

Shumaker



*supporting*

**THE POLYMER INDUSTRY**

**A GUIDE TO REGULATORY, OPERATIONAL, AND GROWTH STRATEGIES**

Shumaker's Polymer Industry Team provides strategic legal counsel to companies across the polymer value chain—from resin and additive manufacturers to compounders, converters, and packaging companies—helping them navigate regulatory requirements, manage risk, protect innovation, and capitalize on growth opportunities in an increasingly competitive and regulated marketplace.

Our multidisciplinary team brings together attorneys with experience in environmental law, regulatory compliance, commercial transactions, taxation, intellectual property (IP), litigation, labor and employment, international trade, government affairs, and technology and data-focused areas including privacy, cybersecurity, and AI—allowing us to deliver comprehensive solutions tailored to the unique needs of polymer manufacturers and suppliers. Several members of our team hold advanced technical degrees in disciplines such as chemical engineering, electrical engineering, biochemistry, and other scientific fields, which enables us to better understand complex polymer formulations, manufacturing processes, product performance issues, and emerging material technologies. By combining scientific fluency with legal and regulatory insight, we provide practical, industry-informed counsel that aligns with how polymer companies operate and innovate.

AMERICA'S  
**BEST**  
LAW FIRMS®

AM LAW  
**200**  
FIRM

*The American Lawyer*

N L J  
**500**  
FIRM

*National Law Journal*



**10**

TEAM  
MEMBERS

**95+**

MANUFACTURING  
INDUSTRY  
ATTORNEYS

# Industry-Focused Legal Services

---

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

Polymer manufacturers operate in a highly regulated environment with increasing scrutiny around sustainability, emissions, and chemical safety. Shumaker helps clients navigate federal, state, and international regulatory regimes, including:

- Environmental permitting and compliance
- Chemical regulations, including the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and Registration, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)
- Air and water emissions compliance
- Waste management and recycling regulations
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and sustainability initiatives
- Environmental enforcement defense and remediation matters
- Government relations

## **MANUFACTURING AND OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

We advise polymer manufacturers on operational legal issues affecting production facilities, global supply chains, and distribution networks, such as:

- Facility siting, permitting, and expansion
- Supply chain contracts and raw material sourcing
- Product stewardship and regulatory labeling
- Operational compliance and risk mitigation
- Workplace safety and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) matters

## **CORPORATE, TRANSACTIONS, AND GROWTH STRATEGY**

The polymer sector continues to see consolidation, strategic partnerships, and investment in advanced materials and recycling technologies. Shumaker supports clients through all stages of growth, including:

- Mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures
- Strategic partnerships and licensing agreements
- Private equity and venture investment
- Commercial contracts and distribution agreements
- International expansion and cross-border transactions

## IP AND INNOVATION PROTECTION

Innovation drives the polymer industry—from new material formulations to advanced manufacturing processes. Our IP attorneys help clients protect and maximize the value of their innovations through:

- Patent protection and portfolio strategy
- Trade secret protection
- Technology licensing
- IP enforcement and litigation
- Research & Development (R&D) collaboration agreements

## TECHNOLOGY, DATA PRIVACY, CYBERSECURITY & AI

Polymer manufacturers increasingly rely on digital infrastructure, data-driven processes, and AI-powered tools—making technology law a critical dimension of operational risk. Our Technology, Data Privacy, Cybersecurity & AI team helps clients navigate the full spectrum of legal challenges in this space, from regulatory compliance and incident response to contract structuring and AI governance.

