

FEDERATION OF DEFENSE & CORPORATE COUNSEL



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



June 24, 2022 -- Issue 125

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 conducting on behalf of all our members.

#1 Early Registration Rate for the Annual Meeting Ends Today



"Together We're Better!"

You can always register for the FDCC's 2022 Annual Meeting in Seattle, July 25-30, 2022 -- but the deadline for the early registration rate ends today at 5:00PM ET.

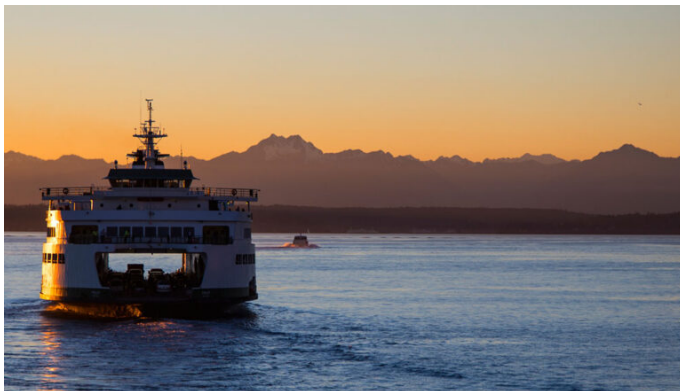
If you have not yet registered for the meeting, please [Click Here](#) to do so today!

The FDCC [Annual Meeting brochure](#) contains all the informative programs and memorable off-site activities of which you will want to take advantage that have been arranged by our Convention Chair [Heidi Goebel](#). The brochure also contains a complete listing of the valuable, relevant and informative Plenary and Substantive Law Section programs that our Program Chair [Amy Miletich](#) has put together.

If you have not yet had a chance to register, now's your chance to join with your over 350 FDCC friends and family members who have already done so! If you'd rather not register online - just use this [PDF form](#). And if you have any questions, please call us: 610-992-0002 so we can help with any logistics or inquiries.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

#2 Sixty Seconds in Seattle



We're looking forward to making "Seattle our Resort and the Pacific Northwest our Playground!"

And speaking of fun things to see and do while we're all together, how about a ride across Puget Sound aboard one of 22 [Washington State](#)

[Ferries](#) vessels? It is a quintessential Pacific Northwest experience. Enjoy the breathtaking views from the bow of the boat as you cruise to the nearby communities of Bainbridge Island or Bremerton. This is one of those cases where the journey is as much fun as the destination.

With outstanding plenary and CLE sessions from subject matter experts, relevant keynote speakers and a "ferry boatload" of on-site and off-site experiences that have all been arranged for FDCC members, you just can't afford to miss joining us in Seattle! [Please register to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting today.](#)

#3 Selecting the FDCC's Leadership



At each Annual Meeting of the FDCC, the Nominating Committee meets to hear from members and interviews those candidates standing for the positions of Director, Senior Director and Secretary-Treasurer on the Board of Directors. The Committee then recommends a slate of

Board candidates to be voted on by the general membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

To provide your comments on those members standing for election, kindly [click here](#) to reserve a time slot with the Nominating Committee on Thursday, July 28th in the Chiliwack Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee would still like to hear from you. Please send a confidential email or letter to Executive Director [Bernie Heinze](#), so he can provide it to the Nominating Committee members.

To see all the candidates standing for election to the Board and to read their leadership summaries, as well as the Secretary-Treasurer candidate's Candidate Statement, please [click here](#).

#4 Law Firm Leadership - Town Hall Virtual Sessions Scheduled By: Howard Merten - President-Elect



Caroline Berdzik



Frank Ramos



Jody Briandi

Not surprisingly, many of our talented and passionate members find themselves in management roles at their firm – officially and unofficially. Leveraging that talent and experience, the FDCC held a series of popular and engaging webinars during our virtual COVID exile. Topics included the crisis of a looming pandemic, mobilizing a remote workforce, simultaneously sustaining “WFH” and firm culture, and most recently, how to stay ahead of the Great Resignation. Open and frank discussions were the order of the day – no doubt the result of the relationships and trust fostered by the FDCC community. I had the opportunity to participate in those webinars. In each one I felt like I was sharing ideas with friends and colleagues.

We heard two comments over and over. First, people raised a ton of other topics to discuss. Second, people wanted an opportunity for broader participation and conversation. In response, the Law Firm Management and Member Communications Committee have created the **FDCC Law Firm Leaders Podcast and Town Hall Series**. Using FedSpeaks’ platform, FDCC firm leaders will present a series of podcasts on issues of interest and concern to firm leaders. The podcasts will set the stage for related Town Halls, **open to all interested members (and member-firm managers) and intended to facilitate broad participation and continued dialogue on the same topic by others in the FDCC Community**.

