Printable Full Schedule

- schedule as of November 4 -

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
2027 Trial Academy Training Session for Faculty

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Luncheon with 2027 Trial Academy Faculty
Invitation only.

1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Registration Desk
Have questions or need help? Visit IADC's Registration Desk during posted hours for assistance.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
IADC in the Community: Charity Walk for FIND Food Bank
Hunger and food insecurity are widespread and affect a diverse range of people and places in the Coachella Valley desert region. FIND Food Bank was created more than three decades ago to assist and empower those who face challenges meeting their basic nutritional needs.
FIND is a healthy food bank that delivers fresh and non-perishable food to a vast network of community agency partners and directly to people in the community. They provide 75-100% of the total food supply for 90% of the region's major soup kitchens, food pantries, religious organizations, and nonprofits.
Kick off the Midyear Meeting and join fellow attendees in a walk to support the FIND Food Bank. For every participant who completes the walk, IADC will donate $20, up to $1,500. All walkers will meet together at one starting point for a designated route throughout the resort property. This is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with fellow attendees, all for a good cause.
Advanced sign-ups are not required. Individual donations onsite will be accepted but are not required.
Thank you to IADC in the Community Chair Carolyn Husmann and the Social Justice Pro Bono Committee for sponsoring this activity.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
First Timers Introductions
The First Timers program is for all IADC members and their registered guest(s) who have never attended a Midyear or Annual Meeting.
At this introduction, you will learn more about the IADC and the Midyear Meeting. You will also meet other First Timers and their member Hosts, as well as the Board of Directors and Past Presidents in attendance, so throughout the meeting you will see familiar faces.
Resort casual attire.
Thank you to First Timers Chairs Matt and Catherine Pietsch.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
***Return to the Gem of the Desert* Welcome Reception**
We are excited to return to the La Quinta Resort & Club for the 2027 Midyear Meeting! Join us on the Main Lawn for beverages and light hors d'oeuvres before heading out for your dinner plans.
Resort casual attire.
Please note: The Welcome Reception will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

10:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
After Dinner Gathering
Wrap up your evening with a nightcap and camaraderie at this After Dinner Gathering held exclusively for IADC attendees at Morgan's Lounge.
Beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic beverages are complimentary with your meeting name badge.
Thank you to New Members Chairs Robin Linley and Sarah Wolfe.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

5:45 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.
Morning Run
Get your blood pumping, get moving, and get to know fellow attendees at this IADC morning run.
The Morning Runs are complimentary, and sign-ups are not required.
Thank you to Morning Run Chair Sharon Caffrey.

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Registration Desk
Have questions or need help? Visit IADC's Registration Desk during posted hours for assistance.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Grab and Go CLE Breakfast
"Grab and go" breakfasts are available outside the morning meeting rooms, making it easy for attendees to have breakfast without missing a minute of the great CLE programming we have planned for you.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Meet and Greet Breakfast

Join fellow attendees for breakfast to network, discuss ideas, or plan your day. Breakfast is available to all registered attendees. Meeting name badge required for entry.
Please note: Meet and Greet Breakfasts will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Foundation President's Circle Breakfast
Invitation only. Foundation President's Circle donors (those who donated $1,000 or more to the IADC Foundation in 2026) and Life Fellows will receive an emailed invitation prior to the meeting with a request to RSVP.
To learn more about the IADC Foundation and how we help, click here.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Corporate Counsel Huddle
All corporate counsel are invited for the opportunity to gather and share thoughts, ideas, issues, and perspectives impacting the in-house practice and in-house participation in IADC. **This in-house counsel only** informal breakfast conversation will be led by IADC corporate counsel leaders and will be sure to bring value to your Midyear Meeting experience.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
AI in Trial Practice: What We Learned So You Don't Have To
Committee Sponsor: Trial Techniques and Tactics
Artificial intelligence is changing the way sophisticated litigation is practiced. The harder question is not whether to use AI, but when it adds value—and when experienced lawyers should rely instead on their own judgment.
This program is designed for experienced defense counsel who want practical guidance rather than product demonstrations or AI hype. Rather than advocating for a particular platform or product, the panel will compare the approaches each lawyer has independently adopted, where those approaches converge, and where reasonable minds continue to differ.
Instead of teaching attendees how to become AI experts, the panel will identify the litigation tasks where AI meaningfully improves efficiency and work product, the situations where it does not, and the principles that should guide its responsible use. Through concrete examples drawn from real practice, the discussion will address judgment, ethics, confidentiality, strategy, and practical workflows that lawyers can immediately adapt to their own matters.
This program will help IADC members make informed, defensible decisions about when AI enhances legal practice—and when human judgment remains the better tool. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for evaluating AI tools, improving their own workflows, and delivering greater value to clients without needing to become AI specialists.
Speakers: *Matthew Ford, Bartlit Beck, Chicago, Illinois USA; Jonathan D. Franklin, Franklin Law Group, Miami, Florida USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Built to Grow: The Outside GC Advantage—and Its Risks
Committee Sponsor: Business Litigation
Growth companies increasingly retain outside litigation counsel as embedded general counsel. This introduction shows all attorneys what the work involves, how it helps companies protect their

