



This year's International Corporate Counsel College will take place in London, United Kingdom on October 9 and 10 at The Law Society.

The ICC will be an excellent opportunity to **engage** with the IADC, and to socially **connect** with clients and colleagues.

Twenty-eight speakers from around the world will join us to

give their perspective on the latest legal issues affecting global companies. This year's program theme is **Ethical Dangers and the Roles and Responsibilities of an In-House Lawyer**. Crises bring opportunities for lawyers. This conference explores the range of pressures faced by in-house lawyers, such as criminal risks and liabilities, stressed stakeholders, unexpected events, a changed information environment, political pressures, and the evolution of risk for an in-house team. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss! [Grab details and register now.](#)

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In the wake of our memorable Annual Meeting in Quebec City this July, we've had a fantastic start to the leadership year—and it's only just beginning! Already, we've offered casual connections and business development opportunities in Morristown, NJ to Singapore and Sydney; welcomed more than 100 attendees at Bayer Headquarters for our popular Product Liability Roundtable; and are preparing for a slate of exciting London events, including the International Corporate Counsel College and collaborative programming with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These gatherings are more than events—they are a gateway to IADC's signature education and global community.

This year, my main initiative is **Members First**. It's all about YOU and ensuring your membership delivers value that fits your life. IADC leadership is dedicated to providing you a wealth of benefits. Whether you have 15 minutes or a full week, IADC offers opportunities to engage, learn, and connect.

- Quick Engagements (15-30 minutes):

- [IADC Speaks podcast episodes](#) – covering topics from judicial systems around the globe to managing burnout to lessons from trial losses.
- [Committee Newsletters](#) – quick reads to keep current on legal trends and issues that impact your practice.
- [Substantive Committee monthly meetings](#) – short and content-rich virtual gatherings offering connection with colleagues who share your interests and expertise.

- Deeper Learning (1 hour):

- [Defense Counsel Journal articles](#) – in-depth topical and scholarly articles authored by various IADC members that keep you informed of timely issues that are impacting our clients.
 - [Webinars](#) – practical education for you, your colleagues, and your clients. Can't make it live? Recordings are available [on-demand](#).



- Signature Experiences (half-day to multi-day):

- [IADCConnects](#) – casual gatherings for collegiality, networking, and fun.
- [Regional Meetings](#) – opportunities to connect closer to home to discuss critical local issues.
- [IADC Conferences](#) – our hallmark events, blending education, networking, and social opportunities.

Whatever you are looking for, the IADC has it.

Want to fulfill your annual education requirements? *Join us.*

Want to take advantage of the business development opportunities available through IADC? *Join us.*

Want to explore association leadership opportunities? *Join us.*

Want to attend only local or virtual events? *Join us.*

Want to broaden your professional circle or make friends? *Join us.*

No matter the stage of your career or the time you can give, IADC is here to meet you where you are.

This year, I invite you to lean in—to take advantage of what IADC offers in the way that works best for you. Together, we'll make this a year of connection, growth, and endless ways to build your business.

J. Dominic Campodonico
IADC President, 2025-2026



YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout the past year, the IADC strengthened community, made new friends, and revisited old, under the leadership of now Immediate Past President Donna Lamontagne. Thank you Donna for your incredible impact.

Enjoy the year in review video above, played at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Québec.

Why IADC?

IADC membership includes the whole package – business development, high level legal and general interest education, personal and professional connections, and opportunities to give back and support the rule of law.

Your membership pays for itself many times over with these included benefits.

MEMBERS FIRST

Member benefits tailored to your needs and schedule.

Quick and easy

Each month, you can work 30-60 minutes of quality business development, education, and yes, even fun, into your schedule through:

- **Substantive Law Committee virtual meetings.** Meetings include personal introductions to others in your practice area, tips and latest developments, and joint meetings and social activities.
- **IADC Speaks podcasts.** Our podcasts, most under 30 minutes, cover legal topics, wellness topics, and highlight members from different countries who talk about what it is like to practice law where they live. Perfect to make the most of your travel and workout time!
- **Webinars.** These excellent programs are free for you as well as your colleagues and clients. Webinars are also recorded – if you can't hop on when it is live, you have access to them later.
- **IADCconnects.** These are casual, local events that any IADC member can schedule. Meet with other members in your area after work or over lunch. Meet with IADC members at a major local event or just at a local bar for a drink.

