

FEDERATION OF DEFENSE & CORPORATE COUNSEL



FDCC

DEFENSE LAWYERS. DEFENSE LEADERS.



October 25, 2024 -- Issue 247



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.



- Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Open
- Congratulations to FDCC Winners at DRI
- "A Place for Everyone" at the 2025 Winter Meeting
- Employer Obligations & Maintaining a Collegial Work Environment this Election Season
- Welcome Aboard: Anthony Burrows & Raymond Weisse!
- On the Docket

- Have a Nice Day: M.C. Sungaila!

#1 Nominations Open for the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

By: Kile Turner



The Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award is intended to honor those individuals who are "over and above" in every facet of their life and are seen as giants in their legal communities, the Federation and in their community at large. The recipient is chosen by the Officers of the FDCC based upon the recommendation of the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, with the award being presented at the Winter Meeting.

If you would like to nominate an FDCC member meeting the criteria for consideration, please submit a confidential letter directed to me by **December 1, 2024** so I can share it with the Committee for consideration and recommendation: **Kile Turner, Chair of the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, Norman, Wood, Kendrick & Turner, 1130 22nd Street South, Suite 3000, Birmingham, AL 35205** or by email to: Kturner@nwkt.com.

Please be sure to provide sufficient detail to support the nomination through a thoughtful narrative. The nomination should include the name and address of the individual; a description of his or her activities in the Federation, the profession and the community; and the reasons why the nominee is being put forward. The nominee's contributions and accomplishments will be measured against the other exceptional lawyers both within and outside of the Federation. They should have a history of embodying the values of the Federation (Knowledge, Justice and Fellowship). Their distinguished service may consist either of particular conduct or service over a period of time.

Thank you for your considered nominations. We look forward to hearing from you.

Past recipients of the award include:

Michael Neil: 2024

John R. Woodard, III: 2023

Dan D. Kohane: 2022

Susan M. Popik: 2021

D. Dudley Oldham: 2020

John (Jack) Trigg: 2019

Marvin L. Karp: 2018

Douglas G. Hauser: 2017

#2 Congratulations to FDCC Award Winners at DRI



Heather Sanderson



Larry Ebner



Ana Ramos

The Federation was well represented at the recently completed DRI Annual Conference in Seattle, WA, as well as in the awards the DRI bestowed upon well-deserving members of our profession. Please join us in congratulating these recipients of DRI's 2024 Professional Achievement and Service Awards:

- FDCC International Defense Counsel and Board Member, [Heather Sanderson](#) of Sanderson Law in Calgary, Alberta, Canada received the Fred H. Sievert Award as Outstanding SLDO Leader/Outstanding Defense Bar Leader Award;
- FDCC Defense Counsel Member and Chair of the Appellate Substantive Law Section, [Larry Ebner](#), of Capital Appellate Advocacy, PLLC and Executive Vice President & General Counsel of the Atlantic Legal Foundation was awarded the Tom Segalla Excellence in Education Award; and
- Florida Defense Lawyers Association Executive Director (and Spouse of FDCC Defense Counsel and Board Member Frank Ramos), [Ana Ramos](#) received the DRI's SLDO Executive Director Award.

We are proud to share these outstanding leaders and representatives of the defense bar with our DRI Colleagues and congratulate them on their personal and professional achievements.

#3 A Place for Everyone

at the FDCC 2025 Winter Meeting

By: Jeff & Heather Kelsey



As the Convention Chairs for the 2025 Winter Meeting in Charleston, Heather and I would like to extend a personal invitation for you to attend the meeting, and enjoy all the charm, history, and world class cuisine that Charleston has to offer.

Our home for the meeting, the luxurious Charleston Place Hotel, was recently recognized by Conde' Nast Traveler as one of the

best hotels and resorts in the world, and you'll undoubtedly be impressed by the beautiful meeting space and the immaculate accommodations.

The program that [Dan McGrath](#) has developed will give you practical tips and cutting-edge information, presented by practitioners who are at the top of the legal profession. And, of course, we'll have plenty of time for networking, socializing, and enjoying each other's company. Whatever your practice area and interests, there's "A Place for Everyone at Charleston Place!"

The room block is filling up fast, so [register today!](#) The brochure will be out soon but, in the meantime, here is the [Agenda](#).

Follow us on Instagram at [@fdcc_charleston_meeting](#) for regular updates and information.

We hope to see you at the FDCC's Winter Meeting in Charleston, SC; February 23-27, 2025.



#4 Employer Obligations & How to Maintain a Collegial Work Environment this Election Season



Jacqueline Longfellow



Carla Hartley

With election around the corner, now is the perfect time to ensure our businesses (as well as those we provide legal advice to) are aware of their obligations related to employees' rights to take time off from work to vote. First and foremost, refreshing yourself on any applicable state laws will keep you and your clients in compliance. Equally important, policies that allow for time off to vote encourage and promote civic responsibility.

