



FDCC
DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



May 23, 2025 -- Issue 278

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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.

Have a Great Memorial Day Weekend Honoring Our Veterans



#1 Scott Kreamer Installed as President of LCJ

[Scott Kreamer](#), an FDCC Defense Counsel member, past president (2017-2018) and former board chair has been installed as president of [Lawyers for Civil Justice](#) (LCJ) on May 8, 2025. The FDCC is a founding member of LCJ, which advocates for procedural rule reform.



In his remarks at LCJ's Spring Membership Meeting in Washington, DC, Scott announced that during his presidency LCJ will focus on several important rule initiatives, including:

- adoption of a uniform disclosure rule for third-party litigation funding;
- implementation of the recent amendment to FRE 702, and advocating for equivalent changes to state expert evidence admission rules; and
- implementation of the soon-to-be new FRCP Rule 16.1, which will govern initial management of multidistrict litigation proceedings.

Scott also highlighted continued and emerging issues of concern to LCJ, including class action rule reform, the need for FRCP amendments to govern privacy and cyber security litigation management, and a newly proposed federal rule of evidence concerning artificial intelligence. He said the recent robust growth of LCJ's membership demonstrates LCJ's effective advocacy for a compelling reform agenda.

Scott is the Managing Member of [Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice](#) and is based in Kansas City, Missouri. He succeeds FDCC Defense Counsel member [Molly Craig](#), a partner at [The Hood Law Firm](#) in Charleston, South Carolina.

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

#2 Want to Use Generative AI for Legal Research? Read the Cases Critically & Carefully

By: Steve Embry



Another day, [another report](#) of a lawyer relying on cases cited by a Generative AI (GenAI) tool only to find that the case didn't exist. And its not just lawyers from small firms or plaintiffs' firms who perhaps just don't understand why the AI tools hallucinate or aren't informed. Even lawyers from large firms are guilty of citing hallucinated cases as [recent reports](#) show. Even expert witnesses are guilty as I [recently noted](#). Putting aside the ethical duty to be aware of the risks of any technology a lawyer uses, courts are becoming less tolerant

of these kinds of mistakes and can impose hefty sanctions on lawyers that cite fictitious cases.

But in addition to the tendency of these tools to make cases up, there's another more subtle problem with using Generative AI tools for legal research and not thoroughly checking cites. The tools can cite cases that, yes, exist but don't stand for the proposition for which they are cited. This was brought home to me in an interesting panel discussion at a recent legal technology conference. The presentation was entitled *Do My Eyes Deceive Me? GenAI Hallucinations in Legal Research Citation Tools* and was put on by the [American Association of Law Librarians](#). The panelists were all law librarians from large law firms and academia.

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

Steve Embry is an FDCC Defense Counsel member and president of TechLaw Crossroads, LLC - a [legal blog](#) exploring the intersection of Technology and the Law.

#3 Fed Talks: Diversity Talks

June 26 at 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT



Carolyn Ramos



Alonzo Washington

The Diversity Committee is proud to continue providing a forum for meaningful, open dialogue regarding topics near and dear to our Committee's heart: "FedTalks: Diversity Talks." Hosted by several members of our Diversity Committee, this roundtable discussion opportunity is open to all FDCC members who wish to engage in respectful and educational dialogue with their FDCC peers.

Our next "FedTalks: Diversity Talks" will take place on June 26th 2:00PM ET / 11:00AM PT. This informal discussion will be lead and moderated by [Carolyn Ramos](#) and [Alonzo Washington](#) and explore various current issues, including thoughts on the impact of recent Executive Orders aimed at eliminating DEI initiatives. This is not a panel format and is intended to be an open discussion.

Please register for this event by clicking on the red box below. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation with the virtual meeting link and participation guidelines.

[Please click here to register for the Diversity Roundtable](#)

#4 Is Your Online Biography Up to Date?



The FDCC is in the process of designing the **2026 Annual Roster & Yearbook a/k/a "The Blue Book."** If you have a new headshot - or would like to update the current one - please send the high resolution JPEG photo directly to [Danielle](#) here at headquarters. We will then add it to your biography page.

