

2025

Issue Two

QUÉBEC, HERE WE COME! 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



Québec in Canada for the IADC's [2025 Annual Meeting](#), July 5 to 10 at the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac.

The Planning Team, IADC staff, and our various CLE Committees have been working behind the scenes to create a meeting where **our IADC community** will feel not only welcome but also have numerous opportunities to **engage and connect (or reconnect!)**, focus on **business development**, and have the chance to **spend time** with one another.

[Continue the article.](#)

We cannot wait to welcome you to a popular IADC meeting location: the historic, quaint Québec City,

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what you may have missed

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welcome new members of the IADC

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your accolades and accomplishments

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Strengthening Community: Supporting Our Members

Three months ago, I penned a message supporting the importance of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary; the message remains the same. As lawyers, we need to use our voices to support judges all over the world so that they can do their jobs without fear of violence from the public or threats of impeachment.

In this latest installment of the President's Message, I am focused on the second prong of this year's three-pronged approach to *Strengthening Our IADC Community*: Supporting

Our Members. Today, the need for support applies to lawyers too. As lawyers, we need to use our voices to support one another to be able to do our jobs, without fear of violence from the public and without fear of intervention from the government. Lawyers supporting lawyers is one of the main reasons our organization exists.

So how is our organization faring in furtherance of this goal? What have we done and what do we intend to do to make sure that we are fulfilling our responsibilities to one another?

We have stood behind our message of the importance of civil dialogue among all members. Our [Protecting the Rule of Law Communities Page](#) has been an experiment in connecting us when we cannot be in person to talk about world events that impact the rule of law and consequently the practice of law. Our members have been and are engaging in respectful discussion and healthy disagreement on critical issues. All members feel supported when all voices are heard.

Consistent with our Mission Statement, we have reiterated our commitment to supporting professional opportunities for all members, regardless of background. We have partnered with our sister defense organizations to strengthen that commitment. I am also participating in monthly calls with leaders of organizations who are members of the American Board of Trial Advocates Roundtable. These organizations are international and represent lawyers from both sides of disputes. We are regularly seeking ways to collaborate and support our beloved legal profession.

The IADC has continued to provide the best continuing legal education opportunities possible, including reinvigorating our dedication to *iCivics* to teach future generations of lawyers about the rule of law. Specifically, our Midyear Meeting in Dana Point brought together more than 400 of our

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

members and significant others to learn, collaborate, and discuss business development in a changing global landscape. We expanded our global reach by hosting our first ever African Regional Meeting in Nairobi that was attended by the former Kenyan Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations. IADC members are leading efforts to start and foster global communications that will enhance business opportunities and improve the quality of legal representation available to corporate citizens of the world.

Navigating a changing global business climate was also addressed at our Leadership Forum and Corporate Counsel College in April where we not only connected with the most committed in-house lawyers, we also helped train lawyers to be more effective leaders within their own organizations. We are using our voices and our knowledge to support one another and foster successes regardless of the ever-changing challenges that face us.

So what is next? In terms of supporting members, we are offering even more opportunities to connect and strengthen our relationships. The [Professional Liability Roundtable](#) is set for May 15 in New York City. It is a day to focus on insurance issues, which are universal and impact all of our practices as we try to get ahead of risk assessment in global markets amid geopolitical shifts.

We have been and will continue to honor and support our Third Year Board Members and celebrate their service to the organization. Vice President of Corporate Mark Hansen was honored at our Regional Meeting on April 9 in Chicago. We have more Regional Meetings set to celebrate Joe Cohen in St. Petersburg, Florida (May 1), Donna Burden in Buffalo, New York (June 4), and Jessie Zeigler in Nashville, Tennessee (June 12). If you find yourself anywhere near these meetings, please take the time to attend and express gratitude for the dedicated service of these long-serving and deserving IADC board members.

We have been working to bring our members a fantastic [Annual Meeting](#) opportunity in Québec this summer July 5 to 10, with legal education and activities planned to provide content and connection for our global community. Our Canadian members are welcoming all members and their families to the beautiful Fairmont Le Château Frontenac for what is sure to be an incredibly memorable meeting; a special time to support one another and strengthen our community.