- Data privacy compliance across global and U.S. frameworks, including GDPR, HIPAA, CCPA, and emerging state laws
- Cybersecurity incident response, breach notification, and post-incident recovery
- AI governance, acceptable use policies, and algorithmic risk assessment
- Technology and SaaS contract drafting, negotiation, and risk allocation
- Privacy program development, data mapping, and vendor due diligence
- Cybersecurity audits, framework compliance (NIST, ISO 27001), and board-level advisory
- Defense against privacy class actions, regulatory enforcement, and cybersecurity litigation
- AI contract structuring, including liability, IP ownership, and data use provisions

## **LITIGATION, PRODUCT LIABILITY, AND RISK DEFENSE**

Polymer companies often face disputes involving contracts, product performance, environmental claims, or regulatory enforcement. Shumaker's litigators represent clients in complex disputes involving:



- Product liability and toxic tort claims
- Commercial and contract disputes
- Environmental enforcement actions
- Insurance recovery
- Class action defense


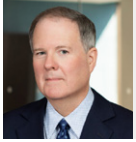
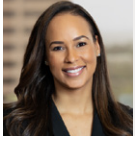


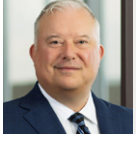
## **LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, AND WORKFORCE ISSUES**



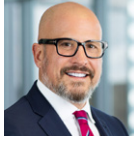

Manufacturing companies rely on highly skilled workforces operating in demanding environments. We counsel polymer industry employers on:

- Workforce management and labor relations
- Wage and hour compliance
- Workplace safety and OSHA matters
- Employment litigation and dispute resolution
- Executive compensation and retention strategies

# Polymer Industry Team

	<p><b>Amanda M. Leffler</b>  <b>AKRON MANAGING PARTNER</b>          Manufacturing Industry          Sector Co-Chair</p>		<p><b>Mike E. Dockins</b>  <b>PARTNER</b>          Intellectual Property          Service Line Lead</p>
---	---	---	---

	<p><b>M. Scott Aubry</b>  <b>PARTNER</b></p>		<p><b>David H. Conaway</b>  <b>PARTNER</b></p>
	<p><b>C. Jade Davis</b>  <b>PARTNER</b>          Technology, Data Privacy,          Cybersecurity &amp; AI          Service Line Leader</p>		<p><b>Austin K. Irving</b>  <b>PARTNER</b>          Corporate, Tax &amp; Transactions          Service Line Lead</p>
	<p><b>Jason A. Smith</b>  <b>PARTNER</b></p>		<p><b>Mike A. Snyder</b>  <b>PARTNER</b>          Environmental &amp; Energy          Industry Sector Chair</p>

	<p><b>Ryan P. Walker</b>  <b>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT</b>          Federal Affairs,          Shumaker Advisors, LLC</p>
	<p><b>Jodie Moxley-Ramos</b>  <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>          Federal Affairs,          Shumaker Advisors, LLC</p>
	<p><b>Andy W. Herf</b>  <b>PRESIDENT</b>          Shumaker Advisors, LLC</p>
	<p><b>John David "JD" White</b>  <b>PRINCIPAL</b>          Shumaker Advisors, LLC</p>



## Amanda M. Leffler

**AKRON MANAGING PARTNER**  
**Manufacturing Industry Sector Co-Chair**

Amanda is Managing Partner of Shumaker's Akron office and is Certified as a Specialist in Insurance Coverage Law by the Ohio State Bar Association. She is a member of Shumaker's Litigation & Disputes Service Line, where she focuses on insurance recovery. Amanda is routinely successful in compelling insurers to honor their coverage obligations. She has helped her clients recover amounts ranging from hundreds of thousands to hundreds of millions of dollars and has assisted in critical amicus efforts to develop and protect the law for the benefit of policyholders.

Amanda has extensive experience in numerous types of coverage areas including:

- General liability, including construction, OCIPs/CCIPs, long-tail products liability, and historical environmental liability
- Property and business interruption
- Management liability / directors and officers
- Cyber and crime
- Representations and warranties
- Professional liability / errors and omissions
- Public officials liability
- Environmental, including contractors pollution liability, pollution legal liability, and storage tank liability
- Employment, including employment practices liability and stop-gap
- Stop-loss insurance
- Maritime, including protection & indemnity, cargo, and stock throughput

Amanda's claim and litigation approach is designed to help clients efficiently obtain favorable results in all aspects of the process, from claim submission through the resolution of disputes in litigation. Amanda also frequently assists clients in commercial and transactional matters, including developing contractual risk-shifting strategies and drafting contract terms, selecting appropriate insurance coverage to manage risk, and participating in the due diligence process in mergers and acquisitions.

