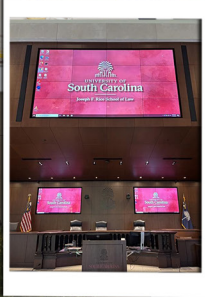


# 2026 TRIAL ACADEMY

AUGUST 1 - 7 | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA JOSEPH F. RICE SCHOOL OF LAW | COLUMBIA, SC USA



## A WEEK OF INVESTMENT FOR IMMEDIATE AND LIFELONG BENEFITS

The International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy is the preeminent defense trial advocacy training program and is a career-changing opportunity for lawyers both looking to practice fundamental trial skills and seeking to take their advocacy techniques and tactics to the next level.

It is a week-long, intensive program that blends small group faculty instruction and demonstration with individual student participation. Its proven formula of hands-on, experiential learning accelerates the development of trial skills in a relatively short period of time. Choosing the IADC Trial Academy for you and your firm provides:

### **A Track Record of Success in Creating Confidence in the Courtroom with an Instantaneous Return on Investment**

Since 1973, more than 4,400 students have gained greater confidence and more sophisticated litigation skills that will benefit them and their firms for the balance of their professional careers. In today's environment, it is more important than ever to have experienced and skilled lawyers working for your firm. The complexity and value of cases have escalated. Your lawyers need to get up to speed quickly. The Trial Academy provides a week of faculty demonstrations by lawyers recognized as the best civil defense litigators followed by practice, practice, and more practice for students.

*"I transformed from a litigator to a trial lawyer at the..International Association of Defense Counsel's Trial Academy... With guidance from renowned trial lawyers, I studied and performed each stage of a trial. Shoutout to my trial coach for providing valuable insights during the week, especially during our one-on-one film studying sessions! I look forward to using my sharpened skills to advocate for others."*

### **Digitally Recorded Documented Progress**

In classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, students are recorded while conducting mock opening statements, direct and cross examinations of lay and expert witnesses, and closing arguments. This provides an invaluable opportunity for students to see themselves as others see them, allowing them to identify their own strengths and weaknesses and objectively look at their performance without relying on memory. Students will return to the office with recordings of their exercises plus a feedback letter that will provide the partners who direct their efforts with a tool to better utilize their strengths for the good of the practice.

### **Professional Connections Crossing All Jurisdictions**

The IADC Trial Academy brings together the best IADC members as faculty and the most talented and promising lawyers as students from across the nation. Students have come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, and Ireland. Attendees and faculty form during the week to become a powerful network which serves as a resource for knowledge, insight, and referrals.

## WHAT LAST YEAR'S ATTENDEES ARE SAYING ABOUT THE IADC TRIAL ACADEMY

*"Trial Academy is a wonderfully intense experience! It is like summer camp for civil defense lawyers in the best possible way. You will form bonds with your team and learn in ways you could never imagine in such a short period of time. It was one of the best weeks of my career."*

*"Trial experience without the trial risks. This is the only place where you are encouraged to experiment and make mistakes in an effort to make you a more effective litigator."*



**PERFECT FOR THOSE SEEKING TO LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS AND REFINE THEIR TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS**

# GENERAL SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY

Welcome and Overview of Program (Program begins at 8:00 a.m.)  
*Voir Dire* Objectives and Techniques/Juror Bias Presentation  
Developing Effective Trial Themes Presentation  
Preparing for Trial Presentation  
Faculty Presentation and Demonstration: Opening Statements  
Welcome Reception and Dinner

## SUNDAY

Faculty Presentations and Demonstrations:  
Direct and Cross Examination of Lay Witnesses and Refreshing  
Recollection, Entering Exhibits, and Impeachment  
Trial Technology Presentation  
Student Skills Workshops on Opening Statements  
Reception and Individual Faculty Group Dinners

## MONDAY

Faculty Presentation and Demonstrations:  
Direct and Cross Examination of an Engineering Expert Witness  
and a Medical Expert Witness  
Student Skills Workshops on Direct and Cross Examination  
of Lay Witnesses  
Student-Faculty Critiques of Digitally Recorded Demonstrations

