



August 5, 2022 -- Issue 131



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.

**#1 Congratulations to FDCC President
Howard Merten**



FDCC Defense Counsel [Howard Merten](#) (right) of Partridge, Snow & Hahn in Providence, RI accepted the gavel of leadership from outgoing President [Bob Christie](#) of the Christie Law Group during transition ceremonies at the FDCC's Business Meeting in Seattle last Friday. Howard will lead the Federation during his tenure as President for the 2022 - 2023 term.

Outlining his objectives for the coming year, President Merten said he would be focusing on the theme of "Building Networks. Building Friendships" as one of the many benefits FDCC members enjoy, as well as on measuring and fostering the incremental value of referrals of new business received by members. (Have you filled out our survey on the amount of business generated through your membership in the FDCC? Please take a moment to do so by [clicking here](#)...thanks!). The coming year will also see the Federation further deepening its bench strength through Howard's leadership in working with the Substantive Law Sections and engaging more members; in implementing the objectives of the strategic plan to sustain the future of the organization and by increasing the number of members attending our meetings.

We wish Howard and our new First Lady, [Roni Dash](#), all the very best in the exciting year ahead.

#2 New Board Members Elected



**Caroline Berdzik
Goldberg Segalla**



**Valerie Kellner
Wilson Elser**



**Alan Rutkin
Rivkin Radler**



**John Trimble
Lewis Wagner**

We're also congratulating the newly elected FDCC members who were elected to the Board of Directors during the Annual Business Meeting in Seattle last Friday:

- [Caroline Berdzik](#) is a Partner in the Princeton, NJ office of Goldberg Segalla;
- [Valerie Kellner](#) is Of Counsel in the Philadelphia, PA office of Wilson Elser;
- [Alan Rutkin](#) is a Partner in Rivkin Radler's office in New York, NY; and
- [John Trimble](#) is a Partner at Lewis Wagner in Indianapolis, IN

This year's Board of Directors will be comprised of the following members:

- **Officers:** [Howard Merten](#) - President; [Craig Marvinney](#) - President-Elect; [Heidi Goebel](#) - Secretary/Treasurer; [Bob Christie](#) - Board Chair; [Bernie Heinze](#) - Executive Director (Ex Officio)
- **Senior Directors:** [Tiffany Alexander](#) (Tannenbaum Keale); [Lauren Curtis](#) (Traub Lieberman); [Sean Griffin](#) (Dykema); [Marc Harwell](#) (Harwell & Hurst); [R. Jeff Kelsey](#) (FedEx Corporation); [Jennifer Johnsen](#) (Gallivan, White & Boyd); [Frank Ramos](#) (Clarke & Silverglate); [Casey Stansbury](#) (Freeman Mathis & Gray); and [Marisa Trasatti](#) (Sciton and Cipriano & Werner)
- **Directors:** [Caroline Berdzik](#) (Goldberg Segalla); [Alison Christian](#) (Liberty Mutual Insurance Company); [Lee Hall](#) (Jenkins Fenstermaker); [Valerie Kellner](#) (Wilson Elser); [Daniel McGrath](#) (Hinshaw & Culbertson); [Alan Rutkin](#) (Rivkin Radler); [Heather Sanderson](#) (Sanderson Law); [John Trimble](#) (Lewis Wagner) and [Kile Turner](#) (Norman Wood Kendrick & Turner)



FDCC's 2022-2023 Board of Directors

#3 Business Partner Corner: J.S. Held



Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) Technology & Analysis

**By: John Carroll, Brian Flinn & Dale
Clark of J.S. Held**

Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction of light and matter. Infrared spectroscopy is highly useful in failure analysis and can be a great asset in cases in which it is critical to understand why and how a material failure occurred. In infrared spectroscopy, infrared light, which is electromagnetic radiation (EMR) with wavelengths longer than those of visible light, is shone either on or through material.

The interaction between infrared light and the material creates a signal that can be used to understand its chemistry. Specialized infrared spectrographic instruments have been developed, the most useful of which is the Fourier

Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer. The use of FTIR is typically nondestructive to the sample, so evidence is left intact and unaffected.

