



## VANCOUVER: WHERE CITY AND NATURE MEET

**Come connect with the IADC in BC!** We are looking forward to having you join us in the international city of Vancouver for the IADC's [2024 Annual Meeting](#), July 6 to 11, at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada.

The planning team, IADC staff, and our various CLE Committees have been working hard behind the scenes to create a meeting space where you, your families, and your guests will feel not only welcome but also have numerous opportunities to **engage**, focus on **business development**, and have the chance to **spend time with one another**. *continued on [page 4](#)*

2024

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"A good mentor hopes you will move on. A great mentor knows you will." - Leslie Higgins in *Ted Lasso*

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." - Oprah Winfrey

Mentor ['Men,tôr] (NEW OXFORD AMERICAN DICTIONARY)

*Noun* — An experienced and trusted advisor

*Verb* — To advise or train

In celebration of Women's History Month, I journaled about my first mentor. I was fortunate. Not only did I have a female as my first mentor, a real rarity for someone my age, I had someone who took an intense interest in my development and advancement as a lawyer. She made sure I saw what I needed to see, was where I needed to be, and she opened the doors that needed to be opened. Most of all, she answered the questions, solved the problems, and offered the support I needed at every stage of my career – sometimes with tough love, sometimes with humor, but always with my best interest and advancement at heart. By good fortune, she continues to practice law in the office next door to me; and though the associate she once mentored has grown, she is still the first person I go to when I need advice.

I returned recently from Chicago where I attended the Corporate Counsel College and Corporate Counsel Training Academy. The CCC offers rich content and valuable one-on-one networking with corporate clients year after year. It is one of the **remarkable** programs the IADC offers.

The CCTA is a newer program that precedes the CCC. It is aimed at corporate counsel of varying lengths of practice but who are newer to serving in the role of in-house counsel and may need a bit of guidance of the ins and outs of in-house counsel life. My experience with the CCTA was a new one for me, and wow! I had no idea how

impactful this program is.

The CCTA is designed as a “safe space” for the attendee attorneys to ask questions of veteran in-house counsel as they often must hit the ground running when first hired as in-house counsel – sometimes in crisis situations. The attendees and program panelists are provided the opportunity to connect with each other, and to continue the conversation long after the program is complete.

In some respects, the CCTA provides corporate mentoring for attendees through the lively presentations and informal networking. The afternoon session, curated by Director Nicole Brunson, provided those in attendance with meaningful advice from the likes of Stan Ball, Chris Egner, Sherylle Francis, Suzanne Meredith, Bryant Hall, Charlie Price, and Niki Schaefer not to mention a host of knowledgeable outside counsel. Topics included the importance of owning one’s own career, measuring one’s happiness by ONE’S standards, and utilizing “yes” strategically. The excellent program culminated in a one-on-one interview with a corporate CFO that impressed even the veteran in-house counsel attendees.

And last, but certainly not least - one of the best mentoring opportunities the IADC offers is the IADC Trial Academy. The “Crown Jewel” of the IADC celebrates its 50th gathering at Stanford Law School August 2-9 under the dynamic and creative leadership of Dean Warren Butler of Starnes Davis Florie and Dean-Elect Kim Hardeman of Lederer Weston Craig. Anyone who attends the Trial Academy knows how amazing and meaningful the experience is, and the mentoring is impactful and lasting. This year’s faculty shares a combined experience approaching **1,000 trials!** I have the unique Trial Academy viewpoint of attending as a student, the privilege of serving as a faculty member, and participating as IADC President – all unique experiences that have helped me grow as a lawyer and leader. Each of my Trial Academy experiences has provided enormously special memories. I encourage you to gift this mentoring opportunity to an attorney in your firm who needs to develop and refine skills in the courtroom. You will not regret the decision or the

investment!

The unique environment of the “IADC family” provides yet another opportunity for everyday mentoring. We may take this opportunity for granted, but it is an opportunity that is invaluable. The associate who comes into your office with a “may I talk to you for a minute?” and then closes the door and takes a seat; the phone call from an out of state colleague who is over-thinking a problem and just needs some “outsider” guidance back onto the right path; or the law partner who is losing their way due to personal issues or a tough courtroom loss. These are daily events that provide each of us with opportunities to be a mentor to someone. Many of us had a special mentor like I did. I encourage you to seek out a mentoring opportunity today. You will find it an enriching experience.