The law is a noble profession. We are so fortunate to be able to do our jobs; let us not take that for granted

and continue to do the necessary to protect the privilege of representing our clients to the best of our abilities. The privilege comes with responsibilities to protect it. Leading the IADC is also a privilege. It is an opportunity to have a voice and comes with a responsibility to use that voice to serve others. I look forward each day to thinking of new ways to serve and provide support to our members. If any member has any ideas of how the organization can do more to support its members, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Some of you know that my family is Canadian, so having the Annual Meeting in Québec this year seems not only fortuitous but genuinely warms my heart. My father was a Canadian citizen and grew up outside of Québec City. The first hotel Tom and I visited with our then 8 month-old twins was the Château Frontenac after a visit to the family farm. This IADC Annual Meeting feels like a homecoming for me, personally. I am looking forward to spring, to continuing the work of the IADC, and to welcoming all of our members to one of my favorite places in the world, my beloved Québec. Bienvenue!

Donna M. Lamontagne
IADC President, 2024-2025

IADC STRUCTURE FOR PROTECTING THE RULE OF LAW

We have created the [Protecting the Rule of Law Community](#). *(Every member has been added to this Community.)* This Community is a forum for members to engage in civil dialogue to discuss current events, cases, or governmental actions around the world that materially impair the rule of law and access to justice. Members can use the Community to discuss possible efforts, individually or collectively, to support the rule of law.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING (*continued*)

The Annual Meeting is curated for you, and we hope you are planning to join us! ([Registration details can be found here.](#)) Here are a few highlights:

- More than 20 education programs on the schedule.
- Exceptional topics, some of which include:
 - *Voir Dire* in a Changing Landscape
 - An Ounce of Prevention: Assessing and Controlling Product Liability Risk
 - PFAS Update – Forever Litigation Over the Forever Chemicals
- Networking and social opportunities -- *Bienvenue au Québec!* Welcome Reception, *Museum and Music* Theme Party, *Fleur-de-lys* Closing Party, afternoon tours and activities, smaller group gatherings, and more.

Be sure to check out our [Tour and Activity](#) offerings to make your meeting experience even more special.

Register on or before May 2 and save on registration fees! Program and registration information can be found on the [2025 Annual Meeting page on the IADC website.](#)



**A NEW LOOK AT OLD QUÉBEC:
IADC 2025 ANNUAL MEETING
SNEAK PEEK**
podcast episode

featuring the 2025 Planning Team Donna Lamontagne, Tom Patriarca, Chris Drewry, Stephanie Drewry, Dominic Campodonico, and Matt Stitham

LISTEN NOW

Click on the episode above to listen.

Upcoming Events

2025 Professional Liability Roundtable

May 15, Cornell University, ILR School, NYC Conference Center, New York, NY USA

This full-day program includes insurance focused morning programs with two program tracks available in the afternoon: professional liability and medical liability.

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



51st Annual Trial Academy

August 2 - 8, Stanford University, 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 Zurich and Paris
 - 2025 Midyear Meeting, IADC Leadership Forum, and Corporate Counsel College
 - Nairobi Regional Meeting and Chicago Regional Meeting
- 32 Monthly Substantive Law Committee Calls
 - 20 presentations on important topics and best practices
 - 7 member introductions
 - 8 joint meetings
- 4 published writing opportunities through our Committee articles
- Volume 92, Number 1 *DCJ* issue featuring 4 articles
- 3 feature articles placed by our PR firm, Jaffe
- 13 member successes shared

A Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion *by ADTA, DRI, FDCC, IADC, and HNBA*



The IADC dedicates itself to serving and benefiting our members, the legal profession, and the civil justice system by enhancing the development of skills, professionalism, diversity, and camaraderie in the practice of law. The organization's mission includes a commitment to ensuring equal opportunity in the legal profession and creating a pipeline of future leaders in the field that reflect the diversity of the communities and clients we serve.

