



A Roundtable

# Bios

## Michael Archer

Michael Archer is a retired Marine Corps Judge Advocate. He currently serves the Department of Defense in a civilian capacity as Director of Legal Assistance for Marine Corps Installations East, a region comprising several installations on the eastern seaboard. He has served as a member of the North Carolina State Bar standing committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (NC LAMP) since 1995. Mr. Archer has been a practicing attorney since 1982 and is a member of the bars of North Carolina and Maryland.

## Michael Benoit

Michael Benoit is a partner in the law firm Hudson Cook, LLP. He advises banks, sales finance companies, auto dealers, leasing companies, mortgage lenders, and other creditors and technology providers on a wide range of consumer financial services law, and provides federal legislative and regulatory advice and support to associations representing the vehicle sales and finance trades. Mr. Benoit is a frequent speaker and author on a variety of consumer financial services law topics and is a monthly columnist for Auto Finance News and F&I Showroom. He is a member of the American Bar Association's Section of Business Law's Consumer Financial Services Committee and a member of the American Financial Services Association's (AFSA) State Government Relations and Business Technology committees. In addition, he serves as counsel to the AFSA Law Committee's Vehicle Finance Subcommittee and is a Fellow of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers.

## David E. Blassingame

David E. Blassingame is the Managing Partner of Autoflex Leasing and is responsible for the daily operations of the company. His automotive career began 38 years ago, and has spanned every aspect of the automobile business. He joined Autoflex Leasing as a Leasing Specialist in 1985, became Sales Manager in 1987, and the Senior Vice President in 1992. He was made Managing Partner of Autoflex in 2009. Mr. Blassingame currently serves as the Legislative Consultant for the National Vehicle Leasing Association. He was the President of the Association in 2006-2007 and has served on the Texas State Board of the NVLA in various capacities since 1990. The NVLA recognized his service to the Association in 1999 and 2006 by making him the recipient of The President's Award. He earned the professional designation CVLE, (Certified Vehicle Leasing Executive), in 1996 and recertified for the designation in 2002 and 2007.

## Bill Brauch

Bill Brauch is a Special Assistant Attorney General and, since March 1995, has been the Director of the Consumer Protection Division of the Iowa Attorney General's Office. He oversees the Attorney General's consumer protection litigation, legislation, rulemaking and education efforts. In that position he also serves as Administrator of the Iowa Consumer Credit Code. Previously he was an assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Division specializing in automobile odometer and title fraud and other consumer protection matters. Mr. Brauch is an active



leader in a variety of multistate initiatives and currently serves as Chair of the Autos Working Group of the National Association of Attorneys General. He has testified before Congressional Committees several times relating to automobile consumer issues. He received his JD with distinction from University of Iowa College of Law.

### **Michael G. Charapp**

Michael G. Charapp is a partner in the law firm of Charapp & Weiss, LLP. He represents and advises numerous business clients, primarily motor vehicle dealers and dealer trade associations, including the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. He is a founding board member and past President of the National Association of Dealer Counsel. Previously, Mr. Charapp was an associate and partner in the firm of Stein, Mitchell & Mezines, Washington, DC and an Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Rosenthal Automotive Organization, at the time one of the 10 largest auto dealer organizations in the country. He received his BA from the University of Pittsburgh and his JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Thomas D. Domonoske**

Thomas D. Domonoske is Of Counsel at the Legal Aid Justice Center, based out of Charlottesville, VA. Previously, he has taught at University of North Carolina Law School and at Duke Law School. He has also been a legal aid lawyer and maintained a small consumer law practice. In 2009 he moved to his current position. His primary emphasis is on using the civil justice system to remedy credit-related frauds, particularly regarding lending related to automobiles and homes. He has published many articles on several aspects of consumer law and has given over 110 consumer law trainings. He regularly trains JAG

lawyers for the United States military. Previously, he was on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

### **Jack Gillis**

Jack Gillis is Director of Public Affairs for the Consumer Federation of America, one of the nation's largest consumer advocacy organizations. He joined CFA in 1983. In addition to being a noted consumer and auto safety advocate, he is a long time author, columnist, and correspondent. He is the author, co-author or editor of 67 books including *The Car Book* and *The Used Car Book*. In 1994, he joined NBC where he served for ten years as a contributing consumer correspondent for The Today Show. In addition, Mr. Gillis was cited by the National Press Club as one of the best in consumer journalism. He has testified before both the Senate and the House. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Certified Automotive Parts Association, a non-profit organization that sets standards and certifies the quality of automobile body parts. Mr. Gillis received his MBA from The George Washington University and his BA from the University of Notre Dame.