## TUESDAY

Faculty Presentation and Demonstrations:  
Direct and Cross Examination of Defense Toxicologist  
Discussion of Introducing Exhibits, Refreshing Recollection and  
Past Recollection Recorded, Impeachment Techniques and  
Strategies  
Practical Tips and Ethical Considerations for Trial Lawyers  
Student Skills Workshops on Direct and Cross Examination of Lay  
Witnesses (continued)

## WEDNESDAY

Faculty Presentation and Demonstrations: Direct and Cross  
Examination of Economics/Accounting Expert Witness and  
Closing Argument  
Student Skills Workshops on Direct and Cross Examination of  
Economics/Accounting or Medical Expert Witness  
Student-Faculty Critiques of Digitally Recorded Demonstrations

## THURSDAY

Student Skills Workshops on Direct and Cross Examination of  
Economics/Accounting or Medical Expert Witness  
Witness and Closing Argument  
Student-Faculty Critiques of Digitally Recorded Demonstrations  
Reception and Closing Dinner

## FRIDAY

Departures

## Why We Are Different

### DEFENSE FOCUSED

Unlike many other trial skills programs, the IADC Trial Academy offers training provided by a faculty of the best civil defense lawyers. They focus on defense techniques and tactics and teach participants how to think like defense lawyers.

### AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

The IADC Trial Academy realistically simulates the elements and environment of a trial. Real physicians and accountants act as expert witnesses and professional actors as lay witnesses and parties to the hypothetical cases during student exercises. Faculty and expert witnesses have frequent and recent experience in jury trials for clients from a variety of backgrounds and industries.

### INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

#### 7:1 STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO

The Trial Academy is a week of both observing the best trial attorneys in faculty demonstrations and practicing with that new knowledge. Students work in groups with no greater than a 7:1 student to faculty ratio. Unlike most other trial skills programs, attendees are filmed while performing every major aspect of a trial, not just one or two exercises. The faculty members provide one-on-one guidance and constructive criticism that result in immediate and vast improvement in performance throughout the week.

### MODERN COURTROOM

#### EXPERIENCE

The Trial Academy's home is the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law – an academic institution for more than 150 years housed in a modern building built in 2017. Our faculty demonstrations will take place in a fully equipped courtroom environment and each classroom for afternoon breakout sessions is complete with state-of-the-art technology for student demonstrations. Students will feel like they are in the courtroom as they practice their trial skills.

**DEVELOP**

**PERFORM**

**EXCEL**

# 2026 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL TRIAL ACADEMY

AUGUST 1 - 7 | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA JOSEPH F. RICE SCHOOL OF LAW | COLUMBIA, SC USA



## IADC TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY

The 2026 IADC Trial Academy faculty bring a level of expertise and experience you won't get at other trial practice programs. The Trial Academy faculty are:

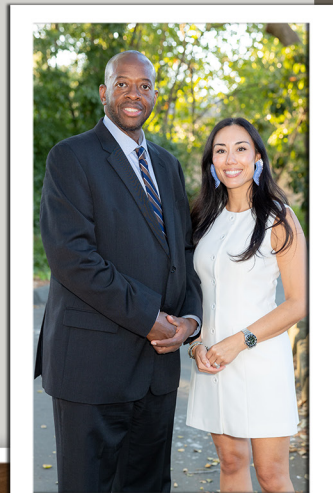
**Experienced in the courtroom.** All faculty have frequent and recent experience on jury trials for clients from a variety of backgrounds and industries. Our faculty have represented small companies, Fortune 500 companies, and everything in between.

**Diverse.** Our faculty are individuals with diverse backgrounds who come from the United States and Canada and practice in a wide range of areas. Seeing them in action during demonstrations will provide attendees a deeper understanding of the many ways to approach a jury trial and provide a range of ideas they can take home and implement to get a successful result.

**Honored by the profession.** Included in the faculty are presidents of national, state, and/or local bar associations, *Super Lawyers*, and fellows of specialty law associations.

