



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



2025 I-3

INSURANCE INDUSTRY INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

BRIGHT LIGHTS BIG IDEAS



The FDCC is excited to provide you with an unparalleled opportunity to engage with today's insurance industry leaders and subject matter experts at the Insurance Industry Institute on November 5-7, 2025, in New York City. The FDCC's Insurance Industry Institute ("I-3") is packed with a forward-looking agenda of substantive information on developments and trends in the domestic and international insurance industry. We have assembled a stellar array of senior insurance industry leaders, regulators and thought leaders to offer their expertise and insight on issues tailored to senior level insurance company representatives, their outside counsel, and officers and directors. This program is designed to address the challenges and solutions presented by changes in the industry, as well as the impact of these changes on underwriting and claims in the coming decade. In addition to the substantive content comprising the day and a half session, the I-3 will provide participants with the opportunity to network with top insurance industry leaders and others attending the conference from across the country. All FDCC members are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring a client or colleague. We are looking forward to seeing you, to share knowledge, experience and opportunities as we work together to meet the opportunities and challenges for the insurance industry.

What Will Be Covered?

The Insurance Industry Institute brings together subject matter experts from domestic and international insurance entities, companies, syndicates and law firms to provide relevant and informative content that you will be able to use immediately upon returning to the office. Some of the highlights include:

- regulatory perspective and insights regarding increasingly frequent catastrophic losses and coverage challenges responding to the same;
- preparing corporate witnesses and successfully defending these critical depositions with litigation skills and strategies you should put to immediate use;
- evolving coverage and litigation challenges and cutting-edge responses, including artificial intelligence, cyber, public nuisance coverage issues, bad faith, litigation funding, and more; and
- practical and substantive tools and resources, together with access to industry leaders, to continue building your knowledge base and network.

Who Should Attend?

The Institute is open to all insurance professionals and all FDCC members, including colleagues and clients within their firms and companies. The program is designed for:

- Insurance Company executives, underwriters, claim adjusters, actuaries, agents, brokers, third-party administrators and program administrators/managers;
- FDCC members and non-members who are either insurance professionals or insurance coverage and defense attorneys; and
- Clients and colleagues of FDCC members and non-members.

Hotel Reservations

An email confirmation of your reservation will include a link to make your hotel reservation.

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

4:30pm - 6:00pm Opening Reception

Join us for drinks and light appetizers before heading out for dinner with colleagues and a night on Times Square.

7:00 - Dine Arounds

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

7:30am - 8:00am Breakfast

8:00am - 8:15am Welcome Remarks

Sarannah McMurtry, Insurance Industry Institute Co-Chair, First Acceptance Insurance Company
Jeffrey D. Van Volkenburg, Insurance Industry Institute Co-Chair, Varner & Van Volkenburg, PLLC
Marc Harwell, President, Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel

8:15am - 9:00am Insurance Trends & Hot Topics Part 1: The State of the Industry

J. Stephen ("Stef") Zielezienski

We begin the program with comments from the Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), who will discuss his thoughts and observations regarding the tough challenges and big opportunities that are currently shaping the insurance industry.

9:00am - 10:00am Insurance Trends & Hot Topics Part 2: The Chief Claims Officers' Perspective

Mike Baume
Laura Zaroski
Joanne Gilliam
R. Wade Vandiver (Moderator)

Listen to claims leaders as they discuss the important issues that the industry is currently facing, the hot topics that are shaping future business trends and how the industry is addressing its most significant risks.

10:00am - 10:15am Refreshment Break

10:15am - 11:05am A Five Year Look Ahead To The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Insurance Industry

Frank Ramos

Curious about the latest in artificial intelligence? Do you want to learn more about how technology is transforming the insurance industry and the potential impact on the lawyers and firms who support carriers, brokers, and consumers. This compelling presentation will discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on the insurance industry and what is on the horizon.

