



#### Last year's inaugural Product Liability Roundtable was a smash hit, and it's back!

This full-day specialty roundtable, sponsored jointly by the Product Liability Committee and Drug, Device Biotechnology Committee, and creates a forum for in-house counsel and outside counsel to learn together and discuss new developments in the product liability arena. This full-day program is reasonably priced at \$595 for outside counsel and complimentary (but registration required) for insurance executives and corporate counsel. Registration details can be found here.

Last year's event sold out very quickly, so if you would like to participate, please register early to secure your spot.



2025

Issue Three

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#### **SERVING OTHERS**

As I write this last President's Message for the *Docket*, I am sitting in a hotel room in Nashville, TN preparing to attend an IADC Regional Meeting to celebrate the contributions and service of Third Year Board Member Jessie Zeigler. It has gotten me thinking about how

Jessie Zeigler. It has gotten me thinking about how much our members serve others. It is hot here, compared to Rhode Island. But in the words of Yogi Berra (yes, I am a Red Sox fan quoting a legendary Yankee, but he shares the same nickname with my mom so I get a pass), "It's not the

**PRESIDENT'S** 

**MESSAGE** 

heat, it's the humility."

Over the last two years, I have had the extraordinary privilege of representing this organization at meetings all over the world. I have listened to podcasts of our members being asked WHY IADC? I think, I may have found the answer that cuts across all others: The humility of our members. My college roommate's dad was a long-time high school teacher and he used to say, "Good attracts good."

This note is focused on the third prong of our Strengthening Community theme for this past year: Serving Others. I have witnessed inspiring work by the lawyers in this organization who are extremely reluctant to seek accolades for the work they perform outside of their offices and courtrooms. One of my goals was to have members "spotlight" their pro bono or charitable work. As an organization, we are not braggers and I think many felt that the charitable work they do is not worthy of note. On the contrary, I think it is one of the most impressive things about our organization and it is what drew me to devote more time to the IADC than any other professional association.

An examination of our commitment to Serving Others must necessarily start with our IADC Foundation. This year, again, we have donated more than \$100,000 to causes that support the rule of law, both in the US and abroad. We support Justice Without Borders, the global resource for anti-corruption education and youth empowerment, to educate young people around the world about the rule of law and rejection of corruption. We support the National High School Mock Trial Championship and of course, still support



one of our flagship charities, iCivics. This year at our Midyear Meeting we renewed our commitment to iCivics and to our members supporting this initiative in their home states. We provide boots on the ground support. The Foundation also explored partnering further with the United Nations



Development Project to provide resources to judges around the world who are trying to fight corruption in their countries and who need international support. We met with UN representatives in Istanbul in September and continue to seek ways to improve the lives of those most in need around the world.

Since so many members were reluctant to spotlight themselves, we asked our Podcast Committee to highlight the work so look for these episodes to drop soon on IADC Speaks. One member worked for the family of a prematurely born baby to make sure that their medical coverage was there for them. Another, former Air Force veteran, does pro bono work for veterans seeking benefits for service-connected injuries and illnesses. A third, just as a small sampling of examples, serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate to work for the protection of children in the child welfare system and report to Courts on what is in the best interests of these children. My hope is that as we highlight these stories of selfless work and humility, that others will continue to come forward. By using our podcasts, our weekly updates, and website to share opportunities for this type of work, other members may find something that speaks to them and our community will be strengthened. Good people are doing amazing work every day and should be celebrated.

Our members volunteer on local school boards, at soup kitchens, raise money for medical research, devote time to their local bench and bar organizations, coach all manner of sports, support the arts, and serve as leaders and role models in their local communities. All of these activities strengthen our IADC community. When you travel to any IADC meeting, after you ask a member where they practice and what type of law they practice, ask them about what they do outside of their offices and court. You will be amazed and inspired at the commitment and the humility.

Next month, we will enjoy the food, history, and culture of stunning old Québec City. In an effort to always do more in service of others, we will also be assembling snack packs for Le Pigeon Bleu, a charity that works to prevent food insecurity for local children. The charity is based in the shadow of the Château Frontenac. Ever mindful of how fortunate we are to be in this organization and able to give back, we



wanted to continue our service to others in a very practical way. If you have time on Sunday afternoon, July 6, please join us to help put the packages of food items together for the children. This is a great way to meet other members. Please bring family and kids too. Look for more details on the website as the meeting date approaches.

