



May 26, 2023 -- Issue 173



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 Memorial Day Weekend



"In the end, we remember not the words of our enemies...
but rather the silence of our friends."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we do each year, the Federation Family comes together this weekend - and, particularly on Monday, to pay tribute to those brave Men and Women who gave their lives in service to our Nation.

Memorial Day, originally known as as Decoration Day, used to only honor those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday continued to evolve thereafter to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, the Persian Gulf War and those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are eternally grateful for their sacrifice and will never forget their dedicated and selfless service to advance the cause of liberty. Similarly, we are honored to have so many Veterans that have filled the ranks of the FDCC's membership, and equally give our heartfelt thanks to those in service to our

Country today. They are Men and Women who would rather stand in harm's way to safeguard our freedoms, than to enjoy them for themselves.

FDCC President Howard Merten, First Lady Roni Dash, the Officers and Board of Directors wish you and your family a reflective and enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend - as take use this time to remember all our members who have served alongside their courageous colleagues to protect our cherished freedoms.

#2 Registration Now Open for Annual Meeting Events



What's all the Buzz about?

We are excited to FINALLY provide you with the [Brochure for the FDCC's Annual Meeting](#) - July 23-28, 2023 - at The Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, CO, and with the opportunity to register for the numerous exciting on-site and off-site events comprising the convention.

Just follow the FDCC's Broadmoor Bee to register for all the events and excursions today! Registration is easy:

1. log into your FDCC profile on the [FDCC website](#),
2. click "Welcome (your name)" at the top of the Home Page
3. on your member page click on the tab "Participation"
4. then scroll down and go to the "Upcoming event registrations"
5. Click on "2023 Annual Summer Conference"
6. and you will be able to edit your meeting registration for you and any guests.

The number of available slots is listed next to each event. Unfortunately, it took an extraordinarily long amount of time to confirm all the details and pricing with all the venues, and then to negotiate extra places at event locations that had maximum capacity limits to ensure as many of you could participate as possible! But, as you will see, the events and opportunities to enjoy Colorado Springs, and the time with your friends and colleagues, will have been worth the wait.

We can't wait to have you join us to "Be More at The Broadmoor!"

Please click here for the Annual Meeting Brochure

#2 When Teaching the Judge is as Important as Teaching the Jury

By: Jim Sigler



Presiding trial judges are typically well known and have extensive trial experience that can provide valuable guidance to trial lawyers long before the lawyers enter the courtroom. However, in two recent jury trials that we have tried to verdict within months of each other, the presiding judge had **no** civil trial experience as a lawyer or judge. Both judges were generally known as smart, ethical, hard-working lawyers, but the absence of real experience in civil litigation posed an added challenge to the

litigants.

Our dilemma was balancing the need to assist (and teach) the court, without insulting or embarrassing the judge, with zealous representation of our clients. We learned a lesson or two in both trials.

- First, we talked to lawyers and non-lawyers familiar with the judge professionally and personally to gain perspective on the judge's personality, political persuasion, and judicial temperament. We looked for key rulings made by the judge in other civil cases since taking the bench. Not surprisingly, there were not many.
- Second, although I normally send another lawyer from our team to cover routine motions and status conferences, I decided that it was important for me to appear for all motions to build familiarity, rapport, and credibility with the judge as early as possible.

[Jim Sigler](#) is an FDCC Defense Counsel Member and a Senior Partner at [Keuler, Kelly, Hutchins, Blankenship, and Sigler, LLP](#) in Paducah, KY. He

is also a member of the FDCC's [Healthcare Practice Section](#), on whose behalf this article is submitted.

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

#3 Foundation Awards Barb Currie Diversity Scholarship



FDCC members joined together at the Offices of President Howard Merten in Providence, RI Thursday, May 25, to formally present the Foundation's 2023 Barb Currie Diversity Scholarship to Mariana Rava. Scholarship proceeds are obtained from the generous donations of FDCC members.

From left to right: FDCC Members John Kelleher; David & Karen Zizik; and Ned & Sue Currie; our Scholarship winner Mariana Rava; FDCC President Howard Merten; Greg Bowman, Dean of the Roger Williams School of Law; and FDCC Members Nicole Benjamin and Paul Kessimian.

Mariana was selected from a pool of over 70 applicants from more than 32 different law schools across the nation by the Scholarship Committee. To learn more about Mariana and the Barb Currie Diversity Scholarship, or to make a donation so we can continue advancing more of these promising individuals into our profession, please [click here](#).