**Teachers.** Many of our faculty have served as faculty of other trial practice programs. They have been speakers at professional association seminars and law schools, and many are published authors on the latest legal issues.

**Dedicated.** The IADC Trial Academy faculty begin training and preparing for the August meeting in February. They will log hundreds of hours throughout the course of preparing and executing the Academy to ensure that attendees come away with significantly advanced skills in the courtroom.



# 2026 TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY



**Zandra E. Foley, Director**  
*Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP*  
*Houston, Texas USA*

**Zandra E. Foley** is a trial attorney and equity partner at Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP in Houston, Texas. She represents clients in complex litigation matters related to products liability, mass torts, malpractice, and errors and omissions. She also defends clients who have been sued for various intentional torts including assault, battery, libel, slander, and defamation. Zandra serves as national and regional trial counsel on medical device, product liability, and mass tort-related matters and has extensive experience across the nation advising clients on a variety of complex disputes. In addition to serving on her firm's Diversity Committee and as past Chair of the firm's Products Liability Section, Zandra is one of five partners on Thompson Coe's Management Committee that manages the firm's eight offices in six states.



**Alba Arriaga Romano, Director-Elect**  
*Riley, Hewitt, Witte & Romano, P.C.*  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA*

**Alba Arriaga Romano's** trial experience has been in the areas of products liability, toxic torts, premises liability, motor vehicle liability, insurance coverage, professional liability, and asbestos and benzene litigation management.

She currently serves as National Coordinating Counsel (NCC) for both an equipment manufacturer and for a distributor, for whom she handles their U.S. mass tort litigation, and she has previously served on NCC teams for various manufacturers. She has managed caseloads of more than 10,000 plaintiffs nationwide, including corporate and expert witnesses, trials, and negotiations. She has practiced in federal and state courts in various jurisdictions.



**Constance A. Endelicato**  
*Wood Smith Henning & Berman*  
*Los Angeles, California USA*

**Constance A. Endelicato** is an accomplished trial lawyer with more than 30 years of experience in defending healthcare and other professionals and holds Advocate status in ABOTA. She is the past Chair of IADC's Medical and Health Law Committee and a past Co-Chair of the PLR Conference. She has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*, *Business Insurance* and *CLM Women to Watch*, Los Angeles and San Francisco's *The Daily Journal's* Top 100 Women Lawyers in California, *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers, *Los Angeles Magazine's* Top Women Attorneys in Southern California, and *Super Lawyer*. She has received *Lawyer Magazine's* Award for Elder Abuse Litigation and Women in Law Award, and was recognized by *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Women's Council & Awards for outstanding achievement in philanthropy. She has also received the Women's Influence & Power in Law Award for Lifetime Achievement and holds AV-Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell.



**Mark Fahleson**  
*Rembolt Ludtke LLP*  
*Lincoln, Nebraska USA*

**Mark Fahleson** serves as an attorney and advisor to businesses, organizations, insurers, governmental bodies/officials, and individuals, providing strategic advice and practical counsel on the issues they face. When litigation becomes unavoidable, his zealous yet cost-effective representation has resulted in numerous successful verdicts from federal and state court judges and juries. Mark's expertise and skill has earned him recognition, including being named as a Fellow in the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers and Employment Law (Management) Attorney 2026 "Lawyer of the Year" for Lincoln, Nebraska by *The Best Lawyers in America*®.

# 2026 TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY



**Michael B. Hewes**  
*Butler Snow LLP*  
*Gulfport, Mississippi USA*

**Michael B. Hewes** is an experienced litigator who practices in Butler Snow's Pharmaceutical, Medical Device, and Healthcare Group. He has spent the majority of his career trying cases and defending clients in the pharmaceutical, medical device, biologics, and chemical products industries. Michael also served as a JAG Officer in the Army National Guard, where he worked as both a trial lawyer and presided as a judicial advisor. Michael has been recognized as one of the foremost lawyers in the industry specializing in preparing and defending company witnesses in complex, high-stakes litigation. He has spoken, taught, and published on this topic numerous times.