Why IADC for me? IADC members are intellectually curious, grateful, and humble. It has been a gift to serve with all of you. Thank you for the opportunity.

Donna M. Lamontagne *IADC President, 2024-2025* 



#### **ELECTION REMINDER**

The Annual Meeting is an important event for the Association in many ways. One of the most critical is the election of new IADC Board of Directors members for the 2025-2026 year.

This year, we will fill positions for President-Elect, Vice President of Corporate, Treasurer-Elect, and three at-large Board members.

You may submit comments in one of two ways:

- In person. The Nominating Committee will be meeting in-person at the Annual Meeting in Québec. Any active IADC member can make a five-minute appointment to speak to the Committee. To make an in-person appointment, visit the IADC Registration Desk to sign-up.

#### **CONGRATS WINNERS!**

We received more than 80 nominations during the March Membership Madness campaign! Congratulations to Overall Winner: MedTech Marvels (Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee) and our Small But Mighty Committee Winner: Arbitrary Justice (International Arbitration Committee). To nominate someone yourself, fill out the quick form here.

- In writing. Comments can be submitted in writing by email to Nominating Committee Chair Andrew Chamberlin with copy to IADC Executive Director and CEO Mary Beth Kurzak in advance of the meeting. Emails are completely confidential and only shared with the Nominating Committee. Any comments by email must be submitted no later than 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time/10:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Wednesday, July 9.

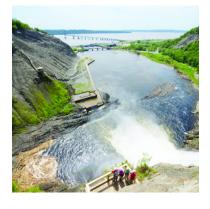
The election information can be found here: <u>2025-2026</u> <u>Election Information</u>.



#### **Québec City, We're Coming Your Way!**

2025 Annual Meeting, July 5 - 10, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Québec, Québec Canada

The Annual Meeting is just a few short weeks away, and we can't wait to see many of you in-person for this quintessential IADC experience in a truly magical, historic, festive, unique location that includes business development opportunities, countless social events, and 21 robust programs -- perfect for you, your guests, and even your family. We invite you to come connect in-person with 270+ attendees and their guests and families from 16 countries around the world. Details and registration can be found on the IADC website.





Save the Date: This year's International Corporate Counsel College will take place in London in October. This business development opportunity will include many moments for growing your professional network, along with educational sessions where you will learn and discuss the latest European legal issues. Programming details and registration will be available soon.





#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

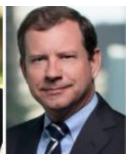
The following business development opportunities were afforded to members since the last issue of the *Docket* in April.

- In-Person Connection Events
  - IADConnects in Lexington, Raleigh, and Toronto
  - 2025 Professional Liability Roundtable
  - St. Petersburg Regional Meeting, Buffalo Regional Meeting, and Nashville Regional Meeting
- 40 Monthly Substantive Law Committee Calls
  - 8 presentations on important topics and best practices
  - 6 member introductions
  - 3 joint meetings
- · 1 published writing opportunity through our Committee articles
- · 1 feature article placed by our PR firm, Jaffe
- 3 member successes shared



#### **Lawyers for Civil Justice Leadership Updates**





Molly Craig, (Hood Law Firm LLC, Charleston, SC USA), IADC's Past President, concluded her successful year as LCJ president in May. LCJ enjoyed a string of advocacy successes during her tenure as president:

- The Supreme Court approved new FRCP Rule 16.1 on MDL management and amendments to improve privilege logging flexibility, with adoption set for December 1.
- The Advisory Committee on Civil Rules moved forward with an examination of third-party litigation funding and possible disclosure rules. Concurrently, LCJ's Ask About TPLF initiative was launched.
- State initiatives launched in support of securing expert evidence rules aligned with amended FRE 702. Scores of federal cases were decided using the amended rule.
- Improved management of privacy and cyber security in litigation was kept at the forefront of issues before the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, with a new Rule Suggestion filed in February.
- Progress on cost sharing in discovery continued, with the new rule proposals in state courts and LCJ programming on cost allocation strategies.
- LCJ led opposition to proposed rules on expanding remote testimony, and a proposed amendment to Rule 45, on expanded reach of subpoenas.
- Guidelines for commenting on judicial decisions and advocacy on judicial branch appropriations followed the launch of LCJ's Public Trust in the Courts Committee.

Congratulations to Molly! While she has completed her service as LCJ president, she will continue to serve on the Board executive committee. We also offer our congratulations to IADC Past President Tripp Haston (Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Birmingham, AL USA) who was elected LCJ Secretary.



