

## UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

Throughout the year, ACC Georgia offers a variety of programs, including opportunities for CLE credit. Monthly luncheon programs are typically on the second Tuesday of every month (except April) at Maggiano's Little Italy in Cumberland Mall.

**May 27, 2020**

Webinar

Sponsored by Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore LLP  
"Virtual Value Challenge Series"

**June 4, 2020**

Webinar

Sponsored by Miles Mediation & Arbitration  
"Saving Money Through ADR: What Corporate Counsel Need to Know About Damage and Loss Calculations in Disputes"

**June 17, 2020**

Women's Initiative

Virtual Public Speaking Event  
"Accelerating Your Influence" Part 1 (Public Speaking Event)

**July 14, 2020**

Monthly Luncheon

Sponsored by Squire Patton Boggs

**July 15, 2020**

Women's Initiative

Virtual Public Speaking Event  
"Accelerating Your Influence" Part 2 (Public Speaking Event)

**July 22, 2020**

Kilpatrick Townsend/ACC IP

"Drafting Ethical Cease & Desist Letters for Trademark and Copyright Infringers"

**August 11, 2020**

Monthly Luncheon

Sponsored by Jackson Lewis P.C.

**August 27, 2020**

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Corporate Counsel Awards

**September 8, 2020**

Monthly Luncheon (2 Hours)

Sponsored by Fisher Phillips LLP

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## DEAR ACC GEORGIA MEMBERS:



*Melloney Douce*  
ACC Georgia President

To say that 2020 has been a unique year would be an understatement. Though the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has altered personal, professional and financial plans for many, new opportunities have also emerged for in-house professionals to connect.

ACC national headquarters has led the way in COVID-19 efforts, developing discussion forums for members to connect and webinars to continue professional development. They have also created an online resource page that hosts a curated selection of resources to help in-house counsel navigate the pandemic. Our Platinum and Gold Sponsors have also provided COVID-19 resources that are available on our website.

In addition to informing members of the comprehensive resources available at the national level, our local chapter has modified our initiatives to support members and connect with sponsors in fresh and engaging ways. Rather than hosting our regular in-person luncheons in May or June, we will be presenting webinars with our sponsors. Our May luncheon sponsor Ogletree Deakins hosted a webinar on May 18. Throughout the spring, our membership has been active in these virtual events designed specifically for in-house counsel:

- **Women's Initiative:** On April 28, members came together for a virtual happy hour, complete with complimentary cheese boards from Caly Road Creamery and a light-hearted humor contest.
- **Legal Job Searching During a Global Crisis:** Hosted by Legility on May 7, this webinar explored ways to successfully pursue career opportunities.
- **Contract Management in Times of Crisis: Solving Real World Problems the Right Way:** Hosted by Drew Eckl Farnham on May 13, this webinar explored the effects of COVID-19 on commercial contracts.
- **Challenges Employers Face as Employees Return to the Workplace:** This webinar was hosted by Ogletree Deakins on May 18.
- **Value Challenge Series:** The May 27 online event was sponsored by Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP.

We are also offering a series of webinars in the coming months that have been expanded with new and innovative topics as we adjust to COVID-19. Though the subject matter of these webinars differs from what was originally expected, we are grateful to our sponsors for continuing to provide exceptional programming for our members. We also circulated a member survey in May asking members what type of programming would appeal to them. We remain committed to adjusting our services and programs to respond to the needs of our members, and welcome any feedback on ideas for meeting our community's needs.

For the first time, ACC Georgia has created an online Chapter Job Board, which lists opportunities for members who are in transition to connect with organizations and potentially find employment.

While we unfortunately will not be offering our internship program due to the unprecedented circumstances, we are excited to continue this program next year. We are also exploring other ways to help law students who need guidance and support during this difficult time.

In efforts to serve the needs of our community, we will also continue to support nonprofit organizations that are helping our community. We have a long-standing history supporting Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and other organizations. Information regarding these efforts will be made available for members who would like to volunteer.

Now more than ever, it is important that we lean on each other as a community. We are deeply grateful to our members and sponsors for your continued support. ACC Georgia is committed to remain a resource during this time as we navigate this season together.

We look forward to seeing you at our next virtual event!