A more substantial experience

- Join us for our in-person meetings that all provide the trifecta of key benefits – great business development, incredible education, and time with colleagues and friends. You will get so much out of all these meetings, and they are the best way to elevate your IADC experience.
- **Midyear and Annual Meetings** give you the full business and social experience in fantastic locations. The programming is exceptional and covers legal and general well-being topics. Both meetings have activities for your "plus one" guests, and Annual Meetings are designed for those who want to combine an amazing summer holiday with business. The Annual Meeting includes activities for IADC kids and families and solo attendees. We also include charitable projects and fundraising for grants to support the rule of law and access to justice through the IADC Foundation.
 - **Corporate Counsel College and International Corporate Counsel College** are designed for our corporate members and guests and their outside counsel. These meetings

cover the topics corporate counsel are most interested in and give them access to get to know our outside counsel members.

- **Professional Liability Roundtable and Product Liability Roundtable** are specialized experiences covering insurance and product liability topics. The attendees include outside counsel, insurance executives, and corporate counsel.
- **Trial Academy** is the crown jewel of the IADC providing trial advocacy training to your less experienced colleagues to practice the fundamentals or refine techniques.
- **Regional Meetings** are complimentary gatherings held around the world that often include continuing education and always include meeting and enjoying time with other IADC members. In the 2024-2025 year, we will have held Regional Meetings on six continents.

Always at your fingertips

Anytime you can access materials to help you be the best lawyer you can be. On our website (www.iadc.law.org), members can access:

- **Extensive resource library**, with access to materials like the Diversity Roadmap, past Webinars, *Defense Counsel* Journal articles, Committee newsletters, amicus curiae briefs, Rule 702 resources, and more.
- **Connections** to a worldwide network of top-notch defense counsel, corporate counsel, and insurance executives from every US state and 51 countries and territories. An **online member directory** and the **non-US member interactive map directory** help you to tap into that network.
- **Member successes and member announcements** on the website and through our social media to raise your profile and celebrate your accomplishments.

With all these resources and opportunities, the IADC experience can be what you need and want it to be.

Not sure where to start? Reach out to Membership Manager Blake Howard at bhoward@iadc.law.org to point you in the right direction. We have an Engagement Committee, a First Timer program at our Midyear and Annual Meetings, and leadership at all levels ready to help.

"It's not why, it's why so late. I learned about the IADC...during the pandemic... The level of people professionally and personally within the organization is why I'm involved. Exceptional lawyers, but better people... The reason why I say why so late is that I am jealous of many people who have been involved in IADC from earlier in their career."

- Amy Stewart



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- In-Person Connection Events
 - 2025 Annual Meeting, 51st Annual Trial Academy, and Product Liability Roundtable
 - Regional Meetings in Québec City, Singapore, Sydney, and Morristown
 - IADConnects in San Francisco
- 48 Monthly Substantive Law Committee Calls
 - 5 presentations on important topics and best practices
 - 35 member introductions
 - 1 joint meeting
- 1 published writing opportunity through our Committee articles
- A brand-new issue of the *Defense Counsel Journal*, our scholarly journal
- 1 feature article placed by our PR firm, Jaffe
- 8 member successes shared

New LCJ Analysis Reveals Numerous Control Provisions in TPLF Contracts, Despite Funder Claims

While third-party litigation funders regularly proclaim that they don't control the litigation they fund in comments to judges and in various public settings, a new Lawyers for Civil Justice "Rules Suggestion" to the Federal Advisory Committee on Civil Rules reveals for the first time that funding contracts contain numerous provisions that give funders the authority to do just that. The LCJ analysis concludes that TPLF contracts give funders significant direct and indirect control over the cases they invest in through numerous control provisions that empower them to direct case management, make decisions regarding settlement, choose and direct the lawyers—and even continue the litigation after the actual parties choose to settle (dubbed “zombie litigation.”). The analysis can be found here: [LCJ Rules Suggestion: Uniform Disclosure of TPLF Contracts is Necessary to Inform Judges' and Parties' Case Management Decisions — Lawyers for Civil Justice.](#)

The LCJ Rules Suggestion comes as the Advisory Committee is considering whether to adopt a rule requiring the disclosure of TPLF contracts in federal civil cases. LCJ's analysis includes the contracts of some of the world's largest funders, including those ranked as “Band 1” by Chambers and Partners (UK-based Burford Capital), as well as a funder affiliated with Fortress Legal Assets.