interests and grow, and how to avoid its distinctive conflict, privilege, and malpractice risks. A running case study illustrates engagement letters, multi-client conflicts, dual-hat privilege, and error response, and one segment addresses foreign companies entering the US.
Speakers: *Kirby D. Hopkins, Hopkins | Centrich PLLC., The Woodlands, Texas USA; Richik Sarkar, Dinsmore & Shohl, Cleveland, Ohio USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
I Did It My Way: Opt-Out Cases in Large-Scale Litigation
Co-Committee Sponsors: Business Litigation, Drug, Device and Biotechnology, Product Liability
Opt-out cases are a prominent feature of many types of litigation—including class actions, mass torts, antitrust, and others—where individual plaintiffs (and their lawyers) believe they can secure better outcomes by litigating their own cases rather than joining a larger group.
This panel will discuss opt-out suits, including by offering a brief history of the phenomenon and explaining where and how they typically emerge during litigation. The panel will suggest practical strategies for managing or limiting opt-out litigation, describe the mechanics of litigating opt-out suits, and offer predictions about the future of opt-out suits given other trends in large-scale lawsuits.
Speakers: *Jennifer Greenblatt, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Dallas, Texas USA; Gordon McKee, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, Toronto, Ontario Canada; Amir Nassihi, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP, San Francisco, California USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Morning Walk (Historical Walking Tour)
Get your blood pumping, get moving, and get to know fellow attendees at this IADC morning walk.
The Morning Walks are complimentary, and sign-ups are not required.
*The morning walk on Monday, February 8 will be a historical walking tour of the surrounding property.
Thank you to Morning Walk Chair Lauren Brinks.

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Networking Coffee Break
Connect with fellow members to build relationships and pursue strategic opportunities for your practice or law firm at these Networking Coffee Breaks each morning.

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Opening Session
We encourage you to attend this general session where IADC President Mark Hansen will give a State of the Association address and valuable meeting highlights and information will be shared.
The Opening Session is not available for CLE credit.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Foundation Forum: Professor Elizabeth Chamblee Burch
SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION OF THE IADC
The IADC Foundation is pleased to present professor and author Elizabeth Chamblee Burch as our Foundation Forum speaker. Part true crime, part legal procedural, and part investigative journalism, Burch's book *The Pain Brokers* provides a lens into broader issues affecting the civil

justice system, including women's health mass torts, third-party litigation funding, legal advertising and call centers, and the professional responsibilities of both lawyers and physicians.
Burch will take attendees inside a disturbing scheme that steered women toward unnecessary and overpriced medical procedures designed to inflate settlement values. Burch will examine the roles played by lawyers, medical providers, litigation funders, and others who profited while the women whose rights and health were supposed to be at the center of the litigation suffered the consequences.
Every main registrant will receive a copy of Professor Burch's 2026 book *The Pain Brokers: How Con Men, Call Centers, and Rogue Doctors Fuel America's Lawsuit Factory* onsite.
The Foundation of the IADC creates a community of giving to those who are boots on the ground to support access to justice and fair legal systems. Individual donations lead to a global impact through the grants we give. To learn more about how we help, click here.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Membership Committee Meeting and Luncheon

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
45 and Under Activity: Tee Time at the Trackman Golf Simulator at The Bunker Bar
Come connect with other 45 and under meeting attendees at the indoor golf simulator. This is a causal networking event combined with high-tech golf, and everyone is welcome (playing golf is not required!). Participants can order lunch directly from the clubhouse restaurant to eat together. *Use of the golf simulator is complimentary, but registration for this event is required. All lunch and drink costs are the attendees' responsibility.*
Thank you to 45 and Under Chairs Stephanie and Randy Holcombe.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Celebrity and Architecture Tour ($)
It's not unusual for visitors to catch a glimpse of larger-than-life personalities strolling Palm Canyon Drive on hiatus from daylong movie shoots, or perhaps to spot Leonardo DiCaprio sipping a cappuccino while visiting his Palm Springs home. Since the 1920's, Palm Springs has been the playground for Hollywood's elite. To this day, just the mention of Palm Springs evokes images of Tinseltown's biggest stars laying in the warm desert sunshine sipping cocktails by the pools of their private estates. This city and celebrity home tour reveals what went on behind the walls of those estates to see and hear how Palm Springs became the town of choice when Hollywood needed to let its hair down. From Sinatra and his Rat Pack to Liz Taylor, Cher, Sonny Bono, Marilyn Monroe, and Liberace, the sizzle and scandals that defined the Hollywood scene in the Coachella Valley will be revealed. This driving tour includes "Little Hollywood" and the glamorous Movie Colony, as well as Palm Springs' distinctive landmarks, mid-century designed properties, and celebrity visitor haunts.
The registration fee is $275.00 USD per person and includes a professional tour guide, private tour of a celebrity home, round-trip transportation, and bottled water.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
San Andreas Jeep Adventure ($)
On this exciting 4WD adventure to the private Metate Ranch preserve on the San Andreas Fault, guests will experience the twisted and tortured landscape of an active earthquake fault system.