While there have been many statements in support of diversity issued by legal organizations in the last month, the IADC leadership and the leadership of our Sister Defense Organizations felt it was important to come together to speak with One Voice on issues that impact all of us. To that end, we collaborated and reached agreement. We then circulated our Joint Statement to other members of the American Board of Advocates Roundtable, many of whom had issued their own statements. We were pleased that the newest member of the Roundtable, the Hispanic National Bar Association wanted to join their voice with ours. The HNBA is made up of more than 78,000 lawyers, and includes judges, law students, and legal professionals. We offer the following with One Voice for the right to hear many voices.

The foundation of a just legal system is built upon the principles of equal protection under the law, civil rights, and the rule of law itself. These bedrock values ensure that every individual— regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, political or ideological persuasion or background—is afforded the full rights and opportunities promised in the Constitution. We are all created equal; we all have the promise of inalienable rights and liberties.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are not merely corporate policies or social initiatives; they are essential expressions of justice and fairness, deeply embedded in our legal and moral traditions. The Civil

Rights Act of 1964, the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, Americans with Disabilities Act and decades of legal precedent affirm that combating discrimination and expanding opportunities for all is not just a moral imperative, but a legal necessity. It is a fundamental value that must remain assured.

Actions that seek to curtail DEI efforts in businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies threaten to undermine these fundamental protections for all. The principles of diversity and inclusion were never about exclusion or preferential treatment; rather, they are about ensuring that every person, regardless of their identity, has a fair and equitable chance to contribute, compete, and succeed.

Opposition to DEI initiatives is often framed as a defense of meritocracy. However, true meritocracy can only exist when historical barriers to opportunity are acknowledged and addressed. The rule of law does not permit discrimination in any form, whether overt or systemic. It mandates that our institutions actively protect against inequity, just as they do against other forms of injustice. We remain committed to inclusion as it strengthens our democracy and economy. Institutions that embrace diverse perspectives perform better, innovate more, and serve a broader range of communities. More importantly, an inclusive society ensures that no one is left behind—not because of artificial constraints, but because they are empowered to realize their full potential.

As professional associations committed to justice and advancing the rule of law and equal access to legal and equitable protections, we recognize that equality before the law is not a passive principle—it is an active pursuit. Any effort to dismantle diversity initiatives under the guise of neutrality is, in effect, a step backward in the ongoing fight for civil rights. The rule of law demands that our institutions uphold fairness for all, not just for the privileged or the powerful.

We urge our leaders, lawmakers, and business communities to remain steadfast in their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion because it advances the rule of law, is legally sound, and is morally and ethically right.

A Statement Regarding Attacks on the Rule of Law

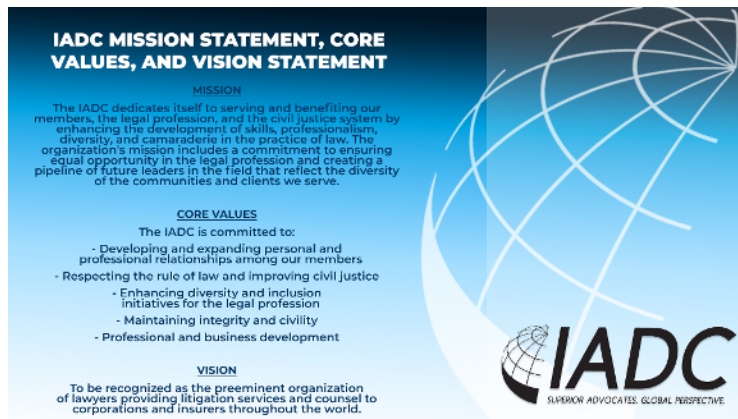
The International Association of Defense Counsel ("IADC") is an organization of highly skilled legal professionals working to benefit our profession and our civil justice systems. Rooted in our [mission and guided by our core values](#), the IADC stands firmly against any attempts to undermine democracy and the rule of law.

The rule of law ensures that all individuals and institutions, including the government, are accountable under the law. It guarantees equality before the law, fair legal processes, and the protection of fundamental rights. The rule of law must not be silenced.