11:05am - 12:00pm The Face of Your Case: Presenting the Claim Professional for Deposition

Clay Crawford
Evelyn Davis
Andy Downs

Claim Professional depositions present both opportunities and risks for insurers because the claim professional is the face of the company. This panel will discuss what does and does not work in presenting claim professionals for deposition and will offer strategies for maximizing positive deposition outcomes.

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm - 1:15pm Sponsorship Recognition

Sarannah McMurtry, I-3 Co-Chair,
First Acceptance Insurance Company
Jeffrey D. Van Volkenburg, I-3 Co-Chair,
Varner & Van Volkenburg, PLLC

1:15pm - 2:10pm The Evolution of Public Nuisance - Social Media Claims

Kristen Perkins
Stacy Broman

A lively discussion regarding the continued evolution of public nuisance theory as related to the insurance industry. Continuing with the I-3 mission of keeping the insurance industry at the forefront of developing trends, our panel will discuss the evolution of claims against social media platforms and how these claims will continue to evolve.

2:10pm - 3:10pm Hot Topics in Litigation

Kevin Willging
Johnathan Adelman
Anne Oldenberg
Cori Cable
Jeff Chen (Moderator)

Nuclear Verdicts, Social Inflation, Attorney Advertising, Jury Anchoring, Bad Faith Tactics, Third Party Litigation Funding, Tort Reform and other hot issues are all at the forefront of litigation across industries including auto/transportation, medical malpractice and insurance. Our panel will offer their unique perspectives in an attempt to share lessons that can be applied across the insurance industry.

3:10pm - 3:20pm Refreshment Break



3:20pm - 4:10pm New Frontiers of Risk: Is Risk Mitigation Overtaking Risk Management in an Unpredictable World?

Tim Fletcher
Shelly Masters
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
Heather Arias (Moderator)

Are we standing at the dawn of a new era in insurance? Hurricanes are shattering records, wildfires are rewriting the map, and convective storms are testing the limits of our models. Meanwhile, economic crosswinds—tariffs, inflation, global unrest—threaten stability at every turn. And in a hyperconnected, hyper-polarized society, social media outrage is fueling “shock verdicts” and runaway jury awards, leaving insurers and businesses reeling. With every headline, it feels like yesterday’s risk management playbook is already outdated. Join this powerhouse panel as we dive into the seismic shifts that are transforming insurance underwriting and claims handling.

4:10pm - 5:00pm Responding to Catastrophic Events

Jon Held
Anthony Diodato
Dan Kohane (Moderator)

This presentation will provide practical advice for how the industry can respond to real time catastrophic events, especially in an era of fast moving information and negative stories often times only including partial truths and lacking complete information.

5:00pm - 5:05pm Closing Remarks

Sarannah McMurtry, I-3 Co-Chair, First Acceptance Insurance Company
Jeffrey D. Van Volkenburg, I-3 Co-Chair, Varner & Van Volkenburg, PLLC

5:05pm - 6:15pm Cocktail Reception & Networking

7:00pm

Dine Arounds

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

7:30am - 8:00am Breakfast

8:00am - 8:15am Welcome Remarks

Sarannah McMurtry, I-3 Co-Chair, First Acceptance Insurance Company
Jeffrey D. Van Volkenburg, I-3 Co-Chair, Varner & Van Volkenburg, PLLC

**8:15am - 9:15am Insurance Trends & Hot Topics
Part 3: The Regulators’ Perspective**

Director Michael Wise (South Carolina)
Commissioner Michael Yaworsky (Florida)
Fred Karlinsky (Moderator)

Join our regulatory panel for a discussion concerning the latest issues affecting the industry and what the future holds in 2026.

**9:15am - 10:05am Everything Cyber:
Emerging Trends and Issues**

Sean Griffin
Brian Bassett
Nick Spano

The cyber insurance space is constantly evolving. With rapid change comes new challenges and issues that insurers and their policyholders will face. This panel will provide insight into the latest issues, trends, and developments in cyber and insurance as well as what is on the horizon.