#### **LCJ Advocates for Improved Litigation Rules**

Lawyers for Civil Justice is continuing to make progress on a wide range of rule initiatives, including third-party litigation funding (TPLF) disclosure and clarified expert evidence admission standards, while also addressing new rule procedural and evidence proposals that will be open for public comment beginning later this Summer.

#### **Third-Party Litigation Funding Disclosure Rules Discussed**

Clear, uniform national disclosure rules on the disclosure of TPLF have been sought by LCJ for over a decade. Last Fall, the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules agreed to form a subcommittee on the issue and at LCJ's Spring Meeting in May, members of the Advisory Committee joined LCJ members for a discussion focused on the impact of undisclosed TPLF on litigation and case management, and the need for clear, consistent rules to assist judges and parties in handling TPLF disclosure. LCJ will continue to engage with the Advisory Committee and its TPLF subcommittee on the issue.

In parallel, LCJ is encouraging corporate and defense counsel to "Ask About TPLF." This major LCJ initiative is focused on facilitating requests for TPLF disclosure in cases. LCJ and IADC encourage you to seek TPLF disclosure in your cases and to share your experience, regardless of outcome. You find resources at <a href="https://www.askabouttplf.com">www.askabouttplf.com</a>.

#### **Improved Expert Evidence Admission Standards Progress**

LCJ is making progress on federal implementation and state adoptions of amended FRE 702, which clarifies expert evidence witness admission standards. The Federal Circuit and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals recently issued positive decisions applying the amended federal rule. Oklahoma became the sixth state to adopt amended FRE 702 standards, joining Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio,



and the U.S. Virgin Islands in adopting the rule. To learn more and to get involved in Rule 702 implementation efforts in your state, visit <a href="https://www.dontsaydaubert.com">www.dontsaydaubert.com</a>.

#### **Standing Committee Approves New Rule Proposals for Public Comment**

Several new packages of proposed federal procedural and evidentiary rules are set for public comment in August. The proposed new rules were approved by the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (the "Standing Committee") on June 10th, and will be open for public comment for six months following their publication in August.

The public comment period will provide you with an opportunity to share your views on the proposed rule changes. Among the proposed rules approved for publication and comment by the Standing Committee is a new Federal Rule of Evidence 707, which would apply FRE 702 expert evidence standards to the introduction of Al-generated evidence. Also set to be published are changes to FRCP 41(a) on dismissal of claims, Rule 45(c) on subpoenas for remote testimony, FRCP 45(b)(1) on service of subpoenas, and Rule 7.1 on disclosures related to recusal.

To learn more about LCJ and its rules initiatives, visit <u>www.lfcj.com</u>. The IADC is a founding member of LCJ and works closely with LCJ to improve civil litigation efficiency and fairness.



#### RECENT EVENT RECAPS

**IADConnects in Lexington.** On April 23, Sarah Spurlock hosted an IADConnects happy hour in Lexington in conjunction with the the 84th ADTA Annual Meeting.

**IADConnects in Raleigh.** On April 30, Tom Buckley and John Nunnally hosted an IADConnects happy hour in Raleigh.

**St. Petersburg Regional Meeting.** On May 1, nearly 40 attendees were provided the opportunity to visit the Morean Arts Center, Chihuly Collection for education and a networking reception for the Southeast Regional Meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida in honor of Third Year Board member Joe Cohen. Thank you Joe for your contributions to the IADC, and thank you to all of the sponsoring firms in making this a great event for people to socialize and reunite with each other.



IADConnects in Toronto. On June 11. Peter Pliszka hosted an IADConnects dinner in Toronto.



#### RECENT EVENT RECAPS



**2025 Professional Liability Roundtable.** Cornell University NYC Conference Center hosted our Professional Liability Roundtable in NYC on May 15. Program Chairs Scott Sirich, Paula Koczan, and John Harding put together an impressive line-up. Huge thank you to our Program Co-Chairs and to the whole PLR Planning Committee who made this program a success.

**Buffalo Regional Meeting.** On June 4, IADC members and guests gathered for the Northeast Regional Meeting in Buffalo, New York in honor of Third Year Board Member Donna Burden. Attendees were provided the opportunity to visit the Buffalo AKG Art Museum for education and networking. Thank you Donna for your contributions to the IADC, and thank you to all

of the sponsors in making this a great connection event.