We condemn threats, attacks, or any rhetoric that calls for impeachment of judges simply because their decisions may be unpopular or at odds with other branches of government. Systems of government rely on the independence of the judiciary, and judicial decisions must be honored.

Lawyers must adhere to the highest ethical standards. They must be able to represent their clients without fear and to the best of their abilities. Lawyers are our clients' voices. Their voices need to be lifted freely without improper governmental interference.

We are committed to respecting the rights of every person as granted under the law, supporting the work of lawyers operating in good faith to represent their clients, and supporting the judiciary in its essential work to maintain the structure of the rule of law.

A graphic with a blue background and a white globe icon on the right. The text is white and organized into sections: MISSION, CORE VALUES, and VISION. The MISSION section describes the IADC's dedication to serving and benefiting the legal profession and civil justice system. The CORE VALUES section lists five commitments: developing personal and professional relationships, respecting the rule of law, enhancing diversity and inclusion, maintaining integrity and civility, and professional and business development. The VISION section states the goal of being recognized as the preeminent organization of lawyers providing litigation services and counsel to corporations and insurers worldwide.

IADC MISSION STATEMENT, CORE VALUES, AND VISION STATEMENT

MISSION

The IADC dedicates itself to serving and benefiting our members, the legal profession, and the civil justice system by enhancing the development of skills, professionalism, diversity, and camaraderie in the practice of law. The organization's mission includes a commitment to ensuring equal opportunity in the legal profession and creating a pipeline of future leaders in the field that reflect the diversity of the communities and clients we serve.

CORE VALUES

The IADC is committed to:

- Developing and expanding personal and professional relationships among our members
- Respecting the rule of law and improving civil justice
- Enhancing diversity and inclusion initiatives for the legal profession
- Maintaining integrity and civility
- Professional and business development

VISION

To be recognized as the preeminent organization of lawyers providing litigation services and counsel to corporations and insurers throughout the world.

IADC
SUPERIOR ADVOCATES. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

RECENT EVENT RECAPS

IADConnects in Zurich. On January 28, Jodok Wicki hosted an IADConnects happy hour and a casual dinner in Zurich in conjunction with the Swiss Arbitration Summit 2025.

2025 Midyear Meeting. The Midyear Meeting took place at the Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club in Dana Point, California. 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 Stephen Zralek who led the CLE planning efforts of the CLE Steering Committee along with Christopher B. Parkerson, the CLE Committee Chair. Another big thank you goes out to the Midyear Meeting Planning Team of Donna Lamontagne and Tom Patriarca, Convention Chairs Chris and Stephanie Drewry, and President-Elect Dominic Campodonico and Matt Stitham, along with their Convention Committee who brought the meeting to life.



RECENT EVENT RECAPS



Nairobi Regional Meeting. Our African Regional Meeting, held in Nairobi on March 16 and 17, was a huge success. Nearly 50 attendees joined IADC member and Host Aisha Abdallah and her team at ALN Kenya | Anjarwalla & Khanna. Terrific panels presented on topics like sustainable economic growth and ESG regulatory framework and dispute resolution. The day was capped off by esteemed keynote speaker, former Kenyan Ambassador to the UN and US Hon. Lazarus Amayo. Attendees were able to expand their network and become more familiar with the IADC.

IADC Leadership Forum. More than 40 attendees gathered for the IADC Leadership Forum in Chicago. Rising stars benefited from programming and discussion on career growth, creating a win win partnership between inside and outside counsel, harnessing AI and technology, and unlocking your full potential. Thank you to Program Chair Amy Stewart (Stewart Law Group) for her leadership and execution, the Planning Committee, and moderators and speakers for providing such a valuable complimentary business development opportunity.

RECENT EVENT RECAPS

Chicago Regional Meeting. Local members and attendees of the Corporate Counsel College and Leadership Forum gathered together for the Midwest Regional Meeting in Chicago in honor of Third Year Board member Mark Hansen. Thank you to Mark for his 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 Paris. On April 9, Damien Devot introduced many individuals to the IADC with camaraderie and networking in Paris.

