

Secretary/Treasurer Candidate - Sean Griffin

This July, the FDCC will select its next Secretary-Treasurer, and that person will become President in 2027. For the next four years, the person selected will work as an Officer to implement the Strategic Plan the Board approved last November. Upon assuming the presidency, the person we select in Park City will become the face of the organization and lead us in serving current members and appealing to the next generation of attorneys. For the past five and a half years, I have served on the Board, and I hope to continue serving as Secretary-Treasurer.

I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I attended Heritage Christian Schools with a graduating class of 14 people. From there, I graduated with honors from Harvard College and proceeded to Columbia Law School. I moved to Washington, DC, got a federal court clerkship, and worked for the Department of Justice. One day on the subway, I sat next to a fellow rider and struck up a conversation. Three years later, Wendy-Nia and I got married, then we had two boys; thirty-two years later, she still lets me sit down next to her. During that time, and with her support, I've tried a few dozen cases and built a decent litigation and privacy practice.

I joined the FDCC in 2014, thanks to a nomination from Dan Kohane. I went to the Greenbrier meeting, where I expected to spend an awkward, largely solitary week. Instead, I met dozens of people who seemed to know all about me and were excited to meet me in person; I don't think I paid for a beverage all week. Since then, the FDCC has given me my first mentors, my best professional connections, and many of my closest personal friends.

At the Greenbrier, I learned that the FDCC's greatness emanates from our meetings, where we fellowship with great attorneys and even better people. I've contributed as best I can. You may have seen the "heroic" programming in Nashville, where I served as Program Chair with Convention Chair Lauren Curtis. A year later, you may have been among the record number of attendees at the St. Petersburg meeting, which I quarterbacked as Convention Chair. You may have seen me cooking paella to raise money for the Foundation or watched me boogie down at Disco Night. Or maybe we just struck up a conversation after dinner. Whatever we're doing, the relationships we form at our meetings make the FDCC invaluable.

Going forward, we must not only value our members, but give them value. As Membership Development Committee Chair, I ensure that new members receive attention and guidance from leadership. Senior Director Alan Rutkin was kind enough to let me co-host the first 55 episodes of his podcast, "Welcome to the FDCC!" which introduces new members to the Federation. And as former President Bob Christie reminds us, we join the FDCC not just to

see our friends again, but to get business; we should enhance referral incentives through a revamped Connect Award.

People gravitate toward leaders, so the FDCC must continue to lead the civil defense bar as our profession evolves. In the coming years, artificial intelligence, social media, and digital transformation will reshape the legal landscape. The AI Committee I chair has developed AI programming for our meetings, created an FDCC AI Clearinghouse, and produced AI articles, webinars, and podcasts. We must expand our technological expertise while enhancing our social media presence and trial practice leadership.

Finally, leaders cannot pick and choose whom to lead. If we are to remain defense leaders, we must make sure all of our members receive the same welcome and inclusion I received at the Greenbrier, and I have worked to make this happen. With the Board's unanimous approval, I updated the admission process, so nominees no longer need a proposer or seconder from their home state. The Board also unanimously passed my Resolution to make it easier for our members to participate in Federation leadership. With the support of the Board, Officers, Past Presidents, and our amazing members, I have spearheaded breakfasts, dinners, book clubs, outreach, and dialogues to ensure that all of our members know that they can thrive here. When our engaged members reflect the talented attorney within our profession, we expand our business opportunities, deepen our connections, and ensure the FDCC remains vital and relevant for generations to come. I look forward to making that a reality.

See you in Park City!