



LEADERSHIP FORUM

April 9, 2025

The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago | Chicago, Illinois USA

IADC LEADERSHIP FORUM

The IADC Leadership Forum is a half-day program held the day before the Corporate Counsel College begins which targets rising stars, regardless of whether you are outside or in-house counsel. The presentations are designed to accelerate the learning curve on the attendees' path to leadership within their law firm or legal department. Managing partners and senior corporate officers are encouraged to attend along with their rising star.

The Forum is complimentary and is open to all, including non-IADC members.

SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Boxed lunches will be available during this time.

12:15 p.m. - 12:25 p.m.

THE TIP OFF: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Amy M. Stewart, Program Chair, Stewart Law Group, Dallas, TX USA

Donna Lamontagne, IADC President, Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, Cranston, RI USA



12:25 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker Lanesha Minnix

Presenter: Lanesha Minnix,
*Executive Vice President and
Chief Legal Officer, Walgreens,
Chicago, IL USA*

1:00 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.

TIME OUT: REFRESHMENT BREAK

1:10 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Overcoming Obstacles - How Tough Times Make You Stronger

This practical program will provide stories from IADC members about how they have overcome obstacles in their practice, for example, dealing with demanding clients, difficult opposing counsel, business leaders within their corporations, or transitioning into a second career. In sum, if you have the proper mindset, obstacles can be opportunities to thrive in your profession.

Moderator: Thomas W. "Trea" Southerland, III,
Federal Express Corporation, Memphis, TN USA
Presenters: Michele Smith, *MehaffyWeber, Houston, TX USA*; Andrew Wallace, *NTE Mobility Partners LLC, Dallas, TX USA*

2:10 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

TIME OUT: REFRESHMENT BREAK

SCHEDULE

2:20 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Creating a Win-Win Partnership Between Inside and Outside Counsel

Whether in-house counsel is new to the job or just new to the company, outside counsel can often assist that transition based on his or her own institutional knowledge of the client. By providing useful information about the company's products or business, litigation history, governing regulations, or internal resources, mentoring newer in-house counsel strengthens personal and client relationships. This program will present practical information and tips that outside counsel can provide to new in-house counsel, including a workshop to suggest best practices for real-world scenarios.

Moderator: Christopher C. Lam, *Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Charlotte, NC USA*

Presenters: Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten, *Foley & Mansfield, PLLP, Minneapolis, MN USA*; Nicole M. Brunson, *A.O. Smith Corporation, Milwaukee, WI USA*; Charles Price, *Eaton, Cleveland, OH USA*

3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

TIME OUT: REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Harnessing AI and Technology in the Legal Profession: Enhancing Efficiency, Practical Solutions, and Collaboration

Join a distinguished panel of attorneys for a lively discussion on the use of AI and technology in legal practice and a real-time demonstration of several tools. Gain insights into practical solutions for responsibly utilizing AI and other technology tools to enhance efficiency, positively influence litigation and dispute resolution, and navigate ethical and compliance challenges. This session is essential for legal professionals seeking to judiciously integrate technology.

Presenters: Xiao Chang, *Cisco Systems, Inc., Dallas-Fort Worth, TX USA*; Jennifer L. Greenblatt, *Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL/Dallas, TX USA*; Aldos L. Vance, *Vance Dispute Resolution, PC, Vestavia, AL USA*

4:25 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Leading with Strengths: Unlocking Your Full Potential

This guided program will be led by Executive Coach Scott Minnix who has a wealth of experience assisting attorneys in determining their career path. Using the attendees' Gallup Clifton Strength Finders Test scores in smaller breakout groups, Scott will coach us up on how we should lean into our strengths instead of always working on our weaknesses.

Presenter: Scott Minnix, *The SDM III Group, Chicago, IL USA*

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Thank you to the Leadership Forum Planning Committee

Amy M. Stewart, Program Chair
Stewart Law Group, Dallas, TX USA

MEMBERS

Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten
*Foley & Mansfield, PLLP
Minneapolis, MN USA*

Alba Arriaga Romano
*Riley, Witte & Romano, P.C.
Pittsburgh, PA USA*

Thomas W. "Trea" Southerland III
*Federal Express Corporation
Memphis, TN USA*

Aldos Vance
*Vance Dispute Resolution, PC
Vestavia, AL USA*

GENERAL INFORMATION



LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago

160 East Pearson Street, Chicago, IL 60611 USA

Phone: +1.312.266.1000

Fax: +1.312.266.1194

www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/chicago

REGISTRATION

To register for the Leadership Forum, you may do so by visiting the IADC website at:

www.iadclaw.org/events/2025-iadc-leadership-forum

The Leadership Forum will take place the day before the IADC Corporate Counsel College, and Forum attendees are invited to stay and attend the College. Separate registration is required for the Corporate Counsel College.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

For information on hotel accommodations, please refer to the “General Information” pages of the 2025 Corporate Counsel College brochure. Once registered for the Leadership Forum, a link will be generated by the IADC along with your registration confirmation that will allow you to secure your hotel room at The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago.

CLE CREDIT

Approximately 3.25 hours of general CLE credit in 60-minute states and 3.9 hours of general CLE credit in 50-minute states will be requested for accreditation from all mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions.

CLIMATE AND DRESS

When packing for your trip, please note that average temperatures in Chicago this time of year range from a high of 60 degrees Fahrenheit to a low of 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Business casual attire (slacks, button down/blouse/sweater, skirt) is recommended for the meeting.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs during the meeting or have any other questions about the Leadership Forum, please contact Jennifer Aron, Professional Development Manager, at jaron@iadclaw.org.

DATA PRIVACY AND COLLECTION

Data is collected on attendees through registration for the purposes of executing the meeting and communicating with attendees about the meeting. Meeting sponsors have access to the registration list provided to all attendees. If any attendee has questions on data use and privacy, please contact Mary Beth Kurzak, Executive Director and CEO, at mkurzak@iadclaw.org.

PHOTO POLICY

Photos are taken onsite at the meeting by staff and hired photographers and those photos may be used in association marketing. If you wish to not be included in photos that are used in association marketing, please contact Ashley Hatfield, Director of Communications, at ahatfield@iadclaw.org.