FTIR is a spectroscopic technique used in the characterization and evaluation of materials by identifying the “chemical family” of a substance. When a material sample is analyzed, it produces a spectra with absorption peaks corresponding to vibrational frequencies of bonds between the atoms making up the material. This infrared spectra functions like a chemical “fingerprint” which can be compared to reference databases to determine the chemical family or actual identity of unknown components and compounds. FTIR is also useful for identification of contaminants and chemical agents in contact with failed parts, and chemical bonds and sequences resulting from degradation such as from heat, water, oxygen, oxidizers, or UV light.

[Click here to read the entire article](#)



For additional information of the suite of expert services offered by our valued business partners at J.S. Held, please contact [Betsy Rogers](#) or [Teddy Brown](#). We thank them for their valued friendship and continued sponsorship of the FDCC and our meetings.

**#4 Registration Opens for Winter 2023
Meeting in Nashville, TN**



FDCC Defense Counsel Lauren Curtis, Sean Griffin and Marc Young are excited to invite you to be among the first to register to attend the Federation's Winter Meeting to be held at the Omni Hotel in Nashville, TN, February 19-23, 2023.

"Friends in ALL Places" is the Convention theme [Lauren Curtis](#) has designed as an FDCC-appropriate take-off of the iconic Garth Brooks song that truly represents the strong friendships across the general membership along with the opportunity to continue building the network and relationships in the years to come. The on-site and off-site activities will provide you with an exclusive opportunity to see some of Music City's finest venues and enjoy those experiences with your family members, and with one another.

[Sean Griffin](#) is the Program Chair for the meeting and is working side-by-side with Program Vice Chair [Marc Young](#) in developing a series of outstanding educational offerings by subject matter experts, as well as one with a singer songwriter! **"Our Heroes Have Always Been Lawyers!"** is the theme for the program. There is so much more you will be able to take advantage of, with a full description of the entire program (together with a keynote by Adam Liptak, who is the US Supreme Court reporter for the *New York Times*, our traditional dine arounds and dessert party!), coming soon.

In the meantime, please take advantage of the opportunity for early registration by clicking on the box below and reserving your place - and your hotel room - for the 2023 Winter Meeting today.

[Please click here to register!](#)

5 Property Insurance Section's *Issues to Watch*

The FDCC's Property Insurance Substantive Law Section has released its monthly update on *Issues to Watch*.

Our thanks to [Christina May Bolin](#) of [Christina & Small](#), LLP in Daphne, AL for authoring this month's issue, which addresses recent developments in the topics of:

- Timely Notice of Claim
- Assignment of a Bad Faith Claim, and
- Appraisals

If your practice includes a focus on property Insurance law, please consider joining the members of the [Property Substantive Law Section](#) to further expand your knowledge and engage with other FDCC practitioners. Just click on the blue "Join Section Now" button on the Section's web page!



[Click here to read the full update](#)

#5.1 Welcome to Our New Members



- [Hanson D. Horn](#) is a Partner with [The Cook Group, PLLC](#) in New York, NY and Ft. Lauderdale, FL where his practice focuses on general civil defense litigation, including insurance defense, product liability, toxic tort, property and casualty litigation, environmental claims, premises liability, business disputes, and advisory work. Hanson has also successfully briefed and argued appellate matters involving premises liability, construction defect, and products liability before the appellate courts of Mississippi, Florida and New York.
- [Rob D. James](#) is a Partner with [Conner & Winters, LLP](#) in Tulsa, OK where his practice is primarily focused on litigation of complex commercial, contract, tort, products liability and insurance matters. He also provides insurance and risk management consultation and representation to insurance companies, rental car companies and other business insureds and self-insured companies. Rob handles litigation involving hospital, physician, nursing home, and other health care liability, abuse and molestation liability, trucking and other vehicular accidents, product liability including vehicles, consumer products and asbestos litigation, real estate and construction torts, extra-contractual insurance bad faith claims, premises liability, environmental/toxic tort claims, wrongful death and general personal injury. Rob and his wife [Melanie](#) reside in Tulsa.
- [Jessica L. Dark](#) is a Partner with [Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green, LLP](#) in Oklahoma City, OK where her practice is primarily devoted to defending government officials and entities in lawsuits involving allegations of civil rights violations. Jessica also focuses her practice on employment law, including

providing counsel on employment-related issues and defending employers in state and federal litigation, as well as general tort liability. She is also a member of the [Ruth Bader Ginsberg American Inn of Courts](#).

