

STEP INTO THE SPIRIT OF NEW ORLEANS! 2026 MIDYEAR MEETING



This year, the [2026 Midyear Meeting](#) will take place February 8 - 12 at The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans right as the city comes alive with music, parades, and celebration. **It's a one-of-a-kind chance to experience the energy of New Orleans while connecting with IADC**

colleagues and friends at one of our most anticipated events.

The Convention Planning Team invites you to join the IADC in New Orleans to recharge, reconnect, and rediscover the joy of learning and doing business -- with just *a little something extra*.

With **Members First** in mind this year, we've crafted a conference to meet you where you are.

[Continue the article.](#)

What's Inside

[RESOURCES](#) |
what you may have missed

[NEW MEMBERS](#) |
welcome new members of the IADC

[IADC SUCCESSES](#) |
your accolades and accomplishments

[EVENTS](#) |
upcoming connection opportunities

2026 MIDYEAR MEETING

Meeting highlights include:

- 15+ educational sessions; some topics include:
 - Rethinking Arbitration: Are You Better Off in Court?
 - AI at the Edge: The Rise of Autonomous Agents, Copyright Challenges, and Global Regulation
 - Making Things Happen: How Executive Orders Impact the Practice of Law and the Representation of Clients at Home and Abroad
- Foundation Forum: Law, Ethics, and the Courtroom
- Battle Against Misinformation: A Cinematic CLE Experience Featuring Neil deGrasse Tyson and Scott Hamilton Kennedy
- Networking and social opportunities -- *Cheers to the Crescent City!* Welcome Reception, *Last Call on Canal* Closing Party, afternoon tours and activities, smaller group gatherings, events for +1 registrants, and more.



Click above to listen to the episode.

Program and registration information can be found on the [2026 Midyear Meeting page on the IADC website](#).

2026 MEETINGS PREVIEW

We have many great programs in 2026 to create connections, share content, engage in the Association, and provide business development opportunities. In addition to these signature IADC conferences, we will hold free IADConnects events and Regional Meetings, as well as programming like Webinars and monthly Committee meetings.

We encourage every single member to engage with the IADC in the year ahead. Check out the [IADC calendar](#) for all upcoming opportunities.

[2026 Midyear Meeting](#), February 8 - 12, *The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans, New Orleans, LA USA*

[2026 Corporate Counsel Training Academy](#), April 15, *Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, Chicago, IL USA*

[2026 Corporate Counsel College](#), April 16 - 17, *Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, Chicago, IL USA*

[2026 Professional Liability Roundtable](#), May 14, *The Gleacher Center, University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, Chicago, IL USA*

[2026 Annual Meeting](#), July 4 - 9, *Prague Marriott Hotel and NH Collection Prague Carlo IV, Prague, Czech Republic*

[2026 Trial Academy](#), August 1 - 7, *University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law, Columbia, SC USA*

[Product Liability Roundtable](#), Fall 2026

[2026 International Corporate Counsel College](#), Fall 2026





BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- In-Person Connection Events
 - 2025 International Corporate Counsel College
 - Regional Meeting in London
 - IADConnects in Chicago, Columbia, DC, Phoenix, and New York
- 53 Monthly Substantive Law Committee Calls
- 2 published writing opportunities 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



IADC
Monster Mash
MEMBERSHIP
DASH



CONGRATS
WINNERS!

We received 81 nominations during the 2025 Monster Mash Membership Dash. Congratulations to our Overall Winner: Spooky Business (*Business Litigation Committee*) and our Small and Mighty Winner: The Skulls of Justice & Pro Bones Committee (*Social Justice Pro Bono Committee*).

50 State Monitoring Initiative



A critical element to improve public trust and confidence in the judicial system is the need for strong gatekeeping functions when it comes to the admissibility of expert opinions. IADC is proud partners with [Lawyers for Civil Justice](#) to implement Federal Rule of Evidence 702 at the state court level. President J. Dominic Campodonico's 50-State Monitoring Initiative is already in action as Board Member Kendall Harrison (left) testified before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety to support a bill to adopt amended Rule 702. 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.

The IADC has formed the State Issues Committee which will monitor developments at the state level that affect civil defendants and that may impact the broader membership. The Committee network is comprised of a representative from each state, and members are responsible for: 1) monitoring proposed court rule changes; 2) reporting amicus brief opportunities; and 3) identifying rulemaking processes, allies, and opportunities for reform. State representatives with their contact information can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in this initiative or have further questions, please email IADC Civil Justice Response Committee Chair [Mark Behrens](#).

RECENT EVENT RECAPS

Joint BIICL Conference and Reception. Our Joint BIICL Conference and Reception was held on October 7 in London. A big thank you to Katie Chandler, Duncan Fairgrieve, and Tripp Haston for hosting and coordinating this event. It's truly a program that our attendees value and look forward to year after year.

ICCC Regional Welcome Reception. Bristows LLP hosted our Regional Welcome Reception on October 8 in London, greeting local members and attendees of the International Corporate Counsel College.

2025 International Corporate Counsel College. The ICCC rounded out our London events. Director Anna Cook and her amazing Planning Committee put together programming, speakers, and a keynote focusing on "Ethical Dangers and the Rules and Responsibilities of an In-House Lawyer."



RECENT EVENT RECAPS



IADCConnects in Chicago. On October 15, IADC friends and colleagues connected in Chicago while at the DRI Annual Meeting.

IADCConnects in Columbia. On November 3, IADC colleagues and friends met in Columbia to connect and celebrate our new Trial Academy home - the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law.

IADCConnects in DC. On November 12, IADC members Chip Magid, Tara Ward, John Guttmann, Peggy Ward, Karen Herzog, and Rachel Adcox gathered at Casa Teresa for a lively, casual happy hour.

