



FDCC
DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



April 25, 2025 -- Issue 274

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Good Morning!

Here are your top 5+ things to know about developments, upcoming events and progress being made on initiatives the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel is undertaking on behalf of all our members.

#1 Introducing Our New Logo!



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.

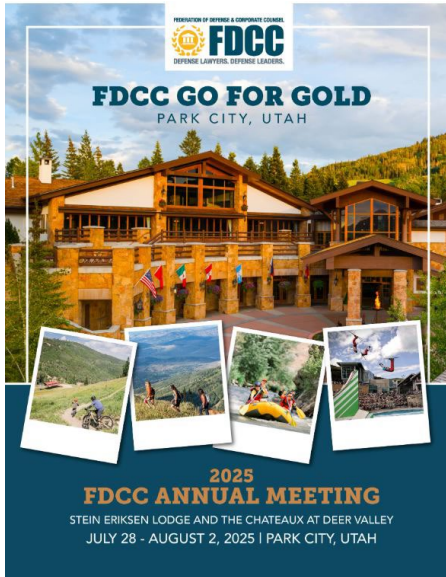
We are proud to unveil the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel’s new logo, a bold and modern reflection of our identity as “Defense Lawyers. Defense Leaders.”

This refreshed design, approved by the Board, represents our continued evolution as we remain a premier association of civil defense litigators and in-house counsel. Thanks to the Logo Design Committee: Chair [Sean Griffin](#); [Scott Kreamer](#), [Micalann Pepe](#), and [Lynne Ingram](#), whose creativity and enthusiasm guided the process to a successful conclusion.

Thanks also to our Platinum Sponsor, [J.S. Held](#), which generously donated its time and expertise to design our new logo, and special thanks to [Betsy Rogers](#) for her outstanding work in guiding the design process. We are grateful for their partnership and vision in helping the FDCC move forward with renewed energy and style.

You can [download the new logo](#) on our website and use it on your firm bio page, your email signature, and anywhere else you want to display your FDCC credentials.

#2 New Podcast on Annual Meeting in Park City



"Go for the Gold" in Park City!

Join over 300 members and families who have already secured their spot at this year's extraordinary FDCC Annual Meeting in picturesque Park City, Utah.

The prestigious [Stein Eriksen Lodge](#) (\$399/night) and its sister property, the [Chateau Deer Valley Resort](#) (\$249/night), will host our cutting-edge plenary sessions, substantive law CLE programs, and elegant evening receptions.

But your experience extends far beyond the conference rooms! Immerse yourself in adventure with curated excursions, gourmet dining events with colleagues, scenic hiking and biking trails, and guided tours throughout the stunning mountain landscape.

Convention Chair [Tiffany Alexander](#) and Program Chair [Lee Hall](#) recently joined [Valerie Kellner](#) for an exclusive podcast preview of the spectacular events awaiting you. Take a moment to listen and discover what makes this year's gathering truly golden.

Watch for the final brochure coming soon. In the meantime, secure your place at what promises to be our most memorable Annual Meeting yet by visiting the registration link below.

[Please click here to listen to the Podcast](#)

[Please click here to register](#)

#3 FDCC On the Road in the Big Easy



Many of you have already registered for the DRI Diversity for Success Seminar which is being held in New Orleans, June 11-15, 2025, and chaired by our very own FDCC Member, Ebony Morris.

If you haven't yet signed up and are planning to do so, you can save up to \$700 if you register on or before April 28, 2025 at: [https://www.dri.org/education-
cle/seminars/2025/diversity](https://www.dri.org/education-
cle/seminars/2025/diversity).

On June 11, 2025, FDCC President Heidi Goebel and President-Elect Marc Harwell will be hosting dinner for FDCC members and potential new members. Price per person is \$100, but if you are an existing FDCC member who brings a potential new member with them to dinner, the FDCC will pick up the tab for both of you!

RSVP by clicking below.

[Please register by clicking here](#)

#4 Corporate Counsel Members Survey



On behalf of the FDCC Corporate Counsel Committee and the AI Committee, we're seeking your input on AI implementation in legal operations.

Specifically, we would like to know: **What AI tools is your in-house legal department currently utilizing for tasks such as billing review, contract drafting, and other legal functions?**

Your insights will help us compile valuable information to share with our membership.