#4 FDCC Member in the Spotlight



We are shining the Federation's Spotlight on [Anne Oldenburg](#) today. Anne is an FDCC Defense Counsel Member, a Vice Chair of the Healthcare Practice Section; and a partner in [HeplerBroom's](#) Chicago office.

Anne has been named the recipient of a 2023 [Medical Professional Liability \(MPL\) Association's](#) Industry Defender Award. The award was established to recognize defense attorneys for outstanding lifelong contributions to supporting medical liability insurers and

defending physicians, dentists, hospitals, clinics, and other health professionals and institutions. Oldenburg was nominated for the award by the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons National Insurance Company. She received her award at the MPL Association Conference in New Orleans on May 18.

Congratulations on this special recognition, Anne!

#5 Welcome Our New Member!

Please join us in welcoming our newest member!



[Norma Newell](#) is Assistant Vice president and Litigation Counsel with [FM Global Insurance Company](#) in Waltham, MA, where she is responsible for handling all legal matters for the company's Runoff Casualty, formulating and implementing claim resolution and litigation strategy; managing litigation and arbitration involving ceded and assumed claims; handling complex collection matters; and leading investigations on complex liability claims and issues. She also reviews and interprets treaties, facultative certificates, management agreements, complex reinsurance arrangements, and pooling agreements; evaluates traditional and complex claims (including asbestos, toxic tort, and hazardous waste claims);

retains and manages outside counsel; leads audit and special projects; provides legal advice to staff and management; and represents the company at hearings and trials.

#5.1 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:

- **June 14, 2023 at 1:00PM ET - FDCC Law Practice Management Town Hall Meeting: "Strategic Planning: process, purpose & goals."** Join Moderator Jody Briandi and her guests: John Trimble; Steve Embry & Frank Ramos. [Click here to register.](#)
- **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
Robert M. (Randy) Roach !**



Randy is the founding partner of [Roach Newton LLP](#), a Texas litigation and appellate boutique with a special focus on the Texas Supreme Court, and offices in Houston, Austin, and Beaumont.

Randy's almost 40 years of practice, which began at Vinson & Elkins in 1981, have focused on a unique combination of appeals, trials, and being the outside appellate lawyer added to trial teams. As an adjunct professor at the University of Texas and University of Houston law schools for the past 30 years, Randy has taught classes on advanced appellate advocacy and on insurance appeals. **Check out his video** on the value of being prepared for appellate oral arguments.

This combination has led to a career of high-profile appeals, major insurance coverage litigation, and being the legal ruling specialist at trial and arbitration for Fortune 500 companies and top trial lawyers.

He has served as state, regional, and national counsel for several major corporations with responsibility for specific legal issues decided by trial and appellate judges worth hundreds of millions and billions of dollars, such as punitives and intentional torts, insurance coverage, and contract interpretation disputes.

He has been a valued FDCC Defense Counsel member since 1994...and tomorrow is his birthday.

Please join us in sending him an email:

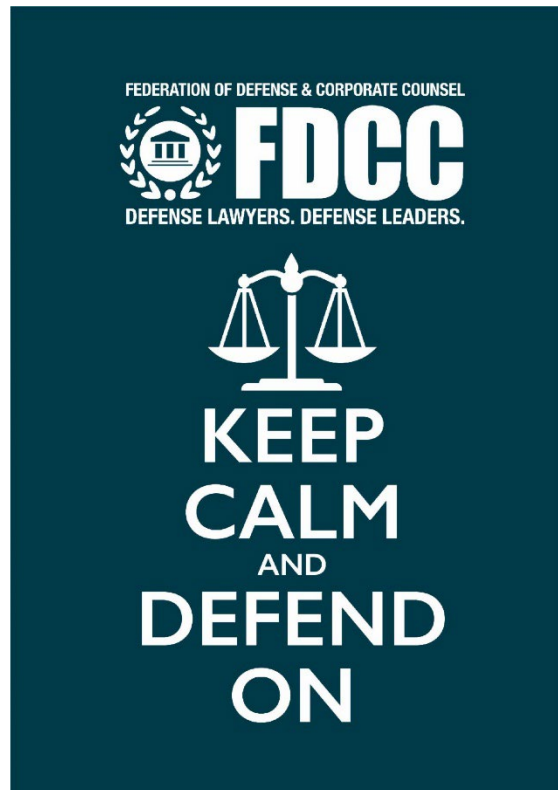
rroach@roachnewton.com

to wish him a very Happy Birthday!

Congratulations Randy, and our very best wishes for continued good health, success and happiness!

Why FDCC?

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



Be Exceptional Today!