Michael obtained his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from the University of Mississippi School of Law, and his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. In addition to practicing law, Michael enjoys writing fiction, and has published three books (with a fourth on the way).



**Justin D. Howard**  
*McGuireWoods LLP*  
*Richmond, Virginia USA*

**Justin D. Howard** co-leads the Product Liability & Mass Tort practice group at McGuireWoods, defending manufacturers and distributors in product liability claims and other businesses in high-stakes commercial litigation in the most challenging venues across the U.S.

He has tried catastrophic personal injury and death cases to verdict for companies in the health care, waste management, underground utilities, and outdoor power equipment industries. Justin also advises and trains clients in strategic risk management, helping them reduce their litigation case load and putting them in the best position to defend themselves at trial. As an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond School of Law, he teaches trial advocacy to the next generation of lawyers and shares his insights and best practices. His passion is to protect and advance the interests of his clients, while contributing to the development and improvement of trial lawyers.



**Donna M. Lamontagne**  
*Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP*  
*Cranston, Rhode Island USA*

**Donna M. Lamontagne** is a Founding Partner of Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP in Cranston, Rhode Island, circa 2015. The firm is wholly female-owned and defends national insurance companies, their insureds and members, as well as self-insured entities, academic institutions and corporations. Donna has been trying civil jury and bench trials in State and Federal Courts in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for more than three decades. She also does insurance coverage work and arbitrates or mediates countless civil matters each year in the areas of tort, contract, products, employment, and construction litigation.

Donna's IADC "career" spans 17 years, having served as President of the IADC (2024-2025) and President of the IADC Foundation (2019-2020).

Donna is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Litigation Counsel of America and the National Association of Women Owned Law Firms. Donna currently serves as an arbitrator for the Rhode Island Superior Court program and is also chosen by her peers as a private mediator. She has repeatedly been selected as a Rhode Island *Super Lawyer*.



**M. Todd Lowther**  
*Barze Taylor Noles Lowther LLC*  
*Birmingham, Alabama USA*

**M. Todd Lowther's** practice focuses on three areas: insurance coverage, serious injury and wrongful death defense, and complex commercial litigation. He has significant experience representing industrial and consumer product manufacturers, construction companies, compounding companies, hospitals, and insurance companies in high stakes litigation. Todd has handled eight- and nine-figure insurance coverage disputes, defended numerous catastrophic injury lawsuits, and bet-the-company litigation. Representative clients include companies that build refuse collection bodies, balers, compactors, electrical components, roofing materials, lawn mowers, winches, tractor trailers, cranes, engines, PLCs, communication equipment, and other products. Through the years, Todd has also gained expertise in corporate risk management, including negotiating and drafting a wide variety of contracts on behalf of manufacturing and construction clients.

## 2026 TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY

Todd has successfully tried cases to verdict, representing commercial plaintiffs and defendants, in multiple state and federal courts. He has obtained seven- and eight-figure jury verdicts, as a commercial plaintiff. He has also obtained summary judgments and trial defense verdicts in serious personal injury litigation and bet-the-company commercial disputes.



### **Kelly Anne Luther**

*Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP  
Miami, Florida USA*

**Kelly Anne Luther** represents clients in high stakes litigation in state and federal courts throughout the United States. She has acted as lead trial counsel in disputes ranging from product liability to complex commercial matters. Her clients include tobacco, pharmaceutical, medical device, and other companies. She served as trial counsel for a major domestic tobacco company in two landmark class action trials in Miami-Dade County, Florida: *Broin* (flight attendant secondhand smoke case) and *Engle* (direct smoking case).

Ms. Luther is A.V. Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell in its Judicial Edition and has been recognized as a top products liability defense attorney by *Florida Trend Magazine*, *Florida Super Lawyer*, *South Florida Legal Guide*, *The Best Lawyers in America*®, and was recently selected by her peers and that publication as a 2026 “Lawyer of the Year” – Products Liability Defense award recipient.



