



June 30, 2023 -- Issue 178



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 Happy 4th of July!

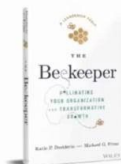
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

FDCC President Howard Merten, First Lady, Roni Dash, the Officers and Board of Directors wish you and your family all the very best for a safe and Happy 4th of July weekend!

#2 "To Be(e) or Not to Be(e)" ...That is the Opportunity!

The Art of Learning to Be Proximal

The Beekeeper: Pollinating Your Organization for Transformative Growth.





When Shakespeare wrote the iconic soliloquy, spoken by Hamlet in Scene 3, Act 1, he probably did not appreciate the many ways in which the phrase would be re-interpreted in the years to come. We found another one.

We recently met Professors Katie Desiderio and Michael Frino, who have written a fascinating book on leadership principles entitled: "[The Beekeeper: Pollinating Your Organization for Transformative Growth](#)." Click on the brief video above to see how the authors analogize the Federation's "Why," the upcoming Annual Meeting theme to "[Be More at the Broadmoor](#)", and President-Elect Craig Marvinney's "Leadership" theme for the coming year, with the way in which their research found bees taking an active and central role in the shared duties, growth and maturation of the hive and then going out to pollinate the world. The book reminds leaders to keep their focus on the organization as a whole; including the structure, operations, and purpose as they pursue a grander ambition beyond what any one individual could achieve on their own by practicing the art of and ways to "Be Proximal."

Let us know what you think! We hope you will find the leadership lessons and recommendations for transformative growth as interesting as we did. Happy Pollinating!

#3 "Life Outside the Law (LOL) Disconnecting to Stay Connected" Podcast



Valerie Kellner

Darleene Peters



Here's a really interesting story to listen to this holiday weekend.

[Darleene Peters](#), an FDCC Defense Counsel Member and a certified Health and Wellness Coach talks with [Valerie Kellner](#) about the importance of disconnecting in order to stay meaningfully connected. Darleene is a Partner with [Irwin Fritchie](#) in New Orleans, LA and discusses why it is hard for attorneys to disconnect from the billing pad, motions and deposition transcripts. She provides effective tips on the importance of disconnecting and ways to improve your mental wellness. She also discusses what law firms can do to address the mental health issues in the work place.

You can listen to the FedSpeaks podcast by clicking on the link below - or by going to our podcast channel on Apple iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, or wherever you get your podcasts.

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

#4 Risks & Hazards in Complex Kitchen Appliances



Despite extensive regulations and safety requirements, kitchen appliances continue to be a source of injury — particularly to children — and a leading cause of residential fires in countries around the world. While newer appliances often feature smart advanced safety features such as timers and automatic shutoff functions, many are also running faster and hotter than those of the past, frequently with little or no user oversight.

The pace of new product and feature development is getting faster too. Manufacturers are under increasing pressure to keep up with high production volumes while covering supply chain shortages, raising the risk of defects. Take the case of a U.S. electrical pressure cooker that passed compliance

testing but had an undetected manufacturing error on the lid. Under certain circumstances, the lid opened prematurely, expelling hot food contents and posing a burn hazard.

This Article was written by Rich Klopp, Ph.D.; Daniel Vasquez, Ph.D.; and Lijie Yang, Ph.D., with [Exponent](#) - a Platinum Sponsor of the FDCC.

[Please click here to read the entire article](#)

#5 In Case You Missed It

There's alot happening in the Federation these days...so in case you missed it, here are some quick links to catch-up!



- [Building & Fostering Firm and Corporate Culture Webinar](#)
- [Annual Meeting Registration Link](#)
- [Annual Meeting Attendee List](#)
- [Members Standing for Election to the FDCC Board of Directors](#)
- [Members Sign Up Sheet for the FDCC Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting](#)
- [FDCC Flyer Magazine](#)
- [FedWorks Podcast on Employment Law with Robert Lockwood and Chad Hatmaker](#)

#5.1 Welcome to Our New Member!



[John S. Guttman](#) is a Principal at [Beveridge & Diamond, PC](#) in Washington, DC, where his practice is focused on regulatory, transactional, and litigation expertise. John serves as lead national counsel for a petroleum refiner in all MTBE product liability litigation and has been a member of the defense steering committee for the refining industry in those cases.

He devotes a substantial part of his practice to the defense of natural resource damages (NRD) cases brought by trustees and currently represents defendants in NRD litigation brought by four different sovereigns. John also concentrates his practice on indemnity litigation, securities class actions, breach of fiduciary duty claims, directors and officers liability suits, complex contract cases, unfair competition cases, and health insurance matters. He also has represented several clients in SEC enforcement proceedings.

John and his wife [Holly Cannon](#) reside in Washington, DC.

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:

- **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
Jade M. Gummer !**



Jade is a partner in the Orlando, FL office of [Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.](#) He has been a valued Defense Counsel member of the FDCC since 2021.

Jade's areas of practice include premises liability, products liability, negligent security, nursing home defense, general liability matters involving large and small retailers, apartment complexes, liquor liability, and automotive liability defense. Jade lectures throughout Florida and nationally on legal trends and managing risk on topics such as: equipment safety, spoliation, and defending depositions of corporate representatives.

Additionally, he provides in-service training for clients on issues related to risk management, risk reduction, safety, and employee training. Jade is a member of the firm's Diversity Committee. He is a founder and past president of the Lake Nona Toastmasters, Western Kentucky University alumni board and currently serves as a volunteer youth and high school football coach.

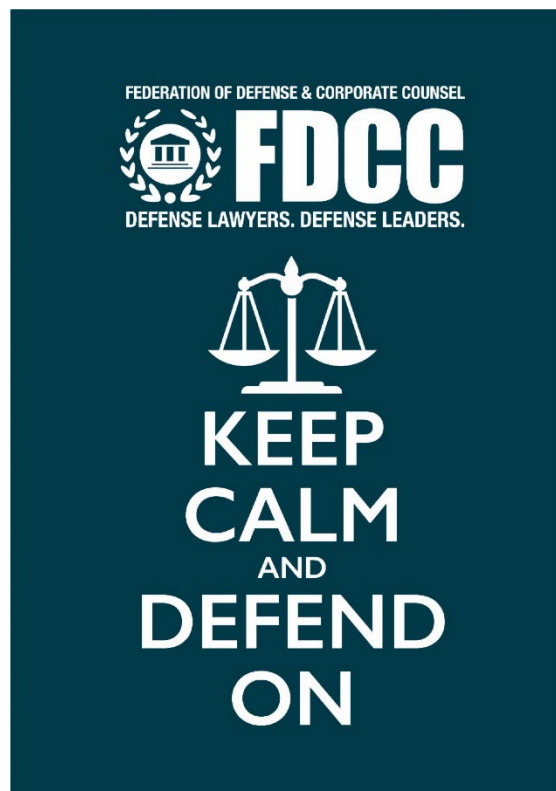
If you have a chance over the holiday weekend, maybe you can send Jade an email to:

jgummer@gpwblaw.com

to thank him for being an exceptional member of the Federation and for his contributions within his firm, family and community;
and to compliment him on one amazing tie collection!

Why FDCC?

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



Be Exceptional Today!