



April 7, 2023 -- Issue 166



BUILDING NETWORKS BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

Good Morning!

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

**The FDCC Officers and Board of Directors
wish you and your family a
Happy Easter and Blessed Passover!**

#1 We're 87!



Throughout history, the sustainability of every great organization is founded on the strength of its leadership; its agility and ability to adapt to changing market conditions; and most importantly...the quality of its membership.

The FDCC was founded on April 9, 1936 as an international defense organization dedicated to the principles of knowledge, justice and fellowship. Its first meeting was held in the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. From its inception, the organization was created to be something special. As Dominic J. Cornella, FDCC President in 1977-78, once said, “[W]e enjoy the unique warmth and camaraderie within our group . . . but most of all we enjoy a mode of ‘*communication*’ uncommon to any group. We are attorneys and company representatives sharing a common cause – a common bond, a most unique attitude to share our experiences, our problems, our knowledge and our efforts to join in sharing the *solutions*, to the benefit of all.”

As noted in our book examining the history of the FDCC by Stephen Pate, our rich history is founded on a legacy of exceptionalism of our members and the tremendous network we work to further solidify each day. Thanks to you, the FDCC will continue to be a leader in the legal profession in the years to come and further advance our purpose of being "the inspired community of vetted defense counsel, exceptional leaders and even better people.”

Happy Birthday!

#2 Why Civility Matters in the Legal Profession and Life Podcast



Civility in the legal profession is embodied in all sorts of laws, rules, codes, and creeds. There's nothing new about civility.

It's just a way of conducting our lives that hopefully will make not just our own lives, but everybody's lives better. And certainly for those of us in the legal profession, isn't that our calling?

In this podcast episode, FDCC Defense Counsel Member and Past President Jean Lawler, of Lawler ADR Services, LLC, talks about what civility is, why it matters to lawyers, and the one key word that makes the difference.

[Click here to listen to Jean's Podcast](#)

#3 Thought Leader Theatre at the FDCC Annual Meeting By: Marisa Trasatti - Program Chair



We all know what makes FDCC "over and above." Our members and our culture! Both will be on exhibit at our Annual Meeting 2023 at the Broadmoor. So, if you want to experience the best of both worlds, JOIN US!

The **Personal Development Track** will open our daily plenary sessions featuring speakers who will lift your hearts and brighten your mornings as they discuss gratitude, believing, leadership, the key to happiness, and true grit.

Next, the **Skills Training Track** will keep you engaged with interactive discussions on the following topics:

- successful damage control after the cyber event hits;
- coupling firm succession planning with personal retirement strategies; and
- crisis management in the social media age.

Get your thinking cap on!

Lastly, the **Emerging Areas of Law Track** will bring you up to date with this fast-changing practice. Learn about:

- the latest in legal tech including, ChatGPT and its progeny;
- litigating fraternity hazing cases;
- and more!

Be prepared for your future caseloads.

The FDCC's Annual Meeting is in Colorado Springs, CO at The Broadmoor Hotel, July 23-28, 2022. [Register Today!](#)

#4 Enhance Your Presentations



The world of legal technology is changing rapidly. So, too, is the use of apps and other offerings in the courtroom and boardroom. Our FedTechU will provide you with a means by which to master the most effective tools and resources to make your visual presentations more persuasive and memorable.

We have a few seats remaining for the **April 28-30, 2023** session in Philadelphia, PA, in which FDCC members teach one another (and any of your associates who would like to attend), the tricks of the trade. Bring your iPad and learn the effective use of:

- Notability
- Trial Pad
- Human Anatomy Atlas
- PowerPoint and Haiku Deck

- Google Earth
- Timeline 3D
- iMovie
- Keynote
- Liquid Text

...and other applications to take your visual presentations to the next level. Questions? Please contact FDCC Defense Counsel and FedTechU Chair [Jimmy Wilkins](#).

[Click here to register for FedTechU](#)

#5 FedMEETS in Birmingham, AL



For all FDCC members in the Birmingham, AL area, please swing by the [Key Circle Commons](#) next Wednesday, **April 12, 2023 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM** to meet with your fellow members.

The event is being hosted by FDCC Defense Counsel Member [John Scott](#) of [Scott, Dukes & Geisler](#) in Birmingham. Remember...your first adult beverage is on us! Please **RSVP** directly to [John Scott](#).

#5.1 FDCC Webinar on FL Tort Reform



If by chance you were one of the ones who missed Wednesday's webinar on the history and impact of Florida's new tort reform law, you can click on the link below to watch it at your leisure, or share it with your colleagues.

FDCC Defense Counsel and Board Member [Frank Ramos](#) of [Clarke Silverglate](#) in Miami, FL also walked members through the new bad faith standards, the unintended consequences of the new law, and how it will impact insurers and defense counsel alike. You can also

[click on this link](#) to read Frank's paper analyzing the current environment and what lies ahead.

[Click here to watch the webinar](#)

#5.2 Welcome to Our New Members!



Please welcome our newly vetted and approved members!



[Audrey K. Bentz](#) is a Partner with [Janik, LLP](#) in Cleveland, OH, where her practice focuses on Insurance, Professional Liability, Business Litigation, Torts, Toxic Torts and Transportation. She also leads the firm's emergency response team.

While a law student, Audrey served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Philip P. Simon of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana and the Honorable Ronald F. Bartkowicz of the Cook County Circuit Court. Audrey has handled cases thru trial and appeal, including arguing twice before The Supreme Court of Ohio. She has also handled administrative proceedings before various state professional boards. Audrey and her husband [Matthew Wartko](#) reside in Sagamore Hills, OH.