Corporate Counsel College. Dean Andrew Chamberlin (Ellis & Winters LLP) kicked off a tremendous day one of the Corporate Counsel College which was 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 ended on a high note with three dynamite panels including ESG, anatomy of a cyber security incident, and the new presidential term. Thank you to Dean Andrew Chamberlin, the planning Committee, our speakers and moderators, and our sponsors.



COMMITTEE NEWSLETTERS

Third-Party Litigation Funding: State and Federal Disclosure Rules and Case Law

By Mark Behrens

Product Liability Committee

The Historical Development of Public Nuisance

By Zandra Foley, Stephanie Laws, Marc E. Williams, and Grant Worden

Product Liability Committee

The European Union is Tackling Its Air Quality

By Sylvie Gallage-Alwis and Anélia Naydenova

Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation Committee

The Dust Settles on Causation: Tippin Decision is a Big Win for Talc Defendants

By Elizabeth M. Sorenson Broten and Michael E. Tuttle

Product Liability Committee and Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation Committee

WEBINARS

Technology in Crash Reconstruction

Presented by - Transportation Committee

Moderator: David W. Kash, Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson, & Haluck, LLP

Presenter: Tracie Jones, BSME, ACTAR, CFEI, Rimkus

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

RECENT RESOURCES

Ready or Not Here Comes ERISA - Why ERISA Class Action Litigation is Headed for Your Clients Health Plans

Presented by - Medical Defense and Health Law Committee and Professional Liability Committee

Presenters: Aaron Schaer, Ballard Spahr LLP; Vanessa Szalapski, Dorsey & Whitney LLP

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

Carmack Amendment

Presented by - Transportation Committee

Presenters: Floyd G. Cottrell, Rawle & Henderson, LLP; Kelly E. Mulrane, Benesch Law Columbus

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

DEFENSE COUNSEL JOURNAL - VOLUME 92, NUMBER 1

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

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

The Fallout of SFFA v. Harvard: Implications for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Law Firms and Corporations

By Lucy Dollens and Kenneth Sharperson

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

Litigation Against FDA in a Post-Chevron World

By James C. Fraser

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

RECENT RESOURCES



Managing Corporate Discovery to Prevent a Reptile Attack

By Maureen Mahoney and Deana Davis

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

Obtaining Evidence in Canada for United States Civil Actions: What American Counsel and Clients Need to Know

By Bryan Shaw, Sarah Woods, Kyle McMillan, and Pierre-Gabriel Grégoire

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

AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF

Amicus Curiae Brief Filed in *Dennis Speerly, Et Al. v. General Motors, LLC* (1/30/2025)

On January 30, the IADC filed an amicus brief in *Speerly v. General Motors*, an important class action case now pending before the *en banc* Sixth Circuit. The district court in *Speerly* certified twenty-six statewide classes, centering around an alleged transmission defect. A panel affirmed, taking a lax view of what Rule 23 requires before certifying a class. A few months later, a different panel of the Sixth Circuit *reversed* certification in a set of cases against Nissan, applying a stricter view of when a class may be certified. The later decision, *In re Nissan*, clarified many points of class action law, including that an issue is common only when a reasonable jury would have to resolve the issue the same way for all class members. Less than a month after *In re Nissan*, the full Sixth Circuit granted *en banc* review in *Speerly* and is poised to decide whether the lax approach or the strict approach should govern class certification decisions.

The IADC's *en banc* amicus brief in *Speerly* defends and elaborates upon the reasonable jury standard. The brief agrees with *In re Nissan* that an issue is individual if a reasonable jury could, based on the evidence likely to be presented at trial by both sides, answer the question “yes” for some class members and “no” for others. A question is common, then, only if a reasonable jury would have to answer it the same way for the entire class. This standard follows from the Rules Enabling Act and the Seventh Amendment, which together protect a party's right to trial by jury on issues that admit reasonable disagreement. Because the

RECENT RESOURCES

district court in *Speerly* applied the opposite standard—considering issues to be common when a reasonable jury *could* rule the same way for all plaintiffs, instead of when a reasonable jury must do so—the brief argues that it should be reversed.