Litigation funders tell judges, policymakers, the media, and litigants that they are merely passive investors with no control over the litigation from which they hope to earn a big return. However, according to LCJ General Counsel Alex Dahl, their contracts tell a quite different story. The TPLF contracts obtained by LCJ demonstrate that funders control or exert significant influence over decisions to choose and direct counsel, accept or reject settlements, shape the substance of remedies, or even take over the litigation entirely. Courts and parties need to know about these provisions to know who is in the courtroom,

LCJ continued

manage cases, and to make a realistic appraisal of the case. LCJ is urging the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules to recommend a uniform rule in the FRCP to require disclosure of these contracts to judges and parties.

Many funders have claimed publicly that they do not wield control over litigation decisions in cases they fund. A Burford representative stated that “we don’t control settlement” at the Sixteenth Annual Judicial Symposium on Civil Justice Issues, and Burford’s website explicitly states that “legal finance providers are passive investors and do not control the legal assets in which they invest...” Parabellum Capital and Statera Capital, for example, also claim that they “do not exercise control” over litigation they fund and that “clients and their lawyers control their cases,” respectively.

These statements from funders are undermined by the mechanisms of control uncovered by LCJ’s analysis, which include:

- **Case management control** – Several contracts analyzed included explicit language allowing the funder – not the litigant – to choose and control counsel. Some expressly prohibit plaintiffs from replacing counsel without the funder’s consent. A contract by International Litigation Partners Ltd. (ILP) stated “ILP will give day-to-day instructions to the Lawyers on all matters concerning the Claims and the Proceedings and may give binding instructions to the Lawyers and make binding decisions on behalf of the Plaintiff in relation to the Claims...”
- **Control over settlements** – Some contracts include provisions requiring funding recipients to seek consent from funders before entering into a settlement. A contract which Burford Capital signed with Sysco states the funding recipient “shall not accept a settlement offer without the Capital Providers’ prior written consent.”

LCJ continued

- **Authorization of zombie litigation** – In some high-profile cases, it has been observed that funders pursue litigation even after the funded party to a case no longer wants to proceed with their

claims, a phenomenon dubbed “zombie litigation” by a noted legal scholar. Some contracts go even further, allowing the funder to litigate the party’s claims even if the party terminates the contract. LCJ’s found that an agreement between Litigation Management and Financial Services LLC and a funded party, states that: “Following termination of this agreement by [plaintiff], [funder] ... may continue the proceedings without the participation of [plaintiff]” and “shall be entitled to require [plaintiff] to continue proceedings if [funder] does not wish to continue proceedings in its own name and if [funder] does not wish to disclose the fact that the proceedings are being funded.”

Nearly 130 companies sent a letter to the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules last Fall urging adoption of a rule that would require a uniform process for the disclosure of TPLF contracts in federal cases. Shortly thereafter, the Advisory Committee established a TPLF subcommittee to consider such a rule.

Lawyers for Civil Justice (LCJ) is a national coalition of defense trial lawyer organizations, law firms, and corporations that promotes excellence and fairness in the civil justice system to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of civil cases. IADC is a founder of LCJ and continues to work closely with LCJ on rules initiatives.

For more information, additional resources, and to get involved in the Ask About TPLF initiative, visit LCJ’s dedicated website, www.askaboutTPLF, or reach out to LCJ Executive Director Dan Steen at DSteen@lfcj.com.

RECENT EVENT RECAPS

IADCconnects in Zürich. Chris Lam and Jodok Wicki connected informally in Zürich.

Québec City Regional Meeting. Nearly 70 attendees gathered for the Canada Regional Meeting in Québec City. Thank you to Co-Hosts Peter Pliszka and Sarah Armstrong for a fantastic time!