Amanda's clients have described her as "extremely talented and a force to be reckoned with—this is a lawyer that you want in your corner on any policyholder-side coverage matter," as well as "smart, responsive and practical" and "particularly skilled in oral advocacy." *Chambers USA 2022* (Insurance: Ohio) and *Chambers USA 2025* (Insurance: Ohio).

In addition to her insurance coverage practice, Amanda also has substantial experience representing companies of all sizes in their business disputes. Her experience includes employment litigation, construction disputes, shareholder disputes, breach of contract, business torts, and zoning issues. Amanda takes a business-minded approach to commercial litigation so that companies can minimize their litigation costs and the time they must dedicate to resolving them.



## Michael E. Dockins

**PARTNER**  
**Intellectual Property Service Line Lead**

Known as the “Gimmick Attorney<sup>®</sup>,” Mike is a registered patent attorney serving as intellectual property (IP) counsel for elite pro wrestlers by helping them trademark their characters or “gimmicks.” He also represents college coaches, television personalities, and podcasters in the sports and entertainment industry. Working collaboratively with their agents, financial advisors, non-IP legal counsel, and accountants, Mike works to protect clients’ past, present, and future brands and to ensure that their contracts provide well-considered protections given the risks and uncertainties endemic to the industry. In addition to his pro wrestling trademark practice, Mike has a background in chemical engineering.

Clients also rely upon Mike for advice regarding:

- Developing and implementing their estate plans, deferred compensation packages, and philanthropic objectives
- Participation in outside business ventures
- Assisting with patent, trademark, and copyright law
- Preparing and prosecuting patent applications in various technical arts, including chemical, material, and mechanical
- Preparing legal opinions in respect to patentability, infringement, patent validity, and freedom to practice

Away from the office, Mike can be found traveling to new places with his wife and children, attending concerts, weightlifting, and watching and participating in a long list of sports.



## M. Scott Aubry

**PARTNER**

Scott's principal areas of practice are mergers and acquisitions, domestic and international trade matters, and general corporate and regulatory matters. He represents domestic and international buyers and sellers in transactions of various structures and values. He also represents privately held issuers in capital raising projects mainly through the private placement of securities and has extensive experience in antitrust regulatory matters, particularly in product distribution matters.

Scott's experience includes:

- Serving as the outside North American general counsel for a publicly held company that is one of the world's leading producers of reinforced polymer technology for use in the mining, energy, and medical products industries. The company is based in the United Kingdom but has significant operations in North America. Scott manages the legal operations of the company
- Serving as a member of the firm's Management Committee, as past Chair of the firm's Finance Committee, and as the Regional Service Line Leader for the Corporate, Tax & Transactions Service Line
- Being recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America® 2025.



## David H. Conaway

**PARTNER**

David represents clients on a variety of issues involving corporate bankruptcy, insolvency, and restructuring; commercial contracts and business transactions; commercial disputes; and cross-border transactions, disputes, and insolvencies. He has been involved in many of the largest insolvency cases in the U.S. and abroad, including representing unsecured creditors' committees, suppliers to or customers of distressed companies, financial institutions, private equity or portfolio companies, boards of directors, counter-parties to contracts, and buyers of distressed assets.

His deep global practice includes:

- Cross-border matters, including foreign direct investment and doing business in the U.S., cross-border business transactions, cross-border commercial disputes, and cross-border insolvencies and restructurings
- Representing manufacturing companies, from middle market to large multinational companies, across a wide variety of industries, including agrichemicals and seeds, aluminum and glass containers and packaging, appliances, automotive, chemicals, energy, food packaging, forest products, furniture, machinery and equipment, paper and packaging, plastics and resins, steel and metals, and textiles

David serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Global Advocaten, a Chambers-rated Top Legal Network consisting of over 1,400 lawyers. He is also a member of INSOL Europe, and on the Board of Editors of Eurofenix, a leading publication on global insolvency. He devotes significant time to provide insights and updates via articles and presentations to clients, industry trade groups, and professional networks and associations.



