

FEDERATION OF DEFENSE & CORPORATE COUNSEL



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



June 21, 2024 -- Issue 229

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.



Please click on the links for the [Brochure](#) and to [Register](#) to attend the **2024 Annual Meeting. See you at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Ontario - July 28 to August 3!**

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#1 New Roundtable Series for Law Firm Leaders



Jody Briandi



Steve Embry

Are you a managing partner or hold a significant leadership position in your law firm? Are you facing the unique management challenges that come with running a small to mid-sized practice? We understand the complexities and are excited to announce a new initiative designed specifically for you.

The FDCC's [Law Practice Management Section](#) is launching a series of small group discussion roundtables. Over the last 2 years, members of the Law Practice Management Section (and beyond), have tuned into our Townhall Webinars on topics focused on the pressing issues faced by law firms today including technology, culture, recruitment and retention, marketing, billable hours, time entry, and the list goes on. After every webinar, there is always a sense we just scratched the surface, that the 1-hour allotted went too fast and that the best discussions are unscripted, happen organically and are often in the chat.

Therefore, unlike more traditional webinars, these roundtables are intended to be smaller group, interactive forums where you can share experiences, discuss challenges, ask questions and brainstorm solutions with peers who understand the unique landscape of defense law firms.

Why Participate?

1. Interactive Discussions: Engage in meaningful conversations with other leaders who face similar challenges.
2. Peer Support: Gain insights and advice from fellow managing partners and leaders in our industry.
3. Collaborative Problem Solving: Work together to identify and implement effective management strategies.

How to Get Involved

We are currently seeking participants for our initial roundtable sessions. If you are in a management role and interested in joining these discussions, please respond with your name, position, and firm details. We will be in touch with more information and scheduling details. We anticipate remote meetings, but also getting together during our in-person meetings.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, collaborate, learn, and lead your firm more effectively. Please let us know if you would like to participate by reaching out to Jody Briandi at jeb@hurwitzfine.com or Stephen Embry at sembry@techlawcrossroads.com.



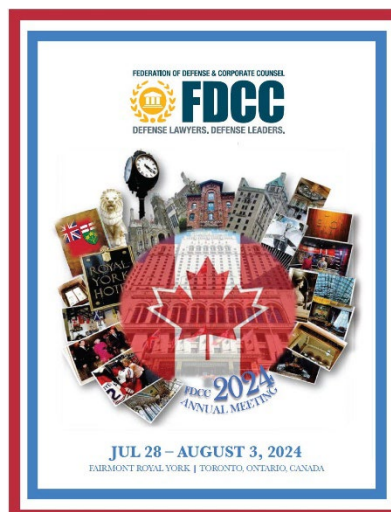
You can watch last week's Law Practice Management Section's interactive meeting on **developing and sustaining law firm culture** by [clicking on the thumbnail above](#).

#2 Annual Meeting Updates

- **Want Referrals?**

FDCC Meetings provide the best way to develop your network by forming those trusted personal relationships that lead to referrals from your Federation colleagues and their clients from across the country.

Our Annual Meeting in Toronto - July 28 to August 3, 2024 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel - is a perfect place to combine enjoying all this vibrant venue has to offer with your family, learning and enhancing your competencies in one-of-a-kind CLE, plenary and keynote sessions and continuing to build your network with the other defense & corporate counsel and insurance industry professionals - all in one place. **Click on the image above for the Meeting landing page, brochure and to register today.**



- **Experience the Experiences!**

Speaking of "one-of-a-kind experiences, we've got them! The FDCC Foundation will be holding a silent auction at the Meeting for you to bid on:

- a three-day weekend get-away at Todd & Debbie Roberts' home in Carmel Valley, CA and a wine tasting at the famous Talbott Winery in Carmel-by-the-Sea
- join Ned & Sue Currie for an Ole Miss football game with tickets to the game and tailgating at the famous Grove; and
- (are you ready for this?) a once in a lifetime Duck Hunting weekend with Brad Box in Tennessee. Seriously!

Bring your checkbooks! In the meantime, if you have an experience you'd like to donate to the Foundation to auction at the Meeting (tax deductible), please email [Todd Roberts](mailto:Todd.Roberts@fdcc.org).

- **"Dining with Friends" on July 31st**

Sign-Up for dining with your FDCC current - and soon to be made new besties - on Wednesday, July 31st by [clicking here](#). We've selected 15 of Toronto's finest dining establishments to provide you with a memorable evening. Be sure to leave room for dessert back at the hotel for our celebrated annual Dessert Party!

- **Exciting Off-Site Events**

We have also arranged some exceptional off-site excursions for you and the family to enjoy while at the Meeting. [Click here to register](#) for as many as you would like to attend before they are sold out!