The amicus brief was authored by Aaron Van Oort, John Rockenbach, Anderson Tuggle, and IADC member Paul Cauley, all with Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP.

Read the [amicus brief](#).

RECENT RESOURCES

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.



- DIVERSITY ROADMAP -

a resource guide for law firms, corporations, and insurance companies which encourages greater diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging



more than 125 practical resources

- how-to videos
- real life experiences
- best practices used by law firms, corporations, and insurance companies of all sizes and types

WWW.IADCLAW.ORG/RESOURCES/RESOURCE-LIBRARY/DIVERSITY-ROADMAP/

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

- [Side Bar: A Practical Approach to Mental Health and Wellness with Taylor Poncz](#)

- There is no one-size-fits-all approach to lawyer mental health and wellness. (We wish it were that easy!) In this series, hear from fellow lawyers on tips and strategies they utilize to prioritize mental health and practice wellness, while working to achieve professional goals. *IADC Speaks* Host J.T. Wilson III (Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.) spoke with Taylor Poncz (Chartwell Law) about what mental health and wellness looks like to her. Listen to their honest conversation about what balance means to Taylor, how she has worked to be intentional, and what she does for her personal wellness.

- [Empowering Civic Education: Spotlight on iCivics](#)

- In this episode, *IADC Speaks* Host Chris Drewry (IADC Foundation Board Member; McCarter & English, LLP) was joined by Ed Sledge IV (IADC Foundation President; Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP), Mya Baker (Chief Learning Services Officer, iCivics), and Natacha Scott (Director of Educator Engagement, iCivics) to shine a light on iCivics, a non-profit founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 2009. iCivics has transformed the landscape of civic education by providing innovative games and rich lesson plans that engage more than 9 million students annually.

- [ESG at IADC](#)

- In this episode, *IADC Speaks* Host Mollie Benedict (Tucker Ellis LLP) sat down with IADC ESG Task Force Chairs Heidi Friedman (Thompson Hine LLP) and Döne Yalçın (CMS Türkiye) to explore the growing importance for ESG – Environmental, Social, and Governance – in today's workplace. ESG is no longer just a buzzword – it's a framework that shapes how businesses operate sustainably and responsibly.

- [Motion Granted: A Look Into the Active Lifestyles of Members of the IADC Community featuring Chris Berdy](#)

- In this lifestyle spotlight series, hear from members of the IADC community who have a history in athletics. *IADC Speaks* Host J.T. Wilson III (Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.) spoke with Chris Berdy (Butler Snow LLP), a college-level national tennis champion. They spoke candidly about Chris' "nut squad" experience, the discipline and time-management focus he developed, how you can bring your base skills to elevate what you do, and in what ways sports revealed more about who he is.

- [The Other Side of Victory: Lessons from Trial Losses](#)

- In this raw and candid episode, *IADC Speaks* Host Rebecca Weinstein Bacon (Bartlit Beck LLP) sat down with accomplished trial lawyers Sherry Knutson (Tucker Ellis), Ken Murphy (DLA Piper), and Jimmy Ordeneaux (Plauché Maselli Parkerson LLP) as they shared personal stories of trial losses they've faced throughout their careers. From drug litigation to medical device cases and transportation disputes, each guest opens up about the challenges, regrets, and ultimate lessons learned from their toughest defeats. Tune in for their reflections on the importance of pre-trial preparation, understanding your venue, delivering the right message, and why some of the greatest takeaways come from the cases we don't win.

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

- In this episode, Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) sat down with Sylvie Gallage-Alwis (Signature Litigation AARPI) to uncover the unique aspects of France's civil law system. Unlike in common law countries, aspiring legal professionals in France must decide early whether to pursue a career as a lawyer or as a judge. Plus, the discovery process—an essential feature in many legal systems—is notably absent in France, leading to a more selective approach to sharing information with judges and plaintiffs. Join us as we dive into these key differences and explore how France's legal system shapes justice.

