



FDCC
DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



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Good Morning!

Here are your top 5+ things to know about developments, upcoming events and progress being made on initiatives the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel is undertaking on behalf of all our members.

#1 FDCC Connect Award



One of the great things about the FDCC and its extensive vetting process is that have access to the highest quality attorneys throughout the world and can feel confident about referring your clients to FDCC members.

Each year the FDCC gives out the FDCC Connect award to a member who has been instrumental in referring work to others in the FDCC. We are finalizing nominees and the selection process now.

Have you received work from an FDCC member? Have you referred work to someone else? If so, please send an email to FDCC President [Heidi Goebel](#). No referral is too small!

[Please click here to register](#)

#2 FDCC On the Road



If you are planning on attending DRI's Diversity for Success Seminar in New Orleans on June 11-13, 2025, please consider joining your FDCC colleagues for dinner on **June 11th at 7:30PM** at [Gautreau's](#), located at 1728 Soniat Sreet, in New Orleans. For further information, please contact FDCC President, [Heidi Goebel](#).

#3 Be Where the Cool Kids Are!



All the "cool kids" in the defense industry are getting together at our seminal Annual Meeting in Park City, UT, July 28 - August 2, 2025 at [Stein Eriksen Lodge](#) and the [Chateau Deer Valley Resort](#). Check out the list below for a partial listing and click on the red button for the full list of firms and companies whose FDCC members have already registered.

The room block is open! [Let's get you registered!](#)

Adler Pollock & Sheehan PC

Alston & Bird LLP

Clark Hill PLC

Clement Rivers, LLP

American Coastal Insurance
Company

American Fidelity Corporation

Amundsen Davis LLC

Armstrong Teasdale-St. Louis

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Asurion

Avalon Health Economics

Baker, Sterchi, Cowden & Rice,
LLC

Banks & Watson

Barnes Maloney PLLC

Barrett McNagny LLP

Beckham & Beckham, PA

Berke Law Firm PLLC

Bertschi Law

Black & Wadhams

Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin, LLC

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
LLP

Brunini, Grantham, Grower &
Hewes, PLLC

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Bulkmatic, LLC

Bullivant Houser Bailey, PC

Cokinos | Young

Collins Einhorn

Collins Einhorn Farrell PC

Conner & Winters, LLP

Cozen O'Connor

David & Hamrick, L.L.P.

Deutsch Kerrigan LLP

Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote

Downs Ward Bender Herzog &
Kintigh

Dugan, Brinkmann, Maginnis
and Pace

Durbin, Larimore & Bialick, P.C.

Erlandson, Vernon & Daney, LLC

Erlingson Banks, PLLC

ESi

Evans & Dixon, LLC

Exponent

Exxon Mobil Corporation

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath
LLP

Faure Holden Attorneys at Law,
P.C.

Federal Express Corporation

Burr Forman LLP
Butler Snow LLP
Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig
LLP
Calistri McLaughlin LLC
Canal Insurance Company
Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Olstein,
Brody & Agnello
Carr Allison
Childs McCune LLC
Christian & Small, LLP
Christian, Dichter & Sluga

First Acceptance Insurance
Company
Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso
Flanagan Partners LLP
Foliart Huff Ottaway & Bottom
Frazer Greene
Frost Brown Todd LLC
Fukunaga Matayoshi Ching &
Kon-Herrera LLP
Gallagher
Gallivan, White & Boyd, PA
Galloway, Wettermark, & Rutens

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



**#4 Commercial Insurance Renewals:
Top 10 Checklist for a Smooth Process**



Marisa Trasatti

Joanna Roberto

Laura Zaroski

As our **2025 Corporate Counsel Symposium in Chicago, IL (September 14-16 at the InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel)** draws near - **watch for registration next opening week** - here is a checklist put together by FDCC Defense Counsel member [Marisa Trasatti](#) to help ensure a thorough, compliant, and efficient commercial insurance renewal process, safeguarding your organization's assets and operations.

Join Marisa, Laura Zaroski, Joanna Roberto, at CCS as they discuss these issues, and more, including captives and shopping the London market in order to secure your best renewal.

