

**Class Action and Multi-District Litigation Section Newsletter**  
**November 2009**

**Chair: Gray T. Culbreath**

**Vice Chairs: Jean Holloway**  
**Kurt Reeg**

**Ex Officio: Monty Todd**

Dear Class Action/MDL Members:

As 2009 draws to an end, it's time to start planning for all of the Federation's 2010 Conferences and Events, as well as the Section programming.

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS/REQUESTS**

**Hot Cases**

Our Section is responsible for Hot Cases the week of December 21 (Merry Christmas!) We need a volunteer(s) to post that week. If you are willing to volunteer for a day or more please let me know ASAP via email at [gculbreath@collinsandlacy.com](mailto:gculbreath@collinsandlacy.com). If you have not done hot cases already, I have the template. It is not too difficult to give the task to an associate or other staff member if necessary. I have done it for other sections in the past and it is relatively simple. If you have any hot cases, please forward them to me.

**Munich Meeting**

We need 3 speakers for Munich for our section meeting. This is a great way to justify your trip to the Annual Meeting to your firm. Please let me know as soon as possible at [gculbreath@collinsandlacy.com](mailto:gculbreath@collinsandlacy.com).

**Winter Meeting 2010 – Walt Disney World Orlando**

Put some fun back into your busy lives by taking part in our 2010 FDCC Winter Conference at Walt Disney World, Florida! The conference will be held at the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa from February 26 to March 6, 2010. This is another Saturday to Saturday meeting, so you can make your plans to arrive early and stay late. Registration is available online now.

Our Section Meeting and Program will be Thursday, March 4, 2010 from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Our program will be:

“CAFA Notice Requirements for Class Action Settlements”

- Andrew B. Downs, Bullivant Houser Bailey PC, San Francisco, California

“Consumer Protection Statute Class Actions”

- Terence M. Ridley, Wheeler Trigg Kennedy LLP, Denver, Colorado

**“Class Actions Based on the Telephone Consumer Protection Act”**

■ Daniel J. Gerber, Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell, Orlando, Florida

Convention chairs are Robbie and Lib Foster, and the Program chair is Vicki Roberts. All are working together to provide a great meeting and program. You and your family will have the opportunity to explore four theme parks, and enjoy Disney’s most luxurious hotel, which sits on the white sand shores of Seven Seas Lagoon, and it is just one monorail stop from the Magic Kingdom Theme Park.

There are a whole host of fellowship opportunities for you and your family which include an Orlando Magic game, an afternoon at Sea World, a tour of Winter Park, tours of the Disney Institute and Spring Training baseball. Our FDCC receptions include a Great Gatsby Presidents Reception, an Indiana Jones Theme Party, our fishing and golf tournaments, an FDCC Fashion Show, as well as a Karaoke Dessert Party and of course, the Black Tie Dinner.

**How Do I Get a Room?**

Room reservations should be made now by calling the Grand Floridian Resort Group Reservations Department at 407-934-3372. You can also schedule advance reservations for tickets to Disney World Theme Parks by logging onto the Federation website and clicking on the 2010 Winter Meeting. The website also provides for a link to the Disney Institute Tours, and to Sea World.

**SILENT AUCTION – WINTER MEETING 2010**

Please note that the FDCC’s first ever silent auction will take place at the Winter meeting. Proceeds will benefit the Federation Foundation and the local Boys and Girls Club of Orlando. Some of the items donated thus far include trips to the Caribbean, golf outings, wine and sports memorabilia. We are looking for more items to auction. Additional items are needed to make this auction a success. Please let us know if you or your firm have an item to donate to the silent auction such as tickets to a professional sporting event, a weekend getaway, a golf outing, artwork, antiques, or a vintage bottle of wine.

Participation is simple - just go to the member side of the Federation website and click on the second to the last paragraph under member resources at silent auction donor form. We would like to start the bidding process early, so please figure out what you can purchase or donate, and do it all on the website. A silent auction page is found on the FDCC website. To view the Silent Auction page and/or donate an item, simply log in as a member and click on the “members only” tab. The Silent Auction page is located on the left under “Member Resources.”

**Past Events – Annual Meeting 2009 – The Homestead**

The 2009 Annual Meeting was a great success at The Homestead, July 26 – August 2, 2009. Congratulations to convention chairs Steve and Lee Farrar and Program chairs Steve and

Jean Pate who put on an excellent CLE program. The section partnered with the Commercial Litigation section to put on programming.

**FDCC Leadership Institute  
April 14-16, 2010 Chicago, IL**

The Federation is pleased to once again offer the Leadership Institute for the senior associates, junior partners and even more experienced lawyers in your firm interested in improving their leadership at your firms or companies. Firms and organizations are encouraged to identify emerging leaders who would benefit from this experience. Space is limited, so please enroll quickly. The registration material is available on the Federation website and Deb Herron and Howard Merten have put together a phenomenal program including the President of my alma mater, Wofford College, Bernie Dunlap.

**Litigation Management College and Graduate College  
Emory University Conference Center June 13 – 17, 2010 Atlanta, GA**

FDCC will sponsor the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Litigation Management College and the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Litigation Management College Graduate Program at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. This intensive training program for claims professionals will begin Sunday, June 13 and end Thursday June 17, 2010. Registration is available at [www.thefederation.org](http://www.thefederation.org).

