

June 5, 2026 -- Issue 332

Good Morning!

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#1: Corporate Counsel Symposium Registration Opens Next Week

Please keep a watchful eye on your In Box next week as we release the brochure for the FDCC's 2026 Corporate Counsel Symposium. Links will be included to register for the meeting and to make your hotel reservations at the **Windsor Court Hotel, in New Orleans, LA, September 27-29, 2026.**

This is an incredible networking opportunity for Corporate and Defense Counsel and their clients to take advantage of today's cutting edge CLE sessions from industry knowledge experts, with wide ranging discussions on topics including:



- Managing Risk: Aligning Contracts, Coverage, and Claims
- The Deal Support Team: In-House Legal's Role in Bringing Value to M&A Transactions and Their Aftermath
- When AI Meets the Big Easy: Governing Generative AI Beyond the Proof of Concept
- Navigating Multi-Jurisdictional Practice Challenges for In-House Counsel
 - Prevent, Defend, and Recover: The Cyber Incident Playbook
 - [Beyond Burnout: Tools for Thriving in a High-Pressure Profession](#)
 - What CFOs Really Care About—and How Legal Can Support Them
 - [Mastering Corporate Witness Preparation for Regulatory Matters, Depositions, and Trial](#)

- [Privilege Under Pressure: Navigating the Evolving Landscape of Attorney-Client Privilege for Corporate Counsel](#)
 - [Ethical Leadership in Challenging Political Times](#)
 - [Gumbo of Liability: A Rich Mix of Employment Law Hot Topics](#)
 - Creating Contracts You Can Rely On
- Crisis Mode: Brand Management, Social Media Risk, and the Corporate Response Playbook.



Beth Bauer



Chad Hatmaker



Geneau Thames

Our CCS Committee Co-Chairs, [Beth Bauer](#) at HeplerBroom; [Chad Hatmaker](#) at Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter, PLLC; and [Geneau Thames](#) at Hartford Mutual Insurance Group, and the entire CCS Committee, invite you to join us at this important session bringing the nation's top corporate and defense counsel and their clients together to solve today's toughest issues in The Big Easy.

#2 Eight Weeks to Lisbon: The Wine Guide

By: Lee Hall

8 Weeks to Lisbon

Wines of Portugal

A quick guide to what to sip in Lisbon



Portuguese Wine Highlights



Vinho Verde – Crisp, slightly fizzy, low-alcohol white; refreshing and zesty.



Douro Reds – Rich, full-bodied reds with dark fruit and spice.



Alentejo – Smooth, fruit-forward reds and balanced aromatic whites.



Dão – Balanced reds and mineral-driven whites.



Moscatel de Setúbal – Amber dessert wine with orange peel, honey, caramel, and dried apricot.



Lisbon Wine Regions to Know



Colares – Historic, sandy-soil appellation known for Ramisco.



Bucelas – Bright Arinto whites, lean and bracing.



Setúbal – Home of Moscatel, the local fortified favorite.



FDCC
DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



Ask for vinho tinto, vinho branco, vinho rosé — and always say yes to vinho verde.

We are just 56 days from our meeting. Today’s topic: how to avoid some of the beverage-related disappointment we endured on our site visit — namely the hunt for bourbon (not really a Portugal thing outside our hotel) and our repeated attempts to get coffee or tea “to go,” which is very much not a Lisbon thing, especially at our hotel.

If you insist on bourbon, ask for “Whiskey Americano” and prepare for a long wait while the staff searches for one dusty bottle of Jack Daniels in the back. It will not be worth it, so this year’s President’s Celebration is embracing Portugal properly with an introduction to Portuguese wines and beers.

Part I: The Wines of Lisbon — Portugal’s Best-Kept Secret No More

Portugal may be famous for Port, but there is a whole world of excellent, often underrated, wines to discover. Think of it as a very worthwhile adventure for your taste buds.

Here is a quick rundown of what you will find, what it resembles, and a few bottles worth seeking out once we arrive:

- Vinho Verde: Do not let the name “green wine” fool you. This is a vibrant, crisp, slightly fizzy white with lower alcohol and maximum refreshment — ideal in the Lisbon heat. If you like Pinot Grigio or Sauvignon Blanc with a zesty kick, you will love it. It is my number one Portuguese discovery, and I drink it here whenever I can find it. It has all the fizz of sparkling wine with the light taste of Sauvignon Blanc, and if you have any left, just close the bottle — it will still be great the next day.

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



[Lee Hall](#) is an FDCC Defense Counsel member and Convention Chair of the [2026 Annual Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal](#). She is also a Partner at [Jenkins Fenstermaker](#) in Huntington, WV where her practice is focused on insurance coverage, insurance defense, and WV bad faith defense. Her insurance defense practice includes sexual misconduct, municipal liability, motor vehicle and trucking claims, premises, and medical malpractice claims.