1. Know your Expiration Date and Start Early

- Begin the renewal process at least 2–3 months before your policy expiration date. Early planning allows time to gather information, assess changes, and negotiate terms.

2. Choose the Right Broker

- Select a broker with deep connections in the insurance industry and a thorough understanding of your company's sector. A knowledgeable broker is vital for accessing competitive terms and tailored coverage.

3. Conduct a Comprehensive Policy Review

- Carefully review your current insurance policies, including terms, conditions, limits, and exclusions. Identify any gaps or outdated provisions to ensure your coverage aligns with your current risk profile.

4. Update Business and Asset Information

- Gather and provide up-to-date information: claims history, financial statements, revenue (domestic and international), asset inventories,

property addresses, and details of any new subsidiaries or acquisitions since the last renewal.

5. Assess Operational Changes

- Document any changes in your business operations, such as new products or services, expanded locations, changes in headcount, or fleet size. These can significantly impact your coverage needs and premiums.

6. Review and Adjust Coverage Limits

- Evaluate whether your current coverage limits and deductibles/SIRs are adequate, considering business growth, asset acquisitions, or new liabilities. Adjust as necessary to avoid underinsurance or unnecessary costs.

7. Complete and Submit Applications Promptly

- Work with your broker to accurately complete all renewal applications and provide required documentation. Timely submission helps avoid coverage gaps and ensures a smooth renewal process.

8. Broker Market Engagement

- Allow your broker time (typically about one month) to shop your applications to multiple carriers, seeking the best terms, coverage enhancements, and competitive pricing.

9. Review and Negotiate Proposals

- Meet with your broker and C-suite to review carrier proposals, ask questions, and negotiate terms. Request revised proposals if needed to address concerns or improve coverage.

10. Finalize and Distribute Documents

- Bind the selected policies and obtain updated Certificates of Insurance for all required additional insureds. Distribute certificates to stakeholders and ensure all documentation is current and accessible.

Pro Tip: Maintain ongoing communication with your broker throughout the year to address emerging risks, regulatory changes, or business developments that could affect your insurance needs

**#5 Webinar Recording:
Unlocking the Future of Law with AI**



If you missed the exceptional webinar last week hosted by [Beth Bauer](#) of [Hepler Broom](#) on how to unlock the future of law by enhancing productivity, improving accuracy, and driving client success, you will want to click on image above or on the link to [watch the video](#).

Jake Nelson, General Manager of Emerging Products of FDCC Platinum Sponsor LexisNexis demonstrated how to leverage AI tools for legal research, document review, predictive analytics, and more. The presentation provides clear,

actionable steps to confidently integrate AI into your practice immediately. Please feel free to share the link with your colleagues.



#5.1 Uptick in Litigation Increases Importance of Camera Video Systems for the Retail and Restaurant Industry

By: Paul DeMarco



A young man enters a grocery store wearing a mask in 2020. In the midst of COVID, that was not unusual. However, in this case the mask was not for health reasons, but for ill intent. He began to grab bottles of liquid soap detergent and squirt it on the floors and merchandise.

Unfortunately, shortly thereafter a customer of the store slipped and fell on the liquid soap on the floor.

While the vandal was never caught, the incident resulted in the customer filing a civil complaint against the store alleging she was injured. However, video showed the Plaintiff slipped within three minutes of the soap being sprayed on the floor before employees knew the vandal had even struck. Thus, with the video evidence in hand the lawsuit was eventually dismissed and the grocery store cleared.

Without the video, the lawsuit would have proceeded.

The impact of the pandemic on the retail and restaurant industry was tremendous in so many ways - employees, supply chain shortages and then inflation. Yet, another way the retail and food services industries have been effected is the increase in litigation and large jury verdicts against corporate defendants. There

are have been a lot of factors behind the increase, regardless the business community has to be more vigilant about what happens on their premises now.

