

FEDERATION OF DEFENSE & CORPORATE COUNSEL



**FDCC**

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.

# A Place for Everyone at Charleston Place!

**FDCC WINTER MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23-27, 2025**

**THE CHARLESTON PLACE HOTEL  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**







# **“A Place for Everyone, at Charleston Place.”**

## **Welcome to Charleston!**

**T**he FDCC returns to Charleston for the 2025 Winter Meeting at The Charleston Place Hotel, and the convention team has worked very hard to ensure you enjoy a spectacular meeting filled with cutting edge legal knowledge and plenty of opportunities for networking and socializing in the luxurious environment that FDCC members expect. Come for the thought-provoking program; stay for the world class cuisine and good times with your FDCC friends!

Heather and I are delighted to serve as your Convention Chairs in this wonderful location, and we have had the privilege of working with FDCC President, Heidi Goebel and Program Chairs, Patti and Dan McGrath, and the entire convention team to create a meeting that has something for everyone.

Although we are not lucky enough to reside in Charleston, the city is very special to us.

Our affection for Charleston really began with the FDCC Winter Meeting in 2017. I vividly remember checking in to The Charleston Place (nee` Belmond), and marveling at the charm and elegance of the hotel. The ensuing days and nights are a blur of happy events from visiting the galleries and shops on King Street, to eating the finest food imaginable, and enjoying some memorable moments with FDCC friends. Those memories include a late-night karaoke session with Gen. Mike Neil singing the Hank Williams standard "Hey Good Looking," (still the highlight of my notable karaoke "career"), and an evening at a beautiful downtown restaurant where a chef emerged from the kitchen and wowed the assembled crowd with a spontaneous operatic aria. I could go on and on with these snapshots, but you get the gist. In the ensuing years, we have visited Charleston and the surrounding area many times, and each one was a special event

filled with good memories. Charleston has an almost indescribable charm, and we have tried to create a meeting that will give you lasting memories of being in a beautiful place with your friends and family.

The brochure that follows contains all the details about the amazing things we have planned for your stay, but allow me to highlight a few of them here:

Our evening events are designed to let you relax and mingle with old FDCC friends and make new acquaintances. Our opening reception will be at the Riviera Theater, a beautifully restored art deco theater just across the street from the hotel, where guests can enjoy a pre-dinner cocktail in a festive and elegant setting. The President's Reception will be at the South Carolina Aquarium, a short ride from the hotel and overlooking the waterfront. With views of the Ravenel Bridge outside, and a host of aquatic exhibits inside, the Aquarium will provide a unique and fun setting as we dine and enjoy each other's company. The final night party features a 10-piece band for those who want to dance the evening away, and cozy lounge areas and craft cocktails (or mocktails) for those who prefer to visit and watch all the action in laid back style.

The program is truly outstanding, and includes many notable judges, legal scholars, and practitioners, as you would expect from an FDCC event. But the highlight of this enlightening program is the keynote presentation from Diane Foley, Colum McCann and Dennis Fitzpatrick. Ms. Foley is the president of the Foley Foundation, and the subject of Mr. McCann's recent best-selling book *American Mother*, which is the heart-rending story of a mother, who in the course of confronting her son's killer after a federal court trial and conviction, comes to understand forgiveness in the face of unimaginable

violence; Mr. Fitzpatrick is the former Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted the case.

Charleston is renowned for its history, amazing food scene, natural beauty, and Southern charm, and our afternoon activities are designed to let you sample everything the city has to offer. Explore Charleston's cobblestone streets, pre-Revolutionary War architecture, and Civil War sites, through walking, biking, and carriage tours of downtown, visits to Ft. Sumter National Park, and excursions to historic homes.

The recently opened International African American Museum "tells the unvarnished stories of the African American experience across generations, the trauma and triumph that gave rise to a resilient people," and we will have an opportunity to explore this important and moving site through an afternoon excursion and a diversity dinner.

We will have ample opportunity to indulge our favorite food and drink in Charleston through an evening "Dining with Friends" and various fun afternoon activities, including a brewery and barbecue tour, a cooking class, a mixology class in a Prohibition-style speakeasy, distillery and pub tours, and a wine blending class.

Our afternoon eco-tour explores the winding tidal creeks on the way to a pristine barrier island reachable only by boat, where wildlife and natural wonders await. We also have kayaking, fishing, and sailing adventures for those who want to further explore the natural beauty surrounding Charleston.

We look forward to seeing you in Charleston.

Heather and Jeff Kelsey, Convention Chairs  
Patti and Dan McGrath, Program Chairs



# WEEK AT A GLANCE

ADMINISTRATIVE

PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM   | Registration                    |
| 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Officers Meeting                |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Executive Committee Meeting     |
| 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM   | Admissions Committee Meeting    |
| 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM   | Projects and Objectives Meeting |
| 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM   | State Representatives Meeting   |

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

|                    |                                                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  | Registration                                                       |
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  | Finance and Budget Meeting                                         |
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  | Diversity Committee Meeting                                        |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Membership Development Committee Meeting                           |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Membership Recruitment Committee Meeting                           |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | FDCC Foundation Meeting                                            |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Board of Directors Meeting                                         |
| 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM  | New Member and Past President Reception (Invitation Only)          |
| 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM  | New Member Orientation (Invitation Only)                           |
| 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM  | Greeting and Introduction of Past FDCC Presidents and New Members  |
| 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM  | Welcome Address                                                    |
| 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  | Welcome Reception at the Riviera Theater                           |
| 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM  | Diversity Committee Dinner – International African American Museum |



# WEEK AT A GLANCE

ADMINISTRATIVE

PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM Data Breaches and Resulting Litigation in Health Care/Logistics/Supply Chain Industries: Part 1  
Students/Social Media and The First Amendment After Mahanoy Area School Dist. v. B.L.  
Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions FDCC Members Need to Know About  
A Tool Kit for Succession Planning for Law Firms and Corporate Legal Departments

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM Welcome Remarks and Introduction of FDCC Sponsors

9:30 AM - 10:20 AM Tool or Weapon: How You Will Use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Your Practice

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Spouse Hospitality

10:20 AM - 10:35 AM Break

10:35 AM - 11:25 AM Behind the Bench: A Candid Look at What Federal Judges Expect from Lawyers

11:25 AM - 12:20 PM Third-Party Litigation Funding and Mass Tort Advertising and its Impact on Potential Jury Pools

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Mixology Class 1

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Cooking Class 1

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Brewery & BQ Tour

1:15 PM - 5:00 PM Boone Hall

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Carriage Tours

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Home and Garden Walking Tour

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Kayaking

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Top Golf

1:55 PM - 4:00 PM USS Yorktown

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM President's Reception - South Carolina Aquarium

# WEEK AT A GLANCE

ADMINISTRATIVE

PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM Data Breaches and Resulting Litigation in Health Care/Logistics/Supply Chain Industries and Extracontractual Liability and Insurance Coverage Issues: Part II

Intersection of Construction and Premises Liability Issues in High Profile Cases

Hot Topics and Trends in Environmental and Products Liability, MDL and Class Action Suits

Arbitration of Employment Disputes – Pros and Cons

8:50 AM - 9:00 AM Break

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM Global Challenges: Food Insecurity, Climate Change, Mass Migration and the Rule of Law

9:50 AM - 10:05 AM Break

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Book Club

10:05 AM - 12:00 PM Trial Masters Program: A Case Trial Study – Federal Sexual Harassment Lawsuit

