



2026 CORPORATE COUNSEL TRAINING ACADEMY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

REGISTRATION

*Boxed lunches will be available during this time.

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Zane C. Riester, IADC CCTA Program Chair, Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ USA

J. Dominic Campodonico, IADC President, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, San Francisco, CA USA

12:25 p.m. - 1:25 p.m. (60 General Minutes)

Intro to the In-House World

This panel provides candid, experience-based insights from seasoned in-house lawyers reflecting on what they wish they had known before making the transition from law firms. Topics include shifting from private practice to managing risk/litigations in a business setting, navigating corporate culture, working effectively with outside counsel, and avoiding the common pitfalls new in-house counsel face. Attendees will leave with actionable guidance, strategic frameworks, and a realistic understanding of the skills and mindset needed to thrive in an in-house role.

Moderator: **Betsy Farrington**, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA

Presenters: **Kenneth Dzikowski**, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Parsippany, NJ USA; **Kelly Lankford**, AbbVie, New York, NY USA; **Kari Rhode**, Medtronic Inc., Keller, TX USA; **Megan Toth**, Rivian, Chicago, IL USA

1:25 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. (60 General Minutes)

Strategic Relationships for New Corporate Counsel: Best Practices for Collaborating Internally, Across Industries, and Against Coordinated Plaintiffs

This panel explores how new corporate counsel can develop the strategic relationships essential for navigating today's complex environment. Panelists will discuss practical approaches to collaborating across business functions, building trust and credibility internally, engaging effectively with external organizations, and forming cross-company connections that strengthen readiness for emerging risks. The session also provides a candid look at the highly coordinated and cooperative nature of the plaintiffs' bar, outlining what in-house lawyers must understand to anticipate their tactics and respond effectively.

Moderator: **Zane C. Riester**, Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ USA

Presenters: **Lisa M. Floro**, Coloplast Corp., Minneapolis, MN USA; **James F. Murdica**, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Chicago, IL USA; **Ethan York**, Stryker, Chicago, IL USA

2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

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2:55 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. (60 General Minutes)

Do's and Don'ts for In-House and Outside Counsel

What makes the partnership between in-house and outside counsel most effective? This program offers practical guidance on how legal teams of all shapes and sizes can work together with greater efficiency, collaboration, and trust. Panelists will discuss best practices and common pitfalls from both sides of the relationship, focusing on topics such as: understanding business objectives, calibrating risk tolerance, tailoring communication styles, managing expectations, and fostering proactive collaboration. Attendees will gain insight into what in-house teams need most from their external partners, and what outside counsel look for in successful client relationships, so that they can strengthen these critical connections and deliver meaningful, business-aligned results.

Moderator: **Diana Gerstel**, *Tucker Ellis LLP, Morristown, NJ USA*

Presenters: **Tiffany Andras**, *Kimberly-Clark, Chicago, IL USA*; **Christopher Gardino**, *CNH, Chicago, IL USA*; **Robin Linley**, *Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, Toronto, ON Canada*

3:55 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

4:05 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. (45 General Minutes)

Fireside Chat with James Hemmings and Hope Katz

Moderator: **Allison Ng**, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Atlanta, GA USA*

Presenters: **James Hemmings**, *General Counsel, Diversified Botanics, Chicago, IL USA*; **Hope Katz**, *General Counsel, Huron Consulting Group Inc., Chicago, IL USA*

4:50 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM WRAP-UP

Zane C. Riester, *IADC CCTA Program Chair, Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ USA*

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

COCKTAIL RECEPTION (CHICAGO REGIONAL MEETING)