## C. Jade Davis

**PARTNER**

**Technology, Data Privacy, Cybersecurity & AI Service Line Leader**

Jade's practice is focused on data privacy, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence (AI), and is known for her innovative approach and practical strategies in navigating complex regulatory environments. She advises clients across industries—including health care, hospitality, construction, manufacturing, technology, transportation, agriculture, and retail—on global privacy and data protection compliance, including GDPR, UK GDPR, LGPD, CCPA, HIPAA, PIPL, and other international frameworks.

Jade has led data protection initiatives spanning North America, the EU/EEA, UK, Latin America, the Middle East, and APEC countries. Her work includes managing multinational privacy compliance programs, negotiating and auditing third-party data protection agreements, and guiding businesses through vendor risk mitigation and cross-border data transfer strategies. Jade has overseen privacy compliance programs for multinational organizations, including global hoteliers and technology companies operating across the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Mexico, and South America.

### **Data Breach Investigations and Incident Response**

A trusted advisor in crisis response, Jade directs forensic investigations and breach response efforts for clients impacted by ransomware, business email compromise, and cyberattacks—collaborating with law enforcement and regulators when necessary. Her incident response leadership spans health care, finance, e-commerce, construction, real estate, and critical infrastructure sectors.

### **Cyber Compliance and Preparedness Counseling**

Jade designs and implements cybersecurity compliance strategies for corporations. She conducts comprehensive security assessments, oversees preparedness programs, and serves as outside counsel for Cybersecurity Incident Response Teams, ensuring compliance with legal standards. Jade also provides advisory services on privacy policies, data protection agreements, technology transactions, vendor subcontracts, standard contractual clauses, and other alternative measures for cross-border data transfers.

### **AI Risk Management and Governance**

Jade also counsels AI developers, service providers, and enterprise users on AI governance, regulatory compliance, and ethical implementation. Her board-level engagements include advising directors on AI risk management, governance frameworks, and emerging legal trends.

### **Website Accessibility Defense, Advisory Assistance, and Remediation**

Jade represents clients in website accessibility litigation, defending against claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act and state accessibility laws. Beyond litigation defense, she provides proactive advisory assistance to help organizations assess their digital properties for accessibility compliance and develop remediation strategies to address potential vulnerabilities. Her comprehensive approach enables clients to mitigate legal exposure while creating more inclusive digital experiences.

### **Ad Tech Counseling**

Her practice includes strategic advice on ad tech compliance, mobile and cloud storage, IoT, and enterprise data management. Jade designs cybersecurity preparedness plans, conducts risk assessments, and serves as external counsel to cybersecurity incident response teams.

### **Board Engagements and Governance**

She is frequently engaged to train corporate boards on regulatory oversight, risk management, and breach response readiness. Jade's impact is marked by successful client outcomes, from favorable regulatory settlements to early case dismissals and prevention of enforcement actions.

Through a blend of legal acumen and business alignment, Jade helps organizations use data and emerging technologies to advance their goals while minimizing legal and reputational risks in an evolving global landscape.



## Austin K. Irving

**PARTNER**  
**Corporate, Tax & Transactions Service Line Lead**

Austin concentrates his practice on representing public and private companies in a broad range of corporate and securities law matters, oftentimes in the role of outside general counsel. He regularly counsels shippers, brokers, and logistics companies in the transportation and distribution industry, as well as clients in manufacturing, automotive, commercial banking and finance, and professional services.

Austin's experience includes:

- Complex business transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, equity and debt financing transactions, recapitalizations, executive employment and equity incentive arrangements, and joint ventures.
- Counsels public and private companies through commercial disputes and oversees litigation in close partnership with his clients and the firm's litigation team.
- Being recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America® 2021 and 2022.



## Jason A. Smith

**PARTNER**

Jason is an intellectual property (IP) lawyer with more than a decade of experience who concentrates his practice in the areas of patent application preparation, prosecution, and post-grant proceedings, as well as opinion work and client counseling. He has argued cases before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and he frequently speaks on topics pertaining to U.S. patent law.