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Corporate Counsel Luncheon

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Cooking Class 2

1:15 PM - 3:15 PM Wine Blending Class

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Carriage Tours 2

1:30 PM - 3:45 PM FireFly Distillery Tour

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM African American Museum

1:30 PM - 4:45 PM Bike Tours

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Sailing the Schooner

1:45 PM - 5:45 PM Fishing

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Walking Tour 1

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Cocktails with Friends - The Grand Hall, The Charleston Place

7:00 PM - ? Dining with Friends



# WEEK AT A GLANCE

ADMINISTRATIVE

PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM P&O Meet and Greet

8:30 AM - 9:20 AM Treading Carefully – Sustaining Diversity While Managing Legal Risks in Today's Corporate Environment

9:20 AM - 9:30 AM Break

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Business Meeting

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM American Mother: A Story of Grace, Humanity, and Radical Empathy in the Practice of Law

12:25 PM - 4:45 PM Pickleball Tournament

12:40 PM - 5:30 PM Barrier Island Ecotours

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Mixology Class 2

1:15 PM - 4:45 PM Middleton Place

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Pub Tour

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Walking Tour 2

2:10 PM - 5:05 PM Ft. Sumter National Park

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Club FDCC (Friends, Dancing, Cocktailing, and Carryin' On) and Lounge





# Registration



The early bird conference registration rate is \$1,995 for Defense Counsel members and \$850 for guests. Early bird registration ends on January 13, 2025. After that date, the rate is \$2,145 for Defense Counsel members and \$850 for guests.

The rate for Corporate and Industry members is \$850.

The rate for Emeritus Members and their guests is \$850.

The registration rates for children are tiered based upon age. Children 3 and under are complimentary. Children 4 to 11 are \$260, children 12 – 17 are \$425, and children 18-20 are \$650.

We urge you to register online promptly to guarantee your selection of afternoon activities. Visit the FDCC website [www.thefederation.org](http://www.thefederation.org) for the online link.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

A refund, less applicable credit card processing charges if a credit card is used, will be granted if the notice of cancellation is received by the Executive Director before January 23, 2025.

A refund of all registration fees, less \$250.00, will be made if the notice of cancellation is received by the Executive Director on or after January 23, 2025.

A refund of all registration fees, less \$500.00 will be made if the notice of cancellation is received by the Executive Director on or after February 13, 2025.



# Hotel

## The Charleston Place

205 Meeting Street  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401  
1-800-611-5545  
[www.charlestonplace.com](http://www.charlestonplace.com)

Built in 1986, The Charleston Place was designed to complement Charleston's historic architecture in the heart of the downtown community. Together with its restaurants, cocktail lounge, spa, and retail shops, The Charleston Place quickly won the hearts of locals, vacationers, corporate travelers, meeting planners, and wedding planners alike. Since FDCC's last visit to The Charleston Place in 2017, it has been bought by a local hospitality group and has been updated and refurbished. In fact, the meeting rooms were completely renovated this year, and FDCC will be among the first groups to use the updated facilities.

Our room block consists of 270 of the hotel's 433 rooms. For a deluxe "run of house" room, we have negotiated a rate of \$375 per night, plus taxes and resort fees. (As of this writing, deluxe rooms at The Charleston Place are offered to those outside our group at \$595 per night, plus tax.)

After you register, you will receive a link with which you can reserve a room in our room block. **You must register for the Winter Meeting before you can book a room within our room block.**

Our room block is guaranteed until January 22, 2025, or until all 270 rooms are booked.

Check-in time is 4:00 PM  
Check-out time is 12:00 PM

The Charleston Place has a valet parking service for \$56/day. For non-valet parking, a City of Charleston parking garage is located adjacent to the hotel, accessible from the hotel's Meeting and Hasell Street entrances.

The hotel's Thoroughbred Club lobby bar is open Sunday – Thursday until 11:00 pm, and Friday – Saturday until 12:00 am, while the more casual Meeting at Market pub is open every night until 11:00 pm.

## Getting to Charleston and The Charleston Place Hotel

Charleston International Airport is served by all major U.S. air carriers, with dozens of direct flights, so travel to Charleston should be easy and convenient.

From the airport, it's an easy 25 minute car ride to The Charleston Place, and taxis and Uber/Lyft are readily available, as is a convenient car rental facility.

## Dress Code and Weather

Charleston generally enjoys temperate weather, and in late February, you can expect temperatures with lows in the 50s to highs in the 70s. Many of our afternoon activities are on the water, or otherwise outdoors, so please pack appropriate clothing and a rain jacket if you plan to be outside.

For the program and business meetings, we recommend business casual attire. Most of the area restaurants have a casual dress code.

The Welcome Reception and final evening band party are cocktail attire. The President's Reception is business casual.

# General Information

## Charm

The FDCC started selecting gold charms to commemorate its meetings in 1960. Since then, it has become a tradition to select a specially designed charm to provide a lasting reminder of your time at the meeting. This year, President Heidi Goebel has selected a lovely Palmetto charm, as seen on the South Carolina state flag. Charms are specially ordered, so be sure to purchase your charm when you register.



## FDCC365 App

We recommend downloading the FDCC365 App to get updates from FDCC throughout the year, and especially before and during meetings. During the meeting, the app will open directly to the meeting schedule, and you can use it to keep track of meeting and excursion times and locations, including last minute changes. You can also report your CLE through the app.

The app is also fun! You can connect and communicate with members through the app, and you can share pictures with your FDCC friends, similar to Facebook or Instagram.

## On Site Check-in and Registration

The FDCC Registration and Hospitality Desk will be open for registration and information outside the main meeting rooms during the following hours:

|                |         |   |         |
|----------------|---------|---|---------|
| Sat., Feb. 22  | 9:00 AM | - | 3:00 PM |
| Sun., Feb. 23  | 8:00 AM | - | 4:00 PM |
| Mon., Feb. 24  | 7:00 AM | - | 4:00 PM |
| Tues., Feb. 25 | 7:00 AM | - | 4:00 PM |

## Name Badges Required

Your FDCC name badge is your "ticket" for entry and is required for all FDCC events, both on and off site.

## FDCC Alcohol Policy

The FDCC's policy provides that alcohol shall be served at FDCC functions only to those attendees who are 21 years of age and older. FDCC members and/or guests who bring individuals to the Convention who are below the age of 21 will be expected to cooperate in the enforcement of this policy and to further assure that such underage individuals understand this policy.





### **Special Accommodations**

The FDCC is happy to accommodate any of its members or guests who need assistance. If you require any accommodations, including ADA access, special meals, or anything else, please let the FDCC staff know as soon as possible before the meeting, and we will do everything we can to accommodate you.

### **Reservation of Rights**

Although the Convention team plans every aspect of the meeting well in advance, there are some things beyond our control. Therefore, the FDCC reserves the right to change the schedule, location, topics, speakers, and/or activities.

### **Excursions**

We have planned a variety of fun and exciting afternoon activities. History abounds on every street corner with beautifully maintained

architecture from houses to churches, historic sites, and some of the country's oldest gardens and historic homes. Please take advantage this opportunity to enjoy Charleston's gracious Southern charm and natural beauty.

Except where noted, all prices are per person, and at least one FDCC host will accompany the activity group.

Group sizes are limited, so you will want to book early. If your preferred activity is booked, you can apply to be a stand-by, in which case you should meet at the time and location for the activity, and we will accommodate you if a space becomes available.

Cancellations or changes can only be made in accordance with FDCC policy.