Extraordinary scenery abounds as the Jeep winds its way through the labyrinth of geological cuts and canyons of the San Andreas Fault Zone. Guests will be entertained by the naturalist guide (driver) with stories about the plants, animals, geology, and history of the California desert. Participants will walk between the steep walls of deep canyons created by the powerful forces of plate tectonics, water, wind, and time. In addition, they will explore a natural palm oasis where crystal clear water bubbles up from the underground aquifer and will learn about the culture and lifestyle of the Cahuilla Indians and how they used the desert's plants for food, medicine, tools, weapons, and shelter. This is a great way to discover the fascinating history of the Coachella Valley.
The registration fee is $385.00 USD per person and includes a 3.5-hour jeep tour of Metate Canyon and the San Andreas Fault, round-trip transportation, tour staff and driver, water, and snacks.
Important Details: Attendees should wear comfortable clothing. Closed toed shoes, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended for this tour. This tour is not recommended for those with back problems or who are pregnant.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
"Breaking the Grass Ceiling": Golf Etiquette and Lessons ($)
SPONSORED BY THE EMPOWERMENT COLLABORATIVE
Golf is about more than a good swing—it's about knowing the rules, understanding the etiquette, and having the confidence to play comfortably in any setting. Many golfers learn the game informally, picking up habits from friends without ever fully learning the official rules or proper etiquette. While they may feel comfortable on a casual round, uncertainty about the rules, pace of play, course conduct, or golf's unwritten expectations can become a barrier when playing with more experienced golfers or networking in a professional environment.
This session is designed for golfers at all levels, from beginners learning the fundamentals to experienced recreational players looking to refine their knowledge and play with greater confidence and professionalism. The experience will begin with a presentation covering golf etiquette, the rules of play, pace of play, and the expectations of playing in professional and business settings. Participants will then move into hands-on instruction with experienced golf instructors, practicing their swings in small groups, allowing participants to receive guidance suited to their experience and skill level.
The goal is simple: help every golfer break through their grass ceiling. By combining rules education, etiquette, and hands-on instruction, participants will leave better prepared to step onto the course with confidence, play by the rules, and feel comfortable in settings where golf can open doors to new relationships, professional opportunities, and friendly competition.
The registration fee is $205.00 USD per person and includes a complete golf presentation on etiquette, rules of play, and expectations on the course, and hands-on instruction and practice with experienced golf professionals.
**The purpose of The Empowerment Collaborative (TEC) is to provide specialized support through the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee to enhance the development of skills, professionalism, and camaraderie of IADC's women members in order to further facilitate their continued personal and professional success. TEC events are open to everyone.*

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Speed-Networking for IADC Members
SPONSORED BY THE ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING COMMITTEE
Make new connections. Strengthen your network. Get to know your fellow IADC members.

Back by popular demand, this fast-paced, round-robin networking event makes it easy to meet members from across the IADC community and build relationships that extend beyond the conference.
Speed-Networking for IADC Members is complimentary and open to IADC members ONLY, but registration is required to participate.
Thank you to Speed-Networking Chairs Sarah and Trent Spurlock and George Wray.
Please note: Speed-Networking for IADC Members will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
International Committee Business Meeting

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
First/Second Timers, Current/Past Board Members, and Sponsors Reception
Invited guests will receive an emailed invitation prior to the meeting with a request to RSVP.
Please note: The First/Second Timers, Current/Past Board Members, and Sponsors Reception will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Member Mix and Mingle ($)
Meet up with friends and fellow attendees at Morgan's Lounge before going out for the evening at this cash bar reception.
Thank you to Mix and Mingles Chairs Robin Linley and Sarah Wolfe.

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Dine-Around ($)
Good food. Great company. New connections.
Join fellow IADC attendees for an evening of conversation and connection at some of La Quinta's best restaurants. Each Dine-Around brings a small group together for a relaxed dinner and a chance to get to know one another beyond the meeting.
NEW THIS YEAR: Sign-ups and restaurant details will be circulated online before the start of the meeting. A sign-up link will be available in January for registered attendees.
Spots are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Dinner and transportation costs are the responsibility of each attendee.
Thank you to Dine-Around Chairs Joel and Alexandra Eagle.

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
International Reception and Dinner ($)
Invited guests will receive an emailed invitation prior to the meeting with a request to register.

10:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
After Dinner Gathering
Wrap up your evening with a nightcap and camaraderie at this After Dinner Gathering held exclusively for IADC attendees at Morgan's Lounge.
Beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic beverages are complimentary with your meeting name badge.
Thank you to New Member Chairs Robin Linley and Sarah Wolfe.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:45 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.
Morning Run
Get your blood pumping, get moving, and get to know fellow attendees at this IADC morning run. *The Morning Runs are complimentary, and sign-ups are not required.*
Thank you to Morning Run Chair Sharon Caffrey.

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Registration Desk
Have questions or need help? Visit IADC's Registration Desk during posted hours for assistance.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Grab and Go CLE Breakfast
"Grab and go" breakfasts are available outside the morning meeting rooms, making it easy for attendees to have breakfast without missing a minute of the great CLE programming we have planned for you.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Meet and Greet Breakfast
Join fellow attendees for breakfast to network, discuss ideas, or plan your day. Breakfast is available to all registered attendees. Meeting name badge required for entry.
Please note: Meet and Greet Breakfasts will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

7:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Foundation Board Meeting and Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
AI Use in International Arbitration and Litigation From Early Strategy Planning to Attacking the Final Award or Judgment
Co-Committee Sponsors: Business Litigation, International, International Arbitration, Trial Techniques and Tactics
AI is seeing increased use by lawyers, arbitrators, and even judges. Such uses continue to expand. AI can be used in a myriad of ways in arbitrations and litigation, to help lawyers represent their clients in these disputes. For example, AI can be used to assist in arbitrator and jury selection, planning strategy, researching past decisions of judges and arbitrators, finding experts, attacking experts, motion practice, preparing discovery requests and responses, organizing and understanding factual information, and understanding technical or scientific information to be used. Arbitrators and judges (particularly in bench trials) are also increasingly using AI to assist in writing their decisions. AI may be helpful in attacking their decisions with respect to facts, reasoning, or other bases. International arbitration and trial lawyers should think creatively about new use cases for AI in representing their clients.