10:05am - 10:15am Refreshment Break

10:15am - 11:05am Rethinking Strategies When the Disagreement is Between Insurers

Bill Kobokovich
Evan B. Stephenson
Sharon Stuart

During the course of litigation, disputes can arise between insurers on a variety of issues, such as their respective duties to defend, settle, priority of coverage, etc. Insurers should consider alternatives to resolving these disputes outside of the court system, so as to avoid the possibility of creating bad law for the insurance industry. This panel will explore some of these alternatives.

**11:05am - 12:00pm Insuring the Future:
Succession Planning and Retention of Institutional Knowledge for the Insurance Industry and Defense Bar**

Hank Watkins
Jody E. Briandi
Halley Cruz
Linda King

As the Baby Boomer generation retires and movement across the industry, including law firms, continues its dizzying pace, our panel discusses how to approach new employees, new hiring trends and how leaders must be prepared to adapt to maintain institutional knowledge and continue providing value.

12:00pm - 12:15pm Closing Remarks

Sarannah McMurtry, Insurance Industry Institute Co-Chair, First Acceptance Insurance Company
Jeffrey D. Van Volkenburg, Insurance Industry Institute Co-Chair, Varner & Van Volkenburg, PLLC

2025 I-3 SPEAKERS

Jonathan M. Adelman	Waldon Adelman Castilla McNamara & Prout
Heather P. Arias	Skyward Specialty Insurance
Brian C. Bassett	Traub Lieberman
Michael J. Baumel	Old Republic Specialty Insurance Group
Jody E. Briandi	Hurwitz Fine P.C.
Stacy A. Broman	Meagher + Geer PLLP
Corrine Cable	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company
Jeffrey Chen	Ryan Specialty Underwriting Managers (RSUM)
Clay Crawford	Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, LLC
Halley Cruz, Ph.D.	Insure National
Evelyn Fletcher Davis	Hawkins Parnell & Young, LLP
Anthony Diodato	AM Best's Rating Services Company
Andrew B. Downs	Bullivant Houser Bailey PC
Elizabeth A. Fitzpatrick	Island Exterior Fabricators, LLC
Tim Fletcher	Gen Re
JoAnne Gilliam	Munich Re Services
Sean C. Griffin	Longman & Van Grack, LLC
Jon Held	J.S. Held LLC
Fred Karlinsky	Greenberg Traurig
Linda King	Sompo International Holdings, Ltd.
William J. Kobokovich, Jr.	Travelers
Dan D. Kohane	Hurwitz Fine, P.C.
Shelly D. Masters	Cokinos I Young
Anne M. Oldenburg	HeplerBroom LLC
Kristen Perkins	Kennedys Law LLP
Frank Ramos	Goldberg Segalla
Nick Spano	Beazley Group
Evan B. Stephenson	Spencer Fane LLP
Sharon D. Stuart	Christian & Small, LLP
R. Wade Vandiver	Vandiver Law & Mediation, PLLC
Henry "Hank" Watkins, Jr.	Greenberg School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science The Peter J. Tobin College of Business, St. John's University
Michael Yaworsky	Florida Insurance Commissioner
Kevin Willging	Travelers
Michael Wise	Director of the South Carolina Department of Insurance
Laura Zaroski	Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.
J. Stephen Zielezienski	American Property Casualty Insurance Association

INSURANCE INDUSTRY INSTITUTE CHAIRS



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REGISTRATION

Cancellation Policy

Sign-in is required each day to obtain CLE credits. The sign-in sheets will be at the registration desk. Program materials will be posted on the FDCC website and available to download.

CLE Credits – Program Materials

Sign-in is required each day to obtain CLE credits. The sign-in sheets will be at the registration desk. Program materials will be posted on the FDCC website and available to download.

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 association of peer-reviewed, premier 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.

REGISTRATION COSTS

Defense Counsel only	\$995.00
Defense Counsel w/ guest: \$895 + \$99	\$994.00
Defense Counsel Nonmember	\$1,245.00
Corporate Member + Industry Counsel	\$99.00

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