# Saturday, February 22

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM   | Registration                    |
| 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Officers Meeting                |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Executive Committee Meeting     |
| 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM   | Admissions Committee Meeting    |
| 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM   | Projects and Objectives Meeting |
| 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM   | State Representatives Meeting   |



# Sunday, February 23

|                    |                                                                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  | Registration                                                      |
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  | Finance and Budget Meeting                                        |
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  | Diversity Committee Meeting                                       |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Membership Development Committee Meeting                          |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Membership Recruitment Committee Meeting                          |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | FDCC Foundation Meeting                                           |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Board of Directors Meeting                                        |
| 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM  | New Member and Past President Reception (Invitation Only)         |
| 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM  | New Member Orientation                                            |
| 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  | Opening Session                                                   |
| 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM  | Greeting and Introduction of Past FDCC Presidents and New Members |

## 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM Welcome Address Ethics, Civility, and Professionalism for Corporate Counsel

Chief Justice John W. Kittredge, Supreme Court of South Carolina

Chief Justice Kittredge will discuss the challenges the legal profession faces in maintaining high ethical standards juxtaposed to the undeniable decline in civility and respect in our society. General ethical issues will be discussed along with a specific focus on matters of particular concern to corporate counsel. Chief Justice Kittredge appreciates that the American legal system is, by design, adversarial but nevertheless believes that those who serve in the legal profession can and should model qualities that reflect the highest standards of civility and professionalism.

## 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Welcome Reception

Enjoy top shelf libations and locally inspired appetizers at The Riviera Theater, just steps from the hotel on King Street. The Riviera, a restored Art Deco theater, will provide a charming and stylish setting as we meet up with old friends and make some new ones. Feel free to book a dinner in Charleston after the Reception.

## 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Diversity Committee Dinner – International African American Museum (Requires Separate Registration)



# Monday, February 24

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

## **Data Breaches and Resulting Litigation in Health Care/Logistics/Supply Chain Industries and Related Extracontractual Liability and Insurance Coverage Issues: Part I**

Health Care/Data Breach & Cyber Security/  
Transportation/Life Health & Disability/  
Professional Liability/ Extracontractual/Insurance  
Coverage Sections

### **Panelists**

Thayla Painter Bohn – American Fidelity Corporation  
Lars Daniel – Envista Forensics  
Scott M. Salter – Starnes Davis Florie  
John W. Sinnott – Irwin Fritchie Urquhart  
Moore & Daniels LLC

Your company or client has just experienced a cyber attack or data breach. Time is ticking to act. Join this panel presentation to learn about the evolution and increasing sophistication of these attacks, how to immediately mitigate your losses, and recover lost information. This session will provide you and your clients with viable approaches for restoring operations and minimizing the interruption of your business or professional services.

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

## **Students/Social Media and The First Amendment After *Mahanoy* Area School Dist. v. B.L.**

Civil Rights/Public Entity Liability Section

### **Panelists**

Brian H. Leinhauser – MacMain Leinhauser  
Claire E. Parsons – Bricker Graydon LLP  
John Schneider – Avalon Health Economics  
Steven C. Stern – Sokoloff Stern LLP

It has been 55 years since the Supreme Court announced that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." With the advent of social media, the schoolhouse

gate no longer provides a physical boundary to distinguish a student's citizen speech from more restrictive school speech. In *Mahanoy*, the Supreme Court forced a school district to reinstate a ninth-grade cheerleader to the junior varsity squad after it disciplined her for cursing the school on her Snapchat story. This decision left schools to grapple with the difficult questions of when they may regulate student speech, whether it is on campus, off campus, or on social media. This panel will address the complex problems inherent in balancing students' First Amendment rights in on-line speech against a school district's mission to educate students, curtail cyberbullying, and prevent disruption of the educational environment in the wake of *Mahanoy*. It will explore challenges faced by school officials with limited resources and access for investigating on-line conduct, litigation faced by schools for failing to curtail on-line bullying, and the damages that may flow from student discipline, including missed scholarship opportunities and impacts on college admissions.

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

## **Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions FDCC Members Need to Know About**

Appellate Law Section

### **Panelists**

Laurent J. Demosthenidy – Flanagan Partners LLP  
Denise M. DePekary – Weber Gallagher Simpson  
Stapleton Fires & Newby LLP  
Charles T. Frazier – Alexander Dubose & Jefferson LLP  
Todd S. Page – Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC  
Thomas Paschos – Thomas Paschos & Associates P.C.

### **Moderator**

Lawrence S. Ebner – Capital Appellate Advocacy PLLC

The US Supreme Court in 2024 issued many opinions that will have lasting importance for FDCC members and their clients. This panel will discuss several of the most significant cases. Panelists not only will summarize each decision, but will also explain the potential impacts of the opinions from the viewpoint of defense and corporate counsel. The cases to be discussed address a variety of federal law subjects, including the overturning of *Chevron*

deference; the constitutional right to a trial by jury in civil enforcement proceedings brought by independent regulatory agencies; the applicability of civil RICO to claims for personal injury-related economic damages; the primacy of arbitration agreements over district court proceedings; and the statute of limitations for filing challenges to final agency actions under the Administrative Procedure Act.

**8:00 AM - 8:50 AM**

**A Tool Kit for Succession Planning for Law Firms and Corporate Legal Departments**

Law Practice Management Section

**Panelists**

David A. Billions – FedEx Corporation  
Marie T. Holvick – Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP  
John C. Trimble – Lewis Wagner, LLP  
F. Marshall Wall – Cranfill Sumner, LLP

**Moderators**

Jody E. Briandi – Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.

Are you prepared for the future of your legal practice, law firm or legal department? Join us for an innovative and interactive discussion designed to equip law firms and corporate legal teams with insights and strategies for retirement, leadership transition, and relationship continuity for clients, corporate counsel and outside counsel. Whether you are a managing partner at a law firm or a general or associate general counsel in a corporate setting, this program will provide you with the tools to identify and nurture your next generation of leaders, protect your firm's or legal department's institutional knowledge, ensure business continuity during leadership and personnel changes, and enhance lawyer engagement and retention.

**8:50 AM - 9:00 AM Break**

**9:00 AM - 9:05 AM Opening and National Anthem**

**9:05 AM - 9:10 AM Welcome by FDCC President and Convention Chair**

**9:10 AM - 9:20 AM Welcome Remarks**  
William S. Cogswell, Jr., Mayor of Charleston

**9:20 AM - 9:30 AM Introduction of FDCC Sponsors**

**9:30 AM - 10:20 AM**

**Tool or Weapon: How You Will Use Generative and Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Your Practice This Year and Next**

**Panelists**

Rama G. Ellura – Special Competitive Studies Project  
Dennis C. Garcia – Microsoft Corporation  
Ameen Haddad – Oracle Corporation

**Moderator**

Sean C. Griffin – Longman & Van Grack

If AI scares you, join us, and learn more about it. We have assembled a blue-ribbon panel of AI experts from Microsoft, Oracle, and the Special Competitive Studies Project to explain how Artificial Intelligence will affect your practice and firm or business in 2025. Our panelists will discuss ground-level considerations with regard to deploying generative AI at your firm or business, how AI will affect your workforce and legal practice, and the due diligence one should take in selecting an AI provider and implementing an AI program. Our panelists will also talk about the vital work of implementing an AI governance program at your firm or business. These experts will explain the next iteration of AI beyond ChatGPT: Agentic AI, which can perform tasks, make decisions, and interact with the environment without requiring direct human intervention. Agentic AI will impact your practice and business in 2026. You may still be scared, but at least you will be informed and have an idea of what's coming and how to successfully manage it.

