

April 24, 2026 -- Issue 326

Good Morning!

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#1: Webinar: Cutting-Edge Graphics, Demonstratives, and Uses of AI for Trial

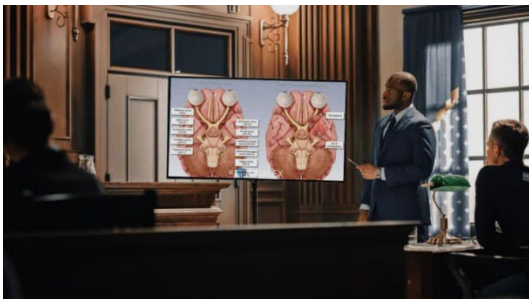
April 29th at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT



Bob Christie



Frank Ramos



Please join FDCC's Defense Counsel and trial masters **Bob Christie** of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, and **Frank Ramos** of Goldberg Segalla on **Wednesday, April 29th at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT** for a timely and inciteful webinar on how to use cutting edge graphics, demonstratives and AI at trial.

We all know how trial practice is changing quickly. The ability to present complex facts in a clear, persuasive, and credible way has never been more important. As courts, clients, and juries respond to increasingly sophisticated presentation methods, we all need to better understand how to use graphics, demonstratives, animations, and AI strategically so as to be better positioned to advocate effectively and stay ahead of emerging trends.

This timely session will explore how cutting-edge demonstratives, animations, and AI tools can elevate courtroom presentations and improve trial strategy. Attendees will gain practical insight into how to create impactful visuals, simplify

technical or fact-intensive issues, and use modern tools to communicate more clearly and persuasively. The program will also address the ethical and evidentiary considerations that come with using emerging technology at trial, helping practitioners evaluate both the opportunities and the risks.

Attendees will leave with a stronger understanding of:

- how compelling visuals and demonstratives can improve juror comprehension and engagement;
- ways AI and animation tools can support the development of more effective trial presentations;
- practical approaches for translating complex evidence into clear, persuasive storytelling; and
- key ethical and admissibility issues to consider before using these technologies in the courtroom.

**We hope you will join us this coming Wednesday, April 29th
at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT for this forward-looking and practical discussion.**

[Please click here to register for the Webinar](#)

**#2 Three Months and Counting: The Adventure Starts Now! FDCC's 2026
Annual Meeting**

By: Lee Hall



The countdown is officially on! We are now exactly three months away from our FDCC gathering in beautiful Lisbon. As the excitement builds, it's time to shift from "dreaming" to "doing" to ensure a smooth and unforgettable experience for every family.

For Our Young Explorers: The Lisbon Quiz Series

We have nearly 70 children and young adults registered to join us in Lisbon, which is amazing. To help get our junior travelers get into the spirit of discovery, we are launching a special series of Lisbon Prep Quizzes. We want your children to feel like local experts before they even step off the plane. These quizzes are designed to be a fun way to learn about Portuguese history, the legendary explorers, and maybe even a few useful phrases. You never know, a little history lesson may help everyone! Careful readers will remember my struggles from last week with the Visigoths and the Iron Age.

Action Item: Please click on the links below and print the quizzes for your children, have them complete the quizzes and return to them to me by email or mail.

- [For Ages 4-8](#)
- [For Ages 9-13](#)
- [For Ages 14-18](#)

My email address is lmh@jenkinsfenstermaker.com.

- **Deadline:** Completed quizzes should be returned to me by **May 9, 2026**.
- **Level up for prizes:** There will be more quizzes coming, and the more you complete, the more chances you have to win fabulous prizes (or at least bragging rights!).

And a few more reminders:

With 90 days to go, there are three critical tasks that require your immediate attention:

1. **Check Your Passports:** Ensure all passports are valid for at least six months beyond our travel dates. If you need a renewal, [apply today](#)—processing times can be unpredictable.
2. **Complete Your Registration:** If you haven't registered yet, please do so now!
3. **Book Your Excursions:** Spaces for our curated excursions are filling up, so register for your preferred tours soon to avoid missing out. We will likely close excursions by early July to make final arrangements with our tour guides.