**Nashville Regional Meeting.** On June 12, nearly 50 attendees gathered for the Southeast Regional Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in honor of Third Year Board Member Jessie Zeigler for incredible programming on in-house counsel perspectives and Nashville's business landscape evolution followed by a networking reception. Thank you Jessie for your contributions to the IADC, and thank you to all of the sponsors for their support.

#### **COMMITTEE NEWSLETTERS**

An Analysis of IARC's Recent Re-Evaluation of Gasoline: More Questions Than Answers Raised

By Michael Fox and Robert Kum

Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation Committee

### RECENT RESOURCES



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.

- Managing Burnout for Lawyers
  - In this episode, Host Mollie Benedict (Tucker Ellis LLP) spoke with Shayna Cook (Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan and Baum LLP) to talk about something all too common in the legal profession: burnout. Defined by exhaustion, loss of motivation, and a nagging sense that you're not doing a good job, burnout can feel like sinking into a hole—especially in high-stress work environments. Whether you're deep in the trenches or just looking for better balance, this conversation offers practical, compassionate strategies to help you navigate the pressure—and come out stronger.
- Judicial Systems Across the Globe: A View from Mexico
  - In this episode, Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) sat down with Manuel Moctezuma (Moctezuma Castro S. C.) to uncover the unique aspects of Mexico's legal system. As a civil law jurisdiction, Mexico does not have a discovery process but includes an evidentiary stage along with oral and final arguments. Manuel also unpacks a major judicial reform enacted last year at the constitutional level—starting this June, judges will be elected by popular vote. These changes are expected to reshape the judiciary. Join us as we dive into these key differences and explore how Mexico's legal system shapes justice.



#### Noah's Arc Syndrome

On this episode of *IADC Speaks*, Host Mollie Benedict (Tucker Ellis LLP) chatted with guests Bernadette Catalana (Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP) and Heidi Friedman (Thompson Hine LLP) to explore "Noah's Arc Syndrome"—the experience of navigating singlehood in a world that often feels built for couples. Together, they share their personal journeys from being in relationships to becoming single, and how that shift shaped their identities, outlooks, and resilience.

#### From Counsel to Coach: A Lawyer's Journey into Executive Coaching

• In this episode, Host Chris Berdy (Butler Snow LLP) sat down with Matt Cairns (Textron Inc.), a seasoned legal professional with more than 35 years of experience, who recently expanded his career into executive coaching. Still practicing in-house law, Matt earned his coaching certification in 2023 with one goal in mind: helping others succeed. Together, they explore what leadership and performance coaching really is, how coaching differs from therapy, and why the process is rooted in partnership, creativity, and potential.

#### • Judicial Systems Across the Globe: A View from Singapore

• In this episode, Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) sat down with Siraj Omar, SC (Siraj Omar LLC) to uncover the unique aspects of Singapore's legal system. Singapore has a common law legal system, rooted in its English tradition. Siraj provides an overview of the various types of court, including the unique and fascinating international commercial court where parties from different locations could ask to have their dispute resolved. Singapore is well-recognized as an international arbitration hub, and Siraj shares why arbitration is such a big part of the Singapore legal system. Join us as we dive into these key differences and explore how Singapore's legal system shapes justice.



- 2025 Annual Meeting Preview: What to Expect in Québec Inside Scoop for Newcomers and Veterans
  - Get ready for the IADC 2025 Annual Meeting in Québec City this July! IADC Speaks Host Mollie Benedict (Tucker Ellis LLP) is joined by guests Convention Chair Chris Drewry (McCarter & English, LLP) and 2025 Annual Meeting CLE Steering Committee Chair Brandee Kowalzyk (Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP) for a day-by-day preview of the event, highlighting the top educational sessions and exciting social events. From networking to professional development to family fun, this episode covers everything you need to know about this must-attend gathering. Tune in to learn about the incredible opportunities for growth, connection, and collaboration and why you won't want to miss out!