**10:20 AM - 10:35 AM Break**

**10:35 AM - 11:25 AM Behind the Bench: A Candid Look at What Federal Judges Expect from Lawyers**

**Panelists**

Hon. J. Michelle Childs – USCA DC Circuit  
Hon. Joseph Dawson – USDC South Carolina  
Hon. A. Marvin Quattlebaum – USCA 4th Circuit  
Hon. Mia Roberts Perez – USDC ED Pennsylvania

**Moderators**

Mohamed N. Bakry – Marshall Dennehey  
Shelly D. Masters – Cokinos Young





Our distinguished panel of federal judges will provide insights into key principles of effective advocacy in federal court, with a focus on civility, professionalism, and preparation of counsel and witnesses. The judges will discuss how maintaining decorum both in and outside of the courtroom enhances credibility with the court and jury while fostering better outcomes in both negotiations and settlements. The judges will also explore the importance of clear and concise communication, emphasizing the need to streamline the presentation of evidence, avoid overwhelming juries, and tailor messages appropriately for judges versus juries. Thorough witness preparation, insuring composure during cross-examination without over-preparation, will be a major focal point. The presentation will also cover mastery of procedural and evidentiary rules highlighting how understanding of the rules can improve objections, motions, and overall trial strategy. The judges will comment upon appellate advocacy, stressing the importance of clarity, organization, and maintaining credibility through well written briefs and comprehensive knowledge of the trial record. They will offer guidance on addressing weaknesses in a case and using opposing arguments to reinforce key points, demonstrating how objectivity and

professionalism build trust with both trial and appellate courts.

**11:25 AM - 12:20 PM**

### **Third-Party Litigation Funding and Mass Tort Advertising and its Impact on Potential Jury Pools**

#### **Panelists**

Mark A. Behrens – Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP  
 Lisa M. Bellino – Zurich Insurance Company  
 Rustin Silverstein – X Ante  
 Stuart Simon – American Jury Center

#### **Moderator**

William E. Vita – Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP

Large and well-organized third-party litigation funding groups are funneling millions of dollars to the plaintiffs' bar to flood the airwaves and social media with massive advertising campaigns designed not only to attract new cases and clients but also to subliminally influence potential jurors who may consider these cases long before they are called to trial. The result is an increase in social inflation, multiple adverse nuclear verdicts, and tens of thousands of new lawsuits. This distinguished panel will examine this critical and expanding phenomenon and suggest practical solutions for defense counsel and their clients.



# Monday Excursions, Activities, and Evening Events



## Brewery & BBQ Tour

Join your private guide for an insider's tour of some of Charleston's favorite craft beers and micro-breweries. You'll explore 2-3 local breweries and meet the brew masters, see the process and have a few pints along the way. In the middle of the tour, stop at Lewis' BBQ for a quick rib, corn pudding or BBQ pork sandwich. Menu choices are extensive, and the joints will be expecting us.

## Carriage Tour of Historic Downtown Charleston

A carriage tour is a blend of knowledge, wit, humor, and history. Licensed tour guides drive the streets of the city recounting, witnessing, and in some cases taking part in the ever-unfolding story that is Charleston. During the one-hour, private tour, you will experience 25-30 blocks of Charleston's historic downtown district. You will see houses, gardens, mansions, churches, and parks. You'll hear about buildings, history, architecture, flora and people. Due to city regulation, the route followed will be chosen at random the day of the activity.

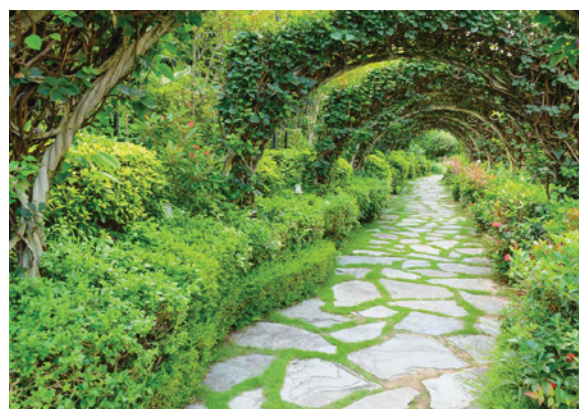
## Cocktail Making Class

Whether you already enjoy making craft cocktails at home, or just want to learn some new techniques to take your entertaining to the next level, this cocktail making class in a secret speakeasy will entertain and educate you. This dynamic cocktail class teaches you how to make three prohibition-era classic cocktails while learning about prohibition and the history of

cocktail making. And the best part? You get to make your own cocktail at the end of the class, adding a personal touch to your experience. This class is sure to please anyone looking for an afternoon adventure that combines education with entertainment.

## Cooking Class – In the Kitchen with Chef Bob Waggoner

Join Chef Bob in his downtown Charleston showcase kitchen, where you will cook and laugh alongside him as you prepare and enjoy a seasonal tasting menu inspired by the many farmers, fishermen, and artisans of the low country. Whatever your experience level, Chef Bob will teach you the tips and techniques to help build your confidence in the kitchen. There will be no pressure, no recipes, and no dishes to wash at the end of the class! Just a fun and truly unique experience with every detail crafted by Chef Bob himself.



## Home and Garden Walking Tour

Explore Charleston's vibrant historic neighborhoods alongside a knowledgeable and passionate tour guide. This unique personalized tour allows you to enjoy a Charleston historic home (or two) for a half hour tour, per home. Afterwards, the tour guide will walk guests back to the hotel pointing out more historic sights of this wonderful city. Some sights include St. Michael's Church, the Nathaniel Russell House, Washington Square Park and many other historic landmarks and exquisite gardens. Be sure to wear comfortable footwear for uneven sidewalks.





### **Kayaking the Local Waterways**

Escape for an exhilarating day on the water. Paddle the winding saltwater creeks and uninhabited marsh islands outside Charleston. A safe, comfortable sea kayak provides you with a tranquil view of pelicans, egrets and dolphins, as well as a variety of plants and wildlife. You can enjoy gliding effortlessly through backwater creeks and bays or experience a challenging harbor crossing. Your locally trained guide is an expert paddler with a vast knowledge of the environment and the historical heritage of the barrier islands. Be sure to wear shoes that can get wet along with a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

### **Top Golf**

Whether you're an aspiring golf pro or picking up a club for the first time, Top Golf is everyone's game. Micro-chipped golf balls score themselves, so you can focus on the fun, and giant targets make it easy to score no matter your swing. All from the comfort of all-weather hitting bays complete with cooling fans and heaters, and TVs in every bay. Food and soft drinks are included in the price. Come Play A Round!

### **Tour Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens**

Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens, founded in 1681, is one of America's oldest working agricultural sites, which has been producing crops for more than three centuries. The McRae family purchased the plantation in 1955, and Mrs. McRae furnished the house with antiques and began giving tours. Today, the McRae family still owns the property, and they continue to make improvements so that visitors can experience this historic

location and understand its complex history. Their knowledgeable staff explain the day-to-day activities of those who lived and worked on the plantation. You will visit the house, grounds, gardens, and outbuildings.