- **Foundation Evening with the Zubers!**

The FDCC Foundation invites you to join Lisa and David Zuber and the Foundation Board for “Fun Night at the Zubers”. Wednesday night July 31. We promise lots of food, heavy appetizers, beer, wine, a Canadian cocktail, friendship and fun. Outdoor games weather permitting. Help us raise funds for the Federation Foundation. Ticket price is \$200 per person. Sign up on the registration form. Seating is limited.

Dress Code: Canadian Tuxedo - look it up! (You almost certainly have it in your closet). As the goal is to raise as much money as possible for the Foundation, we would welcome any donations to the event, particularly to a wine and liquor fund. We have already received donations of:

Transportation - Mike & Trish Glascott
Beer - Todd and Debbie Roberts

If anyone would like to donate to either a food fund or wine and liquor fund please let us know. We would be appreciative. We need to order all liquor through the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. This will be a fun event you won't want to miss.

**#3 Helping the FDCC Remain
“Over and Above” & “Seeing the Wind”
By: Lee Hall**



NOMINATE SOMEONE AWESOME

Have you worked with an attorney, in-house counsel, or industry member who is “Over And Above”? Perhaps it is counsel for a codefendant, a leader in another organization, underlying counsel in a trial you were monitoring, or a speaker or presenter at a conference. Perhaps it is appellate counsel or counsel for an excess carrier. If so tell them about the FDCC, our outstanding programming, the close connection among our

members, the incomparable meetings, and endless opportunities for education, fun and visibility.

You are in the best position to identify those who understand our mission, our goals and our standards and we need your help identifying those candidates.

We have a few tips to help you, our excellent Home Office, and the Admissions Committee through this process:

- Once you have a candidate in mind, check to see if there are other members of the firm who belong to the FDCC. If so, talk with the existing members to confirm that they support that member's application.
- Similarly, if you have a candidate in mind and have limited exposure to that candidate, call the state representative or one or more members from that jurisdiction to ask his or her impressions. If they do not know him or her, arrange for a lunch or coffee meeting with the potential member.
- Once you have decided to nominate a member, talk with the candidate about the organization, the opportunities it affords and the nomination process.

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



[Lee Hall](#) is an FDCC Defense Counsel member, Chair of the Membership Retention Committee and a Partner with [Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC](#) in Huntington, WV. Would you take a moment to think of defense or corporate counsel or insurance industry professionals you'd like to nominate to join you in the Federation? Nominating a candidate is easy. Just [send us an email](#) with their contact information (and as warranted, a member to second the nomination). We will take it from there.

#4 Member in the Spotlight: Why is Nick Lanza Smiling?



It's not often that defense counsel step up to the plate in a courtroom and after a 9-day trial are still able to hit a grand slam home run. But that's what [Nick Lanza](#) of the [Lanza Law Firm](#) just did in winning a defense verdict in Harris County (Houston), TX in a contentious wrongful death action in which Plaintiff had demanded \$122 million.

As Nick tells us, his employer client was sued after an employee had a heart attack on the job on a construction site. On the day of the incident, Plaintiff's decedent and the scaffolding crew walked up 22 stories to the roof to obtain equipment that had previously been staged. They made it up to the roof without incident. After walking down several floors, Plaintiff's decedent was helping to pass equipment down as part of the chain line when he unfortunately had a heart attack and passed away. During discovery, it was found that he'd had a prior, undisclosed history of heart issues. As a consequence, the jury found no liability on Nick's client.

Congratulations Nick!

If you've had a great result, received accolades from your peers, or have something to celebrate, please [email us](#) the details so we can share it in the 5's!

#5 Welcome Our New Members



Please join us in welcoming the following new members who have been admitted to our membership:



Elizabeth R. Sharrock is a Partner with **Rhodes Hieronymus Jones Tucker & Gable, PLLC** in Oklahoma City, OK where her litigation practice is focused on professional liability defense (design professionals, medical professionals, attorneys, accountants, veterinarians), employment law defense, premises liability, and general civil litigation.

For the first 8.5 years of her career, she was a public servant (Assistant District Attorney, then litigation defense as an Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division). Elizabeth and her husband **Mike Jadoon** reside in Edmond, OK.



John D. McKenna is a partner with **L'Abbate, Balken, Colavita & Contini, LLP** in Melville, NY, where his concentration is in the area of complex insurance coverage litigation, bad faith litigation and alternative dispute resolution in New York, New Jersey and throughout the United States.

In addition, John advises various insurance carriers and reinsurers on a broad range of issues involving sophisticated insurance programs and multifaceted factual scenarios. John and his wife **Denise** reside in Greenlawn, NY.

Welcome Aboard!

#5.1 What's on the Docket?