2025 Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting took place at the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac in Québec City, Québec Canada. The meeting was a wonderful opportunity to gather in-person for extremely relevant CLE offerings, lots of great business networking, and time to be social and just have fun. A special thanks goes out to Brandee Kowalzyk who led the CLE planning efforts of the CLE Steering Committee along with Christopher Parkerson, the CLE Committee Chair. Another big thank you goes out to the Annual Meeting Planning Team of Donna Lamontagne and Tom Patriarca, Convention Chairs Chris and Stephanie Drewry, and Dominic Campodonico and Matt Stitham, along with their Convention Committee who brought the meeting to life.



RECENT EVENT RECAPS



51st Annual Trial Academy. Ninety-seven students gathered to learn from our 14 faculty members, alongside an incredible Director and Director-Elect. Students experienced an intense week of learning, observation, and training. Each Trial Academy faculty gives themselves a name, often in honor of its Director. This year's class is Mission Kimpossible. We thank the *Mission Kimpossible* for their sacrifice, influence, and support: Director Kim Hardeman and Director-Elect Zandra Foley along with faculty members Thom Benedict, Jeremiah Byrne, Floyd Cottrell, Evelyn Davis, Kent Gummert, Kevin Kita, Heidi Mandt, Melissa Matthews, Brian O'Connell, Alfred Perkins, Jason Scott, Mitchell Smith, Jim Sullivan, and Charissa Walker.

Singapore Regional Meeting. On August 25, nearly 40 attendees gathered for the Asia Regional Meeting in Singapore. The meeting featured speakers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Philippines, Taiwan, Singapore, and the United States. Thank you to Co-Hosts Edmund Kronenburg and Siraj Omar for hosting.

Sydney Regional Meeting. On August 28, members and guests gathered for the Australia Regional Meeting in Sydney, in honor of longtime IADC past Board member Colin Loveday.

RECENT EVENT RECAPS



Morristown Regional Meeting. Nearly 60 attendees gathered for the Northeast Regional Meeting in Morristown, NJ on September 15. Thank you to Co-Hosts Kelly Crawford, Marty Healy, Maha Kabbash, Ryan Richman, Mark Silver, and Mike Zogby for a fantastic time!

2025 Product Liability Roundtable. More than 100 attendees gathered on September 16 for our Product Liability Roundtable which was held at Bayer Corporation. This full-day conference covered topics that ranged from AI and data privacy to aggregated and consolidated litigation. Thank you to Co-Chairs Sharon Caffrey and Grant Worden, the planning Committee, and speakers for putting a thoughtful program together that

allowed in-house and outside counsel to learn and discuss new developments in the product liability arena.

IADCconnects and Board Meeting in San Francisco. On September 18, IADC Board of Directors and attendees connected in San Francisco. The Board met afterwards for two days and discussed some of IADC President Dominic Campodonico's initiatives for the year ahead: MembersFirst, as well as increasing public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

COMMITTEE NEWSLETTERS

[Black Box in the Courtroom: How Courts Are Using ECM and EDR Data in Civil Litigation](#)

By Adam Rust

Transportation Committee

WEBINARS

The Steps for Enforcement of Letters Rogatory or Letters of Request in Canadian Courts

Presented by - Product Liability Committee

Presenters: Robin Linley, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP; Nicole Mantini, Torys LLP

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

California Wildfires – What’s Next for Us and Our Clients?

Presented by - Business Litigation Committee, Class Actions and Multi-Party Litigation Committee, Product Liability Committee, and Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation Committee

Presenters: Joel D. Eagle, Thompson Hine LLP; William J. Kelly, III, Kelly Law Partners, LLC

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

DEFENSE COUNSEL JOURNAL - VOLUME 92, NUMBER 2

[President's Page](#) by Donna Lamontagne

[Editor's Page](#) by Peter J. Pizzi

RECENT RESOURCES

Modern Litigation Consulting Firms

Raymond G. Mullady, Jr., Robert Cimo, and Raymond Kolls

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

Loss, Damage, and Delay Claims in the Logistics Chain

Kelly E. Mulrane, Martha J. Payne, and Vanessa I. Gomez

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

Making the Seconds of a Lawyer's Life Count: A Reflection on "The Flag Case"