Speakers: *James W. Gibson, Lightfoot, Franklin & White, L.L.C., Birmingham, Alabama USA; Anne-Karin Grill, AKG Advisory, Vienna, Wien Austria; Anton G. Maurer, Anton Maurer International Legal Services RA GmbH, Stuttgart, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany; Kohei Murawaka, Atsumi & Sakai, Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
New Rules, Same Game: Recent and Proposed Amendments to Federal Rules Governing Large-Scale Litigation
Co-Committee Sponsors: Business Litigation, Product Liability
The last two years have seen significant developments in federal rules that govern the structure of large-scale cases and the evidence parties can present in them. For example, new Rule 16.1—the first Federal Rule of Civil Procedure targeted to MDLs—"is designed to provide a framework for the initial management of MDL proceedings." Proposed Federal Rule of Evidence 707 would govern AI-based evidence, likely a critical issue in future litigation. And proposed amendments to FRCP 45 would broaden the permissible use of remote testimony, potentially allowing parties to demand live testimony from many more witnesses across the country. The panel will summarize these developments, as well as other cutting-edge rule changes, explain their importance, and discuss how defendants can use these new procedural tools to their advantage.
Speakers: *Alex Dahl, LCJ, Arlington, Virginia USA; Jeffrey A. Holmstrand, Grove, Holmstrand & Delk, PLLC, Wheeling, Virginia USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Supremacy Reexamined: Federal Preemption of Product Liability Claims
Co-Committee Sponsors: Drug, Device and Biotechnology, Product Liability
In recent years, courts have defined, revised, and extended federal preemption doctrine governing claims against critical products that are often litigation targets. Key examples include Supreme Court and court of appeals decisions in pharmaceutical-drug and medical-device cases, as well as development of preemption doctrine for pesticides and for biological products such as vaccines. The panel will discuss the legal significance of these rulings and how they may bar certain categories of claims entirely. Panelists will also consider how preemption doctrine may affect case strategy—such as by limiting discovery, witness testimony, legal theories, and arguments at trial—even where an entire case is not preempted.

- Understand recent judicial decisions that impact federal preemption doctrine.
- Learn about the broader context of these decisions and how they fit with previous preemption jurisprudence.
- Hear strategies for using preemption doctrine in cases—both to dispose of certain claims entirely and to shape litigation that is not entirely preempted.

Speakers: *Robyn Buck, Bayer U.S., Saint Louis, Missouri USA; Joseph G. Petrosinelli, Williams & Connolly LLP, Washington, District of Columbia USA; Sara K. Thompson, Greenberg Traurig, Atlanta, Georgia USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Morning Walk
Get your blood pumping, get moving, and get to know fellow attendees at this IADC morning walk. *The Morning Walks are complimentary, and sign-ups are not required.*
Thank you to Morning Walk Chair Lauren Brinks.

8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Networking Coffee Break
Connect with fellow members to build relationships and pursue strategic opportunities for your practice or law firm at these Networking Coffee Breaks each morning.

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
When Three's a Crowd: Navigating Potential Bad Faith in the Tripartite Relationship
Co-Committee Sponsors: Corporate Counsel, Insurance and Reinsurance, Insurance Executives, Medical Defense and Health Law, Professional Liability
The interests of the insured, insurer, and defense counsel are ordinarily aligned. When potential bad-faith exposure arises, however, differing interests and responsibilities can strain that relationship and create difficult ethical and strategic challenges.
These issues can affect duties of loyalty, confidentiality, communication, and disclosure, as well as claims handling, litigation strategy, and coverage considerations. Through evolving, real-world hypotheticals, this interactive panel will examine key decisions from the varying perspectives of defense counsel, a claims professional, in-house counsel, and coverage counsel. Attendees will gain a practical framework for identifying red flags, addressing diverging interests, understanding what each participant needs from the others, and navigating those tensions before they create additional ethical, professional, or bad-faith risk.
Speakers: *Mackie LeFevre-Snee, RiverStone International Insurance, Inc., Chicago, Illinois USA; William McClelland, TD Bank Group, Burlington, Ontario Canada; Chantal Peters, Burger, Meyer & D'Angelo, LLP, Seattle, Washington USA; Kyle Robertson, U-Haul International, Phoenix, Arizona USA; David Strauss, Strauss Massey Dinneen LLC, New Orleans, Louisiana USA*

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Citrus and Champagne (for Plus 1's) ($)
***PLEASE NOTE: This is a morning activity for significant others/guests.**
Join host Stacie Hansen in the Presidential Suite Courtyard for citrus and *sparkling* conversation! This is a great opportunity for plus 1's to gather and get to know each other during the morning hours while members attend programming.
This event is open to plus 1 registered attendees.
The registration fee is $25.00 USD per person and includes mimosas (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), other beverages, and light bites.
Please note: Citrus and Champagne (for Plus 1's) will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Could've and Should've Innovated: The Emerging Duty to Innovate in Product Liability Law and How Courts Are Reframing Design Liability
Co-Committee Sponsors: Drug, Device and Biotechnology, Insurance and Reinsurance, Product Liability
Courts and plaintiffs are increasingly reframing innovation—transforming what was once a competitive advantage into a potential legal obligation. Recent litigation, including the closely watched Gilead tenofovir cases in California, has tested whether a manufacturer of a non-defective, reasonably safe product may nevertheless face liability for delaying the development or

commercialization of a safer alternative. These cases signal a possible shift in negligence, reasonable alternative design, post-sale duty, and failure-to-warn theories with broad implications beyond pharmaceuticals.
This program examines the emerging concept of a "duty to innovate" through a defense-side lens, focusing on how innovation decisions are evaluated in hindsight and how continuous product improvement can unintentionally expand litigation exposure. The panel will explore how courts may assess feasibility, cost-benefit analysis, documentation, supply-chain constraints, and corporate decision-making when innovation is alleged to have been delayed.
Takeaways:

- Actionable insights into how evolving liability theories are being used to reframe delayed innovation as a basis for product liability.
- How continuous product improvement can unintentionally expand litigation and regulatory exposure when innovation decisions are second-guessed in hindsight.
- Practical guidance for advising designers and manufacturers pursuing safety-enhancing innovation while preserving defensibility in litigation and regulatory investigations and aligning innovation.