**Melloney Douce**  
ACC Georgia President

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Leo Reichert

Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Wellstar Health System



#### **Q. As a leader of your healthcare entity, what has your day-to-day been like during the pandemic?**

For the first month after COVID-19 broke, it seemed like that was our focus, all day, every day. We activated the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), a structure used by all hospitals to address emergencies, in February. We made this move early so that we would be prepared to address issues related to COVID-19 anywhere across our system. We made plans to shift staff, supplies, etc., depending on the needs of each facility. We also worked with epidemiologists and infectious disease experts to learn what to expect. Our leadership team has been coming into the office most days to keep things running smoothly, and we alternate meeting attendance and maintain distance to ensure we stay safe.

#### **Q. What have been the most challenging aspects? Have there been positive developments?**

The whole pandemic has been challenging because it's completely new – no one has ever dealt with anything quite like it before. We were treating patients who have a disease with no known treatment or cure. While on one hand we were making plans for a surge of patients based on what we were seeing in hot spots, on the other hand, most of our patients just stopped coming in. From a healthcare crisis, we could also see a financial crisis building for our system. We rely on outpatient visits and procedures for more than half of our revenue, and those services turned off almost overnight, as did most other non-COVID work.

On the bright side, due to the virus, people have really taken advantage of telemedicine options. The feedback we have received is showing that it is efficient and works well for patients and physicians. Another potential positive is that people seem to be coming to the emergency room less. If that's because they are delaying needed care, it is bad, but if it is moving care to the right place, a more affordable place, like telemedicine or urgent care, that would be a positive.

#### **Q. What have been the most impactful decisions that you have made?**

From the beginning of the pandemic, we have had to limit visitors to protect against the virus. We also know that patients need to see their loved ones, particularly at end of life. One of the small but impactful decisions we made was to invest in hundreds of iPads for patients to use so that they could connect with loved ones over FaceTime. That small decision had a huge impact on our patients and their families. We have also recently had to make very difficult and impactful decisions impacting our team, and those have been the most challenging.

#### **Q. Do you have any thoughts to share about your patient-facing staff?**

Doctors and nurses are right there at the forefront and deserve every accolade that they are getting. People sometimes forget that there are many other team members who are right there with patients every day, from techs and environmental services to laundry and food service. And these team members deserve the same thanks. A member of our environmental services team heard about a patient who was depressed and bored, and he put together a basket with crossword puzzles and other things to keep the patient entertained. This was a team member going the extra mile. The patient and his family were happy, and his idea spread throughout the hospital.

#### **Q. What do you like about working at Wellstar Health System?**

I appreciate the variety of work, being a member of a team, and the positive culture at Wellstar. While we work hard to make the system a success, the focus of the team is on our mission. The organization is also very intentional about building a culture of trust and collaboration, and in the development of team members.

#### **Q. What are your favorite words of wisdom?**

My father always said, "A soul is blessed who does his best and leaves the rest." All you can do is work hard and try your best. Another one I like is from a former law partner of mine: "Better right than Tuesday." In other words, sometimes things take time to be done right.

#### **Q. What keeps you busy outside of work?**

I like to exercise, so I work out five to six days a week. When I'm not spending time with my wife and four kids, I also enjoy reading, watching movies and golf.

*Continued on page 5...*

## Welcome the newest members of ACC Georgia!

Dwight Chamberlin

Helen Weinstein

Jonathan Wood

Joseph Murray

Justin Heineman

Kenneth Dobkin

Lauren Giles

Mallory Elizondo

Monica Barber

Robert Jenkins

Shawn Johnson

Sherida Mabon

Tully Blalock

Wes McCart

### Get Involved with ACC Georgia

Want to get involved in the in-house counsel community? Joining an ACC Georgia committee is the best way to start. For more information, go to <https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/georgia/chapter-committees>.

## Virtual Mentors

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and related business interruptions, the Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter decided not to proceed with its Lori Ann Haydu Memorial Summer Internship Program this year. This measure was taken to prioritize the health and safety of applicants, ACC members, corporate sponsors and others who work closely to make the program a success.

As an alternative to the regular internship program, the chapter offered each of the 56 internship applicants an online mentorship program. ACC Georgia members who volunteered will meet virtually with applicants at least three times between June and August 2020 to network and share career and educational advice.