Niall A. Paul

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

Special Focus Section: ESG in US

Rita Bolt Barker

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

Special Focus Section: ESG in Canada

Robin L. Reinertson, Karine Russell, Joshua Hutchinson, and Deborah Brommeland

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

Special Focus Section: ESG in France

Sylvie Gallage-Alwis and Gaëtan de Robillard

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

Special Focus Section: ESG in Türkiye

Döne Yalçın

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

IADC Amicus Curiae Brief in Support of the NFL (6/17/2025)

In its amicus brief supporting the NFL, the IADC urges the Ninth Circuit to affirm the district court's exclusion of plaintiffs' expert testimony in the *In re NFL Sunday Ticket Antitrust Litigation*. The IADC argues that the district court correctly applied the recently amended Federal Rule of Evidence 702, which clarifies a judge's gatekeeping role in excluding unreliable expert opinions. Highlighting the rule's intent to counteract "wayward" judicial interpretations and overreliance on juries to weigh expert testimony, the IADC contends that plaintiffs relied on outdated, pre-amendment case law. The brief underscores that improper expert analysis risks due process violations and distorted verdicts, advocating for strict adherence to Rule 702's heightened reliability standards. The brief was authored by Shannon N. Proctor, IADC member Eric G. Lasker, and Elyse A. Shimada, all of Hollingsworth LLP. Read the [amicus brief](#).

Win for Case Where IADC Submitted Brief -- *Speerly v. General Motors* (6/27/2025)

On June 27, 2025, the *en banc* Sixth Circuit issued a decision in *Speerly v. General Motors*, an important class action case in which the IADC participated as amicus.

Background. The district court in *Speerly* certified twenty-six statewide classes, centering around an alleged transmission defect, and a panel of the Sixth Circuit affirmed, applying a very lax view of what Rule 23 requires. The Sixth Circuit then granted rehearing *en banc* to clarify the proper standard for certifying a class action. The IADC filed an [amicus brief](#) at the *en banc* stage. Its brief urged the court to reaffirm a stricter view of Rule 23 the court had applied in an earlier case, *In re Nissan*, 122 F. 4th 239 (6th Cir. 2024). Specifically, the IADC asked the court to hold that an issue is common only if a reasonable jury would have to resolve the issue the same way for all class members and that an issue is individual if a reasonable jury could answer the question "yes" for some class members and "no" for others. IADC Amicus Br. at pp. 3–7. The IADC's brief reminded the court that, in a multi-state class action, Rule 23 requires an element-by-element assessment for every claim at issue, separately assessed under each state's law. IADC Amicus Br. at p. 10. And it urged the court to hold that difficult questions of state law affecting an issue's classification as either common or individual must be resolved *at certification*: they "cannot be left for another day." IADC Amicus Br. at p.13.

En Banc Decision. The *en banc* Sixth Circuit adopted the framework proposed in the IADC's amicus brief and vacated the decision below.

On commonality, the Sixth Circuit reaffirmed the principles pressed in the IADC's brief. First, it explained that the commonality inquiry centers on the specific elements of each claim and must respect differences in state law. Slip Op. at 9 ("The plaintiffs must also show that the question 'affect[s] at least one' disputed 'element' of the class's claims."). Second, the court solidified the reasonable jury standard, holding that an issue is common only if the evidence presented at certification would compel a reasonable jury to rule the same way for all plaintiffs on that issue. *Id.* at 8–9 ("If a reasonable decisionmaker left with the evidence may answer 'yes' to a question for some class members and 'no' for others, the class has not shown that it is common."). On predominance, the Sixth Circuit held, as IADC urged, that district courts must answer contested state-law questions at the certification stage. See Slip Op. at 19–20 ("[District courts cannot] leave the hard questions for ... a 'later' that may never come."). For example, courts facing express warranty claims under the laws of many states must determine whether each state requires a plaintiff to present his or her vehicle for repair before bringing the claim. *Id.* And courts facing claims under state consumer protection statutes must assess whether each state requires manifestation of a defect or reliance, classic examples of predominating individual issues that defeat certification. *Id.* at 23. The court also noted that appellate courts will assess those legal conclusions *de novo*, which will make it easier for defendants to vindicate their rights on appeal. *Id.* at 16.