Speakers: *Peter Choate, Tucker Ellis LLP, Los Angeles, California USA; Rachel H. Kim, Sompo, New York, New York USA; Janet Kwuon, Gilead, San Francisco, California USA; George R. Wray, Bordon Ladner Gervais LLP, Toronto, Ontario Canada*

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Data Centers, BESS, and Speed-to-Power
Co-Committee Sponsors: Construction Law and Litigation, Environmental and Energy Law, Product Liability, Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation, Transportation
The rapid expansion of data centers and renewables integration has driven unprecedented demand for reliable energy storage solutions — particularly battery energy storage systems (BESS). In this presentation, our experts will explore how the intersection of BESS technology, data center design, and construction consulting is reshaping how critical facilities are planned, built, powered, and protected.
As "speed-to-power" becomes a defining business imperative, the traditional pace of design and deployment is transforming. Panelists will discuss real-world challenges and opportunities — from managing technical and operational challenges to accelerating delivery schedules — while maintaining resiliency, safety, and scalability. The conversation will also highlight the essential role of construction consulting in coordinating design, project management, and implementation strategies that keep projects on time and within scope.
Speakers: *Mark Clark, Parsons McEntire McCleary PLLC, Houston, Texas USA; Ryan A. Spray, Exponent, Inc., Natick, Massachusetts USA*

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Beyond the Approved Indication: Pharmaceutical Risk and Defense Strategies in the United States and Europe
Co-Committee Sponsors: Class Actions and Multi-Party Litigation, Drug, Device and Biotechnology, International, Medical Defense and Health Law
When prescribing practices expand beyond a medicine's approved indication, how should manufacturers and their counsel respond? This program will explore the intersection of emerging

uses, evolving safety information, regulatory obligations, and potential product liability claims through a shared pharmaceutical hypothetical.
A company markets a medicine approved for one condition that physicians increasingly prescribe for another. Public interest grows, dosing practices vary, and a patient reports a serious adverse outcome. The patient alleges inadequate warnings and inappropriate promotion, while additional adverse-event reports raise questions about the company's safety assessment and communications.
The hypothetical will invite practical perspectives on advising the company as these developments unfold: investigating the science and alternative causes, evaluating promotional activities, responding to safety information, and preparing for potential claims. The European perspective will address how authorization, promotion, pharmacovigilance, and product-information requirements shape those decisions—and how regulatory developments in one jurisdiction can affect litigation and risk management in another.
Speakers: *Mark A. Behrens, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP, Washington, District of Columbia USA; Sarah-Jane Dobson, Ashurst LLP, London, England; Sabrina H. Strong, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Los Angels, California USA*

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Spa Luncheon ($)
Relax at Spa La Quinta with other meeting attendees. A lunch buffet will begin at 12:30 p.m. Spend the afternoon visiting and networking while you wait for your appointment at Spa La Quinta.
*The registration fee is $125.00 USD per person and includes a private lunch and beverages. *Spa appointments are not included in this fee.*
Afternoon appointments at Spa La Quinta are being held for Spa Luncheon participants. IADC attendees receive a 10% discount on Spa services, excluding gratuity. Once registered, you will receive instructions for how to book your service. You do not have to make an appointment at Spa La Quinta to participate in this event.

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Spa Luncheon with Sound Bath Add-On ($)
Relax at Spa La Quinta with other meeting attendees. A lunch buffet will begin at 12:30 p.m. Spend the afternoon visiting and networking, relax in a sound bath, and receive a treatment at Spa La Quinta. The sound bath will begin at 1:30 p.m.
*The registration fee is $160.00 USD per person and includes a private lunch and beverages, and a sound bath experience. *Spa appointments are not included in this fee.*
Afternoon appointments at Spa La Quinta are being held for Spa Luncheon participants. IADC attendees receive a 10% discount on Spa services, excluding gratuity. Once registered, you will receive instructions for how to book your service. You do not have to make an appointment at Spa La Quinta to participate in this event.

1:00 p.m., Shotgun Start
Open Scramble Golf Tournament ($)
The Mountain Course, nestled at the base of the picturesque Santa Rosa Mountains, is famed for its Pete Dye design, playability, and stunning visuals. This ultra-challenging course features pot bunkers, rock formations, elevations of tee boxes, and well-bunkered greens. Open to all registered members and guests.

The registration fee is $415.00 USD per person and includes green fees, carts, boxed lunch, bottled waters, prizes, and tournament costs. Rental fees will be paid for by the individual.
Thank you to Golf Chairs Sandy and Tom Wunderlich.

