

Be in the Flow in Chicago



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.

2025 CORPORATE COUNSEL SYMPOSIUM

THE INTERCONTINENTAL CHICAGO MAGNIFICENT MILE
SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2025 | CHICAGO, IL



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.

Are you ready to dive into the current of legal innovation and professional growth? Do you want to explore cutting-edge solutions to today's most complex corporate challenges? Does the thought of deep-dish pizza, world-class architecture, and vibrant city energy inspire you?

Then join us in Chicago at the 2025 Corporate Counsel Symposium, September 14-16, 2025.

This year, we'll Be in the Flow in the Windy City. Drawing from the Federation's wealth of expertise, we'll hear from professionals at the forefront of in-house and outside legal practice. Sessions will cover making the business case for AI usage and practical uses for in-house counsel, trade secret protection strategies, emerging environmental litigation risks, corporate governance in today's climate, and practical approaches to legal operations whether you're leading a team of one or one hundred. Building on the success of last year's format, we'll once again feature dynamic panel discussions to spark lively conversation and meaningful idea exchange. We'll also bring back our signature FedTalks-concise, inspiring presentations designed to leave a lasting impact.

Beyond the informative sessions, you'll find abundant opportunities to connect with colleagues, forge new relationships, and experience the camaraderie that makes the FDCC an unparalleled professional community. Whatever the origin, one thing is certain: at the 2025 Corporate Counsel Symposium, you'll find yourself in the flow of ideas, solutions, and connections that will energize your practice and prepare you to navigate the currents of today's complex legal landscape with confidence and skill.

Meeting & Registration Information

Hotel Information

In a city known for its extraordinary architecture, vibrant jazz scene and exceptional food, the InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile will be the 2025 home of the Corporate Counsel Symposium. Our FDCC room rate is \$319 per night ++ and is available through Friday, August 22, 2025 or until our room block has been filled, whichever is earlier. Once you register for the meeting, you will be emailed the link for the FDCC room block at the hotel.

Registration

Registration for the 2025 CCS meeting is open now and available through the FDCC website. Registration for Defense Counsel members is \$995 and Corporate Counsel Members and Corporate Counsel nonmembers are \$99. Defense Counsel members may register a Corporate Counsel member or Corporate Counsel Guest and receive a discounted registration rate of \$895. Please note that Defense Counsel guests must be Corporate Counsel. Nonmember Defense Counsel are invited to register and attend for a registration fee of \$1,245. Spouses are invited to register and attend receptions for a registration fee of \$99. Registration cancellations after September 1, 2025 will incur a fee of \$99.

Sunday, September 14, 2025

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Registration

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Welcome by CCS Chairs and FDCC Officers

4:15 PM - 5:45 PM

Charting the Course: How General Counsel Are Steering Businesses Beyond Legal (90 minutes)

As companies navigate regulatory turbulence, technological disruption, and reputational risks, in-house counsel are stepping up as valued business leaders. Hear from this distinguished panel about the strategies they have learned to employ and skills learned to enhance your own impact, to transition from legal advisor to corporate strategist, and to help steer your company toward long-term success.

Panelists

Maxwell Brusky - Director, Claims Management, Bulkmatic, LLC

Andrew S. Etkind - Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel, JTEKT North America

Burnell (BJ) Grimes - Director, Legal - North America Energy Solutions, Carrier Global Corporation

Randy Haimovici - Associate General Counsel, Uber

Chris Maxie - General Counsel & Secretary, CSC Service Works, Inc.

Moderator

David T. Vanalek - Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, Richmond National Insurance Company

5:45 PM - 6:45 PM: Networking Reception

7:00 PM: Dine Arounds

Monday, September 15, 2025

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

**Welcome and Introduction of
Committee Members**

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM

Introduction of Sponsors

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

**Riding the AI Current: Staying in the Legal Flow
with Generative and Agentic Tech
(75 minutes)**

Join us to hear real-world strategies for making the business case for AI usage in the legal department. The panel will provide practical insights to help you assess, implement, and apply AI tools consistent with your company values. Panelists will share their experiences and demonstrate real examples of how to achieve meaningful efficiencies in your workflows. The panel will discuss the novel risks of AI usage and how to maintain compliance, ethics, and security.