### **Greg Grzeskiewicz**

Greg Grzeskiewicz is an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Fraud Bureau of the Office of the Attorney of the State of Illinois. He is currently the Supervising Attorney of the Automobile Fraud Unit. Since 2000, the majority of Mr. Grzeskiewicz's practice as an Assistant Attorney General has been concentrated in the field of automobile fraud. He has worked on numerous automobile fraud cases ranging from advertising to transactional purchases. Mr. Grzeskiewicz has also been actively involved in legislation related to automobiles in the State of Illinois.



## **Thomas B. Hudson**

Thomas B. Hudson is a partner at Hudson Cook, LLP, and chairs the firm. He has practiced consumer financial services law since 1973, focusing on matters relating to vehicle financing and leasing. He is President of CounselorLibrary.com, LLC, and is the Editor-in-Chief of CARLAW. He is a past President of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers and in 2009 was presented with that organization's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a past Chair of the American Bar Association Consumer Financial Services Committee's Personal Property Finance Subcommittee. He is outside general counsel to the National Automotive Finance Association. He is a member of the Governing Board of the Conference of Consumer Finance, and is a frequent writer and speaker on topics relating to vehicle sales, finance and leasing. He has also written several books on car sales and financing.

## **Andrew D. Koblenz**

Andrew D. Koblenz is the National Automobile Dealers Association's Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel. NADA represents more than 16,000 new car and truck dealers. Mr. Koblenz directs the association's Legal and Regulatory Group, which represents NADA and dealer interests before federal agencies. Prior to his current position, he was NADA's Vice President of Industry Affairs from June 2001 to February 2006. Mr. Koblenz previously served as a senior attorney with the American Automobile Manufacturers Association. Mr. Koblenz received his BA in political science, *summa cum laude*, from Union College, and his JD, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School.

## **Christopher Kukla**

Christopher Kukla is Senior Counsel for Government Affairs at the Center for Responsible Lending. CRL is a nonpartisan, non-profit policy and research affiliate of Self-Help, a community development lender. Mr. Kukla is primarily responsible for directing CRL's work in the North Carolina General Assembly. He also works with lawmakers and advocates in other states on consumer lending legislation. Prior to joining the Center, Chris worked for five years on Capitol Hill, most recently as Appropriations Associate and Counsel to US Representative Nita M. Lowey of New York. He received his JD from the University of Notre Dame Law School, and his BA with honors from Alma College in Alma, Michigan.

## **Damon Lester**

Damon Lester is the President of the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers. He directs the day to day activities of the association, including membership, government affairs, industry relations, and dealership advocacy. Currently, he also serves on the Board of Directors for Americans Well-informed on Automobile Retailing Economics where he focuses on educating consumers on how to make the right vehicle choice and the programs available to them; and the Automotive Trade Association Executives. Mr. Lester is a member of Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the National Association of Black Accountants, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

## **Ian Lyngklip**

Ian Lyngklip is the senior member of Lyngklip & Associates Consumer Law Group, PLC. The firm specializes in litigating cases against abusive debt collectors on behalf of consumers, as well as handling auto dealer fraud and identity theft cases. Mr. Lyngklip has been recognized nationally for his consumer advocacy efforts, most notably by receiving the Consumer Advocate of the Year award in 2003 from



the National Association of Consumer Advocates. He has published a number of articles in publications such as *The Consumer Advocate*, the *Consumer Law Newsletter*, and the *University of Detroit Law Review*. Mr. Lyngklip earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law, where he currently serves as an adjunct professor teaching the Consumer Defense Clinic.

### **Randall McCathren**

Randall McCathren is the Managing Director of the Association of Consumer Vehicle Lessors (ACVL) and President and General Counsel of BLC Associates, Inc. ACVL is the trade association of the major assignees of motor vehicle lease agreements between consumers and dealerships. Mr. McCathren has 30 years of consulting experience in retail vehicle leasing and financing. He is a frequent expert witness in vehicle leasing and finance-related litigation. Mr. McCathren represented vehicle leasing industry members in the formulation of Revised Regulation M in 1998 and the Uniform Consumer Leases Act. He is the co-author of *The Automobile Lending and Leasing Manual* (1989), *Essentials of Consumer Vehicle Leasing* (1985) and the periodical *Auto Financing Update* (1986 – 2005). Mr. McCathren is a graduate of Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He has been a staff attorney with the Federal Trade Commission and has taught at the University of Texas Law School and Vanderbilt University Law School.