1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Palm Springs Aerial Tram ($)
The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway has the world's largest rotating tram car and travels more than 2.5 miles along the cliffs of Chino Canyon. It transports visitors to the pristine wilderness of the Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area. During the ten-minute journey on the tram itself, tram cars rotate slowly, offering spectacular views of the valley below. At the tram's Mountain Station elevation of 8,516 feet, guests will enjoy 180 degrees of spectacular views of the valley and participate in one of two planned activities.
Participants can select to participate in either a guided hike through the trails atop the mountain or a wine tasting offering those same spectacular views. You will need to select your mountain top activity when registering. This trek to the top of the famous mountain is truly a singular experience!
The registration fee is $199.00 USD per person and includes round-trip transportation, admission to the aerial tram, bottled water, and either the hike or wine tasting.
Important Details: Attendees should wear comfortable clothing and comfortable walking shoes. The temperature at the Mountain Station can be up to 30 degrees cooler than in the Valley - please dress accordingly.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Craft Brewery Tasting ($)
The Coachella Valley has quickly become a destination for craft breweries, and you'll visit the most popular on this adventure! La Quinta Brewing Co. opened its doors in 2013 and has quickly become a local favorite, authentic to the laid-back desert lifestyle. Coachella Valley Brewing Co. also opened in 2013 and focuses on the uniqueness of the Southern California desert through quality locally grown ingredients and expertly crafted beer. The tour includes multiple tastings at both breweries.
The registration fee is $150.00 USD per person and includes round-trip transportation and tastings at each brewery.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Foundation President's Circle Reception
Invitation only. Foundation President's Circle donors (those who donated $1,000 or more to the IADC Foundation in 2026) and Life Fellows will receive an emailed invitation prior to the meeting with a request to RSVP.
Please note: The Foundation President's Circle Reception will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
2027 Convention Committee, Committee Chairs, and Fall Membership Drive Committee Winners Reception
Invited guests will receive an emailed invitation prior to the meeting with a request to RSVP.
Please note: The 2027 Convention Committee, Committee Chairs, and Fall Membership Drive Committee Winners Reception will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
***Palm Royale in the Coachella Valley* Theme Party**
Get ready for a fun, relaxed evening inspired by the sunny, laid-back style of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley! Think palm trees, desert vibes, good food, refreshing drinks, great music, and even better company.
Join us for a delicious dinner, drinks, and live music from a great band. Enjoy mingling with friends and soaking up the atmosphere. Whether you're ready to dance the night away or simply sit back, sip a drink, and enjoy the evening, there will be something for everyone.
Dress in your favorite desert-chic, Palm Springs-inspired style—casual, colorful, and a little retro. Most importantly, come ready to relax, have fun, and enjoy a wonderful night together.



Please note: The Theme Party will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

5:45 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.
Morning Run
Get your blood pumping, get moving, and get to know fellow attendees at this IADC morning run.
The Morning Runs are complimentary, and sign-ups are not required.
Thank you to Morning Run Chair Sharon Caffrey.

7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration Desk
Have questions or need help? Visit IADC's Registration Desk during posted hours for assistance.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Grab and Go CLE Breakfast
"Grab and go" breakfasts are available outside the morning meeting rooms, making it easy for attendees to have breakfast without missing a minute of the great CLE programming we have planned for you.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Meet and Greet Breakfast
Join fellow attendees for breakfast to network, discuss ideas, or plan your day. Breakfast is available to all registered attendees. Meeting name badge required for entry.

Please note: Meet and Greet Breakfasts will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Remembering Recalls: How Product Recalls Shape Large-Scale Litigation
Co-Committee Sponsors: Business Litigation, Drug, Device and Biotechnology, Product Liability
Product recalls often play a major role in litigation. Whether a recall precedes the onset of suit, or the potential of a recall forms the basis of the plaintiff's litigating theory, specialized rules related to recalls can exert significant influence on a case's course, with impacts on issues such as causation theories, preemption, and admissibility of evidence. This panel will discuss recalls in different areas of product liability, including the pharmaceutical and automotive industries, explain how they affect litigation, and offer strategies for handling recall-related issues before judges and juries.
Speakers: *Jeffrey Cohen, Carlton Fields, Miami, Florida USA; Mike Gentine, Arnold & Porter, Washington, District of Columbia USA; Peter J. Pliszka, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin, Toronto, Ontario Canada*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
The Body as Evidence: Injury Biomechanics Beyond Causation
Co-Committee Sponsors: Class Actions and Multi-Party Litigation, Drug, Device and Biotechnology, Medical Defense and Health Law, Product Liability, Professional Liability
This program explores how biomechanical experts can be used to answer critical case questions beyond injury causation, including sequencing of events, timing of fatal injuries, fall dynamics, and whether a claimant's version of events is physically possible.
Through real case examples, attendees will see how engineers apply physics and human performance principles to evaluate competing narratives. Attorneys will provide insight into how these analyses are developed, challenged, and strategically applied in litigation. This session is designed to be interactive, inviting participants to assess scenarios before the scientific analysis is revealed, highlighting the intersection of storytelling, evidence, and physical reality in the courtroom.
Speakers: *Sarah T. Eibling, Dykema, Washington, District of Columbia USA; Heather Slatton, ESi, Peachtree Corners, Georgia USA; Torrence Welch, ESi, Atlanta, Georgia USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Wall Street to Y'all Street: Texas, Delaware, New York, and the Race to Become the Premier Business Venue
Committee Sponsor: Business Litigation
Texas's new Business Court has joined Delaware's Court of Chancery and New York's Commercial Division in the contest to draw corporate disputes. Our panel compares how these courts work, including their jurisdiction, judges, rules of practice, and recent laws, and where they agree and differ. Panelists will also look at trends in business courts nationwide and weigh how well each court delivers on its core promise: fast, expert resolution of complex commercial cases.
Speakers: *Jeff M. Golub, Beck Redden LLP, Houston, Texas USA; Carlos G. Manalansan, EmblemHealth, New York, New York USA; Oliver P. Thoma, Hilgers PLLC,, College Station, Texas USA*

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Morning Walk
Get your blood pumping, get moving, and get to know fellow attendees at this IADC morning walk.
The Morning Walks are complimentary, and sign-ups are not required.
Thank you to Morning Walk Chair Lauren Brinks.