Conclusion. This is a very significant decision. The detailed opinion, authored by Chief Judge Jeffrey Sutton, could well become a leading opinion clarifying fundamental principles of class actions, providing helpful analysis on frequently litigated warranty and consumer-protection claims. And should help mitigate the effects of coercive settlements that arise when an overly broad class is certified. View the *Speerly* opinion [here](#).

For past Webinar presentations, *Defense Counsel Journal* articles, the Diversity Roadmap resource, and more, visit the "Resource Library" section at www.iadclaw.org.

These podcast episodes have dropped since our last issue. [Listen here](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

- [This is Québec City](#)
 - In this location series episode, *IADC Speaks* Host Robin Linley (Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP) spoke with fellow member and area expert Ariane Bisailon (Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP) about all things Québec City, host location for the 2025 Annual Meeting. This quick episode shares fun facts about the city, recommendations of family-friendly activities, and food/restaurant suggestions.
- [Judicial Systems Across the Globe: A View from Israel](#)
 - In this episode, Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) sat down with Ron Peleg (Meitar Law Firm) to uncover the unique aspects of Israel's legal system. Though rooted in common law and influenced by both English and American systems, Israel's approach features notable distinctions—such as lengthy timelines for civil trials, less intrusive discovery processes, and a strong emphasis on mediation and arbitration as effective resolution tools. Ron also underlines the significant exposure of Israelis class action to multinationals and the importance of evaluating each case individually to determine the most appropriate path forward. Join us as we dive into these key differences and explore how Israel's legal system shapes justice.

- [An Overlooked Side of Lawyer Wellness: Family Mental Health](#)

- In this episode of *IADC Speaks*, Host Matt Cairns (Textron Inc.) sat down with IADC member Rebecca Weinstein Bacon (Bartlit Beck LLP) and Madison Cairns Maggio, LCSW to explore the mental health of our families. Rebecca offers a candid look into her own family's experiences, while Madison, a school therapist, provides professional insight into the challenges families face and the support systems available. Together, they shed light on family mental health—and what we can do about it.

- [Pro Bono in Practice with Bob Allen and Sandy Wunderlich](#)

- In this episode, *IADC Speaks* Host Rebecca Weinstein Bacon (Bartlit Beck LLP) spoke with Bob and Sandy. Bob and Sandy share their personal experiences helping children in need. Bob reflects on a multi-issue insurance case that presented itself involving a family friend, and Sandy describes how she got involved with CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates. Together they discuss the impact of their work and share stories that illustrate the power of giving back.

- [Judicial Systems Across the Globe: A View from Kenya](#)

- In this episode, Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) is joined by Aisha Abdallah (Anjarwalla & Khanna) to uncover the unique aspects of Kenya's legal system. As a common law jurisdiction, Kenya draws from UK case law – but it also uniquely incorporates African customary law, provided it aligns with fundamental rights and freedoms. Aisha sheds light on the ambitious 2010 Constitution, inspired by South Africa's model, which introduced progressive provisions on labor rights, environmental protection, and more. The conversation explores how Kenya's legal framework is transforming, the growing influence of youth activism, and the potential ongoing challenges around access to justice and the rule of law.

- [Making the Sausage](#)

- In this episode of *IADC Speaks*, Host Jimmy Ordeneaux (Plauché Maselli Parkerson) chatted with Pamela Bracher (American Trucking Associations) and Kellen Mathews (Adams & Reese LLP) about the legislative process. From legislative counseling to lobbying to state policy making, each have distinct experiences on “how the sausage is made.” Join us for an inside look at recent Louisiana bills that have been passed by state legislature and hear about trends that are appearing in different states.