### **Paul D. Metrey**

Paul D. Metrey is the Chief Regulatory Counsel, Financial Services, Privacy, and Tax for the National Automobile Dealers Association. He represents dealer interests before, and educates dealers on, regulations promulgated by several federal agencies including the Federal Reserve Board, Federal Trade Commission, Federal Communications Commission, Department of

the Treasury, and Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Metrey is the author and editor of several NADA publications and frequently speaks on an array of regulatory topics. Prior to joining NADA, Mr. Metrey served as an attorney with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and as an active duty Army JAG officer. He also served as an Infantry officer in Army National Guard units in Maryland and Virginia and as a JAG officer in the D.C. Army National Guard. Mr. Metrey obtained a JD from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law and a BA from Virginia Tech.

### **Terrence J. O'Loughlin**

Terrence J. O'Loughlin is the Director of Compliance for Reynolds & Reynolds. Previously he worked for the Office of the Attorney General, State of Florida, in the Economic Crimes Section, focusing on automobile dealers, manufacturers, and finance and leasing companies. Mr. O'Loughlin was also the mediator of Florida's Motor Vehicle Lease Disclosure Act, a statute which he assisted in drafting. He has served as a consultant to the Federal Reserve Board's Leasing Education Committee, an observer / advisor for the Uniform Consumer Leases Act Committee, and a consultant to various media and publications. He has also authored numerous magazine articles. He serves on the Governing Committee of the Conference on Consumer Finance Law. Mr. O'Loughlin graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and received his MBA and JD from the University of Dayton.

### **Rosemary Shahan**

Rosemary Shahan is the founder and President of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, a national, award-winning non-profit auto safety and consumer advocacy organization dedicated to preventing motor vehicle-related fatalities, injuries, and economic losses. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Consumer Federation of America and the Consumer Federation of California. In 1979, Ms. Shahan



initiated California's auto "lemon law," which became the model for similar laws in all 50 states. She has repeatedly testified before Congress regarding auto safety and fraud issues. She has been a major force for adoption of lifesaving federal motor vehicle safety standards and has led successful efforts for enactment of major landmark auto safety and anti-fraud legislation in California.

### **Stuart A. Rosenthal**

Stuart A. Rosenthal is Vice President, Legal Affairs and General Counsel for the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association. Previously he was an Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Attorney General's Office. Prior to that appointment, he was Director of Adjudication, Consumer Advocate, and Senior Attorney for the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. Mr. Rosenthal was a member of New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's Task Force on Automobile Insurance. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Dealer Counsel and a sustaining Member of the Westchester Women's Bar Association. Mr. Rosenthal is a graduate of Hofstra University School of Law.

### **John Van Alst**

John Van Alst is an attorney at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) and directs the Working Cars for Working Families Project. His focus includes automobile fraud, deceptive practices law, rural issues, warranty, and manufactured home issues. He is the co-author of several treatises published by NCLC including *Automobile Fraud*, *Consumer Warranty Law*, and *Repossessions*. Mr. Van Alst has testified before Congressional committees and state legislatures about issues affecting low-income households. Prior to joining NCLC he was an Attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina. He was also the Chair of the North Carolina Consumer Law Task Force.

### **Keith Whann**

Keith Whann is the Co-Owner and CEO of the Columbus Fair Auto Auction, founder and CEO of Auttr.com and WhannTech, serving *pro bono* as Outside General Counsel to the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association and *The Car Counselor* to the automobile industry. His automotive and legal career has spanned over 27 years, beginning as an Assistant Ohio Attorney General and founder of the law firm Whann & Associates. Mr. Whann has had over 1,000 articles published in trade journals across the country. He publishes popular blog posts discussing compliance and consumer protection issues related to car buying and the auto industry. He has conducted hundreds of seminars regarding the auto industry and spoken at conventions and meetings around the country.

### **Nancy Wilberg Ricks**

Nancy Wilberg Ricks is a Policy Analyst for the Wealth-Building Policy Project at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. She writes and conducts research on the following issues as they relate to the Latino community: consumer credit, homeownership and foreclosure, and predatory lending practices. Ms. Wilberg Ricks also conducts action campaigns for NCLR. She helped establish NCLR's social media presence in the field of Latino wealth-building. Prior to NCLR, Ms. Wilberg Ricks served as an instructor of English literature at the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, DC. She received an MA from Georgetown University and BAs from the University of Utah. She was born and raised in Sacramento, California.