- Michele Y. Smith, *IADC President, 2023-2024*

The logo for the IADC Foundation, with "IADC" in large black letters and "FOUNDATION" in smaller green letters below it.

The IADC Foundation supports efforts to globally advance the rule of law and access to justice.

In 2023, the IADC Foundation has given \$160,000 in grants to:

- Justice Without Borders
- United Nations Office Against Drugs and Crime GRACE Project
- ICivics
- National Foundation for Judicial Excellence
- National High School Mock Trial Championship
- I Am Why*
- IADC Webinar Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.IADCFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.IADCFOUNDATION.ORG).



Watch the video above to meet UNODC, one of the IADC Foundation's grantees.

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING *(continued)*

The Annual Meeting is curated for *you*, and we hope you are planning to join us! ([It's not too late!](#)) Here are a few highlights:

- Twenty-three education programs on the schedule
- Exceptional CLE topics
  - In a Relationship? It's Complicated: Achieving Harmony and Avoiding the Frustrations and Ethical Pitfalls of the National/Local Counsel Relationship
  - Avoiding Surprises - How to Effectively Manage Corporate Spend in Litigation
  - Building Bridges: Navigating Generational Expectations of Your Colleagues and Clients in the New Age
- Networking and social opportunities --

*Welcome to the Couve!* Welcome Reception, "Wildly" Canadian Theme Party, *The Crystal Ball*, afternoon tours and activities, smaller group gatherings, and more.

The hotel reservation deadline and activity and tour registration deadline is June 5. Be sure to [check out those tour offerings.](#)

Program and registration information can be found on the 2024 Annual Meeting page on the IADC website.

JOIN US IN VANCOUVER



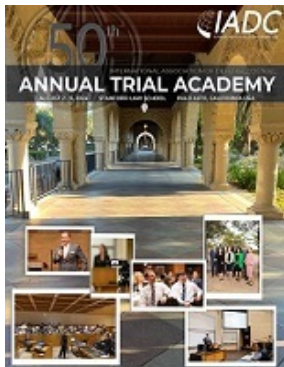
## Upcoming Events

### 2024 Professional Liability Roundtable

*May 30, The Gleacher Center, University of Chicago,  
Booth School of Business, Chicago, IL USA*

This full-day program includes insurance focused morning programs with two afternoon program trackoptions: professional liability and medical liability.

This program is open to all, including non-members.  
Details and registration can be found on the [IADC website](#).



### 50th Annual Trial Academy

*August 2 - 9, Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, CA USA*

As the "Crown Jewel" of the IADC, the Trial Academy is one of the oldest and most respected programs for developing defense trial advocacy skills. Perfect for those looking to learn and practice the fundamentals and for those seeking to refine their techniques and tactics and take their trial skills to the next level.

This year's class is filling quickly! If you have been waiting, [enroll your students now](#) to secure their spot.



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following business development opportunities were afforded to members since the last issue of the *Docket* in January.

- In-Person Connection Events
  - IADConnects in Phoenix
  - Regional Meeting and Joint BIICL Conference in London; Vienna Regional Meeting; Chicago Regional Meeting
  - 2024 Midyear Meeting, Corporate Counsel Training Academy, and Corporate Counsel College
- 55 Monthly Substantive Law Committee Calls
  - 24 presentations on important topics and best practices
  - 59 member introductions
  - 7 joint meetings
- 7 published writing opportunities through our Committee articles
- A brand-new issue of the *Defense Counsel Journal*, our scholarly journal
- 3 feature articles placed by our PR firm, Jaffe
- 18 member successes shared

## IADC Awards the 2023 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Award to Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP

The IADC presented its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Award for 2023 to law firm Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP (HM&B). HM&B partner and IADC member Jerry D. Hamilton accepted the award at the 2024 Midyear Meeting.

Created by the IADC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee, the DEIB Award recognizes persons and organizations that have championed and taken purposeful, tangible actions yielding positive outcomes in achieving diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the legal profession.

"The IADC is very proud to present its DEIB Award to Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel for its trailblazing commitment and action toward diversity and inclusion at the firm and in the broader legal community," said IADC President Michele Y. Smith, a shareholder at MehaffyWeber, P.C. "By recognizing HM&B's achievements in this area, the IADC seeks to continue to raise awareness and inspire others to achieve positive diverse, equitable, and inclusive belonging in the legal profession."

