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# PETER D. TRASKA

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## *Curriculum Vitae*

Principal, Traska Law Firm, LLC  
4352 Pearl Avenue, Suite A  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

### PROFILE

Peter founded the Traska Law Firm in 2012. He previously spent ten years managing the motion and appellate practice at the largest personal injury law firm in the state of Ohio.

Peter has appeared personally before all twelve of Ohio's District Courts of Appeals, and three times in the Ohio Supreme Court. He has considerable experience litigating insurance coverage, liability, and immunity issues.

Peter regularly serves as a lecturer at continuing legal education and other seminars hosted by the Ohio Association for Justice (OAJ), the Ohio State Bar Association, and other professional organizations. He is the co-author of an article published in the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law's Journal of Law and Health, criticizing the Ohio Supreme Court's application of political subdivision immunity to county owned nursing homes. He has also authored or co-authored several amicus briefs filed in the Ohio Supreme Court.

For the past ten years, Peter has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, teaching one section of the appellate advocacy class annually. In his capacity as an Adjunct Professor, Peter has also worked with several students as an advisor for their independent legal research and writing classes.

While a student at Cleveland-Marshall, Peter competed in the National Moot Court competition hosted by the New York City Bar. His team placed in the final four of over 150 teams. He has served as a faculty advisor for student moot court teams, and is a member of the Order of Barristers. He is also a proud alumnus of St. Ignatius High School. Peter has been married to his wife, Michelle, for nine years. They have four beautiful children.

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### EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

Admitted to the Practice of Law in Ohio, and United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio.

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, JD May, 2002  
Moot Court Board of Governors, Order of the Barristers.

National Semi-Finalist, 2002 National Moot Court Competition of the New York City Bar Association. Highest ranking for an Ohio team in 25 years.

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, BA May, 1993  
Majors in Psychology, Philosophy, and French.

### EXPERIENCE

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland, Ohio Fall 2003-Present  
*Adjunct Professor of Advanced Brief Writing*

Instruct one section of Law 615, Advanced Brief Writing. Prepare a record based closely on an actual case pending in the U.S. Supreme Court or in Court of Appeals. Lecture on fundamentals of research, briefing, and oral argument of appellate cases.

Elk & Elk Co., Ltd., Mayfield Heights, Ohio May 2002-May 2012  
*Litigation Attorney*

Served as primary writer and researcher for motion and appellate practice at one of the largest plaintiffs' civil firms in Ohio. Represented clients at trial and during appellate proceedings. Supervised research associates.

Professor Michael Davis, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland, Ohio  
*Contributing Writer, Co-Editor* March-April 2002

Co-wrote and edited *amicus* brief for two public interest IP organizations on a team composed of eight students and Professor Davis, counsel of record. Eldred v. Ashcroft, 537 U.S. 186 (2003).

Mental Health Services, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio April 1996-August 1999  
*Community Support Service Worker, Enrollment Specialist*

Provided case management services to mentally ill homeless adults. Provided hotline and referral services to adults and children in psychiatric crisis.



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### PUBLICATIONS & APPEARANCES

Peter Traska & Katherine Knouff, *Discretion to Follow the Law: The Collision of Ohio's Nursing Home Bill of Rights with Ohio's Political Subdivision Tort Liability Act*, 22 J.L. & Health 241 (2009) (a critical examination of the Ohio Supreme Court's decision in *Cramer v. Auglaize Acres* (2007), 113 Ohio St.3d 266).

Billed v. Paid: The Collateral Attack on the Collateral Source Rule. Presentation delivered and updated multiple times, including:

Summit County Association for Justice (February 2013)

North Carolina Advocates for Justice CLE (June 2012)

West Virginia Association for Justice CLE (June 2011)

Ohio State Bar Association CLE, Columbus. (May 2011)

Insurance Law CLE by OAJ, delivered in Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton (January 2011)

Stark County Association for Justice CLE. (November 2010)

North Carolina Advocates for Justice CLE, NCAJ Convention, Asheville, NC. (October 2010)

Ohio State Bar Association CLE, Columbus. (August 2010)

OAJ Webinar, re: *Jaques v. Manton* (2010), 125 Ohio St.3d 342. Recruited speakers, moderated and presented. (June 2010)

OAJ Convention. Recruited speakers, moderated, and presented. (May 2010)

Insurance Law CLE by OAJ, delivered in Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton. (January 2010)

OAJ Convention. (May 2009)

Testimony, Ohio Senate Committee, in support of S.B. 293, abolishing intra-family exclusionary language in uninsured/underinsured motorists auto insurance policies. (June 2012)

OAJ Members Only Webinar, discussing *National Union Fire Ins. Co. of Pittsburgh v. Wuerth* (2009), 122 Ohio St.3d 594. Recruited speakers, moderated, and presented at web based conference on recently decided case. (September 2009)

Coping with a Headache—How Best to Resolve Subrogation and Unpaid Medical Providers, CLE presentation hosted by OAJ, delivered in Cleveland and Columbus. Covered Medicare, Medicaid, BWC, and ERISA issues. (January 2009)

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Auto Insurance Companies Deny Claims Statewide, Originally on, WEWS News, on issue of intrafamily exclusions in personal automobile insurance policies. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgOjksPR41E> (May 2008)

### OHIO SUPREME COURT CASES

*CitiMortgage NA v. Roznowski*, pending case No. 2012-2110 (on the issue of what constitutes a final appealable order in a foreclosure action).

*Moretz v. Muakkassa*, pending case No. 2012-797 (Authored Amicus Brief on behalf of Ohio Association for Justice).

*Barbee v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 130 Ohio St.3d 96 (2011)(Authored Amicus Brief on behalf of Ohio Association for Justice).

*Engel v. University of Toledo College of Medicine*, 130 Ohio St.3d 263 (2011)(Co-authored Amicus Brief on behalf of Ohio Association for Justice).

*Mentor Exempted Vill. Sch. Dist. Bd. Educ. v. Mohat* (2011), 2011-Ohio-1421 (Co-authored Amicus Brief on behalf of Ohio Association for Justice).

*Whitley v. River's Bend Health Care*, 126 Ohio St.3d 1217 (2010)(Counsel for Appellant).

*Jaques v. Manton*, 125 Ohio St.3d 342 (2010)(Authored Amicus Brief on behalf of Elk & Elk Co., Ltd.).

*Hodesh v. Korelitz*, 123 Ohio St.3d 72 (2009)(Co-Authored Amicus Brief on behalf of Ohio Association for Justice).

*Eppley v. Tri-Valley Sch. Dist. Bd. Educ.*, 122 Ohio St.3d 56 (2009)(Counsel for Appellee).

*Angel v. Reed*, 119 Ohio St.3d 73 (2008)(Counsel for Appellee).

*Rinderle v. Whispering Pines Health Care Ctr.*, Ohio Supreme Court Case No. 2008-1944 (Counsel for Appellant, settled after jurisdiction accepted).

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Served as advisor for Cleveland-Marshall Moot Court teams, including team competing at the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition in the Spring of 2006. Served as advisor for the semi-finalist Cleveland-Marshall Moot Court team at the 2002 tournament of the Chicago Bar Association. Coached Lincoln-Douglas debate program for St. Ignatius High School from 1993 to 2000.