The chapter also hosted a webinar for volunteers with a professional career coach in May to share best practices for mentoring and provided teleconferencing resources to those who did not have access. Thank you to each of our volunteers for helping us prepare the next generation of lawyers and supporting this important cause!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Melissa Rothring

Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Huddle House, Inc. and Perkins LLC



#### **Q. As a leader of a food-service entity, what has your day-to-day been like during the pandemic?**

The most important initiative I'm working on right now is assessing how to best serve our customers, employees and stakeholders in light of the pandemic, from the current state of affairs, to revising our long-term plan. In my role, I have been balancing both legal and business strategy to determine the best responses for the challenges and questions that the pandemic has introduced.

#### **Q. What have been the most challenging aspects?**

Initially, our biggest challenge was managing the safety of customers and employees while remaining aligned with differing requirements in each of our locations. We quickly executed new procedures, and then determined how to run the business in a limited fashion and incorporate the new paradigm. We immediately rolled out the Huddle House and Perkins Markets for take-home grocery purchases, launched delivery and online ordering in restaurants that had not yet implemented those initiatives, and redirected marketing messages and media directives. We face potentially the most complicated challenge yet as we work to reopen the businesses in a thoughtful and careful manner amid so many unknowns.

#### **Q. What changes have occurred in the food industry, globally or in the U.S., that you hope last into the future?**

I think people's dining habits were already changing to some extent before the pandemic, as to-go and offsite service options were already gaining popularity. While I think there might be an initial uptick back to in-premise dining once restrictions are lifted, social distancing has made many restaurants that may have lagged in the digital world recognize their need for online ordering and third-party delivery options. However, people also like contactless interaction, including contactless ordering, curbside pick-up and entryway hand-off. We might find there is a downturn in using the delivery middleman if consumers can pick up their own orders more efficiently and conveniently. Additionally, the food supply chain in the U.S. was safe before the crisis, but this is an opportunity to refocus everyone on simple handwashing to promote overall better health.

#### **Q. Is there anything that you can share for your in-house counsel colleagues at businesses who are reopening and realigning?**

Rather than looking at reopening decisions solely from the standpoint of what is legally allowable, I would hope that each of us look at it from a more global perspective. As we have navigated reopening, we have strived to make every decision with the interests of customers and employees at heart. About two-thirds of our locations are operating in some capacity, and soon all should be serving our loyal customers, whether that be takeout or limited in-location dining.

#### **Q. What do you like about working at Huddle House and Perkins?**

I enjoy the growth perspective of the company. Ascent Hospitality Management is the umbrella company over Huddle House and now Perkins, which we acquired in the fall. We are set up for future growth as we become more of an umbrella organization, which is exciting.

#### **Q. What is your biggest legal challenge?**

Someone once told me that lawyers should not simply tell people what they can't do, but rather change the conversation to determine clients' goals and advance them. Rather than advising against a certain course of action, find out what the decision maker's goal is and help them achieve it in a way that remains sensitive to their risk tolerance level. Building this relationship and understanding clients on this level is an investment of time, but it is the best way to help them get where they want to go.

#### **Q. Who is a mentor or a personal hero?**

I look up to anyone who has survived unbelievable circumstances, from poverty and abuse to war and natural disasters. People have an amazing spirit and resilience, and their fortitude when experiencing suffering is more than admirable, it's awe-inspiring.

#### **Q. What keeps you busy outside of work?**

My husband and I love entertaining our family and friends, and we also love to travel. While traveling has unfortunately been on a hiatus through COVID-19, we've been able to enjoy friends and family through various social distancing virtual events.

#### **Q. What is your favorite travel destination or place you hope to visit?**

The first destination on my retirement list is Antarctica. For over 15 years, I have dreamed of experiencing the scenery and nature there, and I hope to visit in the future.

*Continued on page 6...*

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter would like to thank our recent event sponsors, who have pivoted their plans to continue to provide exceptional programming for our members through COVID-19. Without their contributions, we would not be able to deliver the quality events that our chapter members have come to enjoy. We deeply appreciate their generous support.