#3 Member in the Spotlight:

Kevin G. Faley



We are shining the Federation Spotlight on FDCC Defense Counsel member [Kevin G. Faley](#) who, along with Anne Marie Esposito of the New York firm of [Morris Duffy Alonso Faley Pitcoff](#), obtained a defense verdict in a construction accident case in the Supreme Court of New York, Queens County.

The plaintiff claimed that he fell from a height of 12 feet from a staircase railing to the lobby tile floor below. He claimed the building owner client, violated the New York Labor Law and failed to provide proper safety devices to prevent his accident. The plaintiff underwent three surgeries—arthroscopic surgeries to his right shoulder and knee and a two-level lumbar fusion. Plaintiff's demand was \$4.5 million.

Kevin and his team claimed the accident could not have possibly happened as plaintiff alleged. The defense biomechanical expert testified that if the plaintiff's description of the accident was correct, then he would have struck the tile floor at a speed of approximately 18mph, with thousands of pounds of force, which would have resulted in severe fractures and the plaintiff's head striking the floor. While the plaintiff did go to the ER immediately after the accident, plaintiff had no fractures and no injuries to his head. There was also testimony that in the week before the accident the plaintiff asked two of the building's doormen if there were security cameras in the building lobby.

The jury deliberated for approximately 3 hours over two days and returned a verdict in favor of the defense.

Congratulations on the excellent outcome Kevin!



#4 And Now a Word From Our Sponsor:

SMI Aware

Why Screenshots Fall Short in Social Media Discovery



Social media evidence carries real weight in litigation, and most attorneys recognize it when they see it. What is discussed less often is how that evidence is captured in the first place, and whether the collection method will hold up when the matter moves into deposition, motion practice, or trial.

For many firms, the default approach is still a screenshot. A staff member opens the post, captures an image of the screen, and saves it to a case folder. It is fast, familiar, and free. It is also, by itself, one of the weakest forms of evidence a legal team can rely on in 2026.

What a Screenshot Actually Preserves

A screenshot preserves the appearance of a post at the moment the image was captured. That is the full extent of what it does. It does not preserve the URL, the post's permanent identifier on the platform, the account's history, the platform-reported timestamp, the visibility settings at the time of capture, the comments and reactions that may have been just out of frame, or the other data points that allow a finder of fact to confirm that the post is what it appears to be.

[Please click here for the full article](#)



Rachel Lowery is the Marketing Lead at our Platinum Sponsor - **SMI Aware**. Please reach out to Rachel to discuss their full suite of expert services: [888-299-9921 x78](tel:888-299-9921), or visit them at their booth at the Annual Meeting in Lisbon. Please stay tuned as we are working with Rachel on a timely CLE webinar coming soon.



#5 New Podcast Episodes Released

We're delighted to share the most recent Podcasts released on the Federation's exclusive podcast channel: FedSpeaks, Please click on the title links below and give them a listen!