Welcome Aboard!

#5.2 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:

- **August 16-17, 2022: FDCC Virtual Deposition Boot Camp** - 10:00am to 6:00PM ET. Register by emailing: danielle@thefederation.org.
- **August 31st - at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT: FDCC Law Firm Leadership Town Hall.** [Click Here to Register!](#)
- **September 30 - October 2, 2022: FedTechU/West** at Gordon & Rees in San Francisco, CA. [Click Here to Register!](#) (class is limited to 20 attendees).
- **October 16-18, 2022: FDCC's Corporate Counsel Symposium** at the Downtown Marriott in Philadelphia, PA. Registration coming soon.

- **November 9, 2022: FDCC's Property Insurance Boot Camp** at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel in New York City, NY. Registration coming soon.
- **November 9-11, 2022: FDCC's Insurance Industry Institute (I-3)** at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel in New York City, NY. Registration coming soon.
- **November 30 - December 2, 2022: LCJ Meeting** at the Westin New York at Times Square Hotel.
- **February 19 - 23, 2023: FDCC's Winter Meeting** at the Omni Hotel in Nashville, TN. [Click Here to Register!](#)
- **July 23 - 28, 2023: FDCC's Annual Meeting at The Broadmoor Resort & Hotel** in Colorado Springs, CO.
- **February 25 - 29, 2024: FDCC's Winter Meeting at the Vinoy Renaissance Hotel** in St. Petersburg, FL

...and finally...
Have a Nice Day
Maria Louise Cousineau !



Maria Louise (Ria) Cousineau concentrates her practice in complex insurance coverage matters and bad faith litigation, addressing issues in property and liability policies in both commercial and personal lines.

She has been a valued member of the FDCC since 2020.

Ria has defended insurer clients, through trial and appeal, in bad faith and coverage litigation in California, Nevada, and Oklahoma, and regularly counsels insurer clients on complex coverage questions. She has represented property insurers in numerous class actions in California. She is often asked to assist attorneys in other regions in preparing institutional cases and witnesses for deposition and trial.

Aside from the FDCC, Ria is also a member of the ABA, the California and Nevada Bar Associations, the LA County Bar Association, DRI, the Loss Executives Association, and the National Association of Insurance Women. She also volunteers as a mediator/arbitrator for numerous courts in Los Angeles County and regularly provides pro bono legal services to people of limited means.

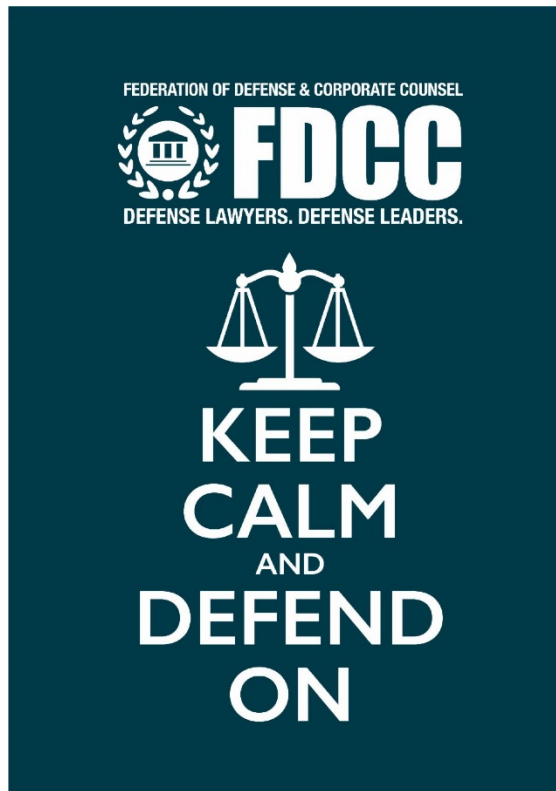
Yesterday, Ria celebrated her birthday! Please join with us in sending her belated good wishes to:

mcousineau@cozen.com

and to wish her all the very best, as well as continued good health, success and happiness in the years to come. Happy (Belated) Birthday, Ria!

Why FDCC?

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



Be Exceptional Today!