The Litigation Management College has earned an international reputation as a premier advanced litigation training course for claims professionals. LMC is an intensive four-day experience of workshops based on a catastrophic injury case study and participatory interactive education experiences. It is designed for claim and litigation management professionals with 5 to 15 years claim or litigation management experience. The graduate program is designed to build on a solid foundation provided by the LMC to refine the claim or litigation management professionals' understanding of advanced insurance coverage issues, strategic litigation tactics, preparation of the handling of the litigation and alternatives for resolution, while gaining further understanding of the process.

If you would like more information or would like to see a brochure of the 2009 programs (2010 program agenda and brochure will be available after January 1, 2010), please contact the Dean of Admissions, Mike Schroder at [mike.schroder@swiftcurrie.com](mailto:mike.schroder@swiftcurrie.com) or our Dean of Technology - Helen Alford at [hga@alfordclausen.com](mailto:hga@alfordclausen.com).

**2010 Annual Meeting  
Westin Grand Munich Arabella, July 24-31, 2010 Munich Germany**

The annual meeting in Munich promises to be the most unique in our 70-year history. Europe provides the perfect backdrop for an international exchange of knowledge, justice and fellowship. Our goal is to make your European adventure easy, fascinating and economical. Organized activities and tours will begin on Saturday, July 24 and run continuously until Saturday, July 31 with "early CLE" meetings starting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting is "The Ultimate Federation Experience." Please put the dates for this wonderful conference chaired by Mills and Carol Anne Gallivan and substantive section program chaired by Deb Kuchler on your calendar, book your airline tickets and reserve your rooms now. Hotel reservations can be made now by logging onto the FDCC website and clicking on the 2010 Summer Meeting link. Alternatively, you can call the Westin Hotel at 800-325-3535 or the direct dial is (49) (89) 92640.

Official activities begin on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Early CLE begins on Monday; Tuesday is "Fellowship Day" with a selection of full day tours being offered; the Presidents Reception is Wednesday night at the famous Ratskeller; the Theme Party on Thursday night will be at the BMW Museum. A Childrens' program is being planned for Wednesday and Friday evening.

### **FDCC Quarterly Articles**

Our section is responsible for contributing at least one article to the FDCC Quarterly during the year. FDCC provides electronic access to quarterly articles from 1997 to present at the Federation website. If you have an interest in writing an article or already have something that could be easily converted to an article, please contact me.

### **FDCC Website Improvements**

We are excited about two new additions to the website which are designed to showcase you and your achievements. We know we have the best and brightest attorneys and industry executives around and we want the rest of the world to know this as well.

The first section is called "Federation Triumphs" and it is designed to let all of the visitors to our website know of the successes the Federation members have achieved in the courtroom, including victories in trial, on significant motions, and on appeal. This section will include your picture along with your short description of the great results you and your client achieve. The second new edition is a section called "In the News." While defending civil claims of our business, the talents and achievements of our members extend far beyond the courtroom into our jobs and communities and are worthy of recognition. Examples of noteworthy events for inclusion in this section would include receipt of Bar awards, civic awards, promotions, et cetera. We will again include your picture along with a brief description of the achievement. The process for submission of your victories and accomplishments is easy. You prepare the submission you wish to appear on the website, submitting your entries to [kreamer@bscr-law.com](mailto:kreamer@bscr-law.com). Depending on the number of submissions we receive, we hope to update each section on a weekly basis. Visit the homepage [www.thefederation.org](http://www.thefederation.org) to check out the new web sections.

### **Member Profiles**

When is the last time you checked out the section page at [www.thefederation.org](http://www.thefederation.org)? Is your member profile up to date? Please take a look and if you have not sent Susan Coone

([scoone@thefederation.org](mailto:scoone@thefederation.org)) your updated member profile, please do so. Each quarter a different member of the section is featured on our webpage.

### **Coming Attractions**

Winter 2011	Hyatt Grand Champions Resort and Spa, Indian Wells, CA
Summer 2011	Colonial Williamsburg Resort Williamsburg, Virginia
Winter 2012	Waldorf Astoria Arizona Biltmore Phoenix, Arizona
Summer 2012	The Fairmont Chateau Whistler Whistler, Canada

### **Nominations**

Don't propose or second a nominee for FDCC membership unless you personally know and can vouch for that lawyer firsthand. All too often the Admissions Committee gets a nomination where either the proposer or the seconder has no real experience with the nominee. This defeats the purposes of the nomination process and makes screening nominees harder. When you get that call asking you to propose or second someone you do not know, say no. The nominee would be better served by having a proposer and a seconder who can really weigh in on his or her qualifications for membership.

### **Future Programs**

If any of you have any ideas for topics at our upcoming program, please pass them along. We are typically working on topics a year in advance. If you would like to be a speaker or have ideas you would like covered, please let me know and I will do my best to incorporate them at upcoming events.

### **Meeting Vendors**

At every FDCC meeting there are several vendors who are interested in doing business with our membership. These are great organizations and you are encouraged to make referrals to or participate directly with any of the vendors who provide valuable services to our members. Whether it is the forensic scientist or accountants or the insurance services available from these folks, please give each of them your serious consideration where there is a need in your practice or your business.

Gray Culbreth