The first podcast has been recorded - which you can listen to now by [clicking here](#), or wherever you get your podcasts. The follow-up and open Town Hall will be held **July 5th, 2022 at 2:30Pm ET / 11:30AM PT and address a problem all law firms face – how to improve compliance with administrative necessities, like time entry, billing, collections, etc.** The podcast featured [Caroline Berdzik](#), [Jody Briandi](#), and [Frank Ramos](#) and some lively discussion. Be sure and listen to the podcast and then [join our follow-up Town Hall, on July 5th at 2:30PM ET by clicking here.](#)

Speaking personally, I have learned much and received wise counsel from my peers in the FDCC struggling with the same issues and opportunities we have at my firm. I invite you to participate and share and receive that same kind of wise counsel and collegial support.

Please mark your calendars to join all the free Virtual Town Hall Sessions. Each one will begin at 2:30PM ET:

- [July 5th](#)
- July 21st
- August 31st
- September 30th
- October 31st
- December 5th

#5 Member in the Spotlight M.C. Sungalia



When each of us goes to trial or mediation, the time and effort of preparation, perseverance and the determination to right the wrongs is rewarded when the intended result is achieved. Such was the case this week with FDCC Defense Counsel Member [Mary Christine "M.C." Sungalia](#), a Shareholder of the [Buchalter](#) firm in Newport Coast, CA, who was the recipient of a dramatic [64-page opinion](#) published by the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in a political asylum pro bono case win (over a vigorous dissent), following a hard fought battle of the issues.

As M.C described it, she was privileged to work with an amazing team in achieving this result, which included [Paula Mitchell](#), Joshua Ostrer, the [Loyola Law School, Los Angeles](#) Ninth Circuit Clinic, and her supervision of then-law students [Tina Kuang](#) and [Natalie Kalbakian](#) in the case.

The majority opinion describes why they won:

Petitioner, Mario Rajib Flores Molina, participated in demonstrations against the ruling regime in his native Nicaragua, where he witnessed the murder of his friend and fellow protester by police and paramilitary members. Thereafter, he was publicly marked as a terrorist, threatened with torture and death by government operatives, and forced to flee his home.

The Petitioner however, was tracked down at his hideaway by armed paramilitary members, and was forced to flee for his life a second time. He still was not safe. He was discovered, yet again, assaulted, and threatened with death by a government-aligned group. He ultimately fled a third time— from Nicaragua altogether—out of fear for his safety, eventually presenting himself to authorities at the United States border and sought asylum and other relief.

When he sought asylum, withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture (“CAT”), an Immigration Judge (“IJ”) and the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”) determined that his past experiences in Nicaragua did not rise to the level of persecution. As the Court ruled, “[b]ecause the record compels a finding that [these] past experiences constitute persecution and because the BIA erred in its analysis of the other issues, we grant the first petition and remand for further proceedings.”

Now that's federation exceptionalism. Congratulations M.C.!

Hat Tip: Jean Lawler

#5.1 New FDCC Podcast: "Creating A Home"



Natasha Khachatourians



Mohamed Bakry

Our newest program on the FedSpeaks podcast channel is called "Creating a Home," that will focus on the stories of immigrants and the law to create a space that is welcoming and provides opportunities to immigrants and those of diverse backgrounds. This inaugural episode features FDCC Defense Counsel Members [Natasha Khachatourians](#) of [Betts Patterson Mines](#) in Seattle, WA and [Mohamed Bakry](#) of [Marshall Dennehey](#) in Philadelphia, PA.

Listen in as Natasha has Mohamed describe his journey to the United States, from the time he was born in Alexandria, Egypt and through to the time that he became a partner in his law firm. What was it like to become an American citizen after securing a number of visas and approaching the unknowns of whether they would ever be allowed to stay after the application for a Green Card was initially denied? What was it like to receive that US Passport for the very first time? How did he deal with the sense of "isolation" in being an immigrant while trying to acclimate into the country and fulfilling his destiny of becoming an attorney?

[Click here to listen to the podcast.](#) You can also hear the episode, and all our podcasts exclusively for FDCC members, on the FedSpeaks channel on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, or wherever you get your podcasts. Are you an immigrant or someone with the diverse background that has "created a home"

here in the US? We would love to hear your story. Please contact [Natasha](#) or [Mohamed](#) to schedule a time to record an interview!



#5.2 The Passing of Jorge Ignacio Peirats Cendoya



The FDCC has lost one of its most humble and emblematic defense counsel members: Jorge Ignacio Peirats Cendoya.

He was a partner at Pietrantonio Mendez & Alvarez, LLC, one of the prestigious commercial law firms in San Juan Puerto Rico and passed away in San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 13, 2022.

Jorge was a proud and tremendous husband, father and grandfather. He fought cancer valiantly for many years in the same manner he approached his cases: with courage

and determination. The disease went into remission several times but it came back in the end. He was only 64.

Jorge was born in Santiago, Cuba, in 1958 and is survived by his wife Lizette, his siblings Ignacio and Alejandra, Sofia and Matt, Gabriel and his grandchildren Nicolas and Isabel.

Graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1980, with a Bachelor in Arts, magna cum Laude, he was also a Phi Beta Kappa. In 1983, he obtained a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School. He was a classmate of FDCC

Defense Counsel Member, Bill Vita in both undergraduate and law school, and it was Bill who nominated Jorge for membership in the FDCC. As Bill described him, "Jorge's humor, wit and friendly nature made him a perfect member." Indeed, it is the ability to complement those personal attributes with the professional spirit of a valiant advocate that serve as the greatest tribute of how we can all hope to be remembered.