While there is no federal law that requires a business to provide time off for its employees to vote, many states have enacted voting leave laws, which allow employees to take time off to vote. In fact, at last count, 36 states had enacted such laws.

“Voting leave” laws across the nation vary significantly. For this reason, you should become familiar with the applicable laws in your jurisdiction. For instance, some voting leave laws provide for specific times that an employer must provide leave, while others allow the employer to provide leave at its discretion. Some laws require paid leave, while others require only the provision of leave without pay. A few states do not require any leave to be given if the polls are open for a certain period of time before and/or after the employee's shift.

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

This submission of the FDCC's [Employment Law Substantive Law Section](#) was written by FDCC Defense Counsel members [Jacqueline M. Longfellow](#), a Member with Baker Sterchi in Kansas City, MO; and [Carla J. Hartley](#), a Partner with Dillingham & Murphy in San Francisco, California.

#5 Welcome Our New Members



Please join us in welcoming the following new members who have been admitted to our membership:



[Anthony Burrows](#) is Vice President, and Head of Errors & Omissions/Miscellaneous Professional Liability Claims with [Sompo](#) in Morristown, NJ, where he supervises a group of claims counsel overseeing more than 500 professional liability claims.

Prior to his current responsibilities, Anthony worked with Catlin Underwriting; AXIS Insurance; and ACE Limited, as well. Anthony and his wife, [Jennifer](#), reside in Long Valley, NJ



Raymond Weisse is Senior Vice President with **Ascot Group-US** in Stamford, CT, where he is responsible for building and providing managerial oversight for the US Casualty Team focused on Construction, Premises Liability, Product Liability, Environmental, Commercial Auto, Life Sciences, Crisis Management, E&O, Mass Tort, Multi-Peril Package policies, Accident & Health, Program business and the management and oversight of third-party administrators employed by Ascot. He is also actively involved in auditing, reinsurance functions, policy/endorsement drafting and review, customer service and marketing.

Prior to his current responsibilities, Raymond also worked with Gallagher Bassett; Navigators and SCOR Re.

Welcome Aboard!

#5.1 What's on the Docket?



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

- **October 30, 2024 - 6:00PM: FDCC Bay Area Members Get Together** at The Pawn Shop, 933 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA. [RSVP to Enrique Marinez.](#)

- **February 23-27, 2025: Winter Meeting** at the The Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, SC. [Click Here to Register!](#) Convention Chair: [Jeff Kelsey](#) and Program Chair: [Dan McGrath](#).
- **July 28 - August 3, 2025: Annual Meeting** at the [Stein Eriksen Lodge & The Chateaux at Deer Valley](#) in Park City, UT. Convention Chair: [Tiffany Alexander](#) and Program Chair: [Lee Hall](#).
- **September 14-16, 2025: Corporate Counsel Symposium** at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago, IL. Co-Chairs: [Chelsey Golightly](#), [Nicole Benjamin](#), and [Tim Moore](#),
- **February 24-28, 2026: Winter Meeting** at the [J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort](#) in Scottsdale, AZ. Convention Chair: [Frank Ramos](#); Program Chair: [Alan Rutkin](#).
- **July 26 - 31, 2026: Annual Meeting** at the [Corinthia Hotel in Lisbon, Portugal](#). 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"

M.C. Sungaila!



On October 16th, the [Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County](#) named FDCC Defense Counsel Member M.C. Sungaila the inaugural recipient of the Frances Munoz award and lecture. The celebration was in the former courtroom of another trailblazer, M.C.'s former judge and mentor, Alicemarie Stotler, as she was surrounded by close friends, family, clients, colleagues, and members of the warm and supportive Hispanic community.

The award was presented by the Honorable John Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, CA, who cited the important cases M.C. has worked on for the City. These included matters involving the COVID-19 pandemic and the City's Sober Living Home Ordinance. M.C. has made a difference in the lives of many and is an inspiration to many more.

M.C. is a Defense Counsel member of the FDCC and a Partner with the [Complex Appellate Litigation Group](#) in Newport Beach, CA. She has briefed or argued more than 170 appeals during her incredible career. Many of them involved complex and cutting-edge issues in employment, class action, product liability, franchisor, probate, and constitutional law. She has also developed special expertise in appeals involving Holocaust art recovery. She has handled appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court, multiple state supreme courts, numerous federal and state appellate courts, and even the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Would you kindly join us in filling M.C.'s In Box with some very well deserved congratulatory emails:

mc.sungaila@calg.com

Absolutely outstanding M.C. Your tireless and passionate advocacy through the years are truly emblematic of the FDCC's "over and above" standard. We are proud to have you as a valued member of the Federation.



Why FDCC?

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



**KEEP
CALM
AND
DEFEND
ON**

The graphic features a white icon of a pair of scales of justice, positioned centrally above the text. The text "KEEP CALM AND DEFEND ON" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, arranged in five lines: "KEEP", "CALM", "AND", "DEFEND", and "ON".

Be Exceptional Today!