Hamilton, who sits on the board of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF), said, "We are very grateful to IADC for recognizing Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel as a leader in taking meaningful action toward guaranteeing diversity, equity and inclusion in our industry. We share these goals with IADC and look forward to encouraging other firms and individuals to build workplaces with diverse professionals and staff and foster environments that value the contributions of everyone."





## RECENT EVENT RECAPS

**IADCConnects in Vancouver.** On January 18, Jim Sullivan hosted a fun happy hour at which prospective, new, and veteran IADC members had the opportunity to meet and visit with each other in a casual setting in Vancouver. Vancouver plays host to the Annual Meeting in July. We cannot wait to share this wonderful city with the IADC!

**IADCConnects in Phoenix.** On January 19, attendees connected in Phoenix hosted by member Carolyn Husmann. Members in the region and attendees at the DRI Women in the Law Conference enjoyed an opportunity to relax, visit, and get to know each other better.

**Regional Meeting and Joint BIICL Conference.** The IADC hosted a successful and productive Regional Meeting in association with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law ("BIICL") in London. Sixty-five attendees received thought-provoking information from two great panels that addressed mass torts and emerging risks from the European and US perspectives.



## RECENT EVENT RECAPS



**Vienna Regional Meeting.** Our European Regional Meeting, hosted by CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz Rechtsanwälte GmbH, honored Third Year Board Member Daniela Karollus-Bruner. Many IADC members participated in the outstanding programming during the meeting, including Döne Yalçın, Thomas Rouhette, and Maria Orlyk, who provided thought-provoking and inspiring insight into running a legal business in the middle of war. Among others, attendees also heard from Marina Smelyanskaya with the United Nations

Development Programme and Nick Emmerson, President of the Law Society of England and Wales.

**2024 Midyear Meeting.** The Midyear Meeting took place at the JW Marriott Miami Turnberry in Miami, Florida. More than 450 members, spouses/significant others, guests, and sponsors attended the meeting, and 40 new IADC members introduced themselves by detailing their worst or most memorable jobs. The meeting was successful with extremely relevant CLE offerings -- twenty-two programs offered in total -- and lots of great business networking opportunities. Thank you to the 2024 Planning Team: Convention Chairs Sandy and Tom Wunderlich, President-Elect Donna Lamontagne and Tom Patriarca, and President Michele Smith and Mitchell Smith.

## RECENT EVENT RECAPS

**Corporate Counsel Training Academy.** A great afternoon was had at the Corporate Counsel Training Academy in Chicago. With the theme “Minding Your Business: Ways to Grow as Corporate Counsel,” newer corporate counsel benefited from the presentations of several in-house and outside counsel with practical and tactical advice for navigating the in-house role. Great engagement and the opportunity to make connections sure to keep going and growing. Thank you to Nicole Brunson, her Committee, and the speakers.

**Chicago Regional Meeting.** The Midwest Regional Meeting allowed Corporate Counsel Training Academy and Corporate Counsel College attendees, along with area members and guests, to gather and celebrate the hard work of Third Year Board Member Tom Lysaught.

**2024 Corporate Counsel College.** Dean Amy Sherry Fischer kicked off day one of the Corporate Counsel College, which was a tremendous day filled with excellent content designed to address hot button issues affecting in-house counsel with great discussions on how to respond. The networking breaks and reception also provided a wonderful opportunity to connect and engage with new and old friends. Day two of the College ended on a high note with two dynamite panels that left attendees wanting more. Thank you to Dean Amy Sherry Fischer, the planning Committee, our speakers and moderators, and our sponsors.



## COMMITTEE NEWSLETTERS

### [What is the Role of Science in Determining a Causal Link? The Example of Pesticides in French Litigation](#)

By Sylvie Gallage-Alwis and Elias Boukachabine  
*Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation Committee*

### [Defusing Nuclear Verdicts Prior to Trial](#)

By John Lucas, Whitney Frazier Watt, and Adam J. Bobkin  
*Product Liability Committee*

### [Flying Foul Play: Legal Issues Take Flight in Monday Night Football's Drone Incident](#)

By Mica Nguyen Worthy and Charlie Raphun  
*Transportation Committee*

### [Liability for Defective Products and the Pharma Industry: What's New in the EU & France?](#)

By Sylvie Gallage-Alwis and Alice Decramer  
*Product Liability Committee*

### [Aircraft Ownership Considerations - So You Bought a Plane, Now What?](#)

By Mica Nguyen Worthy  
*Transportation Committee*

### [Granting of Authority in a Mexican Corporation and Considerations Regarding Foreign Powers of Attorney to Be Used in Mexico](#)