We can't wait to see those completed quizzes and, more importantly, to see you all in Portugal this summer. Next week, we will be back to talk about Fado, the wines of Lisbon (including Vinho Verde), and a continuation of our walking tour.

Boa Viagem! (Safe Travels!)



Lee Hall is an FDCC Defense Counsel member and Convention Chair of the [2026 Annual Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal](#). She is also a Partner at [Jenkins Fenstermaker](#) in Huntington, WV where her practice is focused on insurance coverage, insurance defense, and WV bad faith defense. Her insurance defense practice includes sexual misconduct, municipal liability, motor vehicle and trucking claims, premises, and medical malpractice claims.

**#3 And Now a Word from Our
Platinum Sponsor S-E-A, Ltd.**

**From Evidence to Insight:
S-E-A Adds Digital Forensics to Its Expertise**



Know.

S-E-A is continuing to evolve alongside the changing landscape of investigations with the recent launch of digital forensics capabilities, an expansion that reflects both the growing importance of electronic evidence and the firm's commitment to delivering comprehensive, multidisciplinary solutions.

To lead this initiative, S-E-A has brought on industry veteran Jack Nevins, a highly regarded expert with decades of experience in cyber investigations, electronic evidence recovery, and advanced data analysis. Based in Kansas City, Nevins and his team will support clients nationwide and internationally, bringing a new dimension of expertise to S-E-A's already robust forensic offerings.

As digital evidence becomes increasingly central to modern claims and litigation, spanning everything from intellectual property disputes and cyber incidents to fraud and accident reconstruction, the ability to uncover, preserve, and interpret that data has never been more critical. With this expansion, S-E-A is positioned to provide clients with deeper insights and more complete investigative solutions.

With this addition, S-E-A continues to strengthen its position at the intersection of traditional forensic expertise and emerging investigative technologies, ensuring clients have access to the full spectrum of tools and talent needed to solve today's most complex challenges.



Doug Rickel is the Manager, National Accounts & Practice Group Strategy at [S-E-A, Ltd.](#), and FDCC's dedicated contact.

For more information about S-E-A's full suite of expert services, please reach out to Doug: at [\(813\) 891-1448](tel:8138911448), or by email: drickel@SEAlimited.com.

#4 FedSpeaks New Podcast Episodes Released

We're delighted to share the most recent Podcasts released on the Federation's exclusive podcast channel: FedSpeaks, Please click on the links below and give them a listen:



- [How to Train Younger Lawyers to Take Better Depositions](#): FDCC Defense Counsel Steve Embry chats with [AltaClaro's](#) Abdi Shayesteh and Patricia Libby on their DepoSim online "flight simulator" deposition training tool for litigators.
- Welcome to Our New Members: Jill Pedigo Hall, Nicole Wilinski & Vicki Smith introduce us to:
 - [Amanda Kuehn](#) and her defense of road engineering cases
 - [Tom Costello](#) and his coverage and defense practice

You can listen to these podcasts and the other 305 FedSpeaks podcast episodes on Spotify, iTunes, Stitcher, the Fed365 app or wherever you get your podcasts. Find out what over 17,357 listeners have already discovered by downloading and subscribing to these enlightening episodes by, about and for members of the FDCC.

#5 FDCC Members in the Spotlight:

Nicole Benjamin & Derek Lick



Nicole Benjamin



Derek Lick

We are shining the Federation spotlight on two of our over 1400 superstars today! Congratulations to **Nicole Benjamin** of **Adler Pollock & Sheehan** in Providence, RI and **Derek Lick** of **Orr & Reno, P.A.** in Concord, NH for being recognized "Lawyers of the Year" in the 2026 Edition of New England's Best Lawyers!

Nicole is also nationally recognized for her defense work, having been in named in Lawdragon's 500 Leading Litigators in America last year; in Best Lawyers' 2023 Lawyer of the Year magazine in the area of Appellate Practice; and has been continually recognized for her appellate advocacy, including her success before the First and Third Circuits and the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Derek currently serves as President of the **New Hampshire Bar Association**, and focuses his practice on business, real estate, construction, and property tax disputes, and suits involving personal injury and product liability claims.

Please join us in congratulating Nicole and Derek on this tremendous recognition from their peers and colleagues!

Thanks to [Walter Judge](#) for passing this information along!