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

- In this episode, Host Cecilia Lahaye (Bird & Bird LLP) sat down with Greg Williams (Clayton Utz) to uncover the unique aspects of Australia's legal system. From the distinct roles of solicitors and barristers to the discovery process that aligns more closely with the U.S. than other legal systems, Greg broke it all down. We also explore how judges are appointed and what it takes to effectively present arguments before them. Join us as we dive into these key differences and explore how Australia's legal system shapes justice.

Lavell Payne Brown

Nationwide
Insurance
Columbus, Ohio USA

Greg Heinen

A.O. Smith
Corporation
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin USA

Randall Lehner

Power Solutions
International
Wood Dale, Illinois
USA

Ryan R. McBride

Weber Gallagher
Simpson Stapleton
Fires & Newby, LLP
Scranton,
Pennsylvania USA

Kerry Lynn Rhoads

Dickie, McCamey &
Chilcote
Grosse Pointe Farms,
Michigan USA

Hannah Stone

Milodragovich, Dale,
& Steinbrenner, P.C.
Missoula, Montana
USA

Ben Wojcik

Covetrus
Portland, Maine USA

Evan Holden

Greenberg Traurig,
LLP
Atlanta, Georgia USA

David Krueger

Benesch Friedlander
Coplan & Aronoff LLP
Cleveland, Ohio USA

Arnd Von Waldow

Reed Smith LLP
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania USA

Dyan J. Ebert

Quinlivan & Hughes,
P.A
Saint Cloud,
Minnesota USA

Greg Noschese

Munsch Hardt Kopf &
Harr, P.C.
Dallas, Texas USA

Andrew Porter

Porter Litigation
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Stephanie Selman

MG+M The Law Firm
Miami, Florida USA

Gabriela Staber

CMS Reich-Rohrwig
Hainz Rechtsanwälte
Vienna, Austria

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.

Santiago Sturla

Allende & Brea
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

**Christopher G.
Campbell**

DLA Piper LLP
Atlanta, Georgia USA

Gerald Castillo

Serpe Andrews, PLLC
Houston, Texas USA

Diana Gerstberger

Arch Insurance
Alpharetta, Georgia
USA

Chris Jackson

Volvo Group
Greensboro, North
Carolina USA

Karine Joizil

McCarthy Tetrault
LLP
Montréal, Québec
Canada

**Samantha Wilson
Jones**

Spark Therapeutics
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania USA

Anne Merminod

Torys LLP
Montréal, Québec
Canada

Salem Mohamed

GE Healthcare
Cairo, Egypt

Jack Oliver

Cantex Continuing
Care
Carrollton, Texas USA

Cory Reed

Thompson, Coe,
Cousins & Irons, LLP
Houston, Texas USA

Tommaso Scurto

Borealis AG
Vienna, Austria

Loree Shelko

Southwire Company
Atlanta, Georgia USA

Holly Stanford

U-Haul International,
Inc.
Phoenix, Arizona
USA

Joseph Zopolsky

Glast, Phillips,
Murray, & Zopolsky
Dallas, Texas USA

Catherine Jopling

MPW Services
Columbus, Ohio USA

Wendy Lin

WongPartnership
Singapore,
Singapore

Nathan Lundquist

Geico Commercial
Carmel, Indiana USA

Keesha-Lu Mitra

State Farm Mutual
Automobile
Insurance Company
Bloomington, Illinois
USA

José Luis Vega Meza

Peroni Sosa
Tellechea Burt &
Narvaja
Asunción, Paraguay

Lauren Barbaruolo

CSAA Insurance
Group
Glendale, Arizona
USA

Conor Cunningham

McCann FitzGerald
LLP
Dublin, Ireland

Glenn Lammi

Washington Legal
Foundation
Washington, District
of Columbia USA

Kelly Mulrane

Benesch Law
Columbus
Columbus, Ohio USA

Luis Miguel Pereyra

Pereyra & Asociados
Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic

Steve Reilley

Blue Williams, L.L.P.
Houston, Texas USA

Steven Scoggan

Ellis & Winters LLP
Greensboro, North
Carolina USA

Katie Whang

Johnson & Johnson
Dubai, United Arab
Emirates

Ian Conits

Gallivan, White &
Boyd, P.A.
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YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Kurt Gerstner](#), a Senior Attorney at Dentons Lee in Seoul, South Korea, was listed among "2024 Korea's Top 100 Lawyers" by *Asia Business Law Journal*. | [more](#)