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Past Presidents Council Breakfast Meeting
Invitation only.
Please note: The Past Presidents Council Breakfast Meeting will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Networking Coffee Break
Connect with fellow members to build relationships and pursue strategic opportunities for your practice or law firm at these Networking Coffee Breaks each morning.

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Swiping Left on Social Media Litigation: Legal Theories, Verdicts, and Strategy
Co-Committee Sponsors: Business Litigation, Product Liability
Recent judicial decisions and jury verdicts have embraced new theories of liability against social media platforms that have broken doctrinal ground and introduced potential legal risks to companies providing the services. This panel will review recent developments and consider questions such as when social media counts as a "product" for purposes of product liability law, what types of acts and policies have given rise to liability for social media companies, and jurors' favorable, or unfavorable, views toward different aspects of social media. Panelists will also discuss how social media companies and their counsel can defend lawsuits and develop strategies to limit their exposure in the future.
Speakers: *Todd P. Davis, King & Spalding, Atlanta, Georgia USA; Laura Sexton, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, Illinois USA*

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Mahjong Primer and Play (for Plus 1's) ($)
***PLEASE NOTE:* This is a morning activity for significant others/guests.**
Join host Stacie Hansen in the Presidential Suite Courtyard for *Mahjong*! Whether participants are completely new to the game or have watched others play and want to learn for themselves, this introductory session will provide an inviting environment to learn the basics, build confidence, and enjoy their first games together.
Participants will be introduced to the mahjong tiles, the objective of the game, basic rules, and the strategies behind building winning hands from a seasoned instructor.
Once everyone has learned the fundamentals, participants will break into small groups to begin playing, with support and coaching along the way. No prior experience is necessary - just curiosity and a willingness to play!
*If you are not interested in learning or playing Mahjong, you are still welcome at this event! Come and hang by the pool and relax with other plus 1's.
This event is open to plus 1 registered attendees.

The registration fee is $50.00 USD per person and includes professional Mahjong instruction, all game materials, and refreshments.
Please note: Mahjong Primer and Play (for Plus 1-s) will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
The AI Paradox: Defensible Workflows, Data Privacy, and Expert Integrity
Co-Committee Sponsors: Class Actions and Multi-Party Litigation, Product Liability
Artificial intelligence has become operational infrastructure within law firms, expert practices, and corporate legal departments. Clients increasingly expect lawyers and experts to leverage AI to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and analyze large volumes of information. At the same time, those same clients demand that privileged, proprietary, and personal information remain protected.
This tension creates a new challenge for defense lawyers: not whether AI can be used, but whether AI-assisted work can withstand discovery, regulatory scrutiny, and cross-examination.
Through the perspectives of in-house counsel, defense counsel, privacy advisors, and technical experts, this panel will examine how AI is transforming litigation strategy, expert analysis, and corporate decision-making. The discussion will explore privilege, confidentiality, data governance, documentation of AI-assisted workflows, reproducibility of AI-supported analysis, and the growing demand for transparency concerning how AI influenced legal and expert work product.
The core question is simple: How do you defend an AI-assisted workflow once the other side starts asking questions?
Attendees will learn how to develop defensible AI workflows that enhance efficiency while preserving professional judgment, protecting sensitive information, and maintaining the integrity of expert opinions. The panel will also address emerging questions surrounding agentic AI, AI-assisted discovery, disclosure obligations, and cross-border data governance, with a particular focus on privilege, admissibility, expert independence, and litigation strategy. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for governing AI use, documenting human oversight, and ensuring that AI remains a powerful tool rather than a litigation vulnerability.
Speakers: *Katie Chandler, Taylor Wessing LLP, London, England; Joséane Chrétien, McMillan LLP, Montreal, Quebec Canada; Jack Nevins, S-E-A, Liberty, Missouri USA*

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
The Witness Who Changed Everything: Preparing Corporate Witnesses for High-Stakes Litigation
Co-Committee Sponsors: Business Litigation, Corporate Counsel, Insurance and Reinsurance, Trial Techniques and Tactics
Credible witnesses, especially corporate representatives, can transform even challenging cases, while poor preparation undermines strong facts. This program treats witness selection and preparation as a strategic business function, not a routine task. Through a fictional commercial dispute, panelists reveal how corporate representative witness issues arise at every stage of litigation.
The session addresses common challenges: executives with limited knowledge, employees tied to problematic documents, technical witnesses who struggle to communicate, and former employees turned apathetic or worse adverse. Panelists will show how effective selection and preparation shapes discovery, settlement, and trial outcomes.