### **USS Yorktown, Naval Aircraft Carrier**

Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum serves to preserve and educate current and future generations about America's history, traditions, and values. Hear the stories of the brave men and women who served to protect our freedom. See the war-weary vessels that provided a home and safe passage for the heroes, including the aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown as its centerpiece. The tour also includes Patriots Point Museum, other National Historic Landmark ships, the Cold War Memorial, the Vietnam War Experience Exhibit, and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Museum.

### **EVENING EVENTS**

#### **President's Reception – South Carolina Aquarium (Business Casual Attire)**

**7:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

The President's Reception will be at the South Carolina Aquarium, a short ride from the hotel and overlooking the waterfront. With views of the Ravenal Bridge outside, and a host of aquatic exhibits inside, the Aquarium will provide a unique and fun setting as we dine and enjoy each other's company.

Buses will leave from The Charleston Place to the Aquarium beginning at 6:45 PM. Return buses will begin leaving at 9:00 PM and run every 20 minutes.

# Tuesday, February 25

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

## **Data Breaches and Resulting Litigation in Health Care/Logistics/Supply Chain Industries and Extracontractual Liability and Insurance Coverage Issues: Part II**

Health Care/Data Breach & Cyber Security/  
Transportation/Life Health Disability/Professional  
Liability/Extracontractual/Insurance Coverage  
Sections

### **Panelists**

Brian C. Bassett – Traub Lieberman Straus &  
Shrewsberry LLP

Sarannah McMurtry – First Acceptance Insurance Co.

Gena L. Sluga – Christian, Dichter & Sluga, PC

Following a data breach or cyber attack, you may turn to your insurance carrier for assistance managing the immediate crisis, for coverage or any monetary, data or property loss. But are you covered under your commercial liability policy? Learn about the different types of insurance coverage that may be available for these losses, how courts are interpreting specialty coverage forms, and when applicable policy exclusions may prevent coverage.

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

## **When Construction and Premises Collide: Navigating Liability and Coverage in High Profile Losses**

Construction/Premises Liability Sections

### **Panelists**

Dr. Lisa Eastep – J.S. Held LLC

Jacob J. Liro – Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford, PA

Barbara A. O'Donnell – MGC Law

Samuel J. Pace – Dugan, Brinkmann, Maginnis & Pace

John W. Sinnott – Irwin Fritchie Urquhart

Moore & Daniels LLC

This session will explore the complex intersection of construction and premises liability, utilizing high profile cases such as the Miami Surfside condo collapse and the Indiana State Fair stage collapse as focal points. The panelists will examine the overlapping responsibilities

of property owners, architects, contractors, and insurers when significant calamities occur leading to serious injuries and fatalities. The discussion will extend beyond the headline-grabbing claims to address the many ripple effects these disasters can create, such as a surge in secondary claims and an evolving legislative landscape, including Florida's new high rise inspection laws following the Surfside collapse. Attendees will also gain insight into how these major incidents drive significant challenges for the insurance industry, with increased litigation and heightened scrutiny over fear-based liability claims, and rising costs for businesses and professionals seeking insurance.

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

## **Hot Topics and Trends in Environmental and Products Liability, MDL and Class Action Suits: A Comparative Look at Recent Developments in US and Canadian Law**

Class Actions/MDL/Products Liability/Toxic Torts  
Sections

### **Panelists**

Sonia L. Bjorkquist – Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Rachel A. Cooper – McMillan LLP

Richard S. Dukes – Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, P.A.

Hanson D. Horn – The Cook Group

### **Moderator**

Aaron B. Gentry – DAA Draexlmaier Automotive

This panel will discuss emerging trends and hot topics in environmental and products liability suits generally with a particular focus on MDL and class action lawsuits. The discussion will include topics such as procedural updates in MDLs and class actions, including the status of proposed Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16.1; novel and emerging trends in product liability cases, such as artificial intelligence and social media claims; the impact of litigation funding and adverse costs upon liability insurance; expected trends in PFAS litigation and its potential implications for businesses; the strategic management of class actions and MDLs; and the intersection of product liability, environmental, and MDL/class actions including jurisdiction specific issues and regulatory regimes in the US and Canada.



**8:00 AM - 8:50 AM**

**Arbitration of Employment Disputes – Pros and Cons**

Employment and Alternative  
Dispute Resolution Sections

**Panelists**

J. Chadwell Hatmaker – Woolf, McClaine, Bright, Allen  
& Carpenter, PLLC

Brian H. Leinhauser – MacMain Leinhauser

Amy L. Miletich – Miletich PC

Heather White – Allspring Global Investments

**Moderator**

Stanley E. Graham – Holland & Knight LLP

Arbitration removes the possibility of a runaway jury verdict. It is billed as a cheaper and more efficient way to obtain resolution of disputes. But is this contention still accurate? Does the elimination of collective/class cases in arbitration result in death by a thousand cuts? Do the costs outweigh the benefits? Are you better off with a jury waiver and bench trial? Our panel of seasoned litigators and arbitrators will discuss these and other topics.

**8:50 AM - 9:00 AM Break**



**9:00 AM - 9:50 AM**

**Global Challenges: Food Insecurity, Climate Change, Mass Migration and the Rule of Law**

**Speakers**

David M. Beasley – Former Governor of South Carolina  
William C. Hubbard – Dean and Professor of Law,  
University of South Carolina Law School

**Moderator**

D. Jay Davis, Jr. – Clement Rivers LLP

Governor David M. Beasley and Dean William  
C. Hubbard will discuss the global challenges

of food insecurity, climate change, and mass migration in the context of respect for the rule of law. Governor Beasley and Dean Hubbard will address how the path to peace starts with food, and provide insights into how destabilization of societies due to a lack of a rule of law system and human-made conflicts are increasing the needs of the impoverished. Government destabilization, along with climate change, is causing mass migration, changing the landscape around the globe, especially in areas that do not have the resources to mitigate these issues alone. The presentation will highlight how those countries with the highest levels of food insecurity face rising episodes of armed conflict and outward migration, and why law schools must provide guidance to students, attorneys and the American citizenry, as well as others, on the importance of the rule of law.

**9:50 AM - 10:05 AM Break**

**10:05 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Trial Masters Program: A Case Trial Study – Federal Sexual Harassment Lawsuit**

**Panelists**

Amanda M. Cialkowski – Nilan Johnson Lawis PA

L. Johnson Sarber III – Carr Allison

Michael H. Spencer – Rimini Street, Inc.

William M. Toles – Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC

John S. Worden – Venable LLP

**Moderators**

Linda J. Knight – Spencer Fane LLP

Kile T. Turner – Norman Wood Kendrick & Turner

Our Trial Master program consists of an intensive presentation in trial techniques led by some of the FDCC's most experienced and outstanding trial attorneys. The program is a case study based upon a federal sexual harassment lawsuit prepared and tried to verdict. Speakers will address how to craft and present compelling opening statements and persuasive closing arguments and best practices for the preparation, examination, cross-examination, and rehabilitation of a corporate representative witness.

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**Corporate Counsel Luncheon**

An informal lunch for corporate counsel to network and discuss issues important to their everyday practice.

## Tuesday Excursions, Activities, and Evening Events

### **The International African American Museum**

The International African American Museum (IAAM) tells the unvarnished stories of the African American experience across generations, and the trauma and triumph that gave rise to a resilient people. Engage with history through transformative storytelling, remarkable artifacts and exhibitions, in a uniquely powerful setting. Explore the wide-ranging exhibitions that tell the story of how Africans and African Americans—through their labor, resistance, and ingenuity—have shaped every aspect of our world. Explore the diverse cultures of West and West Central Africa and trace the movement of people of African descent throughout the Atlantic World. Discover people, events, and stories that shaped U.S. history through the international lens of the African Diaspora. Understand the transformative impact of enslaved people who labored on plantations in South Carolina and helped build the lucrative rice industry. Define and demystify what it means to be Gullah Geechee by examining their history and the contemporary issues facing their communities today.



