



2021 FALL SEMINAR

Speaker Bios

RICK BIXTER

Rick is a Chicago litigation attorney who focuses his practice in the areas of corporate bankruptcy, cross-border insolvency, financial investigation and asset recovery.

Mr. Bixter represents creditors, debtors and court-appointed trustees, receivers and liquidators in complex corporate restructurings and liquidations in Chapter 11 and Chapter 15 cases, as well as under consensual, out-of-court "workout" agreements. Mr. Bixter has extensive litigation experience in connection with disputes involving financial fraud and distressed companies. He has represented clients in numerous state and federal actions throughout the country in connection with all types of corporate malfeasance claims. In addition, Mr. Bixter has previously served as an adjunct faculty member at DePaul University College of Law, where he has taught a course titled, "Corporate Workouts and Restructuring."

As a member of Holland & Knight's Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Practice Group, Mr. Bixter represents creditors and financial institutions, as well as foreign liquidators, in major restructurings and bankruptcy cases throughout the United States, particularly with respect to the finance, energy, technology, maritime and entertainment sectors. He also advises real estate and corporate clients on issues arising in connection with restructuring, bankruptcy and receiverships.

Mr. Bixter has experience in all aspects of the litigation process and routinely acts as counsel on litigation, judgment enforcement, fraud, cross-border insolvency, asset tracing and shipping matters.

BRIAN DAY

Brian is the Corporation Counsel of the Town of Normal, Illinois, He is the chief legal officer of the Town and is responsible for supervising the activities of the Legal Department.

Brian has served as the Lead Staff Attorney for the Illinois Municipal League and as a Staff Attorney for the Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau, which is an agency in the Illinois General Assembly responsible for drafting the legislation that comes before the state legislature. Before college, Brian served in the U.S. Air Force and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

Brian is a frequent speaker and author on matters of local-government law. He currently serves as the Illinois State Chair of the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association. He is also active in the Illinois Municipal League Home Rule Attorneys Committee and the McLean County Bar Association.

JESSICA HARRILL

While born in Augusta, Georgia, Jessica grew up in Morris, Illinois. She attended the University of Iowa, where she received her Bachelor of the Arts in English in 2011. She then returned to Illinois to attend Northern Illinois University College of Law, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2014. While in law school, Jessica served as a Lead Article Editor on the NIU Law Review, was a Legal Writing Research Assistant, and was a member of the board of the school's Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity. Jessica became licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois in 2014, and licensed in the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois in 2019.

Prior to joining Foster Buick, Jessica worked at a private firm in Joliet practicing corporate law, real estate, municipal law, and prosecuting ordinance violations. Most recently, she worked as a felony drug prosecutor for the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office.

Jessica is currently a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the DeKalb County Bar Association, and the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association. She also serves as a Board Member for the DeKalb County Board of Health, Pay it Forward House, and the ILGL Personal Development Committee.

TERI A. MCMURTRY-CHUBB

Teri A. McMurtry-Chubb is the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development & Professor of Law at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. She researches, teaches, and writes in the areas of critical rhetoric, discourse and genre analysis, critical race feminism, and legal history.

McMurtry-Chubb is a leader in designing curricula to facilitate diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. She is the author of over 30 publications, including the books *Race Unequals: Overseer Contracts, White Masculinities, and the Formation of Managerial Identity in the Plantation Economy* (Rowman & Littlefield, May 2021) and *Strategies and Techniques for Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into the Core Law Curriculum* (Wolters Kluwer, August 2021), and is a contributor to *Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Opinions of the United States Supreme Court* (Cambridge University Press 2016). In 2019, Teri was awarded the 2018 Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication for her article *The Rhetoric of Race, Redemption, and Will Contests: Inheritance as Reparations in John Grisham's Sycamore Row*, 48 Univ. Memphis L. Rev. 890 (2018). She is the recipient of the 2021 Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing – the first person of color and first Black woman to achieve this honor.

JILL O'BRIEN

Jill joined Laner Muchin in 1989 and has been a partner since 1995. She is a member of the Firm's Executive Committee and Chairperson of the Firm's Attorney Hiring Committee.

Jill's practice focuses on the representation of public and private sector employers in a wide variety of labor relations law matters, including collective bargaining negotiations, grievance handling, mediation and arbitration hearings (grievance and interest arbitration), as well as in representation/certification and unfair labor practice hearings before the National Labor Relations Board and the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

HART PASSMAN

Hart is a land use and local government attorney who represents both municipalities and private sector clients. He serves as the Village Attorney for the Villages of Arlington Heights and Libertyville and assists

with the representation of the City of Highland Park, the Villages of Kenilworth and Lincolnwood, and several of the firm's other Illinois local government clients.

Hart has extensive experience in public-private partnership and development projects, including the establishment of tax increment financing (TIF) districts and special service areas, as well as the negotiation of property tax and sales tax financing agreements.

In addition, Hart counsels his municipal clients on a variety of code enforcement, licensing and regulatory affairs, and statutory obligations, such as the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He is well-versed in parliamentary procedures, liquor licensing and enforcement issues.

For private sector clients, Hart works extensively to secure land use and zoning approvals, including annexations, subdivisions and planned developments. Hart has particular experience in drafting and negotiating tax-increment financing, tax sharing, and other public-private partnership agreements.

Hart is active in professional organizations serving both Illinois local governments and the Illinois real estate community. In 2020, he served as the Chair of the Home Rule Attorneys Committee of the Illinois Municipal League. He also hosts the Chicago chapter of the REAL Professionals Network, an interdisciplinary educational and marketing initiative for senior-level real estate and development professionals throughout the region.