



## WINTER MEETING ~ MARCH 4-7, 2015



It may be snowing in Buffalo, but the sun is shining on Amelia Island so don't miss this opportunity to enjoy all of the amenities that await you, as well as significant networking opportunities we have planned. You will also be provided with the FDCC's Mobi communications and daily newsletters to keep you abreast of current events and how to get the biggest "bang for your buck." For those who plan to arrive by rail or air, remember that Amelia Island is easily accessed from the Jacksonville Airport, just twenty-five (25) miles away and a short drive from the hotel. For those who plan to drive, Amelia Island is only a seven (7) hour drive from Mobile, Alabama and a six (6) hour drive from Charlotte, North Carolina. There is a direct flight from Pittsburgh to Jacksonville and Frontier Airlines has a very inexpensive round trip ticket that has been, of late, as low as \$80.00. Finally, there is train service into Jacksonville which, incidentally, is also the location of CSX headquarters.



### Amelia Meeting Turtle Gold Charm

*Pre-order for \$150*

### P&O Update

The P&O Committee has been shaking things up. This year, the P&O Committee, with the assistance of a consultant, explored the educational component of FDCC meetings. After interviewing members, information was presented at the September P&O Meeting.

The premise behind the presentation was very simple – an examination and brain-storming session on how to improve our members' educational experience. Attendees learned the role of a speaker and that educational sessions should be about helping

for any reason your plans have changed, and you currently have a room(s) reserved, please notify [Marty Streeper](#) immediately so that your room can be released to other FDCC members who want to attend.

We are rapidly approaching the deadline for ordering charms for the 2015 Winter Meeting. The charm is a loggerhead sea turtle (*See photo on right*) in honor of local favorites, Freckles and Bubba, who happen to live on the property. The cost of the charm is \$150.00, but unless they are ordered in advance, there will not be one for you when you arrive.

So, if you are looking for a tranquil get-away or to flee the blizzards of the Northeast and Midwest, join us for this winter's convention on Amelia Island where you will be welcomed with open arms, fantastic food, and exceptional wine, all while enjoying Mike Glascott's incredible program, "*Riding the Waves of Change*." Be sure to sign-up for the Fellowship Dinner Dine-A-Round on Thursday night and enjoy the southern charm that awaits you at any of the fabulous eateries along Fernandina Beach. [Register Now!](#)

**Elaine and Walter Dukes ~ Convention Chairs**



## RIDING THE WAVES OF CHANGE

### More Program Highlights

We do not need to ask if this winter has been a challenge. Yes, it is snowing in Buffalo, but it does not matter where you live this year because it has been tough sledding for everyone. We have had to deal with frigid temperatures, the snow, or those pesky winter colds. Why not join us at our Winter Meeting on Amelia Island so you can thaw out and reenergize for the beginning of Spring?

Our programs will educate, entertain, and delight you with a snapshot of what is trending in the future. You will be better prepared for tomorrow if you spend a few days with us at our shortened Winter Meeting on Amelia Island. Ken Feinberg will enlighten you as to how he uses novel problem solving to resolve catastrophic cases. Dan Kornstein will tell us why we should aspire to take a creative approach in our practice of law.

also discussed the use of creative room formats, including learning lounges, theater in the round, random seating assignments, and topical roundtables.

The consensus in the room was that the FDCC Meeting should be seen as a conduit for connections. It was said that "we serve our members best when we serve our profession first."

At the conclusion of the session, each attendee was asked to write down a response to this question, "If you could change one thing at an upcoming FDCC Meeting what would it be?" The answers were sorted into three areas: Interaction, Programming, and Education. Solutions were discussed and have been recorded for further exploration and implementation.

During your attendance at the upcoming meeting on Amelia Island, take some time and let us know if you like some of the new concepts being implemented. If you like some of the ideas, shorter meeting, unique room set ups, etc., please take the time to let someone know. The P&O Committee is committed to making the educational experiences of our members a priority. Look for more to come in the future.

**Deb Varner**  
P&O Chair

### Save the Date

#### FDCC Local Meeting

**February 18, 2015 ~ Miami**

*Hosted by Ray Abadin & Lauren Curtis*

**Joint Law Firm Management Conference**

The section meetings will be a little later and a little shorter than

usual to give you more time to sleep, or spend time networking with friends at breakfast. Ken Feinberg will occupy our plenary session on Thursday, Dan Kornstein will keep our momentum going on Friday, and we will wrap up on Saturday with Trial Masters as three experienced jurists from around the country share with us their observations from the bench.

There will also be two blockbuster programs on subjects too good to miss on Saturday. These meetings have their own time block after the section programs, but before Trial Masters begins. John Trimble will share with us how to make better use metrics to demonstrate the efficiency and effectiveness of our firms, while Dart Meadows will lead a panel discussion as to what to expect from plaintiff's counsel in the near future.