IADCConnects in Phoenix. On November 20, IADC member Beth Fitch hosted a casual evening in Phoenix.

IADCConnects in New York. On December 4, IADC members gathered at Rosie O'Grady's for some holiday cheer. Thank you for hosting, Bill Bulfer and John Harding!

COMMITTEE NEWSLETTERS

[Truth and Soul: Advancing Inclusion in the Legal Profession](#)

By Kenneth E. Sharperson

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee

[Food for Thought: A New Frontier of Product Liability Litigation for Ultra-Processed Foods](#)

By Elizabeth Sorenson Brotton, Shelley K. Napolitano, and Kyle R. Heim

Class Actions and Multi-Party Litigation Committee and Product Liability Committee

DEFENSE COUNSEL JOURNAL - VOLUME 92, NUMBER 3

[President's Page](#) by J. Dominic Campodonico

[Editor's Page](#) by Craig T. Liljestrand

[A Defense Attorney's Guide to the Galaxy - Space Debris Claims in the United States](#) by Mica Nguyen
Worthy

[You Can't Unring the Bell: No Duty in Negligence to Remove a Defamatory Statement published by Mass Media](#) by Carmen I. Abrazado

[A New Paradigm: Leveraging Defense-Side Class Actions in the New Legal Landscape](#) by Richik Sarkar

[Washington State Pay Transparency Class Actions – A Wild Ride](#) by Mary DePaolo Haddad and Nicole Demmon

[The Rule of Law](#) by Jim Shelson

RECENT RESOURCES



These podcast episodes have dropped since our last issue. Listen here or wherever you listen to podcasts.



IADC SPEAKS

**PRO BONO IN PRACTICE
WITH ERIN FARRELL AND
SCOTT WILKOV**
podcast episode

featuring Host Rebecca Weinstein Bacon,
Erin Farrell, and Scott Wilkov

[LISTEN NOW](#)



IADC SPEAKS

**LIVE FROM LONDON:
WHAT MAKES THE
2025 ICC STAND OUT**
podcast episode

featuring Host Yasir Billoo with
guests Nicole Brunson, Donna Lamontagne,
Christopher Parkerson, and Greg Williams

[LISTEN NOW](#)



COLLEGE FOOTBALL: SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

podcast episode

featuring Host Jimmy Ordeneaux with guests Michele Smith and Mitch Smith

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LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER! IADC 2026 MIDYEAR MEETING SNEAK PEEK

podcast episode

featuring Host Rebecca Weinstein Bacon and the 2026 Planning Team Dominic Campodonico, Matt Stitham, Jason Rose, Leslie Rose, Mark Hansen, and Stacie Hansen

[LISTEN NOW](#)



EIGHT NIGHTS OF MAGIC: A JOYFUL LOOK AT CHANUKAH

podcast episode

featuring Host Rebecca Weinstein Bacon with guests Dan Reisler, Sheila Schiffman, and Scott Wilkov

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PARENTING WHILE PRACTICING: LIFE AS A YOUNG LAWYER PARENT

podcast episode

featuring Host Matt Cairns with guests Melissa Lin, Jay Mattappally, and Aaron Schaar

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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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The Magnum Ice
Cream Company
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HCA Healthcare
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Hyundai Motor
Manufacturing
Montgomery,
Alabama USA

[Wes Walker](#)

Bristows LLP
London, England

YOUR ACCOLADES, WINS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Amy M. Stewart](#), Founding Partner of Stewart Law Group PLLC, was elected Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association's Litigation Section. | [more](#)

IADC members [R. Bruce Barze, Jr.](#) and [Matthew Todd Lowther](#), partners at Barze Taylor Noles Lowther LLC, obtained a defense verdict in a wrongful death case. | [more](#)

[Christopher S. Drewry](#), a partner at McCarter & English, LLP, authored an article on behalf of the IADC for *Modern Contractor Solutions'* November 2025 issue. | [more](#)

IADC members [Jennifer Egbe](#) and [Alan Thomas](#), partners at Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart LLP, obtained a summary judgment for a case against Honda. | [more](#)

IADC member [Trea Southerland](#) launched Resolution 38 LLC to provide contract and pro bono mediation services in north Mississippi and west Tennessee. | [more](#)

[Charles W. Browning](#), a partner at Plunkett Cooney, P.C., was named to *DBusiness* 2026 Top Lawyers list for insurance law. | [more](#)

IADC SUCCESSSES

[Melissa Dorman Matthews](#), a member at Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, successfully defended three entities in a product liability case. | [more](#)

IADC member [J. Nathan Cole](#) formed Cole Law Partners, P.C. | [more](#)

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

[**The Changing Landscape of Washington's Equal Pay Act: Court Decisions and Legislative Updates \(Webinar\)**](#)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

[**Do I Need a License for That? \(Webinar\)**](#)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

[**2026 Midyear Meeting**](#)

New Orleans, LA USA

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

[**2026 Southeast Regional Meeting – Mobile, AL**](#)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

[**2026 Corporate Counsel Training Academy**](#)

Chicago, IL USA

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 AND FRIDAY, APRIL 17

[**2026 Corporate Counsel College**](#)

Chicago, IL USA

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

[**2026 Southeast Regional Meeting – Tampa, FL**](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 14

[**2026 Professional Liability Roundtable**](#)

Chicago, IL USA

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!

Mark your calendar -- July 4 to 9 you will be out of office at IADC's [2026 Annual Meeting](#) in Prague, Czech Republic!

Program details and registration will become available this spring. If you are starting to plan your journey to Prague with the IADC now, check out the calendar page for some helpful planning details.



Thank You to Our 2025-2026 Sponsors

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