**January 14 – Monthly Luncheon** – “Effective and Ethical Witness Preparation,” “Legal Ethics: Internal Investigations and The Attorney Client Privilege in Corporate Fraud Investigations” – Parker Hudson

**January 23 – Special Event** – Women's Initiative Event – Speak Easy 2020

**February 11 – Monthly Luncheon** – “AI: Harnessing the Benefits While Protecting Against Bots Gone Wild” - Polsinelli

**March 11 – Special Event** – March PBPA Gratitude Event – Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, Eversheds Sutherland, Morris Manning & Martin, PwC and Taylor English

**April 28 – Special Event** – Women's Initiative Event – Virtual Happy Hour

**May 7 – Webinar** – “Legal Job Searching During a Global Crisis” - Legility

**May 13 – Webinar** – “Commercial Contracts During COVID-19: Contract Management in Times of Crisis: Solving Real World Problems the Right Way” – Drew Eckl & Farnham, LLP

**May 18 – Webinar** – “Challenges Employers Face as Employees Return to the Workplace” – Ogletree Deakins

**May 27 – ACC Value Challenge** – Virtual Challenge Series – Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP

Also, ACC Georgia extends a special thank you to Alison Danaceau, legal team lead at Avolin, for serving as our chapter photographer, and Poston Communications, for production of our newsletter, public relations and other activities.

#### **How You Can Sponsor an Event**

ACC Georgia welcomes your sponsorship. Sponsors have the opportunity to showcase their expertise and experience to our members in exchange for providing support for substantive programs involving CLE credit. Costs paid by sponsors provide funding for luncheons and special programs, as well as ACC Georgia's community outreach programs that include providing minority internships for deserving law students.

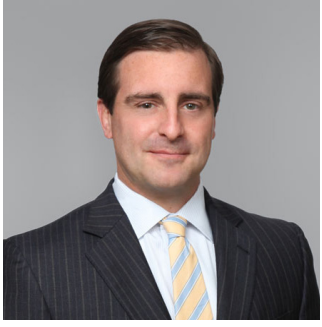
For more information, go to: <https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/georgia/sponsorship-information>.



## FROM OUR EVENT SPONSORS

### What to Expect in the Coming Wave of Oil and Gas Bankruptcies

By Mark Sherrill



Mark Sherrill

The oil and gas sector avoided any major busts between the early 1990s and late 2014, when the price of crude oil and other commodities fell sharply. As a result of that crash, the industry experienced a wave of bankruptcy cases from 2015 through 2017. Today, after only a few years of relative stability, oil and gas companies are again facing a rash of bankruptcies. If there is any good news to be found, it is simply that the 2015-2017 bust provides a roadmap for how the coming bankruptcies may play out.

A number of changes made the 2015-2017 cases very different from their predecessors in the 1980s and 1990s. Decades ago, oil and gas producers lingered in bankruptcy for years at a time. The lengthy stays were frustrating to working interest holders and other contractual counterparties, which were compelled to continue performing their obligations for prolonged periods while the debtors were not. The non-bankrupt counterparties eventually began to refer to this situation as the “twilight zone.”

Since then, legislative changes have rendered the twilight zone moot. First, the 2005 Bankruptcy Code amendments restricted debtors’ ability to remain in bankruptcy for years at a time. Debtor-in-possession financing lenders have also acted to limit the length of bankruptcy cases.

Second, first purchaser statutes have been enlarged in many jurisdictions, in a way that benefits many counterparties. Enacted in many oil and gas producing states, first purchaser statutes were initially intended to ensure that producers would get paid for the commodities that they extracted. Originally, first purchaser statutes created liens in favor of producers, to the detriment of the first parties to purchase the extracted minerals.

Over time, states expanded the protections under the first purchaser statutes. Now, in many states, working interest holders and other counterparties fall within the definition of the parties protected by the statutory lien. As a result, any amounts owed to those parties under a Joint Operating Agreement or other industry form contract may be secured. Recognizing that those parties would eventually be paid in full due to the first purchaser lien, debtors in the 2015-2017 oil bust often opted simply to make full payment at the outset of the case. A common first-day motion would seek court approval for payments to interest holders – effectively eliminating one major constituency that could otherwise cause trouble throughout the case.

Other changes in the bankruptcy practice between the 1990s and 2015 were also relevant. Over that period, debtors became much more likely to effect a “363 sale” (a sale of assets or equity outside of the context of a Plan of Reorganization), to be followed by a relatively simple Plan of Liquidation that provided for the distribution of sale proceeds. The 2015-2017 cases followed that model. Fueled by private equity firms aggressively looking to purchase oil and gas assets, those cases saw a high number of 363 sales – which, together with the factors above, also helped trim the duration of the cases. Today, private equity appears to have less appetite for acquiring oil and gas assets. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the coming bankruptcy cases will feature as many 363 sales.