### **Bike Tour of the Old Village**

The "Old Village" of Mount Pleasant, formed in the 19th century, is filled with gorgeous pre-Civil War homes and breathtaking marsh views. Located across the harbor of Charleston, Old Village Mount Pleasant began as a summer resort for wealthy planters and city-dwellers seeking

a healthier climate. The beauty of the shoreline allowed short docks with access to the water which was the main mode of transportation. You will ride easy beach cruisers through this sleepy community. Be sure to bring a little pocket money as there is an old Rexall Drug Store & Soda Shop where you can purchase an old-fashioned milkshake. Please wear appropriate footwear, head cover, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

### **Carriage Tour of Historic Downtown Charleston**

A carriage tour is a blend of knowledge, wit, humor, and history. Licensed tour guides drive the streets of the city recounting, witnessing, and in some cases taking part in the ever-unfolding story that is Charleston. During the one-hour, private tour, you will experience 25-30 blocks of Charleston's historic downtown district. You will see houses, gardens, mansions, churches, and parks. You'll hear about buildings, history, architecture, flora and people. Due to city regulation, the route followed will be chosen at random the day of the activity.

### **Cooking Class – In the Kitchen with Chef Bob Waggoner**

Join Chef Bob in his downtown Charleston showcase kitchen, where you will cook and laugh alongside him as you prepare and enjoy a seasonal tasting menu inspired by the many farmers, fishermen, and artisans of the low country. Whatever your experience level, Chef Bob will teach you the tips and techniques to help build your confidence in the kitchen. There will be no pressure, no recipes, and no dishes to wash at the end of the class! Just a fun and truly unique experience with every detail crafted by Chef Bob himself.

### **Inshore Fishing**

The Charleston area offers outstanding inshore fishing opportunities for the light tackle angler. Depending on the season, anglers may encounter redfish, sea trout, flounder, crevalle jack, ladyfish, tarpon, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel. The "flats boat" is designed to hunt out and stalk fish inhabiting inshore estuaries, tidal creeks,



and all barrier island waters. First-time anglers as well as experienced fishermen, birdwatchers, and sightseers are welcome. No experience or equipment necessary. Packages include everything you need to fish - guide, fishing rods, reels, bait, tackle fishing license, and fuel. This is a catch and release activity. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear, head cover, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

### **Sailing the Schooner *Pride***

Enjoy a two-hour harbor cruise aboard the *Pride*, an eighty-four-foot authentic tall ship which sails Charleston's historic harbor and the South Carolina coastal waters. With the engine off and the sails full, the *Pride* quietly glides along as guests enjoy the natural sounds of dolphins, gulls, wind, and water. A tour guide will be on board to point out Charleston Harbor's many historic landmarks and regale guests with stories of life on the water. It is an experience that is both relaxing and awe inspiring to see the wind and sails drive such a vessel. Food and beverage are available for purchase.

### **FireFly Distillery Tour**

Enjoy a private tour of the distillery, learn about the distillation process, and taste some of the fine products produced by Firefly Distillery. Tucked away off the beaten path, just a short drive from downtown Charleston, sits the newly constructed Firefly Distillery. Firefly is not only a working distillery, but a unique experience for locals and visitors alike. You'll enjoy exclusive, behind the scenes access with a unique, private tasting experience.

### **Walking Tour of Downtown Charleston**

Experience the charm of Historic Charleston in a two-hour walking tour with local guides. Join native Charlestonian sisters, Mary Helen Dantzler and Therese Smythe, whose family dates from 1793, as you stroll through downtown Charleston's historic district along its most beautiful streets and scenic alleyways. These local ladies are widely recognized as one of the leading tour teams of Charleston. Share in their hometown knowledge of Charleston's rich history from its wealthy colonial days to the turbulent times of the Civil War and its aftermath. See some of the most historic homes of South Carolina now beautifully preserved and

restored to their former glory. Along the way you will be entertained with anecdotes of colorful local characters, tales of lesser known events in Charleston's past, and stories of days gone by. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.



### **Wine Blending Class**

There is something alluring about the art of wine blending - grapes from different regions, vineyards and aging techniques coming together to deliver a unique flavor with a backstory and the complex chemistry behind it! We've captured this truly unique experience and invite you to play winemaker. You will taste different wine varietals, and create a custom blend of your own, complete with your very own label. Light bites will also be available. You do not have to be a sommelier to blend the perfect bottle, but there will be a trained wine expert to help, just in case.

## **EVENING EVENTS**

### **Cocktails with Friends**

**5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**The Grand Hall, The Charleston Place**

### **Dining with Friends**

**7:00 pm - ??**

No trip to Charleston is complete without a few outstanding meals at the city's award-winning restaurants, so get together your favorite FDCC friends, invite some new friends, and grab a reservation. Or sign up at the registration table for a dine around that's already been arranged by FDCC. From slow smoked pork barbecue to white linen fine dining, you'll find a restaurant to please every palate.

# Wednesday, February 26

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:20 AM

## Treading Carefully – Sustaining Diversity While Managing Legal Risks in Today's Corporate Environment

### Moderator

Michon M. Spinelli – Ropers Majewski, PC

### Panelists

Camille Bryant – Ochsner Health

Atoyia S. Harris – Proskauer Rose LLP

Shannon O'Connor Berube – Textron, Inc.

Temitope Yusuf – NBC Universal

This panel will address the trends wherein corporations and professionals are publicly stepping away from diversity initiatives while internally continuing efforts to maintain a diverse and equitable workforce. This paradox presents unique legal and strategic challenges, particularly for in-house corporate counsel. How can legal counsel adequately advise their clients to manage these apparent conflicting interests? In this session participants will explore how outside legal advisors can support corporate counsel successfully navigating these issues, insuring compliance with shifting legal landscapes, mitigating risks, and helping businesses and professionals sustain their diversity goals, even in environments that appear hostile to such efforts. Key topics will include managing public versus private messaging and practices, the legal implications of diversity roll backs, and the proactive role of outside counsel in fostering diversity compliance and risk mitigation strategies.

9:20 AM - 9:30 AM Break

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Business Meeting

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

## American Mother: A Story of Grace, Humanity, and Radical Empathy in the Practice of Law

### Panelists

Diane Foley

Colum McCann

Dennis M. Fitzpatrick

### Moderator

John J. Delany – Marshall Dennehey

Our invited keynote speakers are Diane Foley, Colum McCann, and Dennis Fitzpatrick. Ms. Foley is the President of the James Foley Foundation, the subject of Mr. McCann's recent best-selling book *American Mother*, and Mr. Fitzpatrick is the former Assistant United States Attorney who prosecuted the case which is the subject of the book. *American Mother* is the heart-rending story of a mother, who in the course of confronting her son's killer after a federal court trial and conviction, comes to understand violence, understanding, forgiveness, and empathy. Diane Foley is the mother of James Foley, an American journalist kidnapped in Syria by ISIS terrorists in 2012 and murdered by those terrorists in 2014. Seven years later, 2021, Ms. Foley had the opportunity to confront the murderer of her son in an Alexandria, Virginia courthouse, thereafter inspiring her to tell her life and son's life story. McCann's book brings the reader along with Ms. Foley on her journey of strength, resilience, forgiveness, and empathy. FDCC member Jack Delany, a nationally recognized trial attorney, will moderate a discussion amongst Ms. Foley, Mr. McCann and Mr. Fitzpatrick explaining how a prepared, empathetic, and sincere defense trial attorney can best marshal the evidence and law to present a compelling case on behalf of his or her client, avoid the catastrophe of an adverse nuclear verdict, while perhaps fostering opportunities for a reasonable resolution. *American Mother* became a documentary film nominated for an Academy Award and the subject of a song composed by Sting. Real or radical empathy, not as a tactic or strategy, but as the reflection of genuine sincerity on the part of counsel, may minimize the risk of nuclear verdicts and promote reasonable case resolutions.