Panelists

James Biese - Litigation Supervisor, SECURA Insurance

Muthuraman Kasiviswanathan - Group Product Manager, LexisNexis

Keira McGroarty - In-House Counsel and Regional Director of Risk,
Watermark Retirement Communities

Pete McNamara - Staff Attorney, International Union of Operating Engineers

Brent Messel - Senior Corporate Counsel, Varex Imaging Corporation

Jon Olefson - General Counsel & Secretary, Syneos Health

Moderator

Beth A. Bauer, Hepler Broom LLC

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Networking Break

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**In the Flow of Change: Steering Through
Environmental Risk and Regulation**

Environmental risk is evolving rapidly—propelled by new regulatory priorities, citizen activism, and emerging contaminants like PFAS. Be equipped with practical strategies for engaging regulators, responding to shifting federal and state mandates, and preparing for the rise of

citizen suits and novel liabilities. From permitting challenges to environmental justice and climate-related claims, we'll explore how to stay in the flow—managing uncertainty without getting swept away.

Panelists

Dave Erickson - Partner, Shook Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

Jennifer Martin, Senior Corporate Counsel, Ameren

Alec Messina - Partner, HeplerBroom LLC

John Peiserich - Executive Vice President, EH&S Practice Lead, J.S. Held, LLC

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Networking Lunch (DEI Roundtable)

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM

FEDTalks

The Sands of Time - Keys to a Happy Fulfilling Life

Tim Pratt, Former General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Boston Scientific, and author of *A Journey Blessed*

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

**GC Potpourri: Ask the GCs: What Your Outside
Counsel Should Know (But Might Be Afraid to Ask)**

Ever wish you could sit down with a group of general counsel and ask them what they really want from their outside litigation teams? What keeps them up at night? How do they measure value? What makes them return your calls - or not?

In this fast-paced, Reddit-style "Ask Me Anything" session, a panel of seasoned in-house legal leaders will answer your questions live and unfiltered. No scripts. No slides. Just honest, open dialogue about what corporate counsel need, expect, and value most from their outside litigation partners—and how outside counsel can better support them in today's complex legal environment.

This session isn't just for outside counsel. Corporate counsel should attend to hear the perspectives of their litigation partners, reflect on their own communication strategies, and walk away with ideas for setting clearer expectations and building more effective, aligned relationships. This two-way exchange will help strengthen collaboration, transparency, and results across the board.

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This dynamic conversation will explore:

- What in-house teams are really looking for in litigation strategy and outcomes
- How corporate counsel define success and value beyond the billable hour
- Pet peeves and deal-breakers - what not to do
- Tips for managing communication, cost control, and case updates
- Strategies for aligning business goals with legal tactics on both sides of the relationship

Bring your curiosity, your toughest questions, and your willingness to listen.

Panelists

Geneau M. Thames - Harford Mutual Insurance Group
Paul C. Vitrano - Senior Vice President, Chief Legal & Policy Officer and Head of International Business Development, Waev, Inc.

Moderators

Jennifer Mauer Lee - Fee, Smith & Sharp LLP
Alonzo D. Washington - Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PPLC

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM: Get Covered, Not Soaked: What In-House Lawyers Need to Know About Insurance

In today's shifting risk landscape, even sophisticated insurance programs can spring costly leaks. This fast-paced session dives into essential, and sometimes overlooked coverages, key provisions, and real-world failures that have left companies exposed. Gain practical strategies for strengthening protection across industries, including innovative risk management approaches such as leveraging the London market, increasing SIRs, and deploying captives. Learn how recent cases are expanding personal liability for executives—and how to

navigate these complexities to keep your leadership team out of the storm.

Panelists

Joanna Roberto - Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady LLP
Marisa Trasatti - Bowman and Brooke LLP and General Counsel, Sciton, Inc.
Laura Zaroski - Managing Director, Gallagher - Law Firms Practice

Moderator

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick - Island Facades LLC and affiliates

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

Networking Break

3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

FEDTalks

Overcoming Adversity: The Once and Future Lawyer

John A. Tarantino, Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C., Presenter of the #1 TEDx Talk in 2023 with more than 25 million views to date.

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

The Pros and Cons of ADR, including International Arbitration

When a dispute arises, would you rather litigate in an unfamiliar and possibly unfriendly locale before an unknown judge or jury—or select an experienced third party with subject matter expertise to decide your case? This panel of experienced in-house and outside counsel will break down the pros and cons of arbitration, when it's better suited for certain disputes, the facts needed to enforce an arbitration clause, how to fight claims of waiver or vacatur, and whether arbitration offers better protection than litigation, jury waivers, or limitations of liability provisions. We'll cover how to structure arbitration clauses thoughtfully, navigate enforcement



and non-signatory issues, and manage proceedings in a way that preserves arbitration's core advantages. We'll also share practical strategies—like limited discovery, fact witness statements, use of dispositive motions, closing on “paper,” and creative case presentation techniques—to help you balance efficiency and advocacy while keeping your company's goals front and center.

