, Ltd. He has been recognized as an Illinois Leading Lawyer in the past two years. He also has been recognized as an Illinois "Super Lawyer." His peers have recognized him with an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. In 2003, he was named as one of the "40 Attorneys Under 40 in Illinois to Watch," by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company. He is also recognized as a Member of the Nation's Top One Percent of attorneys by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel.

Clients regularly retain Mr. Conforti for their most complex catastrophic litigated cases. He has successfully tried cases to verdict in the Law Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, as well as in the surrounding municipal districts and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Conforti has given presentations across the country for the American Trucking Association, Chicago Bar Association, the American Law Firm Association (ALFA International), and the Transportation Lawyers Association. He serves as Chair Emeritus for the ALFA Transportation Practice Group. Mr. Conforti earned his J.D. from Wake Forest University in 1988 and is admitted to the Illinois Supreme Court, Federal Trial Bar, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, and U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

## **ADMISSIONS & EDUCATION**

### **ADMISSIONS**

Illinois Supreme Court  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit  
Federal Trial Bar

### **EDUCATION**

Wake Forest University, J.D., 1988  
Coe College, B.A., 1985

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Illinois State Bar Association  
ALFA Transportation Practice Group, chairman emeritus, chair, vice chair, program chair

## **HONORS**

AV Preeminent Rating, Martindale-Hubbell  
Illinois Super Lawyers 2004-2015, 2018-2020  
"40 Attorneys Under 40 in Illinois to Watch," Law Bulletin Publishing Company  
Member, Nation's Top One Percent, National Association of Distinguished Counsel  
Leading Lawyer 2021, 2022

## **CLIENT RESULTS**

[Survivors of Truck Driver Allege Improperly Loaded Cargo Spilled Out of Trailer and Crushed Driver. In Granting SJ Court Ruled Plaintiff's Case Over Reliant on Speculation.](#)

[Wrongful Death Trucking Case Resolved Successfully](#)

[Transportation Company Succeeds with Effort to "Ship" Case to Kane County. Illinois Supreme Court Denies Plaintiff's Petition for Appeal.](#)

[Indiana Ruling Bars Plaintiff Damages Expert from Testifying in Trucking Case](#)

[In Rare Reversal, Transportation Company Can Move Case Out of Cook County](#)

[Appellate Court Affirms Summary Judgment Against "Virtual Physical Contact" Assertion](#)

[Conforti Secures Not Guilty Verdict in Trucking Accident with Bicyclist](#)

[Conforti and Reid Receive Favorable Defense Verdict](#)

[Conforti Achieves Favorable Verdict in Construction Site Accident](#)

[Conforti Successfully Defends Waste Removal Trucking Company - Plaintiff Sought \\$3.3 Million](#)

[Fernando Corral, Jr. Personal Representative of the Estate of Fernando Corral, Sr., deceased, v. Mervis Industries, Inc., a corporation](#)

[Happel v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. Lexis 9782 \(N.D. Ill., Feb. 9, 2008\).](#)

Hoa Nguyen v. F. L. Smithe Machine Company, Inc., 2000 U.S. Dist. Lexis 9857 (N.D. Ill. 2000).

Robert Suzik and Roxanne Suzik v. Sea-Land Corporation, Sea Land Services, Incorporated, and CSX Corporation, 89 F. 3d 345 (7 Circuit 1996).

John Flynn and Carolyn Flynn v. Allis Chalmers Corporation, 262 Ill. App. 3d 136 (2 Dist 1994).

Estelle Cohn v. The Northern Trust Company, 250 Ill. App. 3d 222 (1 Dist 1993)

Myriam Diehl v. Heinz Company and Metromail Corporation, 901 F.2d 73 (7 Circuit 1990).

## **PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Co-Presenter, "Responding to Critical Accidents." KLB Safety Summit, Dallas TX, September 27, 2022.

Co-Presenter, "Disability: How to Use it to Your Advantage in Litigation"

Co-Presenter, "When Your Over-the-Road Operator Takes a Hit, Who Carries the 'Freight?'" Presented at [ALFA International](#) Transportation Seminar in St. Louis, February 17, 2017. Presentation covered accident scenarios involving owner/operators versus company drivers and where does liability fall in each instance.

Presenter - "Using the Affordable Health Care Act to Mitigate Future Medical Claims," presented at the American Trucking Associations 2016 Forum for Motor Carrier General Counsel. Bellevue, Washington on July 17-20, 2016.

Co-presenter - "Using the Affordable Health Care Act to Mitigate Future Medical Claims," discussing the current status of the ACA and how it can be currently used to successfully reduce future medical claims. Presented at [ALFA International](#) Transportation Seminar. Key Biscayne, FL on May 4-6, 2016.