By Manuel Moctezuma  
*International Committee*

### [Your Chance of Getting Hit by Space Junk Is Extremely Low, But Not Zero! \(The Current "Universe" of Space Insurance\)](#)

By Mica Worthy  
*Transportation Committee*

## RECENT RESOURCES



## WEBINARS

### **Conflicts of Interest, Investigations, and Protests, Oh My! Navigating Post-Government Employment Restrictions as a Potential Employer**

Presented by - Business Litigation Committee and Corporate Compliance and Government Enforcement Actions Committee

*Presenters: D. Michael Hurst, Jr., Phelps Dunbar, LLP; Tara L. Ward, McDermott Will & Emery LLP*

[PDF of Presentation](#) | [Webinar Recording](#) | [Password can be found here](#)

### **Things to Consider as You Prepare for Your First Trial**

Presented by - Business Litigation Committee, Construction Law and Litigation Committee, Employment Law Committee, Product Liability Committee, and Trial Techniques and Tactics Committee

*Moderator: T. Thomas Singer, Hall and Evans, LLC*

*Presenters: Julie A. Callsen, Tucker Ellis LLP; W. M. Bains Fleming, III, Norman, Wood, Kendrick & Turner; Shannon Joseph, Morningstar Law Group; Stephanie M. Laws, Maslon, LLP*

[Webinar Recording](#) | [Password can be found here](#)

### **Federal Jurisdiction: Snap to It!**

Presented by - Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee and Product Liability Committee

*Presenter: Katie Maechler, Maslon LLP*

[PDF of Presentation](#) | [Webinar Recording](#) | [Password can be found here](#)

These podcast episodes have dropped since our last *Docket* issue.  
Listen below, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

- [The Magic City: Miami](#)
  - Host Mollie Benedict (Tucker Ellis LLP) spoke with fellow members Sandy Wunderlich (2024 Midyear Meeting Convention Chair, Tucker Ellis LLP) and Spencer Silverglate (IADC Past President, Clarke Silverglate, P.A.) about all things Miami. This episode covers Miami recommendations for food, activities, and fun.
- [Navigating Allyship: A Follow-Up on Supporting Jewish Colleagues](#)
  - Host Matt Cairns (Textron, Inc.) followed up with Rebecca Weinstein Bacon (Bartlit Beck LLP), Dan Reisler (Aviva Trial Lawyers), Sheila Schiffman (Vitesco Technologies), and Scott Wilkov (Tucker Ellis LLP) on their Active Ally series program. They provided updates since their last conversation and shared concrete ways to actively support Jewish colleagues.
- [IADC 2024 Corporate Counsel Training Academy and Corporate Counsel College](#)
  - Host Rebecca Weinstein Bacon (Bartlit Beck LLP) interviewed IADC's 2024 Corporate Counsel Training Academy Chair Nicole Brunson (Arrival) and Corporate Counsel College Dean Amy Sherry Fischer (Foliart, Huff, Ottaway & Bottom) about this year's programs held in Chicago, April 10 to 12.

- [Breast Cancer: An Intimate Conversation](#)
  - Host Mollie Benedict (Tucker Ellis LLP) had an intimate conversation with IADC members Amy Sherry Fischer (Foliart, Huff, Ottaway & Bottom), Meade Hartfield (Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP), and Whitney Frazier Watt (Stites & Harbison PLLC). They each shared their story and connection, and provided suggestions on how to support friends and colleagues going through this journey.
- [The IADC Trial Academy — An Inside View](#)
  - In this “Speaking With the Smiths” podcast episode, get an inside look at the IADC’s Crown Jewel – the Trial Academy. IADC President Michele Smith (MehaffyWeber) and *IADC Speaks* Host Matt Cairns (Textron Inc.) interviewed Dean Warren Butler (Starnes Davis Florie, LLP) and Dean-Elect Kim Hardeman (Lederer Weston Craig PLC) about this year’s Academy, to be held August 2-9, as it celebrates its 50th year. Learn about what’s in store and hear about the incredibly talented faculty assembled and ready to train another group of future first chair lawyers!