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

- **LATER TODAY -- June 21, 2024 at 12:00PM ET: FDCC Insurance Coverage Webinar: "The Role of Coverage Counsel in Mediating Liability Claims,"** moderated by [Adam Durst](#) with [Jean Lawler](#) and [John Trimble](#). [Click here to register](#).
- **June 26, 2024 at 5:30PM: FedMeets with All Hoosiers!** Meet us at the [Public Greens](#), 902 E 64th St, Indianapolis. Please RSVP no later than June 12 via email to becky.mcdonald@ya.law.
- **July 10, 2024 at 2:00PM ET: FDCC Corporate Roundtable on the Intersection of DEI and ESG** moderated by [Michael Rettig](#), Global CLO and CCO of Giorgi Global Holdings, Inc. **OPEN TO FDCC CORPORATE COUNSEL ONLY**. [Click here to register](#).
- **July 28 - August 3, 2024: FDCC Annual Meeting at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, ON.** Convention Chair: [Marisa Trasatti](#); Program Chair: [Tiffany Alexander](#).
- **September 15-17, 2024: Corporate Counsel Symposium** at The Windsor Court Hotel in New Orleans, LA. Co-Chairs: [April](#)

[Berman, Valerie Kellner & Shelly Masters](#). Click on the links for the [brochure](#) and to [register](#).

- **October 16, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET: Corporate Counsel Roundtable "Legal Department Cost Pressures in the Post-Pandemic World."** Moderator: [Daniel C. DeMerchant](#), Vice President & General Counsel American Nuclear Insurers. **OPEN TO FDCC CORPORATE COUNSEL MEMEBRS ONLY**. Click here to register.
- **February 23-27, 2025: Winter Meeting** at the The Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, SC. Registration Coming Soon! Convention Chair: [Jeff Kelsey](#) and Program Chair: [Dan McGrath](#)
- **July 28 - August 3, 2025: Annual Meeting** at the [Stein Erikson Lodge](#) & [The Chateaux at Deer Valley](#) in Park City, UT. Convention Chair: [Tiffany Alexander](#) and Program Chair: [Lee Hall](#)

...and finally,
"Have a Nice Day"
F. Ewin Henson, III !



Ewin is a Partner with [Upshaw, Williams, Biggers & Beckham, LLP](#) in Greenwood, MS, where he focuses his practice on insurance coverage issues and litigation, toxic torts, commercial litigation, general tort litigation, product and premise liability and professional errors and omissions litigation (other than medical), as well as governmental liability, automobile liability and trucking cases. He has been a valued member of the FDCC since 2004.

Ewin has conducted numerous continuing education classes on insurance coverage, governmental liability and other topics for clients and has been a speaker on lawyers professional liability issues at seminars presented by the recommended liability

carrier for the Mississippi Bar. He is on the Mississippi Courts' Approved Mediators List and has conducted mediations on insurance coverage, automobile liability and general tort cases as well as nursing home cases.

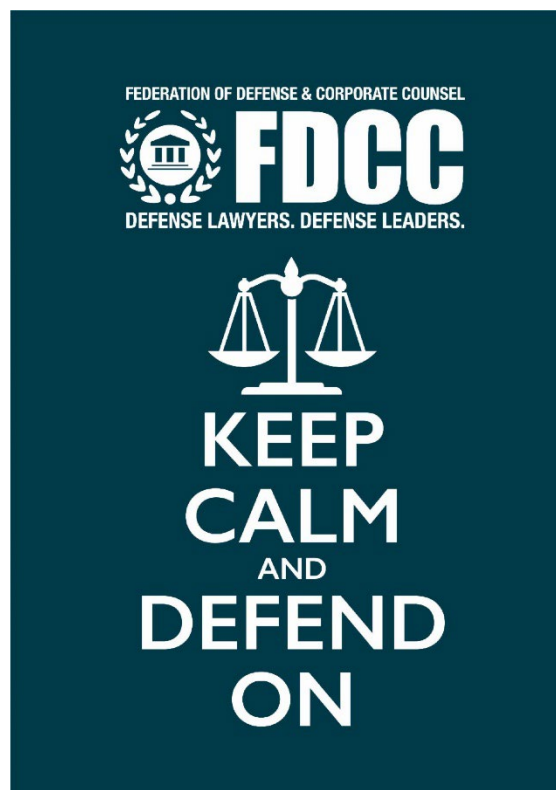
And on Sunday, Ewin will be celebrating his birthday! Would you please join us in sending him a Happy Birthday email to:

ehenson@upshawwilliams.com

Congratulations Ewin, and our very best wishes to you, Claudia and the family for continued good health, success and happiness in the years to come.
Thanks for your 20 years of membership in the Federation!

Why FDCC?

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



Be Exceptional Today!