In addition, if you have recently changed jobs or contact information, please be sure to log in to the FDCC website, go to your personal biography page and make the changes to your personal "Member Bio" and "About Me" pages. Need a hand? We're happy to help. Email Danielle and she can walk you through it!

#5 NJ Members Get Together



A few of our members from the great Garden State got together in Collingswood, NJ last week to share some Federation Fellowship and a good meal. From bottom left, that's TJ Berdzik, Caroline Berdzik, Christine Celia. From top right: Marcy O'Connell, Sharon Laudenbach, Jeffery Laudenbach, and Chris O'Connell.

Our thanks to Chris O'Connell for sending in this great picture!

#5.1 Welcome Our New Members!



Please join us welcoming the following new Corporate Counsel members into the Federation:



[Armen Adzhemyan](#) is Senior Corporate Counsel with [Delta Air Lines, Inc.](#) in Atlanta, GA, where he manages outside counsel in litigation matters, and advises internal clients-- particularly Corporate Security and Corporate Safety teams on day-to-day operational issues. He is involved in all major safety investigations, supports Delta crews in criminal cases against unruly passengers, and advises the Corporate Security team on threats to Delta's people, its assets, and operations on a daily basis.

Prior to Delta, he served as a civil Assistant United States Attorney in Atlanta, and was a litigation associate at the Los Angeles office of Gibson Dunn, representing clients in cross-border disputes and at the cross-section of technology and competition law.

Armen is a member of the Delta Law Department's Pro Bono, Internship, and Office Technology Committees, and a member of the Board of the Georgia Innocence Project. He and his wife [Michelle](#) reside in Atlanta, GA.



[Ian E. Brewer](#), is an Assistant Vice President-Claims Counsel at Sompo in Alpharetta, GA, where he evaluates, manages and resolves complex aviation claims; collaborates with Insureds, adjusters and external counsel to investigate claims, and negotiates with Plaintiffs.

Prior to this position, Ian worked at Great American Insurance Company in Cincinnati, OH.

He and his wife [Meredith](#) reside in Lexington, KY.



[Melissa Fernandez](#) is managing Counsel at [Travelers](#) in Hartford, CT where she manages a team of insurance coverage lawyers who provide coverage advice and manage complex coverage litigation and legal support for complex claim units.

Prior to working at Travelers for the past 9 years, Melissa practiced with Wiggins and Dana, LLP; and at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, LLP; and was the law clerk to the Hon. Vanessa L. Bryant in the US District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Welcome Aboard!

#5.2 What's on the Docket?



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

- **May 30, 2025 at 2:00PM ET/11:00AM PT: Webinar - Unlock the Future of Law - Harnessing the Power of AI** with Jake Nelson of LexisNexis. [Click here to register.](#)
- **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...

Jeffrey J. Carlson!



Jeff Carlson is an FDCC Defense Counsel member, and Of Counsel at [Carlson & Messer](#) in Los Angeles, CA, where he specializes in tort defense with emphasis on governmental liability and public entity defense, employment, torts and personal injury, product and professional liability, property loss, insurance matters, commercial tort and toxic tort litigation, and business litigation.

Jeff was was a partner of Federation Past President Bob Dickson (1993-1994) at the Haight Dickson Brown & Bonesteel firm, then at Dickson Carlson & Campillo (Santa Monica CA), and then started Carlson & Messer in 2000. Jeff has spoken at prior FDCC conventions. His wife, Jeanne Zimmer, shared with us that she recalls a prior meeting in Scottsdale, AZ, where Jeff spoke of taking depositions in Japan. He was one of the architects of the Daubert case back in the day, as his firm handled the case at the trial court level and, among other things, took plaintiff Daubert's deposition. He has attended many Conventions over the years, and is a highly respected member of the defense bar and of the FDCC itself.

And today, he is celebrating his birthday! Please join us in sending Jeff an email to:

Carlsonj@cmtlaw.com

Happy Birthday, Jeff, and our very best wishes to you and Jeanne for continued good health, success and happiness in the years to come. Thank you for being a valued member of the Federation since 1989!



Why FDCC?

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