

**May 22, 2026 -- Issue 330**

***Good Morning!***

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# MEMORIAL DAY

*Remember and Honor*

***“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget  
that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them”***

**John F. Kennedy**

## **#1: Lisbon Update**

**By: Lee Hall**



### **Quiz Winners!**

**What do Ivy Jordan, Lydia Jordan, Violet Jordan, and Easton Elms have in common?**

They all completed our Lisbon Quizzes and did an outstanding job, so they all have prizes headed their way. Congratulations!

And it is not too late – if your young travelers want to have the opportunity to win a Lisbon prize, email me their completed quizzes to

**[lmh@jenkinsfenstermaker.com](mailto:lmh@jenkinsfenstermaker.com)!**

**We've Got Some Short Morning Itinerary Suggestions For You to:**

- The Industrial-Chic Wonderland: [LX Factory](#)
- Royal Splendor Without the Crowds: [Palácio Nacional da Ajuda](#)
- The Secret Renaissance Backyard: [Palácio dos Marqueses de Fronteira](#)
  - A Tranquil Urban Oasis: [Gulbenkian Garden](#)
  - Walk Above the City: [Águas Livres Aqueduct](#), and
- A Hidden Botanical Retreat: [Jardim Botânico de Lisboa](#)

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

### Why is June 30, 2026 Important?

It is the **deadline for excursions**. We need to ensure transportation, sufficient guides, and provide instructions for hosts, so we must set a firm deadline on excursion registrations! This will also allow us to make alternative arrangements for any excursions that do not have sufficient attendees to meet the minimum requirements. There are still many openings, so [register now!](#)

### Somebody Feed Phil!

If you are a Netflix fan, please check out Season 1, Episode 4 of "Somebody Feed Phil," as host Phil Rosenthal takes explores:



- **Pastéis de Belém:** Phil visits the legendary bakery to try the iconic Portuguese custard tart (pastel de nata), noting it as a life-changing pastry

experience; and provides the proper way to pronounce "Pastéis de nata" like a local!

- **Time Out Market:** He explores this famous food hall to sample various local delicacies from some of Lisbon's best chefs.
- **Seafood and Fado:** Phil enjoys fresh, coastal seafood and takes in a traditional, emotional Fado music performance.
- **Michelin Star Dining:** He has meals with chefs at two Michelin-starred restaurants, putting a modern twist on classic Portuguese gastronomy.
- **Sidecar Tour:** Phil tours the historic neighborhoods of the city in the sidecar of a vintage motorcycle.

More to Follow Next Week, as we are now 10 Weeks and Counting!



**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.

**#2 Membership Recruitment Committee Exceeds Goal for New Nominees**



When the Membership Recruitment Committee set out their initiatives on August 1, 2025, they had a laudable goal...trying to get 180 nominations of potential new members.

They exceeded their goal this week with **185 confirmed nominations!**

Congratulations to Committee Chair [Valerie Kellner](#), and her awesome committee for all their time, hard work and efforts of working with our members to pre-vet 185 defense and corporate counsel and industry professionals for submission to Rich Gable and the Admissions Committee for now moving forward in reviewing these new prospects and making their recommendations.

The [Membership Recruitment Committee](#) includes: Valerie Kellner; Brian C. Bassett; Nicole J. Benjamin; April Y. Berman; Kelly E. Brilleaux; Marie E. Chafe; James T. Clancy; Marcus Dean; Madison Dini; Adam R. Durst; Mel J. Garofalo; Kathleen M. Guilfoyle; Jeffery M. Guillory; Lee M. Hall; Elissa B. Haynes; Dan D. Kohane; Jacob J. Liro; Enrique Martinez; Shelly Masters; Daniel W. McGrath; Charlene A. McLaughlin; Sarannah McMurtry; Eric R. Passeggio; Micalann C. Pepe; Francisco Ramos, Jr.; Amy E. Richardson; Scott M. Salter; Jennifer Smith Thomas; Miranda Lundeen Soto; Tyler J. Watson; Alan S. Rutkin.

Thank you all, and thanks to all our members who nominated those who will help deepen the Federation's bench strength throughout the coming years. Keep the nominations coming! Just [send us an email](#) of the nominee(s) and their contact information, and we will take it from there. We've got our sites set on 200 nominees to the FDCC this year!

## #3 Amicus Brief Filed on Federal Law Precluding Climate Change State Tort Suits

No. 25-170

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IN THE  
**Supreme Court of the United States**

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SUNCOR ENERGY (U.S.A.) INC., *et al.*,  
*Petitioners,*

*v.*

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BOULDER COUNTY, *et al.*,  
*Respondents.*

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On Writ of Certiorari  
to the Supreme Court of Colorado

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**BRIEF OF ATLANTIC LEGAL FOUNDATION  
AND FEDERATION OF DEFENSE &  
CORPORATE COUNSEL AS *AMICI CURIAE*  
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS**


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The FDCC joined with the [Atlantic Legal Foundation](#), in filing an amicus brief written by FDCC Defense Counsel member [Lawrence Ebner](#) arguing that climate-change tort suits significantly conflict with uniquely federal interests, and that alleged liability for contributing to global climate change cannot be fragmented into countless state and local pieces.