- [Inside the IADC's 2025 International Corporate Counsel College](#)

- *IADC Speaks* Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) was joined by ICCA Director Anna Cook (Bristows LLP) for a deep dive into the upcoming IADC International Corporate Counsel College program in London, October 9–10. Together they explore this year’s theme—*ethical dangers and the roles and responsibilities of in-house lawyers*—drawing inspiration from the UK Post Office scandal and other pressing legal challenges. From tackling ethical pressures and pushing back against boards, to upholding professional values and handling situations outside your comfort zone, Cecilia and Anna walk through the highlights of the program. They also share details on the keynote with Robin Weyell, as well as the many opportunities for connection during and before the conference: dinners, regional meetings, and special networking events. Finally, they offer practical advice for attendees and a few recommendations for enjoying a trip to London.

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Des Moines, Iowa
USA

NEW MEMBERS

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

NOMINATE

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

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Eccleston & Wolf
Hanover, Maryland
USA

Joe Kilpatrick

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Duane Morris LLP
Philadelphia,
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Brandon McGrath

Cabinets To Go
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Caroline Niland

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Hagerstown,
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Tiana Towns

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Los Angeles,
California USA

Kate Warner

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Jessica Gale

Spencer Fane
Phoenix, Arizona
USA

Peter Reichart

Wartmann Merker
AG
Zurich, Switzerland

Rachael Rodman

Thompson Hine LLP
Columbus, OH USA

Stephanie S. Rojo

Thompson, Coe,
Cousins & Irons, LLP
Austin, TX USA



The IADC Foundation supports a variety of organizations and projects around the world that support the rule of law and access for all to a fair and just legal system.

Meet grantee UNODC, the United Nations Office Against Drugs and Crime. IADC Foundation's grant supports GRACE, the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment. Our grant specifically helps the government of Malawi (East Africa) in its effort to counter corruption by integrating ethics, integrity, and anti-corruption in primary school level materials. To donate and learn more about the Foundation, visit www.iadcfoundation.org.

YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[W.M. Bains Fleming, III](#), Chief Trial and Managing Attorney at MMPO Defense, was elected as President of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. | [more](#)

[Jeremiah Byrne](#), a trial lawyer at Frost Brown Todd LLP, secured a full defense verdict for a national restaurant chain in a high-stakes dram shop litigation case. | [more](#)

[Adam P. O'Brien](#), a partner at Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP, obtained a complete defense verdict for the property owner of a shopping center in Colorado. | [more](#)

IADC member [Dixie T. Wells](#) and [Chris Flurry](#), both of Ellis & Winters LLP, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for *Modern Contractor Solutions'* July 2025 issue. | [more](#)

[Sharon Donaldson Stuart](#), a partner at Christian & Small LLP, received the 2025 Tony McLain Professionalism Award. | [more](#)

[David L. Ayers](#), a member at Watkins & Eager PLLC, won a product liability case for Honda. | [more](#)

IADC SUCCESSSES

[Robert D. Allen](#), Principal at The Allen Law Group, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the American College of Coverage Counsel. | [more](#)

[Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten](#), a partner at Foley & Mansfield, PLLP, was honored with DRI's Outstanding Service Award. | [more](#)

YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the Annual Meeting, we announced and recognized many IADC members for their hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to all!

- Robert A. Brundage and Kimberley Parrish - Yancey Award
- Nishimura & Asahi - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Award
- Sherylle A.O. Francis - Joan Fullam Irick Award
- Peter J. Pizzi - Richard L. Neumeier Excellence in Service Award
- Brandee J. Kowalzyk and Whitney Frazier Watt - Project Award (the first IADC Product Liability Roundtable)
- James F. Rogers - President's Award

IADC SUCCESSSES

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


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The IADC's Member Spotlight program is designed to introduce and focus attention on members. Fill out the [Member Spotlight Form](#) to be featured next.

Meet members **Greg Brower** (member since 2025), **Nicole Brunson** (member since 2015), **Tiago De Magalhães** (member since 2025), **Joel Eagle** (member since 2019), and **Jessica L. Grant** (member since 2015).