Moderator - "Corporate Counsel, Risk Manager, Safety and Claims Professional Roundtable: A Unique Insiders' Perspective on Litigation Management, Cost Control Initiatives, Policy Issues, and More," presented at ACI's 6<sup>th</sup> National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation, Chicago, Illinois on March 30-31, 2016.

Moderator - "Professional Liability: North America's Lessons to the World," [ALFA International](#)'s 2015 International Law Seminar. London, October 8, 2015.

Featured Presenter - "Affordable Care Act: Using the ACA to Mitigate Future Medical Claims," 2015 Chicago Healthcare Risk Management Society's (CHRMS) Law Day. Chicago, IL, November 13, 2015.

Moderator - "Factual Information vs. Factual Interpretation: The Pros and Cons of the Use of Accident Simulations," [ALFA International](#) 2014 Transportation Seminar. Coral Gables, FL, April 23-25, 2014.

Speaker - "Defense Litigation Benefits of Well-Trained Rapid Response Teams and Effective On-Site Investigations," at the American Conference Institute's Fourth Annual National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation. Chicago, IL, March 31-April 1, 2014.

Co-presented at a seminar entitled, "Texting, Hands Free Mobile Devices, Electronic Devices and More: How Counsel Can Use the Distracted Driver Defense as a Shield in Trucking Litigation," discussing a state-by-state analysis of distracted driving laws and methods of obtaining forensic retrieval of information useful in defending civil actions. Atlanta, Georgia on November 29-30, 2012.

Speaker - ISBA LawEd: Medicare Set Asides: "How to Work Them Out with Plaintiff and Defense," May 23, 2012.

Speaker – "The Importance of Vior Dire in Achieving a Positive Outcome," 2012 Transportation Seminar hosted by [ALFA International](#)'s Transportation Practice Group, Amelia Island, FL, May 2-4, 2012.

Speaker – "Settlement Negotiations and Alternative Dispute Resolution: Using ADR to Minimize the Impact of Trucking Litigation," American Conference Institute, Trucking Litigation, Orlando, FL, December 5-6, 2011.

Speaker – “Accident Response Team Best Practices,” Republic Services National Claims Counsel Litigation Conference, Lowes Hotel and Spa in Lake Las Vegas, NV, October 16, 2009.

Speaker – “Handling Ethical Dilemmas,” ATA Litigation Center's Forum for Motor Carrier General Counsels, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 26, 2009.

Moderator – “Medicare-Medicaid Mandatory Reporting/Set Aside,” ALFA International Transportation Practice Group Tele-Seminar, June 24, 2009.

Speaker - “Trading Places: Coordinating Claims & Safety Department Activities,” American Trucking Association Litigation Center's Forum For Motor Carrier General Counsels, Dana Point, CA, 2008.

Speaker - “ECM'S and Reconstruction - The Digital Witness,” American Trucking Association Litigation Center's Forum For Motor Carrier General Counsels, La Jolla, CA, 2005.

Moderator – “Accident Reconstruction Animations & Juries: Hindsight Bias and Counterfactual Thinking by the Jury?” ALFA Transportation Practice Group Seminar, Amelia Island, Florida, 2005.

Speaker - “Tort Law Update,” Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel Fall Seminar, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, 2004.

“ECM's and Airbag Modules: Thinking Outside the Black Box,” American Law Firm Association Transportation Practice Group Seminar, Kiawah Island, South Carolina, 2003.

“Trial Strategies: Give Me 40 Acres to Turn This Rig Around,” American Law Firm Association Transportation Practice Group Seminar, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2002.

“The Carrier's Perspective on Preventable Accidents: Causes and Countermeasures,” American Law Firm Association Transportation Practice Group Seminar, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2000.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Co-Author and Editor, “2016 ALFA Transportation Compendium for Illinois.”

“U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Grants Summary Judgment In A Negligent Entrustment Case,” ALFA International Transportation Update, Volume 2011, Issue 1, (Winter).

Co-Author, “Liability of a Carrier for Property Damage or Personal Injury Caused by Debris from the Truck Becoming Loose and Striking Another Vehicle,” May 2011

“Beware the Company You Keep: You May Be Liable for an Independent Contractor's Employees' Actions,” American Law Firm Association Transportation Practice Group Seminar, Kiawah Island, South Carolina, 2003

Co-Author, “DUIC: Driving Under the Influence of Cell Phones,” American Law Firm Association Transportation Practice Group newsletter Transport Update, Spring 2002