Jason has drafted and prosecuted patent applications for a wide variety of technologies, including:

- Biological diagnostics
- Polymer and pharmaceutical chemistry
- Cosmetics
- Fiber optics
- Ceramics and simple mechanical devices



## Michael A. Snyder

**PARTNER**

**Environmental & Energy Industry Sector Chair**

Mike's litigation experience includes representation of manufacturers, energy companies, commercial landlords, and franchisors in all aspects of commercial and business litigation. He has successfully handled a wide variety of complex litigation matters, including business and franchise disputes; environmental litigation under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act; regulatory disputes and challenges to administrative regulations and statutes; and commercial real estate disputes, tort cases, and workplace safety actions.

Mike has successfully represented individuals, small businesses, large corporations, and nonprofit entities in federal and state courts and before a wide variety of state and federal administrative agencies and adjudicatory bodies, including:

- The U.S. Environmental Appeals Board
- Ohio Environmental Review Commission
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Ohio Liquor Control Commission
- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Ohio Unemployment Compensation Review Commission
- Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
- The Industrial Commission of the State of Ohio



## Ryan P. Walker

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
Federal Affairs, Shumaker Advisors, LLC

Based in Washington, D.C., Ryan provides strategic government affairs counsel and direct advocacy for organizations large and small. He uses his two decades of political, government, and corporate experience to help companies across a range of sectors find solutions to complex challenges. Clients turn to Ryan for his knowledge across a wide variety of current national issues, as well as his expertise in the prioritization, development, implementation, and execution of critical projects.

Ryan joined Shumaker Advisors, LLC after spending five years as Senior Director of U.S. Government Affairs for BP, where he represented the seventh largest company on Fortune's Global 500 list before the U.S. House, U.S. Senate, the White House, and federal agencies. His achievements included:

- Shepherding a downstream and upstream portfolio of businesses that included the Castrol Oil brand, three northern-tier refineries, two petrochemical plants, four offshore oil production facilities, and extensive operations in the Permian Basin
- Representing BP on major trade association committees and coalitions to ensure business metrics were achieved through the legislative and regulatory processes
- Planning and directing all engagement and fundraising efforts of the BP Employee Political Action Committee

Prior to entering the private sector, Ryan served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Bob Latta (OH-5) and as Legislative Director to U.S. Rep. Paul Gillmor (OH-5), both members of the Committee on Energy & Commerce. Outside of work, Ryan enjoys spending time with his wife and two children. He also serves as an elder at his church and is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying fly-fishing, hunting, and camping.



## Jodie Moxley-Ramos

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Federal Affairs, Shumaker Advisors, LLC

Jodie is a senior political strategist and government relations executive with almost three decades of experience. She advises organizations on how to navigate Congress, the Administration, and complex policy environments, with deep expertise in aviation, defense, procurement/supply chain issues, trade, and advanced technologies.

Most recently, Jodie served as Vice President of Congressional Affairs at Ligado Networks, where she advised executive leadership on legislative and regulatory strategy involving aviation safety, spectrum policy, and national security. In that role, she led Capitol Hill engagement efforts, managed a network of external consultants, and built strategic alliances with leading aviation and aerospace companies. She is known for her credibility and long-standing relationships across Capitol Hill and for her ability to translate highly technical issues into effective political strategy.

Jodie spent more than a decade at Airbus's U.S. headquarters, where she served as the company's lead commercial lobbyist on legislative, regulatory, trade, manufacturing, and procurement issues affecting both commercial and defense aviation. She developed and executed Airbus's federal and state government relations strategy, managed a team of external lobbyists, and served as a primary point of contact for Congress, the Administration, and key federal agencies including the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, and the Export-Import Bank. She worked closely with the State of Alabama and local stakeholders on the development of Airbus's engineering facility and final assembly line, helping to secure political support for major U.S. manufacturing investment and job creation. Jodie also led Airbus's diversity initiative across all U.S. locations, strengthening the company's internal culture and external credibility with policymakers, community leaders, and industry partners. In these roles, she advised U.S. and global executive leadership on political risk, legislative developments, and long-term engagement strategy, consistently aligning policy engagement with business outcomes.