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



Paul DeMarco is a partner at the law firm of **Parsons, Lee & Juliano, PC** in Birmingham, Alabama, serves as the general counsel for the Alabama Grocers Association and is a former member of the Alabama House of Representatives. His experience includes the representation of both retail and hospitality owners, operators and franchisees for premises liability and worker's compensation litigation. He has also advised as to operational and risk management issues for those in the retail and hospitality industry.

5.2 Members in the Spotlight:

Howard Merten



Please join us in congratulating FDCC Board Chair & Past President, **Howard Merten** of **Partridge Snow & Hahn** in Providence, RI on his induction into the **Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly** 2025 **Excellence in the Law Hall of Fame**. Howard was honored at an awards reception this past Tuesday. The full list of honorees is available [here](#).

Howard's legal career spans more than four decades and is marked by outstanding advocacy, leadership, and service. He has represented clients in high-stakes civil litigation, including long-standing representation of the Diocese

of Providence. From 2017 to 2022, he served as Managing Partner of his firm, leading it through a period of strategic expansion and successfully navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A prominent leader in the national legal community, his contributions to the defense bar include continued service on the Board of [Lawyers for Civil Justice](#), as well as Past President of Defense Counsel of Rhode Island.

In addition to his national impact, Howard has long been active in Rhode Island's legal and civic communities. His leadership includes roles with the Rhode Island Bar Association, the Federal and Superior Court Bench Bar Committees, and more than a decade of board service at Roger Williams University and its School of Law.

This prestigious Hall of Fame recognition is yet another testament to Howard's enduring commitment to the profession and the principles that guide the FDCC.



Steve Embry



We're also congratulating FDCC Defense Counsel member [Steve Embry](#) on winning the prestigious Thomas B. Spain Award at the Kentucky Bar Association Dinner last evening. The award is awarded for extraordinary volunteerism in continuing legal education. Justice Robert Conley of the [7th Supreme Court District](#), which comprises 32 Eastern Kentucky counties, made the presentation.

#5.3 What's On the Docket



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

- **June 26, 2025 at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT: FedTalks: Diversity Talks Roundtable** moderated by [Carolyn Ramos](#) and [Alonzo Washington](#).
[Click here to register.](#)
- **July 28 - August 3, 2025: Annual Meeting** at the [Stein Eriksen Lodge & The Chateaux at Deer Valley](#) in Park City, UT. "Go for Gold" with Convention Chair: [Tiffany Alexander](#) and Program Co-Chairs: [Lee Hall](#) and [Kile Turner](#). [Click here to register.](#)
- **September 14-16, 2025: Corporate Counsel Symposium** at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago, IL. Co-Chairs: [Chelsey Golightly](#), [Nicole Benjamin](#), and [Tim Moore](#), Registration coming in Spring 2025.

- **November 5-7, 2025: Insurance Industry Institute** at the Westin Times Square Hotel in New York City. Co-Chairs: [Sarannah McMurtry](#) and [Jeff Van Volkenburg](#). Registration coming in Summer 2025.
- **February 24-28, 2026: Winter Meeting** at the [J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort](#) in Scottsdale, AZ: "**Together We Rise From the Valley**". Convention Chair: [Frank Ramos](#); Program Chair: [Micalann Pepe](#).
- **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](#).
- **February 28-March 4, 2027: Winter Meeting** at the [Fountainbleu Hotel, Miami Beach, FL](#).
- **July 25-30, 2027: Annual Meeting** at the [Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada](#).

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

William Toles!



William is a Shareholder with [Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.](#) in Dallas, TX, where he has successfully tried more than 60 civil jury trials to verdict.

His trial experience throughout Texas includes tort litigation, ranging from negligence and transportation matters to more complex premises liability, Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA), commercial and contractual dispute litigation.

He has been selected by D Magazine as one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas” since 2016. William serves on the Board of Directors for the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, is a member of the Washington & Lee University Board of Trustees and is a class agent for his law school class.

He is celebrating his birthday today! Please join us in sending him an email:

wtoles@munsch.com

Happy Birthday, William, and our very best wishes to you and Wendy for continued good health, success and happiness in the years to come. Thank you for being a valued member of the Federation since 2015!



Why FDCC?

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