### **Elizabeth H. Overmann**

*Ragsdale Liggett, PLLC  
Raleigh, North Carolina USA*

**Elizabeth H. Overmann** is an experienced litigator whose 20 year practice is focused on transportation with an emphasis on trucking, catastrophic personal injury, and wrongful death. Her extensive knowledge of accident preservation and reconstruction, expert reviews, and investigations protect clients beginning with the scene of an incident. She also represents clients in other complex litigation including construction, insurance, premises, and product liability matters.

Elizabeth has tried more than 30 cases to verdict. She is admitted to practice before all federal and state courts in North Carolina and South Carolina as well as state courts in Virginia.

Elizabeth is a partner in her firm, serving as a mentor to associates. She was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2024 for her extensive trial experience.



### **Cory Reed**

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

**Cory Reed** maintains a diverse professional liability practice defending and counseling lawyers, doctors, nurses, dentists, optometrists, accountants, financial advisors, architects, real estate appraisal management companies, real estate appraisers, real estate agents and brokers, real estate inspectors, surveyors, insurance agents, and other practicing professionals and groups against a variety of complaints and in response to complaints filed with state professional licensing boards

In addition, Cory’s practice includes representing employers, managers, and other personnel in employment law matters arising under federal and state law, including matters involving gender discrimination, age discrimination, racial discrimination, disability discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour disputes, employment torts, and other legal issues arising in the workplace.

Cory conducts seminars to various professionals concerning litigation avoidance and other critical issues facing their profession.



### **Jason R. Scott**

*Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.  
Kansas City, Missouri USA*

**Jason R. Scott** is a litigator and trial attorney with Shook, Hardy & Bacon, and represents clients nationally in all matters of dispute. He is sought by companies to represent them in trials and lawsuits involving cybersecurity and data privacy, commercial litigation, product liability, and personal injury. Jason has appeared before state and federal courts in more than 30 states. He leverages his litigation and trial experience to advise clients on risk-mitigating techniques aimed at minimizing or avoiding litigation. Jason has helped shape and refine Shook’s Strategic Early Case Assessment to help in-house counsel take a tailored, holistic—and strategic—approach to anticipating and controlling their litigation spend. In 2024, *Lawdragon 500* named Jason to their list of Leading Global Cyber Lawyers.

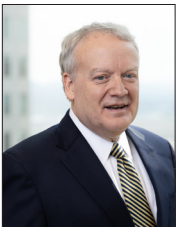
# 2026 TRIAL ACADEMY FACULTY



**Joel H. Smith**  
*Bowman and Brooke LLP*  
*Columbia, South Carolina USA*

**Joel H. Smith** is a nationally recognized first-chair trial lawyer with more than 40 years of experience dedicated to defending high exposure product liability and mass tort litigation. As lead trial counsel, he has tried to verdict more than 20 high-exposure product liability trials across the country. In recent years, he has been a lead counsel in two of the biggest product liability issues to hit the automotive industry, including Toyota's unintended acceleration litigation and Honda's handling of the massive recall of Takata air bags.

In pharmaceutical litigation, his experience includes lead trial counsel for a major pharmaceutical company in birth defect and testosterone replacement therapy MDLs. He was given a first-chair role in the defense of PPA litigation and has played a leading role in MDL *Daubert* hearings involving several products.



**Richard E. Smith**  
*Christian & Small LLP*  
*Birmingham, Alabama USA*

**Richard E. Smith** focuses primarily on complex and corporate litigation for clients in the financial services, health care, and construction industries, as well as corporate entities in other industries. His extensive litigation experience includes having tried almost 200 jury trials to a conclusion in Alabama and eight other states.

In recent years, Richard has arbitrated more than 35 cases before the American Arbitration Association, the National Association of Security Dealers, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and other arbitration panels. He has been appointed as an arbitrator, mediator, and receiver in several business litigation disputes.



**Richard "Dick" H. Willis**  
*Williams Mullen*  
*Columbia, South Carolina USA*

**Richard "Dick" H. Willis** is a trial lawyer with more than 40 years of experience representing a variety of product manufacturers and business clients in products liability litigation, mass torts, environmental litigation, and various types of commercial litigation before juries and administrative tribunals, and before various appellate courts.