## Wednesday Excursions, Activities, and Evening Events



### Barrier Island Ecotours

Venture to Capers Island Heritage Preserve, a pristine barrier island only reachable by boat that is just north of Charleston. You will cruise through winding tidal creeks to find diverse wildlife living in this salt marsh ecosystem. Your naturalist guide will explain all about local ecology and wildlife encountered along the way. Common sightings include bottlenose dolphins, bald eagles, and numerous shore and wading birds. As you arrive on the island, you are free to explore its astounding natural landscape and interior trails and ponds. Please wear shoes that can get wet, and head coverings, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Food and soft drinks are included in registration.

### Cocktail Making Class

Whether you already enjoy making craft cocktails at home, or just want to learn some new techniques to take your entertaining to the next level, this cocktail making class in a secret speakeasy will entertain and educate you. This dynamic cocktail class teaches you how to make three prohibition-era classic cocktails while learning about prohibition and the history of cocktail making. And the best part? You get to make your own cocktail at the end of the class, adding a personal touch to your experience. This class is sure to please anyone looking for an afternoon adventure that combines education with entertainment.

### Ft. Sumter National Park and Harbor Tour

Visit Historic Fort Sumter, where the Civil War began. Located in the center of Charleston's harbor, it is only accessible by boat. The tour consists of approximately one hour at Fort Sumter, followed by an approximately one-hour cruise around Charleston's historic harbor. At the fort, the US National Park Service provides narration regarding the history of Ft. Sumter, and you can visit an informative museum containing priceless Civil War exhibits. During the harbor cruise, you'll enjoy the panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean and entrance to Charleston Harbor. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear, head cover, sunscreen, and sunglasses.



### Middleton Place

Historic Middleton Place is home to America's oldest landscaped gardens and was home to a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Located along the Ashley River in Charleston, Middleton Place is a National Historic Landmark, historic home, research center, and historic plantation. Tours and presentations at Middleton Place recognize our nation's complex history and focus on the contributions of the Middleton family as well as the enslaved Africans and African Americans who lived and worked there. The excursion includes craft demonstrations by the blacksmith, potter, basket weaver, quilters, and carpenters. Your admission includes a private house tour and access to the gardens and stable.





### **Pickleball Tournament**

Enjoy a fun afternoon of pickleball in a climate-controlled environment and a state-of-the-art facility at CrushYard in Charleston. Whether you are new to the "fastest growing sport in America," or are an avid dinker, come join the fun. Staff at CrushYard will organize and run our "tournament" to ensure everyone gets plenty of playing time, and food and soft drinks are included in the registration fee. Paddles and balls are provided.



### **Pub Tour**

Do as George Washington did and go to a pub! Charleston is a port city, which comes with a lot of tall tales, and fables of our drinking history. Enjoy this true history tour while walking in the footsteps of pirates, presidents, and statesman. Stops could include The Bar at Husk, The Blind Tiger, Roof Top Bar at Vendue, Henry's Rooftop, or The Griffon. Guests are encouraged to get one drink per stop, with 3-4 stops, total. Food is available to order upon arrival.

### **Walking Tour of Downtown Charleston**

Experience the charm of Historic Charleston in a two-hour walking tour with local guides. Join native Charlestonian sisters, Mary Helen Dantzler and Therese Smythe, whose family dates from 1793, as you stroll through downtown Charleston's historic district along its most beautiful streets and scenic alleyways. These local ladies are widely recognized as one of the leading tour teams of Charleston. Share in their hometown knowledge of Charleston's rich history from its wealthy colonial days to the turbulent times of the Civil War and its aftermath. See some of the most historic homes of South Carolina now beautifully preserved and restored to their former glory. Along the way you will be entertained with anecdotes of colorful local characters, tales of lesser known events in Charleston's past, and stories of days gone by. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.

### **EVENING EVENTS**

|                |          |                 |                                                                     |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6:00 PM</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>7:00 PM</b>  | <b>Cocktail Reception</b>                                           |
| <b>7:00 PM</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>11:00 PM</b> | <b>Club FDCC (Friends, Cocktailing, and Carryin' On) and Lounge</b> |

Our time together is coming to an end, but let's enjoy one more night of food, fun, and celebration. Club FDCC includes an elegant dinner buffet and features a 10-piece band for those who want to dance the evening away, and cozy lounge areas and craft cocktails (or mocktails) for those who prefer to visit and watch all the action in laid back style.



# Afternoon Activities-At-A-Glance

All afternoon activities will depart from the hotel lobby. All prices are per person.

## Monday, February 24

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Brewery & BBQ Tour .....            | \$130 |
| Carriage Tour .....                 | \$51  |
| Cocktail Making Class.....          | \$130 |
| Cooking Class.....                  | \$206 |
| Home & Garden Walking Tour.....     | \$98  |
| Kayaking.....                       | \$160 |
| Top Golf.....                       | \$101 |
| Tour of Boone Hall Plantation.....  | \$170 |
| USS Yorktown, Aircraft Carrier..... | \$85  |

## Tuesday, February 25

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| African American Museum .....    | \$65  |
| Bike Tour .....                  | \$265 |
| Carriage Tour .....              | \$51  |
| Cooking Class.....               | \$206 |
| Fishing .....                    | \$310 |
| Sailing the Schooner Pride ..... | \$160 |
| FireFly Distillery Tour.....     | \$140 |
| Walking Tour of Downtown.....    | \$25  |
| Wine Blending Class.....         | \$150 |

## Wednesday, February 26

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Barrier Island Ecotour.....         | \$122 |
| Cocktail Making Class.....          | \$130 |
| Ft. Sumter & Harbor Tour .....      | \$135 |
| Middleton Place Historic Home ..... | \$200 |
| Pickleball Tournament .....         | \$110 |
| Pub Tour .....                      | \$115 |
| Walking Tour of Downtown.....       | \$25  |







## On Your Own in Charleston

Charleston is filled with numerous historical sites, outdoor activities and other attractions. Here are some ideas, if you want to explore on your own.

### Aiken-Rhett House

[Historic Charleston Foundation - Aiken-Rhett House](#)

Charleston's historic Aiken-Rhett House offers a rare glimpse into antebellum plantation life in South Carolina. The only surviving urban plantation house, the 1818 townhouse complex and its furnishings remain largely intact.

### The Battery and White Point Garden

The Battery wraps around the edge of Charleston's peninsula, providing an elegant buffer between the city and the Ashley and Cooper rivers. Stroll and sightsee along the wide pedestrian paths, which pass by antebellum homes, historic sights, and beautiful live oaks in White Point Garden.