If there are fewer buyers in the market, debtors may choose to draft Plans of Reorganization premised on debt-for-equity swaps. There are various forms of such Plans, but as a general matter, they feature the cancellation of existing equity interests and the issuance of new shares in favor of certain classes of creditors. The degree of interest in owning such shares may vary among types of creditors, but there is an added wrinkle in oil and gas cases: someone must be the operator of the wells. Ordinarily, institutional creditors have little appetite for serving as an operator, but a recent Reuters article indicated that a number of banks are creating subsidiaries that will serve as oil and gas operators if necessary.

Another prominent issue in recent oil and gas cases has been the treatment of gathering contracts, which midstream energy companies had always assumed to be immune from rejection in bankruptcy. The 2016 bankruptcy case, *Sabine Oil & Gas Corp.*, sent shock waves through the industry by ruling that purported covenants that run with the land – which were supposed to ensure that the contracts were treated as conveyances of real property, insuring against rejection – did not meet the legal criteria to run with the land. The *Sabine* ruling allowed the debtor to reject four midstream contracts, converting hundreds of millions of dollars in performance obligations into unsecured claims.

After three years of anxiety within the midstream space, 2019 saw two bankruptcy cases distinguish or disagree with *Sabine*. The Colorado case of *Badlands Energy* carefully drew distinctions with the facts of *Sabine*, before reaching the opposite conclusion. Then at year-end, the Southern District of Texas issued another diverging opinion – under similar facts to *Sabine* – in the *Alta Mesa Resources* case.

Already in 2020, a handful of large energy companies have petitioned for bankruptcy protection. With the double threat of crashing commodity prices and COVID-19, many more are likely. The 2015-2017 bankruptcy cases give some indication of what is to come, but surely the next wave will take us in new directions as well.

*Mark D. Sherrill is a partner in the Energy & Infrastructure Practice Group at Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP.*

#### March PBPA Gratitude Event

The Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta held their annual volunteer and donor awards ceremony on March 11, 2020, at King & Spalding. The ACC Georgia Chapter received an award for being one of their top six sponsors during the organization’s 15-year history. In partnership with our sponsors, the ACC Georgia chapter raised over \$350,000. We would not have this award without the support of our members who attend our PBPA Value Challenge every year and the sponsors who provide their time and funding for this event. Special thanks to Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, Eversheds Sutherland, Morris Manning & Martin, PwC and Taylor English for their support of the 2019 Value Challenge and their continued support over the years. We are deeply grateful that we are able to support such a worthwhile organization.



Photo Credit: Alison Danaceau

## FROM OUR EVENT SPONSORS

### Ethical Rule Requiring Technology Competence: Georgia and Beyond

By Ted Claypoole & Dominic Panakal

*Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP*

The Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia has voted to approve proposed changes to the state's Rules of Professional Conduct that would adopt the duty of technology competence. Comment 6 to Rule 1.1 of Georgia's Rules of Professional Conduct, governing competence, would be amended to align with Rule 1.1, Comment 8, of the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct ("Model Rules"), and require attorneys to "keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology, engage in continuing study and education, and comply with all continuing legal education requirements to which the lawyer is subject."

In 2012, the American Bar Association formally approved a change to the Model Rules, which created a duty for attorneys to be competent in technology. The Model Rules set out that proper maintenance of requisite knowledge and skill requires staying informed on more than just the law and its practice, but also assessing the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology and engaging in continuing study and education. When evaluating encryption, the Model Rules Committee wrote that a lawyer must consider factors like the sensitivity of the information, the cost and difficulty of adding safeguards, and likelihood of disclosure if additional safeguards are not employed.

Four years after the Model Rules made its amendment, The Florida Bar Association issued this ruling that amended its rule on Competence (4-1-1) to add language providing that competent representation may involve enlisting help from those who have established technological competence, safeguarding confidential information related to the representation, and requires "continuing study and education, including an understanding of the risks and benefits associated with the use of technology." In re Amendments to Rules Regulating The Fla. Bar 4-1.1, 6-10.3, 200 So. 3d 1225, 1226 (Fla. 2016). This decision attaches a mandatory continuing legal education requirement to this competence requirement.

