## **Tommie Jo Brode Biography**

Tommie Jo received her Bachelor of Arts from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. Her undergraduate focus was Political Science and Mathematics. She received her Juris Doctorate from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Tommie Jo is licensed to practice law in Ohio but has served employers in many locations throughout the United States. Her professional experience includes practicing employment law, multi-state toxic tort litigation, managing workers' compensation programs, risk management, diversity and inclusion, elected office, collective bargaining, EEOC, ADA, FMLA, and occupational health and disability. Her experience includes working in-house for a global manufacturer overseeing their disability and self-insured program. She also served as the Director of Risk for the Ohio Turnpike, overseeing their self insured program. Tommie Jo has served the Ohio Industrial Commission as both the Policy Coordinator and a District Hearing Officer to adjudicate disputed workers' compensation claims.

Tommie Jo has served as a volunteer to many community organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Girl Scouts, the Dr. Piper Center, and Parkside Church. She was appointed by Governor DeWine to the Self Insured Employer Evaluation Board and served from 2019 to 2022. She previously served on the Boards of the Ohio Self Insured Association and the County Commissioner Association of Ohio.

Tommie Jo speaks to national and regional audiences about communication, believing that most costly litigation and difficult situations can be avoided by improving workplace communication. She splits her time between her homes in Stow, Ohio and Venice, Florida with her husband and 21 year old daughter. Tommie Jo founded Venice Solutions Group in 2021 to formalize her commitment to good workplace communication, best employment practices, and the implementation of common sense.