Lead counsel in trials involving a wide variety of products and subjects, including the chemical industry, petroleum companies, pulp and paper manufacturers, tire manufacturers, and manufacturers and retailers of consumer products.

Dick has tried more than 40 jury trials to verdict in 12 states and argued appeals in the 3, 4, and 11 Circuits and before the South Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Dick is an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law, teaching Trial Advocacy, Law and Rhetoric, and Law and Literature. He is a regular writer and speaker on trial advocacy and product liability issues and is a recipient of the Burton Award for Excellence in Legal Writing.



**Grant Worden**  
*Torys LLP*  
*Toronto, Ontario Canada*

**Grant Worden** is an accomplished trial lawyer, litigation partner, and co-chair of the product liability practice group at Torys LLP in Toronto, Ontario Canada. Grant acts as lead counsel in multi-jurisdictional class actions, individual claims, and "mass tort" litigation involving complex product liability, intellectual property, commercial and procurement disputes, as well as regulatory proceedings.

He has extensive experience defending pharmaceutical, medical device, consumer product, and agricultural product manufacturers, as well as renewable energy developers. Grant is called to the bar in Ontario and British Columbia and appears as counsel before trial and appellate courts across Canada. He also coordinates with external counsel internationally to ensure seamless execution of clients' commercial and litigation strategies.

Grant is a frequent speaker and litigation skills instructor for the Ontario Bar Association and Advocates' Society and is a Director on the Board of Directors of the Greater Toronto Hockey league, the world's largest minor hockey organization.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Practice Materials

Each student will receive a set of practice materials one month in advance of the Trial Academy. The student materials will contain the hypothetical trial problems and student demonstration assignments. These materials form the basis for program participation. Students will be expected to review the materials and prepare for the Academy before arriving.

## CLE Credits

Approximately 37 hours of CLE in 60-minute states and 45 hours of CLE in 50-minute states will be requested for accreditation from mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions including 1 hour of ethics credit. The IADC is a Pre-Approved Provider of CPD Credit with the Law Society of British Columbia. The Quebec CPD Committee recognizes courses approved by other Canadian bars as approved in Quebec. CPD credits are available for attendance at the Trial Academy.

## Tax Deduction

Costs incurred for attending legal seminars that maintain and improve professional skills required for employment are tax deductible. See Tras. Reg. 1.162-5; IRS Letter Ruling 7746068 (9-1-77); Coughlin v. Comm'r., 203 F.2d 307 (2d Cir. 1953).

## Trial Academy Registration and Tuition

Tuition for this program is \$4,950 per student. Tuition for students from corporations or government entities is \$3,995. **Early Registration Discounts:** Attendees from law firms who register on or before Monday, April 20, 2026 will get the early registration rate of \$4,750 per student. If your firm plans to register multiple attendees, the IADC wishes to thank you for your support. Second or greater registrants from a single firm will be \$4,525 each on or before Monday, April 20, 2026. Registration is limited. Due to the popularity of the Academy, early registration is not only encouraged but strongly advised. For a fee of \$250, spouses/significant others may register and attend the social events offered in the evenings, which include Saturday's opening reception and barbeque, Sunday's cocktail reception, and Thursday's cocktail reception and closing dinner.

To register, please do so online. If you wish to pay by check, please contact Leeza Abramovich, Meetings Coordinator, at [labramovich@iadclaw.org](mailto:labramovich@iadclaw.org). If you need wire transfer details, please contact Mary Huang, Staff Accountant and Business Analyst, at [mhuang@iadclaw.org](mailto:mhuang@iadclaw.org).

## Hotel Reservations and Cancellation Policy

### Location:

Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown  
1200 Pickens Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201 USA  
Phone: +1.803.227.3400  
[www.hilton.com/en/hotels/caecdgi-hilton-garden-inn-columbia-downtown](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/caecdgi-hilton-garden-inn-columbia-downtown)

### Reservations and Room Rates

The room rate is \$119 per night, which is subject to the current applicable occupancy and sales tax. In order to make your hotel reservation you must first register for the meeting with the IADC. Once registered, a link will be generated by the IADC, along with your registration confirmation, that will allow you to secure a hotel room at the Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown. You must contact the hotel directly, either by web link or telephone. Reservations must be made on or before Friday, July 10, 2026. Unused rooms held for this meeting will be released on this date. Any reservation requests received after July 10, 2026 will be accepted only on a space-available basis at the group rate. Please note that the room block may fill before July 10, so we encourage you to register with the IADC so that you can make your hotel reservation early. Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance of check-in to avoid forfeiture of first night room deposit. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. EST.