Please register and mark your calendar to attend the following FDCC events of relevant and timely substantive content:

- **April 29, 2026 at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT: Using Cutting Edge Graphics, Demonstratives & AI at Trial Webinar with [Bob Christie](#) of Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, and [Frank Ramos](#). [Click Here to Register](#).**
- **July 26 - 31, 2026: Annual Meeting at the [Corinthia Hotel in Lisbon, Portugal](#): "A Mosaic of Memories in Lisbon". Convention Chair: [Lee Hall](#); Program Chair: [Alycen Moss](#). [Click here](#) to register.**
- **September 27-29, 2026: Corporate Counsel Symposium - "From Bourbon Street to the Boardroom Suite: Navigating Risks & Opportunities" at the Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Co-Chairs**

are: [Beth Bauer](#), [Chad Hatmaker](#) and [Geneau Thames](#). Registration coming soon!

- **February 28-March 4, 2027: Winter Meeting** at the [Fountainbleu Hotel, Miami Beach, FL](#). Convention Chair: [Valerie Kellner](#) and Program Chair: [Jody Briandi](#).
- **July 25-30, 2027: Annual Meeting** at the [Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada](#). Convention Chair: [Alycen Moss](#) and Program Chair: [Shelly Masters](#).

..and finally, Have a Nice Day...

Tanaz Salehi!



Tanaz is an FDCC Defense Counsel member and Managing Shareholder and Founder of [Salehi Boyer Lavigne Lombana, P.A.](#) - with offices and remote locations throughout Florida. Main office in Coral Gables -Miami, Florida.

Law school: University of Florida, B.A.-
Philosophy - St. Thomas School of Law, J.D.,
2007.

Past, present & future: My legal career began in the trenches of federal civil rights litigation, shareholder liability in D&O matters, Title VII discrimination cases, defamation claims, and appellate briefs that demanded precision and endurance. Over time, I was fortunate to build my own client relationships and carve a path

into first-party property insurance defense, coverage analysis, and liability work.

Today, our firm specializes in the defense of first- and third-party insurance claims, coverage recommendations for commercial, surplus, and state carriers, and commercial contract drafting, negotiation, and dispute resolution.

First job: Long before depositions and discovery, I was clearing tables at my father's steakhouse in Kissimmee, an old school, white-linen establishment where local ranchers and farmers came to unwind, Kurt Russell once stopped in, and the Houston Astros made it their regular steak joint. The steaks came off an open fire, served alongside mixed salads, dinner rolls, and a salted baked potato. The guests lingered with cigarettes, glass of wine, a perfectly cooked cut of meat. I would glide through the dining room collecting small plates and running food, absorbing the energy of that special place. That helped prepare me for my college and law school days, when I was waiting tables at good ole' Outback Steakhouse. Outback was the place to be in the late 90s and early 2000s. I was lucky to get a job there because it funded my education and kept me with pocket money for school.

Favorite vacation destination: Pantelleria. It's a tiny volcanic island tucked between Sicily and Tunisia, rough-edged and truly magnificent. The landscape is all sharp black rock and crater lakes. You can go mineral bathing or sit next to a natural sauna fed by vapors rising through small caves. Or sit in a hot spring that sits in the ocean like open-air jacuzzis. They call it the Black Pearl of the Mediterranean, which is perfect given the color of the coastline. Imagine spending a day eating fresh seafood, taking a mud bath, hiking to the edge of a volcano, and ending the day watching the sunset from a dammuso (very interesting stone homes with white domed roofs, which originate from Arab influence who once ruled the region). It's still relatively unknown, so it's very quiet and peaceful, and untouched by mass tourism. I am sharing it here with a very special group of people. It's my favorite place.

Parting thoughts: Passion. *"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."* A quote from someone much smarter than me (Einstein). If you lose passion, you lose curiosity, which I truly believe is the single most important driver for success, for discovery, for a life worth living.

Please join us in welcoming Tanaz to the Federation!

tsalehi@salehiboyer.com

Our thanks to FDCC Defense Counsel member Heidi Vogt at von Briesen who interviewed Tanaz and shared the summary above with us and the FDCC's Insurance Coverage Section.

Why FDCC?

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