Earlier in her career, Jodie worked across state and presidential campaigns, nonprofit advocacy, and grassroots organizing. She began her career on Mrs. Gore's scheduling and advance team during the 1996 presidential campaign and has held roles with the League of Women Voters, The Freedom Forum, Edelman Public Relations, BAE Systems, the U.S. Department of State, and the President's Council on Y2K Conversion.

She is actively involved in professional and civic leadership, including long-standing board service with the International Aviation Club. She holds a master's degree in political management from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts from St. Lawrence University, with a major in multi-language studies (French, Russian, and Spanish).



## Andrew W. Herf

**PRESIDENT**  
Shumaker Advisors, LLC

President of Shumaker Advisors Ohio, Andy has 30 years of experience as a government and regulatory affairs expert and advisor. He represents clients in a broad array of industries and on wide-ranging issues and has extensive experience with helping clients navigate the intersection of law, politics, public policy and public relations.

Andy works closely with clients in the following industries:

- Food and beverage
- Health care
- Retirement planning
- Agriculture and environment
- General public policy and related industries

With deep relationships in the Ohio Legislature, Andy's clients include the Ohio Licensed Beverage Association, Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Association of Professional Towers Ohio, Ohio Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, and Ohio Spirits Association.

When Andy is not focused on his clients, he can be found spending time with his wife and two children.



## John David “JD” White

**PRINCIPAL**  
Shumaker Advisors, LLC

JD has more than 20 years of public policy expertise at the federal, state, and local levels of government. He brings extensive experience assisting elected officials and advising clients on government relations, strategic communications, grassroots organizing, and politics.

Prior to joining Shumaker Advisors, JD served as the Senior Vice President at Mercury Public Affairs and as the Director of Government Affairs for WellCare, where he managed lobbying teams in multiple states to advance the company’s public policy interests through legislative, regulatory, and community engagement. He also directed the company’s political contribution strategy to national and state elected officials of both political parties. His experience includes:

- Serving in three congressional offices in Washington, including service as a Chief of Staff to former U.S. Rep. David Jolly
- Working in the legislative affairs office of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee
- Serving at the Premier Healthcare Alliance in Washington and advising its 2,000 member hospitals and health systems in advancing public policy and corporate priorities with Congress and the administration. He implemented Premier’s federal PAC, tripling its size in two years.

A Florida native, JD earned a B.S. in Political Science and a M.A. in Public Administration from Florida State University.

# Scientific and Technical Experience

---

Many members of Shumaker's Polymer Industry Team hold undergraduate and advanced degrees in scientific and engineering disciplines. This technical background allows our attorneys to better understand complex polymer formulations, manufacturing processes, product performance issues, and emerging material technologies.

## UNDERGRAD

- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biomedical Technology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Fiber Optics
- Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering
- Industrial Technology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medical Device
- Molecular Genetics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Physics
- Software

## ADVANCED

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biological Sciences
- Biomedical Science
- Chemistry
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Experimental Nuclear Physics
- Industrial Engineering
- Information Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medical Sciences, Concentration in Immunology and Molecular Biology
- Molecular Genetics
- Physics

# Moving Forward with Confidence

---

Across a diverse range of locations and capabilities, the attorneys and advisors of Shumaker share a unified approach: to start every engagement with a clear focus on the desired outcome and the most efficient path to achieve it. For 100 years, we have set a high standard for client service, consistently delivering exceptional results.

With more than 555 employees nationwide—including more than 300 highly regarded attorneys and advisors and 60 paralegals—Shumaker is a hub for forward-thinking professionals. Our cross-disciplinary teams include top graduates from leading law schools, professionals with advanced degrees in various fields, former clerks to federal and state trial and appellate judges, and attorneys recognized as top performers by *Best Lawyers in America*.

## Shumaker

[SHUMAKER.COM](https://www.shumaker.com)

FLORIDA | MINNESOTA | NORTH CAROLINA | OHIO | SOUTH CAROLINA | WASHINGTON, D.C.