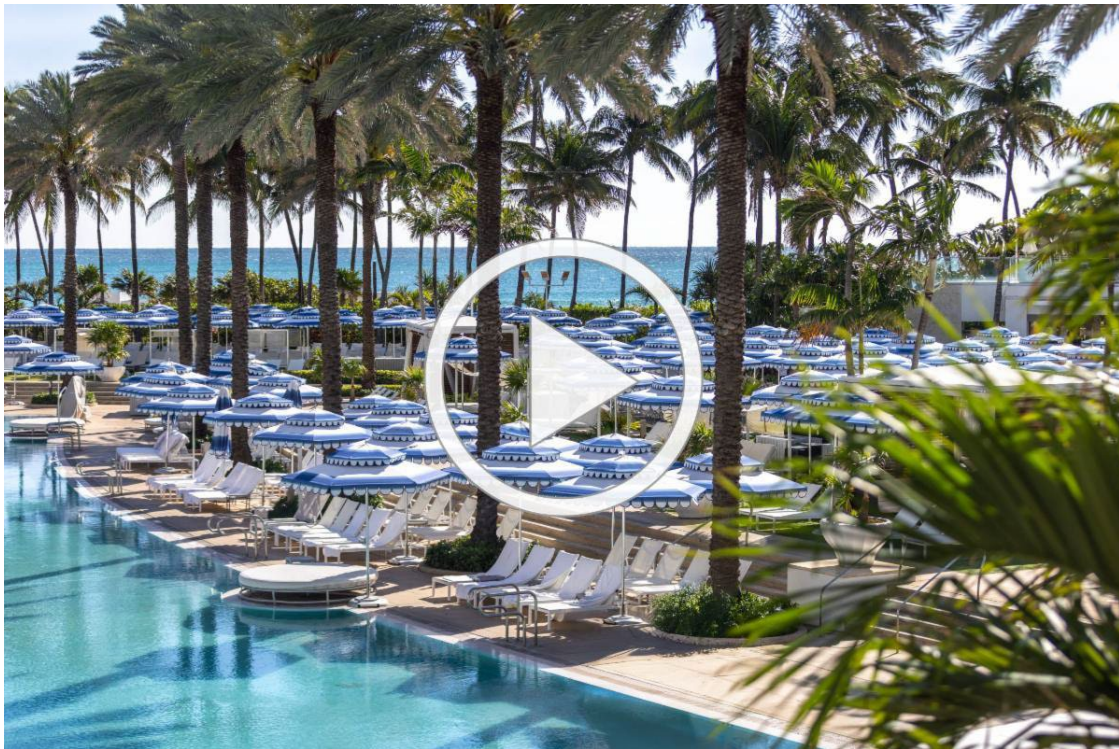


- **The FDCC "Prod-cast"** - join Section Chair and host **Rachel Cooper** of McMillan in Toronto, Ontario as she chats with fellow FDCC Defense Counsel members in two episodes focused on developing trends in the field of products liability litigation.
- **Eric Gillett of Preg O'Donnell & Gillett** in Seattle, WA shares details on how the law is evolving in the pure comparative negligence state of Washington; and
- **Eric Passegio of Wilson Elser** in Boston, MA talks about the intersection of consumer protection laws as grounded in Section 93A and product liability claims in Massachusetts.

- Our "[Welcome to Our New Members](#)" series features: Co-hosts Jill Pedigo Hall and Meghan Ruesch who introduce us to one of our newest members: [JD Dickenson](#) Regional Manager of the Global Insurance Department - East of Cozen O'Connor in Boca Raton, Florida.

You can listen to these podcasts and the other 312 FedSpeaks podcast episodes on Spotify, iTunes, Stitcher, the Fed365 app or wherever you get your podcasts. Find out what over 17,769 listeners have already discovered by downloading and subscribing to these enlightening episodes by, about and for members of the FDCC.

#5.1 "Livin' La Vida in Miami: Where Life, Law & Friendship Meet"



Our Winter Meeting 2027 Convention Team is heading to the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami, FL on Sunday to meet with hotel teams and check out the excursions to offer you at the upcoming event **March 1 - 3, 2027**.

Incoming President [Jennifer Johnsen](#), Convention Chair [Valerie Kellner](#), and Program Chair [Jody Briandi](#) will be busy arranging all of the amazing and memorable sites, sounds and sessions to offer you and your family as we channel the meeting theme: "Livin' La Vida in Miami: Where Life, Law and Friendship Meet." Please mark your calendar to join us!

In the meantime, **click on the image above** and check out a video of the amazing hotel that will be the host of next year's seminal event.



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

- **June 24, 2026 - 2:30PM to 3:30PM ET: J.S. Held Free Webinar on "Appraisal of Property Losses"**. [Click here](#) to register.

- **July 26 - 31, 2026: Annual Meeting** at the [Corinthia Hotel in Lisbon, Portugal](#): "A Mosaic of Memories in Lisbon". Convention Chair: [Lee Hall](#); Program Chair: [Alycen Moss](#). [Click here](#) to register.
- **September 27-29, 2026: Corporate Counsel Symposium - "From Bourbon Street to the Boardroom Suite: Navigating Risks & Opportunities"** at the Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Co-Chairs are: [Beth Bauer](#), [Chad Hatmaker](#) and [Geneau Thames](#). Registration coming soon!
- **February 28-March 4, 2027: Winter Meeting** at the [Fountainbleu Hotel, Miami Beach, FL](#). Convention Chair: [Valerie Kellner](#) and Program Chair: [Jody Briandi](#).
- **July 25-30, 2027: Annual Meeting** at the [Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada](#). Convention Chair: [Alycen Moss](#) and Program Chair: [Shelly Masters](#).

..and finally, Have a Nice Day...

David Zuber, Heather Sanderson, Marcus Snowdon, Pearl Rombis and Susan Gunter!



This week, our colleagues at the Canadian Defense Lawyers held their Annual Litigation Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Wednesday evening, several of our Canadian FDCC members were present at the CDL President's Dinner and joined for this great photo!

Left to right, that's David Zuber, Pearl Rombis (hopefully soon to be a member), Marcus Snowden and Heather Sanderson. Not pictured is Susan Gunter.

Today, we send our very best wishes north of the border to wish David, Marcus, Heather, Susan and also Pearl a great Friday, and extend our thanks for their valued and continued membership in the FDCC.



Why FDCC?

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



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