#### **Michael Brand**

Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. Miami, Florida USA

#### **Sandra Cianflone**

MMPO Defense Atlanta, Georgia USA

### **Catherine Dickenson**

Husch Blackwell LLP Saint Louis, Missouri USA

#### **Kevin Gregory**

White & Steele Denver, Colorado USA

#### Rippi Karda

Verizon Basking Ridge, New Jersey USA

#### **Caitlin Kramer**

MMPO Defense Orlando, Florida USA

#### Jessica L. Kuredjian

Cassels - Toronto Toronto, Ontario Canada

#### **Cathy Mohan**

McCarter & English, LLP Hartford, Connecticut USA

#### Raquel E. Oluyemo

Sysco Nashville, Tennessee USA

#### **Colton Sadler**

Steam Logistics Chattanooga, Tennessee USA

#### **Kevin Armstrong**

NeuroColor Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

#### **Peter Barrett**

Markey Barrett Springfield, Massachusetts USA

#### **Keith Bergin**

Tokio Marine HCC Chicago, Illinois USA

#### **Matthew Cohn**

USG Corporation Chicago, Illinois USA

#### **Elizabeth Fashler**

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Calgary, Alberta Canada

#### **Peter Rotolo**

Chaffe McCall L.L.P. New Orleans, Louisiana USA

#### **Michelle Arbitrio**

Wood Smith Henning & Berman New York, New York 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.





#### **Gus Eyler**

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP -Washington, DC Washington, District of Columbia USA

#### **Cole DeBlaey**

Deere & Company Moline, Illinois USA

#### **Alaina Devine**

Campbell Conroy & O'Neil, P.C. Boston, Massachusetts USA

#### **James P. Hanratty**

Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, P.C. Jacksonville, Florida USA

#### **Kenzie Rakes**

Morningstar Law Group Raleigh, North Carolina USA

#### **Tadhg Dooley**

Wiggin & Dana New Haven, Connecticut USA

#### **Alesia Sulock**

Marshall Dennehey -Philadelphia Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA

#### **Lauren Brogden**

Haynes & Boone, LLP Houston, Texas USA

#### **Jackson Hill**

B.L. Harbert International LLC Birmingham, Alabama USA

#### **Gabriel Loli**

Osterling Abogados Lima, Peru

#### **Alyse F. Stach**

Baker & Hostetler LLP Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA

#### **Steven Erffmeyer**

Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak & Pikala, P.A. Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

#### **Diana Katz Gerstel**

Tucker Ellis LLP Morristown, New Jersey USA

#### **Scott W. Henry**

Maron Marvel Bradley Anderson & Tardy LLC Wilmington, Delaware USA

#### Mathieu Leblanc-Gagnon

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Québec City, Québec Canada

#### **Brian Cuevas**

U-Haul International Phoenix, Arizona USA

### Rustam "Rusty" Juma

Volkswagen Group -Canada Ajax, Ontario Canada



#### **Wesley Tyler Moran**

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP Myrtle Beach, South Carolina USA

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

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

**S. Stuart Clark**Killara, Australia | Member since 1993

**Jefferson C. Orr** *Nashville, Tennesse USA* | Member since 2015



IADC Board Member Henry Morrissette describes how the Diversity Roadmap came into fruition and shares how it can be useful to you.

#### YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Amy M. Stewart, Founding Partner of Stewart Law Group PLLC, was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Terry Lee Grantham Memorial Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. | more

Peter J. Pliszka, a partner at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, obtained a defense verdict in a class action case. | more

William S. Thomas, Co-Owner, Member – Attorney at Gausnell, O'Keefe & Thomas, LLC, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for *Modern Contractor Solutions'* May 2025 issue. | more

### IADC SUCCESSES

Submit your accolades, pro bono stories, courtroom wins, and successes to <a href="Diana Leon">Diana Leon</a>, Communications and Operations Manager.



Click on the episode above to listen.



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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

<u>Deadline for September 2025 - January 2026 Webinar Proposals</u>

FRIDAY, JULY 4

2025 Canada Regional Meeting - Québec City, QC

SATURDAY, JULY 5 - THURSDAY, JULY 10

**2025 Annual Meeting** 

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

**51st Annual Trial Academy** 

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

**Deadline for 2026 Midyear Meeting Committee CLE Program Proposals** 

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

**California Wildfires – What's Next for Us and Our Clients? (Webinar)** 

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

**Deadline for 2026 Annual Meeting Major CLE Program Proposals** 

MONDAY, AUGUST 25



**2025 Asia Regional Meeting - Singapore** 

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

**2025 Product Liability Roundtable** 

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## 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



"We have a large national insurance client who trusts our opinion when it needs to hire counsel to handle litigation in other states. We have found that looking for IADC members first is a great shortcut to finding qualified attorneys with the right experience for these referrals."

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 map.

# Thank You to Our 2024-2025 Sponsors

# CORE CONNECTION SPONSORS

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### REGIONAL MEETING GLOBAL SPONSOR

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#### **GENERAL SPONSORS**

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