### Complimentary: Parking/Breakfast/Wi-Fi

Trial Academy attendees receive complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, and breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn. The School of Law is located directly across the street within easy walking distance. The Hilton Garden Inn is the closest hotel to the School of Law and has plenty of public areas for attendees to gather and utilize following daily programming including the Garden Grille and Bar, a spacious lobby with plenty of seating, a game room, an outdoor patio with grill, and a fitness center with an indoor swimming pool.

A self-serve, enhanced continental breakfast is included in the room rate and will be available from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily in a private meeting room for IADC attendees and registered spouses/significant others.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Transportation

The closest airport is Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) which is about a 20-minute drive to the School of Law. The Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) in Charlotte, North Carolina is about a 90-minute drive to the School of Law. Car rental is available at both airports. Taxis and Uber/Lyft are frequently used in Columbia. The many restaurants, bars, shops, and vibrant cultural scene in the city center of Columbia and on the university campus are easily accessed on foot or by a very short ride from the Hilton Garden Inn.

## Data Privacy and Collection

Data is collected on attendees through the registration form 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 Executive Director and CEO Mary Beth Kurzak at [mkurzak@iadclaw.org](mailto:mkurzak@iadclaw.org).

## Special Needs

If you have any special needs during the meeting (i.e. diet or accessibility), please email Leeza Abramovich, Meetings Coordinator, at [labramovich@iadclaw.org](mailto:labramovich@iadclaw.org) in advance of the meeting.

## Photography/Videography

By applying for enrollment in the Trial Academy, you grant your permission to be photographed and filmed at the 2026 Trial Academy and for said photographs or video clips to be used by the IADC for publicity and promotion. Academy attendees understand the IADC shall own all intellectual property rights, if any, arising in connection therewith, and agree and acknowledge that they will not receive (or be entitled to receive) any compensation from the IADC for any such usage.

## Cancellation Policy

A CASH REFUND, less a \$150 processing fee, will be made for the registration fee if a written notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office more than sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the meeting. No reason for the cancellation need be provided for a timely notice of cancellation. NO CASH REFUND will be made if notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office sixty (60) days or less prior to the first day of the meeting. However, if special circumstances arise before the meeting which prevent attendance, a registrant (or their sponsoring law firm/company) may request a future meeting credit for the registration fee. The request needs to be in writing and submitted to the IADC office. It should be directed to the Finance Committee's attention and note the special circumstances which caused cancellation. The credit request will be valid for use toward any IADC meeting for one (1) year from the date of the meeting for which credit is requested. A \$150 processing fee will be deducted from the total future meeting credit. All future meeting credit requests will be considered by the Finance Committee and the decision of that Committee will be final. If a registrant cancels but provides a replacement registrant from the same company/law firm, the registration fee can be transferred to that registrant without deducting the \$150 processing fee.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### CORE CONNECTION LEVEL ONE



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### CORE CONNECTION LEVEL TWO

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### GENERAL



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE TRIAL ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

*In honor of Robert H. Hood, Sr. for his immense contributions to the IADC and Trial Academy*

The Foundation of the IADC is dedicated to supporting the rule of law and access to justice around the world. Part of that effort is ensuring lawyers are well trained on how to represent their clients in the courtroom.

The **Access to Justice Trial Academy Scholarship** includes the registration fee (\$4,750) and a travel stipend (\$1,200). Applications are due no later than May 6.

For details on candidate qualifications, guidelines, and the application, please visit [www.iadcfoundation.org](http://www.iadcfoundation.org) and select "Access to Justice Trial Academy Scholarship" under "Projects."