Click images below to enlarge.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



GREG BROWER

COMPANY/FIRM NAME
Browstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

COMPANY/FIRM LOCATION
Various locations including Las Vegas and DC


TYPE OF LAW YOU PRACTICE MOST
Government Investigations

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT/ LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH IADC
New member

BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS A LAWYER
Being a lawyer is a public trust.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW...
I am an owner of the Green Bay Packers.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



NICOLE BRUNSON

COMPANY/FIRM NAME
Diamer Corporation

COMPANY/FIRM LOCATION
Fort Mill, South Carolina USA

TYPE OF LAW YOU PRACTICE MOST
Litigation and Legal Affairs

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT/ LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH IADC
Corporate Counsel Committee Chair

BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS A LAWYER
"Remember as in-house counsel to present yourself as a business person with legal expertise, not just a lawyer."

YOU MAY NOT KNOW...
Cooking is my passion; I assemble 1,000-piece puzzles of my favorite cities and I was a print model in high school.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



TIAGO DE MAGALHÃES

COMPANY/FIRM NAME
CMS Portugal

COMPANY/FIRM LOCATION
Lisbon, Portugal


TYPE OF LAW YOU PRACTICE MOST
Employment, Litigation, and ESO

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT/ LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH IADC
Corporate Compliance and Government Enforcement Actions, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Employment Law, In-House and Law Firm Management, International Social Justice Pro Bono

BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS A LAWYER
Always think outside the box and find solutions.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW...
I am passionate about making a difference; also my friends call me "matilde lawyer" because during COVID-19 I helped my wife give birth to our second daughter in the car, in the middle of the night, while we were on our way to the hospital.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JOEL EAGLE

COMPANY/FIRM NAME
Thompson Mine

COMPANY/FIRM LOCATION
Cleveland, Ohio USA

TYPE OF LAW YOU PRACTICE MOST
Environmental, Toxic/Hazardous Substance Litigation

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT/ LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH IADC
Chair, Toxic Substances and Hazardous Substance Litigation; Vice Chair, Environmental

BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS A LAWYER
As a young associate, treat every case as if you're a solo practitioner. I forced me to take full ownership of each matter, every research assignment, every piece of written work product. While I had partners to help along the way, I learned to not rely on anyone as a crutch as I worked through complex issues.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW...
My two boys (Drew 12) and Graham, 10 are better networkers at IADC events than me (though I bet you DID know if you've met them at Annual Meetings). I also worked in high school which was the single best extra-curricular activity I ever did.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JESSICA L. GRANT

COMPANY/FIRM NAME
Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP

COMPANY/FIRM LOCATION
San Francisco, California USA

TYPE OF LAW YOU PRACTICE MOST
Product liability trials

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT/ LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH IADC
Product Liability/Trial Techniques and Tactics

BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED AS A LAWYER
On the eve of trying my first case as a second year associate, one of my mentors gave me a framed quote from Vince Lombardi "Winning isn't a some time thing - it's an all the time thing. You don't do things right once in awhile, you do them right all the time." That approach informs everything I do—from drafting and responding to discovery, taking/defending depositions, analyzing records, preparing witnesses, drafting motions, to preparing for and trying cases.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW...
I have four rescued Great Danes (Mills, Mavis, Mousie & Gladys) and in my spare time I fly a Cessna 172.

We have many upcoming events for you to create connections, share content, engage with one another, and develop business.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

[2025 IADC Pre-ICCC Regional Events - London, United Kingdom](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

[2025 International Corporate Counsel College](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

[IADConnects in Chicago at the 2025 DRI Annual Meeting](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

[Deadline for 2026 Annual Meeting Committee CLE Program Proposals](#)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

[2026 Midyear Meeting](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 AND FRIDAY, APRIL 17

[2026 Corporate Counsel College](#)

SATURDAY, JULY 4 - THURSDAY, JULY 9

[2026 Annual Meeting](#)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

[52nd Annual Trial Academy](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

SAVE THE DATE!

Join the IADC Planning Team - President Dominic Campodonico and Matt Stitham, Convention Chairs Jason Rose and Leslie Rose, and President-Elect Mark Hansen and

Stacie Hansen at *The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans* in New Orleans, LA, February 8-12 for IADC's 2026 Midyear Meeting. **Program details and registration will become available in October.**

SAVE THE
DATE

2026
MIDYEAR
MEETING

FEBRUARY
8 - 12

THE RITZ-
CARLTON,
NEW ORLEANS



IN MEMORIAM

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of:

Sean Nash

Chicago, Illinois USA | *Member since 2016*

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