This topic is vital for IADC members because company credibility and values now drive litigation results—judges, jurors, and arbitrators focus on authenticity, accountability, and company culture as much as facts. The session will provide actionable techniques to strengthen testimony and credibility while upholding ethical standards.
In-house counsel add crucial insights on selecting spokespersons, executive perspectives on testimony, and client-driven preparation strategies. Attendees will gain practical tools for one of litigation's most decisive elements.
Speakers: *Grant Campbell, Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington, Illinois USA; Michael Drumke, Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, Libertyville, Illinois USA; Jill Leibold, IMS Legal Strategies, Los Angeles, California USA*

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
CLE Committee Meeting and Luncheon

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
BMW Performance Driving Experience ($)
Take part in a one-of-a-kind afternoon at the BMW Performance Driving School! Experience multiple high-performance BMW models while lapping the autocross course, put their BMW X models to the test on the purpose-built off-road course, and finish the day with thrilling hot laps driven by certified BMW instructors. It's a ride you won't soon forget!
The registration fee is $425.00 USD per person and includes the full performance drive experience, snacks, and refreshments.
Important Details: A valid driver's license is required to participate. Transportation to the facility is the registrant's responsibility. The activity at the facility takes place between 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Starting and ending times above account for travel time to the BMW facility.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
The Living Desert Hike ($)
The Living Desert offers guests the experience of getting close to nature. Nature trails, animal shows, a state-of-the-art wildlife hospital, and much more are featured at The Living Desert, a unique zoo and botanical garden. Giraffes, wallabies, mountain lions, zebras, and cheetahs are just a few of the incredible animals from Australia, Africa, and North America on display. The botanical gardens include geographic replicas of areas as diverse as Baja California's Desert and the exotic deserts of Madagascar. The Living Desert's mission is desert conservation through preservation, education, and appreciation. Experience The Living Desert by starting with a guided hike of the Adventure Loop, a 1.5-mile trail venturing deeper into the heart of the desert that offers a climb to broad views of the San Andreas Fault. Continue the day exploring at your own pace all that The Living Desert and botanical gardens has to offer.
The registration fee is $195.00 USD per person and includes round-trip transportation, admission to The Living Desert, a guided hike, time to explore the gardens and zoo, and bottled water.
Important Details: Attendees should wear comfortable clothing. Closed toed shoes, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended for this tour.

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Pickleball Mixer ($)

Sign-up for informal and fun play! All levels welcome. The Pickleball Mixer is held at the La Quinta Tennis Club.
The registration fee is $65.00 USD per person and includes court fees, balls, paddles, and refreshments.
Thank you to Pickleball Chair Dominic Campodonico.

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Tennis Mixer ($)
Sign-up for informal and fun play! All levels welcome. The Tennis Mixer is held at the La Quinta Tennis Club.
The registration fee is $65.00 USD per person and includes court fees, tennis balls, rackets, and refreshments.
Thank you to Tennis Chair Beth Anne Lashuk.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Salsa, Guacamole, and Margaritas Challenge ($)
What better recipe for fun than to test and sample your creative culinary skills? Participants will divide into teams and take part in a variety of short, fast, and funny challenges to create their very own salsa, guacamole, and margaritas. The teams will present their creations in front of the group and have the opportunity to taste their competition's culinary creations. Ballots will be cast and a winner will be announced in each category!
The registration fee is $185.00 USD per person and includes staff instruction and guidance for all challenges and all ingredients to make salsa, guacamole, and margaritas.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Closing Reception
As our meeting comes to an end, join fellow attendees at a Closing Reception on the Main Lawn before the dinner or activity your Committee has planned. Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.
Resort casual attire.
Please note: The Closing Reception will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

6:30 p.m.
Committee Night
Join us for our first ever Committee Night! This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow Committee members, get to know one another beyond the meetings, and build relationships that will strengthen your teamwork and collaboration throughout the year.
Each Substantive Law Committee Chair will organize an evening for your Committee members, whether that is a dinner, or a dinner combined with another activity.
Committee Night is about building connections, sharing ideas, and creating a stronger sense of camaraderie that you can carry into the work you do together all year long. Come ready to connect, collaborate, and have fun while enjoying a memorable evening for everyone!
Your Committee Chair will be in touch later in the year about your Committee's plans.

6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Past Presidents Reception and Dinner
Invited guests will receive an emailed invitation prior to the meeting with a request to RSVP. Please note: The Past Presidents Reception and Dinner will be held outdoors, so please consider layers when planning attire.

10:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
After Dinner Gathering
Wrap up your evening with a nightcap and camaraderie at this After Dinner Gathering held exclusively for IADC attendees at Morgan's Lounge.
Beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic beverages are complimentary with your meeting name badge.
Thank you to New Members Chairs Robin Linley and Sarah Wolfe.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Joshua Tree National Park Adventure: Desert Hiking and Stargazing ($)
Experience the natural beauty of Joshua Tree National Park on an afternoon adventure combining scenic desert hiking, a lively dinner at a local establishment, and an unforgettable evening beneath the stars.
Explore the park's unique landscape on an afternoon hike through its rugged rock formations, expansive desert vistas, and distinctive plant life. Pause for dinner and enjoy a meal together as the sun begins to set. As daylight fades, settle in for an evening of stargazing beneath Joshua Tree's remarkable night sky. Far from city lights, the park offers an opportunity to take in the stars, identify constellations, and experience the stillness of the desert after dark.
The registration fee is $545.00 USD per person and includes round-trip transportation, guided hikes though Joshua Tree National Park, a group dinner, and professionally led stargazing.
Important Details: Attendees should wear comfortable clothing. Please check the weather prior to departing as this activity spans 6 hours from the afternoon into evening. Closed toed shoes, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended for this tour.
#stayaday in La Quinta!