## ***DEFENSE COUNSEL JOURNAL - VOLUME 91, NUMBER 1***

**President's Page** By Michele Y. Smith

**Editor's Page** By Marsha M. Piccone and Peter J. Pizzi

### **PFAS in Food Packaging: Product Liability Concerns for Industry Manufacturers and Sellers**

By Craig T. Liljestrand

[Online Article](#) | [PDF to Print](#)

### **Privilege Pierced by Ongoing or Future Wrongful Conduct: The Crime-Fraud Privilege Exception is Broader Than You Think**

By W. Scott O'Connell

[Online Article](#) | [PDF to Print](#)

### **Third-Party Observation of Independent Medical Examinations**

By Floyd G. Cottrell

[Online Article](#) | [PDF to Print](#)

### **The Nuremburg Trials - Viewing the Rule of Law's Response to the Holocaust Through a Trial Lawyer's Lens**

By Christopher S. Berdy

[Online Article](#) | [PDF to Print](#)



## **AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS**

### **Update on Amicus Brief Filed in *Sullivan v. Werner Company and Lowe's Companies, Inc.* (1/9/2024)**

*This update refers to the amicus brief the IADC filed in "Michael and Melissa Sullivan v. Werner Company and Lowe's Companies, Inc."*

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision is a loss, but with room for hope in future cases. The question before the court was whether evidence that the product complied with industry or government standards is admissible in a strict product liability lawsuit. Six justices participated in the decision, and the court split 3-1-2. An opinion for three justices, announcing the court's judgment, concluded that such evidence is never admissible in Pennsylvania. A fourth justice (Donohue) agreed that on the facts of this particular case the trial court had properly excluded the evidence. But her opinion left open the possibility that such evidence might be admissible in a future case. Her opinion would require, at a minimum, that the defendant present evidence of what the standard says and its development, and the defendant would also have to explain how the evidence was relevant to at least one of the factors that the jury must use in deciding whether the product is unreasonably dangerous. An opinion for two other justices, dissenting, concluded that such evidence is normally admissible (as long as normal rules of evidence are met).

Importantly, no opinion got a majority. It normally takes a majority of justices to create a holding that binds lower courts. In some future case, the manufacturer would want to offer the evidence and explanation required by Justice Donohue's opinion. If that evidence were offered in a future case, the lineup is that it would be inadmissible under opinions representing three justices, and might be admissible under opinions representing three other justices. Since neither position commanded a majority, Sullivan does not require the trial court to exclude such evidence. The trial court has to decide whether to follow the three justices in the plurality or the three justices in the concurrence plus dissent.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has a seventh justice who was not on the court in time to participate in the Sullivan decision. The defendant's counsel has offered reargument so that the seventh justice can participate. If there is a reargument, the resulting opinion would presumably have seven justices and one side might command a majority. We must wait and see what happens.

Read the justice opinion [here](#). | Read the concurring opinion [here](#). | Read the dissenting opinion [here](#).

### **IADC Files Brief in United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in *Jennifer Harris v. FedEx Corporate Services, Inc.* (02/01/2024; 5/3/2023)**

The IADC filed a motion in support of FedEx in *Jennifer Harris v. FedEx Corporate Services, Inc.* on May 3, 2023. The Court issued a ruling on February 1, 2024.

Read the [ruling](#). | Read the [amicus brief](#).

### **Motion and Brief Filed in *Diane Owens v. Firstenergy Corporation* (2/16/2024)**

The IADC filed an amicus brief in the Sixth Circuit in *Diane Owens v. FirstEnergy Corporation* in an appeal of class certification granted under FRCP 23(b)(3) for defendants' alleged violations of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The IADC's brief argues that in granting plaintiffs' Rule 23(b)(3) motion for class certification, the district court fundamentally erred in applying the law and failed to apply properly two significant protections from liability provided to defendants.

First, in certifying a class on plaintiffs' claims brought under the Securities Exchange Act, the district court failed to undertake the required rigorous analysis, which serves as a protection for defendants under Rule 23(b)(3)'s predominance requirement. The lack of the required rigorous analysis led the district court to the wrong result, when it held in a conclusory fashion that plaintiffs had satisfied the predominance

requirement on their claims brought under the Securities Exchange Act for the same reasons they had met the predominance requirement on their claims under the Securities Act—despite the fact that the latter contains a damages formula while the former does not, rendering the analogy inapt.