Panelists

April Berman, Senior Vice President, Special Counsel & Executive Advisor, Asurion
Ezra Jampole, PH.D., P.E. - Principal Engineer, Exponent
Shelly D. Masters, Cokinis Young
John Reeves, Reeves Law LLC

Moderator

Jeff S. Miller, Vice President, Legal Division General Counsel, Ryan

**4:45 PM - 5:00 PM
Networking Break**

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Legal Operations: Getting It Done Whether You're an Army of One or One Hundred

Are you a team of one—responsible for everything from corporate governance and regulatory compliance to crisis response after a catastrophic event? Or are you leading a 25-person in-house legal department navigating nationwide contract management, international expansion, litigation risk, and claims oversight?

No matter the size of your team or the scope of your operations, today's in-house counsel are expected to be legal advisors, business strategists, risk managers, and problem-solvers—all at once. This dynamic panel dives into the real-world legal and operational challenges corporate counsel face across industries and borders.

We'll tackle contract and knowledge management best practices, how to effectively manage and collaborate with outside counsel, and strategies for improving communication and alignment with business stakeholders. Learn how leading legal departments are using KPIs, feedback loops, and innovative tools to measure success and drive value—internally and externally.

Come hear how experienced in-house leaders are rising to the challenge and walk away with practical tips and new perspectives to strengthen your legal operations, no matter what your legal department looks like.

Speakers

Jeffrey Gillory - Senior Director and Associate General Counsel, First Acceptance Insurance Company, Inc.
Sunita G. Kellermeier - West Virginia University Health System
Andrew S. Chumney - Senior Counsel, Core Natural Resources, Inc.

Moderators

Shelly D. Masters - Cokinis Young
Alonzo D. Washington - Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC

**6:00 PM - 6:45 PM
Networking Reception**

7:00 PM: Dine Arounds

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Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM: Breakfast

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Ahead of the Curve: Managing Employment Risks in an Era of Uncertainty and Innovation

This panel will provide timely updates on key shifts in employment law, along with practical guidance for proactively handling HR risks. Panelists will also offer innovative insights for managing employment law challenges in areas where established legal precedents have yet to evolve—particularly in response to emerging business models that raise novel worker-classification issues and compliance complexities.

Panelists

Madison Dini – Michelman & Robinson, LLP
Bryan Johnson – Michelman & Robinson, LLP
Jeffrey A. Tinker – Vice President of Legal, Shiftsmart

Moderator

J. Chadwick Hatmaker – Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter, PLLC

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Strategies for Interacting with Federal and State Governments in Turbulent Times

This panel will examine the climate for mergers and acquisitions under the new administration, why corporations are leaving Delaware, corporate compliance, negotiating with government agencies and responding to government investigations.

Panelists

Greg Esslinger – Executive Vice President and Global Investigations Practice Lead, J.S. Held LLC
James Mayor – Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
Jay Schleppenbach – Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP
George Von Stamwitz – Managing Director, Environmental Risk Transfer, LLC

Moderator

Kat Frazier – Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM Networking Break

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM: Secrets to Success: How to Best Prepare, Protect, and Enforce DTSA Claims

Learn how to best prepare – well in advance – to effectively pursue and preserve enforceable claims under The Defend Trade Secrets Act (DTSA). Given the increased limitation on the enforceability of non-competition covenants, the DTSA is now, more than ever, a critical tool to use in order to protect the Company's most critical information and proprietary assets. However, perfecting a claim under the DTSA can be challenging, especially if the company has not invested in identifying, organizing, updating, housing and protecting its actual trade secrets.

Panelists:

Jose Rojas – Rojas Law
David Van Dyke – Howard & Howard
Ben Watson – Butler Snow LLP

Moderator

Madison Dini – Michelman & Robinson, LLP

11:15 AM – Closing Remarks

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CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDITS

Accreditation will be sought in those jurisdictions requested by registrants that have continuing education requirements.

FDCC MISSION STATEMENT

We are a professional trade association of peer-reviewed, premiere defense and corporate counsel and industry executives, dedicated to leading the profession by advancing the principals of civil justice, actionable knowledge, and fostering the trust and value of fellowship.

WHY FDCC?

To be THE inspired community of vetted defense counsel, exceptional leaders and even better people.

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