[Click here](#) for the news release.

Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) and Exxon Mobil Corporation are defendants in a suit brought by Boulder, Colorado seeking damages and other relief for those companies' alleged role in "causing" or "exacerbating" global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions and supposed resultant "alteration" of the earth's climate.

Over a strong dissent, the Colorado Supreme Court held that federal law does not preclude the suit from proceeding.

The [amicus brief](#) argues that if the County and City of Boulder, Colorado can proceed with their suit seeking to hold the defendants liable for alleged local harm attributable to global warming and climate change, so can Colorado's other 61 counties and 271 municipal governments, and indeed, tens of thousands of other local governments throughout the United States. If such suits are successful, businesses and individuals claiming to have been harmed by global climate change also could attempt to cash in on the "climate crisis" by suing the nation's major fossil fuel energy companies.

#### #4 Appraisal of Property Losses Webinar

June 24th at 2:30PM ET / 11:30AM PT



Our Platinum Sponsor, [J.S. Held](#) is inviting all FDCC members and their colleagues for a continuing education webinar (in FL & TX) on "**Appraisal of Property Losses**" from **2:30 – 3:30 pm ET on Wednesday, June 24th, 2026.**

#### About the Webinar:

Building Consulting experts [Jeff Nicholson](#) and [Joe Teneriello](#) will share practical strategies and expert guidance on:

- When and how to demand an appraisal
- Tactical use of the appraisal process to drive results
- Umpire selection: what you need to know

- Preparing an agreement to appraise
- Choosing the right appraiser

**RSVP:**

You can register for the webinar by clicking this link:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/55478a4b-d718-4a4d-a983-4a62088a6329@3511fda9-10f3-422d-b34f-9291a0dd43e7>

A confirmation email with a calendar invitation attached will be sent after you register.



**J.S. Held** is a Platinum Sponsor of the FDCC. For more information on their entire suite of consultant and expert services, please contact Betsy Rogers, J.S. Held's Senior Vice President and leader of corporate business development at 404-317-1669 or by email: [brogers@jsheld.com](mailto:brogers@jsheld.com).

**#5 FDCC Members Meet Up in Las Vegas**



Defense Counsel member **Frank Ramos** (center) of Goldberg Segalla in Miami, FL was the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Las Vegas Defense Lawyers Association. He met up with fellow Nevada FDCC members, Brad Johnson, Tyler Watson, Rusty Graf and Aileen Cohen.

Thanks for the great photo Brad!

**#5.1 New Member Podcasts Released**



**Jill Pedigo Hall**



**Jessica Kokal**



**Nicole Wilinski**

We're delighted to share the most recent Podcast released on the Federation's exclusive podcast channel: FedSpeaks, Please [click on this link](#) and give it a listen



Our "Welcome to Our New Members" series features: [Jill Pedigo Hall](#) & [Nicole Wilinski](#) who introduce us to:

- [Jessica Kokal](#) of [Broening Oberg Woods & Wilson, PC](#) in Phoenix, AZ. Listen in as Jessica talks about her practice in General Liability and Professional Liability; how FDCC Defense Counsel member Don Wilson promoted her for membership; how she supports theatre and the arts - especially for young people; how she became a dog owner by accident; and her love for cooking and reading!

You can listen to these podcasts and the other 308 FedSpeaks podcast episodes on Spotify, iTunes, Stitcher, the Fed365 app or wherever you get your podcasts. Find out what over 17,582 listeners have already discovered by downloading and

subscribing to these enlightening episodes by, about and for members of the FDCC.



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

- **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...

**Denise Dickerson!**



Denise is an FDCC Defense Counsel member and a shareholder with [Sutter O'Connell](#) in Cleveland, OH where her practice is focused on handling catastrophic cases involving products liability, class actions, commercial litigation, trucking and transportation, retail, restaurant and hospitality, environmental/toxic torts and medical malpractice claims.

Her trial experience includes automotive, athletic equipment, machine tools, pleasure boats and asbestos products. Much of her courtroom experience has involved claims of brain damage and paraplegia.

Published in the Cleveland State Law Review, Denise has been featured as a speaker at numerous seminars. A Pennsylvania native and a former Division I college gymnast, Denise worked as a Fitness and Marketing Assistant before attending law school. A prominent achievement is her success in defending a

railroad tank car manufacturer in a case involving a closed head injury in one of the longest civil trials in Hamilton County, Ohio's history. Outside of the legal sphere, Denise is also committed to fundraising for the American Cancer Society to increase pancreatic cancer awareness.

And tomorrow, she will be celebrating her birthday. Please join us in sending her an email to:

[ddickerson@sutter-law.com](mailto:ddickerson@sutter-law.com)

Congratulations and Happy Birthday Denise.

We wish you and the family all the very best for continued success, good health and happiness in all the years still to come!

Thank you for being a valued member of the Federation since 2021!

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### Why FDCC?

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