[Christian Singewald](#), a partner at White and Williams LLP, was named Litigation Department Chair for the firm. | [more](#)

[Mary Katherine Stukes](#), Head of Environmental at Moore & Van Allen, was selected for the *Charlotte Business Journal's* 2025 Women in Business Awards program. | [more](#)

[Jennifer Haltom Doan](#), a partner at Haltom & Doan, was sworn in as National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates at the organization's National Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference in Los Cabos, Mexico on January 25, 2025. | [more](#)

[Michele A. Hernandez](#) joined Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani's Albuquerque office as a partner. | [more](#)

[Heidi B. Friedman](#), a partner at Thompson Hine LLP, authored and published her book "104 Dates and the Stories that Led Me to True Love." | [more](#)

IADC SUCCESSES

[Scott O'Connell](#), a partner at Holland & Knight LLP, was honored at a ceremony in New York City with Cornell Law School's 2025 Exemplary Public Service Award for Pro Bono Services. | [more](#)

[James M. Sullivan, K.C.](#), a partner at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, Co-Chaired the Cambridge Forum on Canadian class actions in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada. | [more](#)

YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[William S. Thomas](#), Co-Owner and Member - Attorney at Gausnell, O'Keefe & Thomas, LLC, commented on an article for *Construction Dive's* February 2025 issue on behalf of the IADC. | [more](#)

[Michael Drumke](#), a partner at Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, secured a defense verdict in a mesothelioma case. | [more](#)

[Kenneth Sharperson](#), Chief Diversity Officer at Armstrong Teasdale, LLP, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for the *Daily Journal*. | [more](#)

[Eric Brotten](#) joined AccentCare as Vice President of Compliance and Privacy Counsel. | [more](#)

IADC member [Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten](#) and [Michael E. Tuttle](#), both with Foley Mansfield, authored an article for *HarrisMartin's* April 2025 issue on behalf of the IADC. | [more](#)

IADC SUCCESSSES

.....

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

.....

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

[IADConnects in Raleigh](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 1

[2025 Southeast Regional Meeting - St. Petersburg, FL](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 15

[2025 Professional Liability Roundtable](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

[2025 Northeast Regional Meeting - Buffalo, NY](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

[2025 Southeast Regional Meeting - Nashville, TN](#)

SATURDAY, JULY 5 - THURSDAY, JULY 10

[2025 Annual Meeting](#)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

[51st Annual Trial Academy](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

[2025 International Corporate Counsel College](#)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

[2026 Midyear Meeting](#)

SATURDAY, JULY 4 - THURSDAY, JULY 9

[2026 Annual Meeting](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Asim K. Desai Memorial Trial Academy Scholarship

ASIM K. DESAI MEMORIAL TRIAL ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

HONORING ASIM DESAI, BELOVED MEMBER AND
TWO-TIME TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY MEMBER



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DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MAY 16.



The IADC Foundation started a Trial Academy scholarship in honor of Asim K. Desai, beloved IADC member and two-time Trial Academy faculty member. The scholarship will cover tuition and room and

board for a worthy candidate who works for a small firm (30 or fewer attorneys), solo practice, person of color, member of an underrepresented group, or works for a government or non-profit entity.

If you know of a candidate, please encourage them to apply. Click for the [guidelines](#) and [application form](#). Applications are due by May 16, 2025.

Asim's law firm, Gordon & Rees, funded the first year of the scholarship in 2023. We are raising funds to enable the scholarship to continue for several years. To give, go to the [donation page](#) on the IADC Foundation website, and where it says "My donation is for" choose "Asim Desai Memorial Trial Academy Scholarship" from the drop down menu.

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