Second, the district court improperly applied the *Affiliated Ute* presumption of reliance, which was created for cases that primarily dealt with a failure to disclose. IADC's brief argues its application in this case was improper as plaintiffs' claims were based on affirmative alleged misrepresentations, not omissions. Plaintiffs attempted expansion of *Affiliated Ute* represents a dangerous precedent in the erosion of the protections associated with securities fraud claims as it allows a plaintiff to skirt having to prove actual reliance, an essential element of a fraud claim, and potentially allows for class treatment of fraud claims. IADC's brief urges the Sixth Circuit to recognize that expanding *Affiliated Ute* to cases involving affirmative alleged misrepresentations will render the reliance requirement meaningless in securities fraud cases. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and former U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission officials also filed amicus briefs urging the Sixth Circuit to reverse class certification in this case.

Mike Risley, Marjorie Farris, Chad McTighe, and Beth Breetz of Stites & Harbison in Louisville, Kentucky prepared and filed the IADC's brief.

Read the [amicus motion](#). | Read the [amicus brief](#).

For past Webinar presentations, *Defense Counsel Journal* articles, Active Ally discussions, the Diversity Roadmap resource, and more, visit the "Resource Library" section at [www.iadclaw.org](http://www.iadclaw.org).

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### [Roggenkamp](#)

Hilti Corporation  
Schaan,  
Liechtenstein

# NEW MEMBERS

*Please welcome  
our newest  
members to  
the IADC, and if  
you need a legal  
resource in  
their area,  
Think IADC First and  
give them a call!*

## NOMINATE

If you know anyone  
who would be an  
excellent member,  
nominate them  
for IADC  
membership.

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Munich, Germany

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## YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Kurt Gerstner](#), a senior attorney at Dentons Lee in Seoul, South Korea, was listed among "2023 Korea's Top 100 Lawyers" by *Asia Business Law Journal*. | [more](#)

[Julie E. Maurer](#) joined Husch Blackwell's Phoenix office as Partner in the Transportation Practice Group. | [more](#)

[Christopher S. Drewry](#), a partner at Drewry Simmons Vornehm, LLP, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for *Modern Contractor Solutions'* January 2024 issue. | [more](#)

[Todd Presnell](#), a partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, co-authored a treatise on evidentiary privileges recognized under Tennessee law and federal law within the Sixth Circuit. | [more](#)

[Brian Del Gatto](#), a partner at Wilson Elser, obtained dismissal that expands case law on FAAAA preemption of state law claims. | [more](#)

[Maxon R. Davis](#), a partner at Davis, Hatley, Haffeman, & Tighe, PC., obtained dismissal on a class-action suit against University of Montana (UM) over financial aid. | [more](#)

## IADC SUCCESSSES

[Stephanie Carfley](#), a member with McNeese Wallace & Nurick LLC, was named co-chair of the firm's Litigation Practice Group to support continued geographic expansion, team growth, and service development. | [more](#)

[William "Billy" Jones](#) joined Lathrop GPM's Denver office as partner of the firm's Franchise Distribution Practice Group. | [more](#)

[Jonathan Crompton](#), a partner at Reynolds Porter Chamberlain LLP (RPC) and a Board Member at Justice Without Borders, was recognized by the Law Society of Hong Kong with its Pro Bono and Community Service Awards. | [more](#)

[Charles Cole](#), a partner in the Chicago office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP and a member of the Medical Malpractice Department, received a directed verdict in a medical malpractice case. | [more](#)

[Stephanie Laws](#), [Katie Maechler](#), and [Steve Schleicher](#), partners at Maslon LLP, won a complete defense verdict in a Polaroid \$300 million contract dispute. | [more](#)

[William Thomas](#), co-owner and member-attorney at Gausnell, O'Keefe & Thomas, LLC, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for *Modern Contractor Solutions'* February 2024 issue. | [more](#)

[Russell Buffkin](#) and [Edwin Stuardi](#), both of Helmsing, Leach, Herlong, Newman & Rouse, P.C., obtained a defense verdict in a six-day trial in Baldwin County, Alabama for a local hospital in a medical malpractice case. | [more](#)

[William M. Dalehite, Jr.](#), recently retired and former senior partner at Steen Dalehite & Pace, LLP, has been selected to the University of Mississippi Law Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2024. | [more](#)

[Clay Cossé](#), a member with Dykema, successfully defended Nissan North America, Inc. in a three-week jury trial in Houston, Texas. | [more](#)

[Danielle Waltz](#), a partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for *Modern Contractor Solutions'* March 2024 issue. | [more](#)



Congratulations to our IADC members who were inducted to the American College of Trial Lawyers!