***Come join us on Amelia Island and learn to Ride the Waves of Change.***



## **FDCC CONNECT is alive, well, and growing**

Membership in the Federation acts as a gathering place and a “stamp of approval” for individuals or companies looking for legal help. We help each other out with ideas and referrals *and that is FDCC Connect in action.*

Please take a moment and send John Mitchell or Joe Fasi the names of any individuals who have lived FDCC Connect and have sent you some work or assisted in making that happen for you. We are looking for nominations for the 2015 FDCC Connect Award to be given out at the Annual Meeting to the member who best exemplifies these referrals.

## **THE FDCC NEEDS YOU**

The FDCC is currently undertaking one of its most ambitious membership initiatives in recent history and we need your help.

One year ago, we agreed to increase the number of defense members to 1200. Before simply randomly recruiting members,

### **Litigation Management College & Grad Program**

June 7-11, 2015 ~ Emory  
University Center, Atlanta, GA

### **Corporate Counsel Symposium**

September 28-30, 2015 - The Ritz,  
New Orleans, LA

### **Insurance Industry Symposium**

October 21-23, 2015 - New York  
Athletic Club - New York, NY

## **Deposition Boot Camp**

Click on the location of your choice to register for 2015 Boot Camps:

- [April 16-17, 2015 - Denver](#)
- [June 8-9, 2015 - New Orleans](#)

## **Deposition Manual**

The Deposition Manual, developed for the boot camps, is being sold by the Federation for \$100.00. FDCC members, or those from firms or companies with a member, may purchase the Manual for only \$90.00. Those who purchase five or more at the same time will receive a 10% discount. [Download the order form.](#)

## **What's your interest?**

After the meeting on Amelia Island, look for an email inviting you to electronically tell us how you want to get more involved with the Federation. Think about what committees and sections interest you. I assure you that the greater your involvement, the more you will derive from the Federation. I encourage each of you to take time to look at the options available and complete the survey. I will be making appointments in the spring for the year beginning in August.



our membership. One interesting result we found was that our membership is not evenly distributed around the country. Additionally, we found that within many states, there were areas without members while other areas were well saturated. We concluded that our priorities were to attract a younger, more diverse, and geographically balanced membership.

We developed a plan to achieve these goals, and in particular, looked at regions of the country where we are underrepresented. When we did this, we set specific goals that were designed to not only balance the numbers of members from around the country, but also to attain a more balanced membership within each state. We now have membership level targets for each state and have appointed representatives who are tasked with responsibility of meeting the goals. The efforts of these state representatives have been impressive as we currently have a record number of nominations pending before the Admissions Committee. But there is more work to be done and we need your help to meet our goals. We all know and work with talented, young, diverse attorneys – please nominate these people today!

Another initiative we are undertaking is to dramatically increase the number of international members. International membership offers a tremendous opportunity for growth for the organization and we are taking steps to seize those opportunities and strengthen the FDCC. We have made significant progress to date, but again need your help in identifying people that you think would be good members.

The FDCC has always been home to the best and brightest attorneys and we want to continue that tradition. Do your part and send us a nomination!

**Scott Kreamer**

*Membership Development Committee*

## FDCC PUBLICATIONS

- [Hot Cases](#)
- [FDCC Quarterly](#)
- [Article of the Month](#)
- [E-Newsletters](#)

you have questions or merely want to discuss what might be involved. If you miss me, feel free to send me an email or call. While I truly want to help you reach your potential in the Federation selfishly, I want to tap the great wealth of energy, intelligence, and innovation of our members to continue to make this the best defense organization.

Again, if you have any questions let's talk at Amelia Island or don't hesitate to contact me at 864-751-7633 or [steve.farrar@smithmoorelaw.com](mailto:steve.farrar@smithmoorelaw.com). I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

**Steve Farrar**  
*FDCC President-Elect*

## Welcome New Members

**Raymond P. Childress, Jr.,**  
*Cherry Bekaert LLP, Richmond VA*

**Morten Erritzoe Christensen,**  
*Erritzoe Law Firm, Copenhagen, Denmark*

**Amy Sabbota Gottlieb,**  
*DickinsonWright PLLC, Troy, MI*

**Fred D. Raschke,** *Mills Shirley LLP, Galveston, TX*

**Clemens Adam von Zedtwitz,**  
*CMS von Eriach Poncet Ltd., Zurich, Switzerland*

**Frank M. Wall,** *Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, Raleigh, NC*

## In the News



**John C. Trimble,** *Lewis Wagner, LLP, Indianapolis, IN,* was recently elected