Please send all responses to: Sharon Bridges, RN, BSN, JD General Counsel & Corporate Secretary sharon.bridges@alwmed.org

#5 Members in the Spotlight:

Evans Brittain & Megan McCarthy



Evans Brittain



Megan McCarthy

FDCC Defense Counsel members [Evans Brittain](#) and [Megan McCarthy](#) of [Ball, Ball Matthews & Novak, P.A.](#) in Montgomery, AL recently tried a 7-day jury trial to verdict in the Circuit Court of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

The Plaintiffs filed this action against their homeowner's carrier following a February 6, 2020, house fire, which damaged their house and certain personal property within their house. The Plaintiffs alleged that the insurer breached the insurance policy by failing to properly pay for the damage to their personal property and to the home; and asserted claims of bad faith against their homeowner's carrier in connection with this loss. The demand was \$369,000.00 in personal property replacement coverage, \$356,000.00 in dwelling coverage, and \$500,000.00 for mental anguish under the breach of contract claim, plus \$2,000,000.00 in punitive damages under the bad faith claim.

The Court entered a Judgment as a Matter of Law regarding the personal property replacement coverage portion of the breach of contract claim because the Plaintiffs did not comply with the terms of the policy prior to filing the lawsuit. The jury entered a verdict in favor of the Plaintiffs on the breach of contract claim in the amount of \$178,000.00 in dwelling coverage and \$30,000.00 for mental

anguish. The jury entered a verdict in favor of the homeowner's carrier on the bad faith claim.

Congratulations Evans and Megan on this excellent result!

#5.1 Welcome to Our New Members!



Please join us in welcoming our newest members
who are joining the Federation Family:



Sigurður Sigurjónsson is a Supreme Court Attorney and Owner of **Lögmenn Suðurlandi** in Selfoss, Iceland where his practice focuses on Administrative Law, Criminal Law, Property Rights, Bankruptcy Law and Compensation cases. Prior to his current practice, he was a County Commissioner of South Iceland 1989 – 1993 and has operated the **Lögmenn Suðurlandis** since 1993.

Sigurður and his wife **Svandís Ragnarsdóttir** reside in Reykjavik, Iceland.



Kathryn (Kate) Slade is Claims Counsel-Coverage at **Skyward Specialty Insurance Company** where she undertakes coverage evaluation and support of several business units, and oversees coverage litigation against the Company. Prior to her current responsibilities, Kate worked at Citizen Property Insurance Company and at GEICO in Jacksonville, FL.

She and her husband **Richard** reside in Seattle, WA.

Welcome Aboard!

#5.2 What's on the Docket?



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

- **May 7, 2025 at 2:00PM ET: Law Practice Management Section interactive discussion on "Culture Building Strategies"** with FDCC Defense Counsel members [Jody Briandi](#) and [Nick Haigler](#), who will be joined by Kelly Reese, a subject matter expert on building positive law firm work environments. [Click here to register.](#)
- **July 28 - August 3, 2025: Annual Meeting** at the [Stein Eriksen Lodge & The Chateaux at Deer Valley](#) in Park City, UT. "Go for Gold" with Convention Chair: [Tiffany Alexander](#) and Program Co-Chairs: [Lee Hall](#) and [Kile Turner](#). [Click here to register.](#)
- **September 14-16, 2025: Corporate Counsel Symposium** at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago, IL. Co-Chairs: [Chelsey Golightly](#), [Nicole Benjamin](#), and [Tim Moore](#), Registration coming in Spring 2025.
- **November 5-7, 2025: Insurance Industry Institute** at the Westin Times Square Hotel in New York City. Co-Chairs: [Sarannah McMurtry](#) and [Jeff Van Volkenburg](#). Registration coming in Summer 2025.
- **February 24-28, 2026: Winter Meeting** at the [J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort](#) in Scottsdale, AZ: "**Together We Rise From the Valley**". Convention Chair: [Frank Ramos](#); Program Chair: [Micalann Pepe](#).
- **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](#).

- **February 28-March 4, 2027: Winter Meeting** at the [Fountainbleu Hotel, Miami Beach, FL.](#)
- **July 25-30, 2027: Annual Meeting** at the [Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada.](#)

...and finally,

Have a Nice Day...Walter Judge!



Walter is an FDCC Defense Counsel member and a Director with [Downs, Rachlin Martin](#) in Burlington, VT, where he protects the intellectual property of businesses and defends a wide range of clients, from property owners to automobile makers, to products manufacturers, against negligence and personal injury claims. He also defends business, especially food companies, against false advertising and consumer protection claims. He conducts trials and appeals in both state and federal courts, as well as mediations and arbitrations.

Walter recently advised that he had heart failure after conducting an all day deposition. "I had a heart transplant in late February. I am doing great but still in recovery and not back to work."

If your time permits, please drop Walter a quick note to wish him God-speed in his continued recovery:

wjudge@drm.com

Hang in there Walter - and please keep us posted on your progress.

Thank you for celebrating your 10th anniversary
as a valued member of the FDCC!



Why FDCC?

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