- [Kim Bueno](#) (Butler Snow LLP)
- [Melanie L. Carpenter](#) (Woods Fuller)
- [Daniel K. Cray](#) (Cray Huber Horstman Heil & VanAusdal LLC)
- [Gary D. Elliston](#) (DeHay & Elliston, L.L.P.)
- [Alex J. Hagan](#) (Ellis & Winters LLP)
- [Ursula M. Henninger](#) (King & Spalding LLP)
- [Gregory A. Holloway](#) (Cokinios | Young)
- [Robert P. Latham](#) (Jackson Walker LLP)
- [Hildy M. Sastre](#) (Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.)
- [William M. Toles](#) (Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.)

| [more](#)

Submit your accolades, pro bono stories, courtroom wins, and successes to [Diana Leon](#), Communications and Operations Manager.

### IN MEMORIAM

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of these IADC members.

Kevin Condron  
Chicago, IL USA  
Member since 2000

Bobby Hood Sr.  
Charleston, SC USA  
Member since 1982

Tom Wallerstein  
San Francisco, CA USA  
Member since 2018

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL  
**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**LARRY SMITH**

**COMPANY/FIRM NAME**  
*Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell*

**COMPANY/FIRM LOCATION**  
*Orlando, Florida*

**TYPE OF LAW YOU PRACTICE MOST**  
*Premises Liability, Product Liability*

**CURRENT INVOLVEMENT/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH IADC**  
*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee since I joined the IADC, including the Diversity Task Force in 2017.*

**BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS A LAWYER**  
*Always walk the high road: it's not as crowded and the air is cleaner.*

**YOU MAY NOT KNOW...**  
*1) I was a federal law enforcement officer, National Park Ranger, and Nuclear Security Officer before law school; and 2) I enjoy entertaining and have a large collection of silver, crystal, and porcelain, including pieces owned by FDR, Napoleon Bonaparte, Napoleon III, and Louis Philippe, the last king of France.*

**Meet member Larry Smith!**

Want the spotlight on you? Fill out the [Member Spotlight form](#).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

[Biomechanical Motions, Forces, and Leverage in Accident Analyses \(Webinar\)](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

[IADConnects in Nashville, TN](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 2

[IADConnects in Birmingham, AL](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 2

[IADConnects in Saint Louis, MO](#)

TUESDAY, MAY 7

[IADConnects in Cleveland, OH](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 AND THURSDAY, MAY 9

[2024 Asian Regional Meeting - Hong Kong](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

[Moving Forward: The Present and Future of Autonomous Vehicle Regulation \(Webinar\)](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 9

[Mentoring Diverse Attorneys: Developing Your Program From First Year to Partnership](#)

FRIDAY, MAY 10

[IADConnects in Taipei, Taiwan](#)

View the calendar of events below for a full listing of upcoming offerings, program information, and registration.

CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

[If You Are Still Expecting Reptiles, It's Time to Reframe \(Webinar\)](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 16

[2024 Far West Regional Meeting - San Francisco, CA](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 16

[IADConnects in Philadelphia, PA](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 23

[IADConnects in Morristown, NJ](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

[IADConnects in Nairobi, Kenya](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 30

[2024 Professional Liability Roundtable](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

[IADConnects in Los Angeles, CA](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

[IADConnects in New Orleans, LA](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

[2024 Northeastern Regional Meeting - Boston, MA](#)

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

[IADConnects in Denver, CO](#)



## Do You Have the Opportunity to Refer Business? Think IADC First

Think IADC First is a program designed to encourage our members to consider fellow IADC members when the opportunity arises to refer

business.

The IADC prides itself in having an elite, international membership of approximately 2,500 peer-reviewed, in-house counsel, insurance executives, and outside counsel representing business entities across the world. With the talent and expertise of our members, you can be confident that your client will be well represented when referred to an IADC member.

When you have an opportunity to refer business and Think IADC First, start with our membership directory! We have an [online directory](#), a [PDF version](#), and an [interactive international map](#).

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THINK  
IADC  
FIRST

REFERRAL  
SUCCESSSES

"My firm received a referral for a large piece of litigation in my state due to my IADC connections. From that one referral, we now have received at least 10 other matters, all substantial cases. In addition, another member in my state sent me a case when he conflicted out of the matter. A large amount of my cases can be traced back to an IADC referral."