The Model Rules provide guidance to the states in formulating their own rules of professional conduct. Each state's high court or rule-setting body is free to adopt the rules applying to the lawyers in any given state that they choose. Generally, lawyers are required to have the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for representation, including the use of methods and procedures that meet the standards of competent practitioners. We are aware of 38 states that have formally adopted some version of the Model Rule's technology competence addition to an attorney's existing duty of competence.

The State Bar of California did not formally change their professional rules; however, the State Bar of California's Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct issued an ethics opinion in 2015 that expressly acknowledges a duty of lawyers to be competent in technology on a case-by-case basis. They further acknowledge that the duty of competence may require a higher level of technical knowledge depending on the case at hand. This opinion found that maintaining learning and skill consistent with an attorney's duty of competence includes, "Keeping abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with technology."

Some states, like Louisiana, have gone beyond the Model Rules and require lawyers to consider not only the benefits and risks associated with using technology, but also to use reasonable care to protect client information and to assure that client data is reasonably secure and accessible by the lawyer. The ABA has similarly, in Formal Opinion 477, which provided that, "[A] lawyer may be required to take special security precautions to protect against the inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of client information when required by an agreement with the client or by law, or when the nature of the information requires a higher degree of security."

In truth, multiple ethical duties for lawyers arise out of using technology beyond simply the duty of technological competence. For example, when using forensic professionals, software developers or other technical experts, a lawyer has a duty to supervise his or her agents. The lawyers must have at least a rudimentary idea of what the tech professionals are doing so that they may be appropriately managed. Further, a lawyer has a duty to communicate to the client, which includes communicating about the risks and advantages of relevant technological solutions and options. Other ethical duties that can be violated if a lawyer does not understand the technology managing information or at the heart of the lawyer's case (or the client's business) include possible breach of client confidentiality through misuse of technology or the failure to keep the client's property safe.

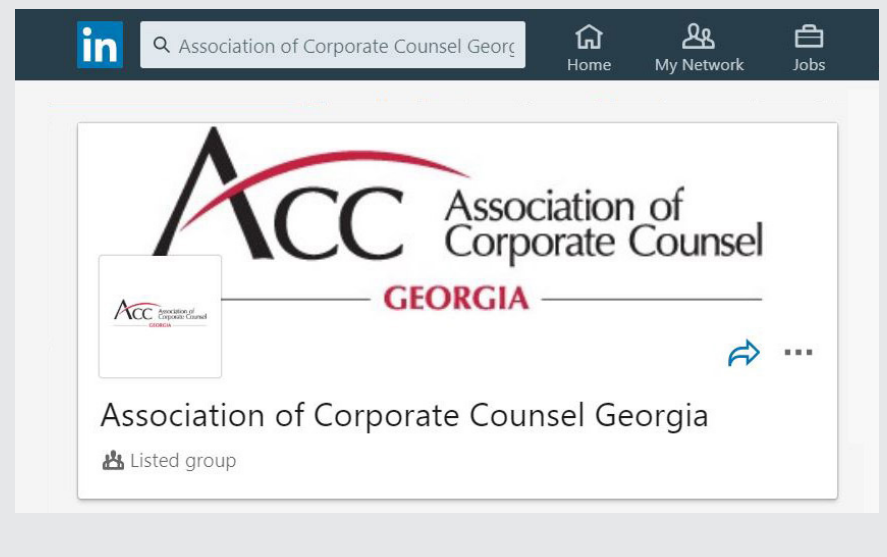
So what do you need to do? Make an effort to understand the technology being used in a trial or transaction, or that may be the subject of that trial or transaction. Bring in experts and supervise them, keeping your client informed and aware of risks and benefits of the technology. Be aware of how technology may compromise client confidentiality. You do not need to be an IT specialist, just an observant and careful lawyer.

### Join Your ACC Georgia Colleagues on LinkedIn

Without a doubt, one of the most popular benefits of being an ACC Georgia member is the professional networking. There's an easy way you can show your online network that you're a member – join the ACC Georgia LinkedIn group. We've launched a new group to allow in-house counsel to network with colleagues and stay up to date on chapter news.

Log in to LinkedIn and type "[Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia](#)" in the search bar to submit a request to join our exclusive group.