[Jeffrey J. Jurca](#) is a Partner with [Jurca & Lashuk](#) in Columbus, OH where his practice is focused primarily on trucking and transportation, including the investigation, mediation, and litigation of catastrophic loss claims. He represents manufacturers in the defense of product liability lawsuits, and is experienced in other complex civil litigation. He also represents professionals in licensing and disciplinary matters before state regulatory boards. Jeffrey and his wife [Melanie](#) reside in Gahanna, OH.



[Atoyia S. Harris](#) is Special Employment Law Counsel at with [Proskauer Rose, LLP](#) in New Orleans, LA, where she serves as the Administrative Leader of the Discrimination, Harassment, & Title VII Practice Group. Atoyia advises and defends clients, and conducts investigations and trainings on issues related to discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and other employment-related matters. Her practice also includes counseling clients on reductions-in-

force, Covid-19 related matters, issues arising out of social movements including Black Lives Matter and #MeToo, and other sensitive employment issues.

Atoyia is also Co-Chair of the Firm's Black Lawyer Affinity Group, serves as a member of the Firm's Associate Council, and is on the Proskauer Women's Alliance Steering Committee. She and her husband Timothy reside in Slidell, LA.

Welcome Aboard!

#5.3 What's on the Docket? FDCC's Upcoming Events



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

- **April 12, 2023 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM: FedMEETS in Birmingham, AL** at the Key Circle Commons: Please **RSVP** to FDCC Defense Counsel member [John Scott](#).
- **April 19, 2022 at 1:00PM ET - FDCC Law Practice Management Town Hall Meeting: "Law Firm Economics."** Join Moderator Jody Briandi and her guests: Marc Young; Floyd Cottrell & Stacy Broman. [Click here to register.](#)
- **April 28 - 30, 2023: FedTechU** at the Headquarters of Veritext in Philadelphia, PA. [Click here to register.](#)
- **May 17, 2023 at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT: Roundtable for In-House Insurance Members.** [Click Here to Register.](#)
- **June 14, 2023 at 1:00PM ET - FDCC Law Practice Management Town Hall Meeting: "Strategic Planning: process, purpose & goals."** Join Moderator Jody Briandi and her guests: John Trimble; Steve Embry & Frank Ramos. [Click here to register.](#)
- **July 23 - 28, 2023: FDCC's Annual Meeting at The Broadmoor Resort & Hotel** in Colorado Springs, CO. Convention Chair: [Casey Stansbury](#). Program Chair: [Marisa Trasatti](#). Registration coming soon.

- **October 22 - 24, 2023: FDCC's Corporate Counsel Symposium** at the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. *"The Leader in WE"*. Co-Chairs: [Alison Christian](#) and [Bill Vita](#).
- **November 8 - 10, 2023: FDCC's Insurance Industry Institute (I-3)** at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel. *"Insights, Innovation & Inspiration: New Approaches for Insurance Leaders."* Co-Chairs: [Micalann Pepe](#) and [Alycen Moss](#).
- **February 25 - 29, 2024: FDCC's Winter Meeting at the Vinoy Renaissance Hotel** in St. Petersburg, FL. Convention Chair [Sean Griffin](#); Program Chair: [Frank Ramos](#)

...and finally...
**Have a Nice Day
John R. Seymour!**



John is the General Counsel and Compliance Director at [MSS Solutions, LLC](#) in Charlotte, NC, where his responsibilities are centered on global manufacturing with an emphasis on contracts, negotiations and business transactions. John has been a valued Corporate Counsel Member of the FDCC since 2020.

He has particular expertise in evaluating the business and legal ramifications of contracts and business deals, building consensus internally and externally, and negotiating workable business solutions given complex factors and time sensitivity.

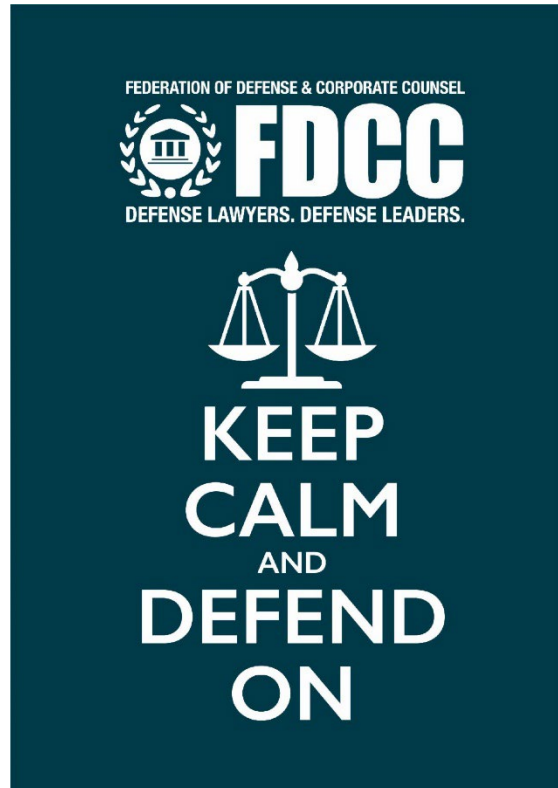
And today, is John's birthday! Please join us in sending him a congratulatory email to:

john.seymour@mssolutions.com

Congratulations John, and all the very best to you, Kellen and the family in the years to come!

Why FDCC?

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



Be Exceptional Today!

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience)
Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"