### Charleston City Market

Located a short walk from our hotel, the Charleston City Market is a central landmark for Holy City visitors. In addition to being one of the most visited historic attractions in town, the City Market—opened in 1807—is also one of the oldest continuously operating public markets in the US.



### The Charleston Museum

[Charleston Museum](#)

Established just prior to the Revolutionary War, the Charleston Museum focuses on the natural and cultural history of the South Carolina Lowcountry.

### CSS Hunley – Civil War Submarine

[The Friends of The Hunley – The World's First Successful Combat Submarine](#)

See the Confederate submarine, CSS Hunley, which conducted the first successful combat mission by a submarine, sinking the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor in 1864. The Hunley disappeared under the waves for more than 130 years, but was recovered in 2000, and is now being studied and preserved.





### Gibbes Museum of Art

[Gibbes Museum of Art | American Art Museum | Charleston, SC](#)

The permanent collection spans four centuries and provides a dynamic introduction to the visual culture of America and the American South from the colonial period to the present.



### Golf

Want to play a round of golf while you are in the area? Check out these recommendations from the Charleston Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Courses include [Home - Patriots Point Golf Links](#) on the Charleston Harbor, [Charleston Golf Courses | Wild Dunes Resort](#) at Isle of Palms, and the iconic The [Ocean Course at Kiawah Island - Kiawah Island Golf Resort](#), home to multiple PGA Championships.

[Charleston, SC Visitor Golf | A Guide to Golfing in Charleston](#)

### Rainbow Row

This street of brightly colored homes in Charleston is easily the most photographed spot in the city, and it's easy to see why. The 14 colorful Georgian row houses along East Bay Street date back to 1730, when they were built as merchant stores.

### Shem Creek Waterfront

[Shem Creek Waterfront - Experience Mount Pleasant](#)

The waterfront destination at Shem Creek is a local favorite with unique restaurants and watering holes. Kick back and take in the gorgeous views of the Charleston Harbor and surrounding marshes. Experience one of South Carolina's premier waterfront destinations, offering breathtaking coastal views, explorable boardwalks, creekside restaurants with fresh seafood, adventures on the water, and a laid-back atmosphere.



### Waterfront Park

For an afternoon picnic or walk in the sunshine, Waterfront Park is an excellent choice. The 12-acre park is a favorite for its wide-open spaces, neat walking trails, and fantastic views of the Ashley River. The park is also home to the iconic pineapple fountain that's the perfect background for taking photos.





## Special Thank You to Our Hosts

|                   |                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Imoh Akpan        | Melanie Cheairs   | Lee Hall        | Brett Preston     |
| Barret Albritton  | Amanda Cialkowski | Chad Hatmaker   | Frank Ramos       |
| Tiffany Alexander | Frank Ciano       | Marie Holvick   | Mary Robberson    |
| Adam Bach         | Megan Coluccio    | Lynne Ingram    | Alan Rutkin       |
| Matt Bailey       | Johnston Cox      | Kendra Jones    | Heather Sanderson |
| Mohamed Bakry     | Lauren Curtis     | Nat Jordan      | Johnson Sarber    |
| Caroline Berdzik  | Jay Davis         | Valerie Kellner | Wesley Sawyer     |
| April Berman      | Evelyn Davis      | Bailey King     | Michael Scott     |
| David Billions    | Rich Dukes        | Reid Manley     | Jordan Teich      |
| Thayla Bohn       | Paul Finamore     | Shelly Masters  | William Toles     |
| Mike Bonasso      | Charlie Frazier   | Matt Moeller    | Marisa Trasatti   |
| Jody Briandi      | Sean Griffin      | Alycen Moss     | Kile Turner       |
| Kelly Brilleaux   | Jeff Guillory     | Chris Page      | Heath Vickers     |
| Oscar Cabanas     | Nick Haigler      | Micalann Pepe   | Bill Vita         |



# Food and Drink

While it is impossible to create a list of all the fantastic restaurants in the Charleston area, here are a few options close to the hotel that are worth trying. Many of these restaurants are helmed by award winning chefs, and not surprisingly, are booked well in advance, so plan ahead and make a reservation.

## **Church and Union**

32b North Market St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
Ph: 843-937-8666

[Hours & Location | Church and Union in NC, SC & TN](#)

Modern American cuisine in a restored historic church sanctuary.

## **Circe's Grotto**

85 Wentworth St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-203-4073

[Home | circes](#)

Fresh ingredients for delicious sandwiches, salads, and paninis.

## **Delaney Oyster House**

115 Calhoun St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-594-0099

[Delaney Oyster House | 115 Calhoun Street](#)

Raw bar and seafood focused, with the freshest catches of the day.

## **Fig**

232 Meeting St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-805-5900

[FIG – Local Neighborhood Restaurant in Downtown Charleston, SC](#)

French influenced, locally sourced menu in a comfortable setting.

## **Hall's Chophouse**

434 King St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843-727-0090

[Halls Chophouse- Charleston - Downtown, Charleston, SC](#)

Upscale, classic American steakhouse.

## **High Cotton**

199 East Bay St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-724-3815

[High Cotton - Charleston, SC](#)

Elevated Lowcountry favorites.

## **Husk**

76 Queen St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-577-2500

Husk Restaurants | The Neighborhood Dining Group

Elevated Southern cuisine.

## **La Farfalle**

15 Beaufain St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-212-0920

[Le Farfalle | Italian Restaurant in Charleston, SC](#)

A modern approach to authentic Italian cuisine.

## **Lenoir**

68 Wentworth St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-534-9031

[Lenoir Charleston by Vivian Howard](#)

Elevated Southern fare.

## **Leon's Oyster Shop**

698 King St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843-531-6500

[Leon's Oyster Shop - Fried Chicken & Oysters in Charleston, South CC](#)

Laid back oyster joint, plus fried chicken and sandwiches.



### **Lewis Barbecue**

464 N. Nassau St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843-805-9500

[Lewis Barbecue | Barbecue Restaurant in Charleston, SC](#)

Authentic Texas style barbecue comes to the Lowcountry.

### **Magnolias**

185 East Bay St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-577-7771

[Home - Magnolias Restaurant in Charleston, SC](#)

Upscale Southern cuisine.

### **Marbled & Fin**

480 East Bay St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843-278-5488

[Modern Steakhouse in Charleston, South Carolina | Marbled & Fin](#)

Celebrating the finest in beef and seafood.

### **Melfi's**

721 King St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843-513-0307  
[eatatmelfis.com](#)

Grown up, clubby, classic Italian restaurant.

### **Oak Steakhouse**

17 Broad St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-722-4220  
[Charleston | Oak Steakhouse in VA, GA, NC, SC & TN](#)

Classic American steakhouse in a beautiful historic building.

### **Rodney Scott's BBQ**

1011 King St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843-990-9535

[rodneyscottsbbq.com](#)

Award winning, slow smoked whole hog barbecue.

### **Slightly North of Broad**

192 East Bay St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-723-3424

[About | Slightly North of Broad in Charleston, SC](#)

Eclectic Lowcountry bistro.

### **Sorelle**

88 Broad St.  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-974-1575

[Sorelle | Italian Restaurant in Charleston, SC](#)

Modern spin on class Southern Italian cuisine, with Lowcountry ingredients.

### **The Ordinary**

544 King St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
(843) 414-7060  
[The Ordinary](#)

Southern seafood hall and oyster bar.

### **Virginia's on King**

412 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
Phone: (843) 735-5800  
[Virginia's On King - Holy City Hospitality](#)

Upscale Southern comfort food. Terrific brunch.



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