By joining the group, you'll add our ACC Georgia badge to your LinkedIn profile, and you'll have something in common to connect with other in-house attorneys. We look forward to connecting with you online!



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Leo Reichert

*Continued from page 2*

#### Q. What is your last book read, interesting article read or movie seen?

I recently finished "The Fifth Risk," by Michael Lewis. I was a government major in undergrad and am a political junkie, so I enjoy these kinds of books. I also recently read "Talking to Strangers," by Malcom Gladwell, which is a thoughtful and interesting read.

#### Q. What would you be if you weren't a lawyer?

When I was younger, I wanted to be an astronaut, but motion sickness stopped my space career before it started. With that off the table, the other career I have always thought about is a high school government or history teacher. One of the biggest influences in my life was my high school government teacher, who took me on student leadership trips to Washington, D.C., and inspired my interest in the law. It would be great to have the same impact on students today that he did on me. And my father always wanted me to practice medicine, so being a healthcare attorney is a great blend of his hopes and my interests.



## FROM OUR EVENT SPONSORS

### Ogletree CLE & Cooking Class

The ACC Georgia Chapter and Ogletree Deakins hosted a special CLE and networking event for members on February 20, 2020. The evening began with a CLE session entitled, “High Times: Can Employers Still Have a Drug-Free Workplace?” Attorneys from Ogletree Deakins answered pressing questions about the use of marijuana in the workplace. The one-hour session was followed by a hands-on, Italian-themed cooking and mixology class where members made dinner and cocktails while networking with peers.



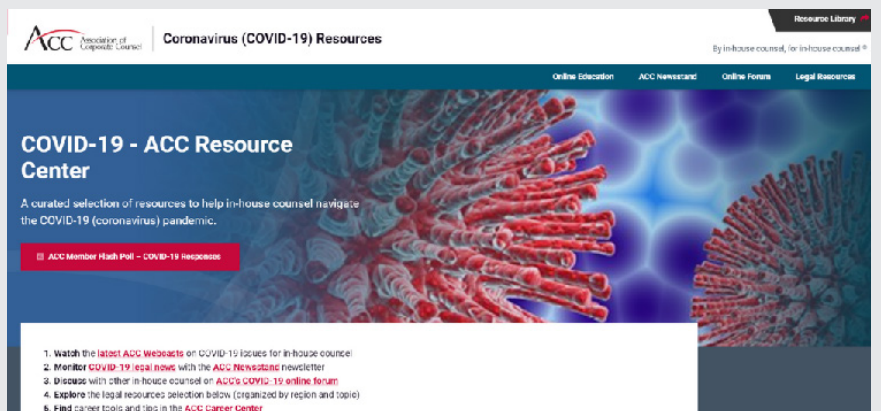
### COVID-19: ACC Resource Center

ACC national headquarters has led the way in COVID-19 efforts, developing discussion forums for members to connect and webinars to continue professional development. They have also created an [online resource page](#) that hosts a curated selection of resources to help in-house counsel navigate the pandemic. From anxiety tips to legal news, this webpage includes a variety of information to support members during this unprecedented time.

As you explore this resource, you will be able to:

- Watch the latest ACC Webcasts on COVID-19 issues for in-house counsel;
- Monitor COVID-19 legal news with the ACC Newsstand newsletter;
- Discuss with other in-house counsel on ACC's COVID-19 online forum;
- Explore the legal resources selection below (organized by region and topic);
- Find career tools and tips in the ACC Career Center; and
- Follow updates regarding ACC's upcoming in-person programs.

For more information, visit <https://www.acc.com/covid-resources>.



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Melissa Rothring

*Continued from page 3*

#### Q. What would you like to share about your family?

There is nothing more important to me than my wonderful husband and two children. I'm incredibly proud of my adult children for who they have become, and I enjoy learning from them every time we're together.

#### Q. What would you be if you weren't a lawyer?

People joke that I would be an event planner because I love to host dinner parties and do so regularly. But more seriously, I would have been a general surgeon, although I am also fascinated by every aspect related to the complexity of the human body, including the biochemical and electrical reactions.



Photos from ACC Spring Events



Photo Credit: Alison Danaceau



WEBINAR PHOTOS

ACC GEORGIA 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL  
CHANGE HEALTHCARE

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