Jorge was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico in 1983, US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the US District Court for the District of Puerto Rico in 1984, the US Court of Appeals Federal Circuit in 1988 and the US Supreme Court in 2006. He was a member of his firm's commercial litigation and creditor's rights groups. He also had extensive litigation and appellate experience in the areas of antitrust, banking, bankruptcy, breach of contract and insurance, among others.

Jorge was highly admired and respected by his friends and peers. He will be deeply missed. Today, the FDCC Family joins together in sending our heartfelt condolences to Lizette and the family as we honor the friendship and many contributions Jorge made to our profession.

#5.3 Welcome Our New Members



The FDCC is proud to announce the following Defense Counsel have been admitted into the Federation this week.

Please join us in welcoming them!

- [Benjamin M. Weston](#) is a member attorney at [Lederer Weston Craig PLC](#) in the firm's West Des Moines, Iowa, office. Ben has been an attorney with the firm since 2008 after graduating from the Creighton University School of Law. Ben practices in the area of tort and commercial litigation, with a focus on insurance defense, liability defense, products liability, personal injury, bad faith, and retail liability. He has tried numerous cases to the bench and juries in Iowa's state and federal courts.
- [John P. O'Herron](#) is a Director with [ThompsonMcMullan, PC](#) in Richmond, VA where his practice is focused on a variety of appellate services to individuals, business, and government clients. John's services include consulting and representation related to perfecting or resisting an appeal, briefing and argument, amicus curiae, and rule compliance in the appellate courts. He has represented businesses, individuals, and government officers and agencies in numerous appeals. John maintains [RichmondAppeals.com](#), a website dedicated to his appellate practice and the recent and impending changes in the field of appellate law.
- [Lynne C. Adams](#) is a Partner with Osborn Maledon, P.A. in Phoenix, AZ where she leads the commercial litigation group's education law practice. She focuses on regulatory matters and litigation and provides ongoing legal advice to her school clients, including compliance with all aspects of education law, Arizona's Open Meeting Law, and Arizona's public records law. Among other things, she has provided advice regarding constitutional law issues, student discipline matters, Title IX, statutory requirements, parent issues, student enrollment, school finance, and responses to complaints filed with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Arizona Department of Education. She also assists prospective charter schools with their applications and organization. Lynne and her husband [Bob](#) reside in Phoenix.

Welcome Aboard!

#5.4 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:

- **July 5, 2022 at 2:30PM ET / 11:30AM PT: FDCC Law Firm Leadership Series Virtual Roundtable.** [Please click here to join the session.](#)
- **July 25 - 30, 2022: FDCC's Annual Meeting** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Seattle, WA. [Click here to register.](#)
- **August 16-17, 2022: FDCC Virtual Deposition Boot Camp** - 10:00am to 6:00PM ET. Register by emailing: danielle@thefederation.org.
- **October 16-18, 2022: FDCC's Corporate Counsel Symposium** at the Downtown Marriott in Philadelphia, PA. 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.
- **February 19 - 23, 2023: FDCC's Winter Meeting** at the Omni Hotel in Nashville, TN.
- **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
Lynne O. Ingram!



Lynne Ingram a/k/a "Jude's Mom," is a Member with Campbell, Conroy & O'Neil, P.C., in Berwyn, PA, where she maintains a diverse civil litigation defense practice. She has been a valued member of the Federation since 2018, where she also co-chairs the FDCC's Fed Serves Committee, which donates time and resources to various nonprofit organizations at our Summer and Winter Meetings, as well as other projects throughout the year.

Lynne specializes in defending catastrophic, high exposure losses, and has significant experience in matters involving gas fires and

explosions. She represents clients in cases across the country, through all stages of litigation. Lynne works with clients in a broad range of industries, including construction, hospitality, insurance, medical, and product design and manufacturing. Her practice areas span commercial and construction litigation, mass disasters, personal injury/negligence, and premises and products liability defense.

Prior to joining the firm, Lynne spent more than five years as a prosecutor at the District Attorney's Office in Philadelphia, where she tried more than 40 felony jury trials to verdict, and more than 100 felony bench trials. She spent the majority of her time there in the Major Trials Unit, trying attempted murders and armed robberies, and in the Dangerous Drug Offenders Unit, investigating violent drug traffickers. Lynne was also appointed as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where she was assigned to a long-term prosecution of an international drug cartel.



She and her husband Jon and their Son Jude reside in Havertown, PA. You may recall that along with Lynne, Jude has been featured on an episode of FedCooks.

He also helps write Valentine's Day cards sent to the FDCC's to our elderly relatives, and is Lynne and Jon's pride and joy.

Oh, and today is Lynne's Birthday. If you have a moment, please join us in sending her an email at:

lingram@campbell-trial-lawyers.com

to send congratulations on her special day and to wish her continued good health, success and happiness in the years to come.

Why FDCC?

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

FEDERATION OF DEFENSE & CORPORATE COUNSEL



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



**KEEP
CALM
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DEFEND
ON**

Be Exceptional Today!