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FOCUS

Communications Chair Letter

Joanne Dautruche



While New Year's fireworks lit the sky, we all sighed a collective breath of relief that the endless calamities of 2020 were finally over and looked forward to do over. 2021 has a low bar: just be better than last year—and it immediately

showed signs of delivering as Covid-19 vaccines began rolling across the country in its first week. We were hopeful that we would make good on all the post-pandemic promises we made ourselves, including taking that trip (albeit cautiously), hugging loved ones tight and other, numerous demonstrations of not taking life for granted. Our New Year expectations were swiftly tempered with an insurrection at our nation's Capitol Building and bumbling stop-and-go efforts to get vaccines in South Florida, the state's hardest hit area by the corona virus.

The year is still early, however, and I see encouraging signs of great hope, laughter and a semblance of normalcy. Political views aside, the US has its first female Vice President, empirical evidence to all little girls and young women that they can soon claim that same seat or higher. The legal community had a good belly laugh while joining in empathy for a fellow attorney who turned himself into a cat during a virtual court proceeding. Also, as an olive leaf symbol of pre-pandemic familiarity, Tom Brady won the Super Bowl again, this time on a Florida team.

ACC South Florida is also bringing back a familiar event, our long-awaited 11th Annual CLE

Conference "Roaring into the '20s: The Next Decade In-House" taking place at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on April 30th with both in-person and virtual options. You can [click here](#) to register.

"Whoo Did It? There is a Mystery At Zoo Miami" is another amazing event. On March 12th, ACC members and their families can put on detective hats and virtually join Nelson Mullins in solving this murder mystery. Participants who register by March 2nd will receive a box of clues, tools, and more from Zoo Miami to help catch the "killer" on this interactive, virtual whodunit adventure.

The most exciting feature we have this year is YOU. As the Communications Chair, my vision is to highlight our members beyond our newsletter, but also on our social media platforms as our Brand Ambassadors. I encourage our members and sponsors to regularly engage with us online and tag #ACCSFL as you share your professional and personal journeys on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. Freely re-share our posts and tag your colleagues so they remain up to date on the latest ACC news, articles and fun networking events.

Throughout 2021, let us encourage each other across social media by sharing our symbols of renewed life, attaining new goals and supporting each other as we navigate our companies though the ever-changing legalities that a pandemic, a new Presidential administration and remote operations bring. I look forward to connecting with you.

Carpe diem!

Joanne Dautruche, Communications Chair

We're Getting SOCIAL!

For the latest photos and details from our events, please be sure to follow ACC South Florida Chapter on Instagram and Facebook. On LinkedIn, join our group page exclusively for members. In addition, we are excited to now have a public ACC South Florida Chapter page for interaction with our sponsors, respective companies and everyone. On all of our social media platforms, feel free to tag ACC South Florida Chapter on your posts and hashtag #accsouthfl.

You can find updates, event information and more at:



[accsouthflorida](#)



[@accsouthflorida](#)



ACC South
Florida Chapter

Environmental Disclosure Issues Loom Large as Investors Pressure Companies to Address Climate Risks

By Philip R. Stein and Benjamin Mitchel, Bilzin Sumberg

As the real-life consequences of climate change accelerate and become more pronounced, so does the need for counsel for companies and government entities to consider the potential legal and regulatory effects on their clients. Corporations are facing significant pressure from investors, who are increasingly wary of potential reductions in company value attributable to lack of preparedness for sea level rise, wildfires and other events exacerbated by climate change. Shareholders want companies to augment the information they publicly disclose by including additional details relating to the companies' efforts on Environmental, Social, & Governance ("ESG") issues. Likewise, government and other civic entities are finding it necessary to think about how extreme weather events and climate change generally may affect their operations. Though ESG disclosures cover a broader range of issues than those relating to climate issues, the environmental piece is particularly significant and timely for in-house counsel to assess. Though the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") has yet to formally require these disclosures, and the question of whether these issues are within the scope of existing federal securities laws remains a dubious proposition, early signs point to this area of law becoming an increasingly litigious one in the coming years. This should prove especially true in coastal regions already experiencing changes with the potential to harm businesses' operational capacity.

How is Climate Change Affecting Business?

Discussions surrounding climate change, and the need for imminent action to combat its effects, often focus on the longest-term, most dire potential consequences our environment could suffer. But, long before we have to grapple with concerns about the overall habitability of our planet, in-house counsel will have to



reconcile businesses' current operations with an evolving climate that may significantly alter business processes, strategies and protocols. For all the benefits technology and innovation provide, our connectivity renders many companies' global supply chains vulnerable to substantial disruption. The fragility of our consumer economy is straightforward: an earthquake in California causes harm to a tech factory in Silicon Valley, which causes delays in the shipment of critical parts to a company in Florida, which is left unable to operate as planned. Though the challenges posed by climate change are truly global in nature, more local impacts exist as well. Already, some regions are facing rising, untenable financial burdens caused by the fallout from natural disasters and extreme weather events (and the associated interruption to businesses unable to operate during these events). Just in the past few years, we've seen wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters cause unprecedented destruction. Estimates place the sum of the damage caused by extreme weather events in 2018 at more than \$150 billion^{1,2}.

As these disasters continue to increase in frequency and devastation, climate change's effects are expected to become more regressive; in other words, the greatest impacts will likely be felt by the poorest populations. A recent study from the University of Miami that evaluates rising sea levels projects that over the next handful of decades, several thousand federally and/or locally subsidized housing units will be at risk of being flooded and uninhabitable.³ Since the communities most likely to be harmed will also be those with the least means to protect themselves, it is incumbent on busi-

ness and civic leaders to be transparent as to how and why their environmental strategies -- or simply strategies to deal with climate-related problems -- will help insulate those at-risk communities (and the business and civic entities those leaders represent) from significant adverse effects from climate change. Corporate counsel can and should play a central role on pressing for the development of useful strategies, ensuring follow-up and implementation of strategies and related company policies, and disclosure to interested parties of the steps their companies are taking to gird themselves for climate-related disruptions.

How Vulnerable are Companies to Stakeholders' Climate-Related Claims?

Early signs point to a need for additional legislative and policy efforts before the courts can be considered a reliable avenue for stakeholder-litigants to recover for losses in share value, or losses of contractual expectations, as a result of climate change problems. A recent decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Juliana v. United States*⁴ underscored a threshold issue plaintiffs will face. The plaintiffs in *Juliana* were youths seeking to bring an action rooted in constitutional law against the United States, arguing that the government had violated their fundamental rights to due process, liberty, and property by failing to provide a "climate system capable of sustaining human life." Specifically, the plaintiffs alleged that by allowing and promoting the use of fossil fuels, the United States government had caused them injury entitling them to redress under the Fifth and Ninth Amendments. After initially surviving the government's

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motion to dismiss, the Ninth Circuit reversed the District Court of Oregon's decision, finding that the plaintiffs lacked a concrete injury giving rise to standing to bring the claims. The court noted it considered such a suit to be beyond the powers of Article III courts to decide given the complex web of policy and legislative decisions it would require it to second guess.

Sometimes left, as in *Juliana*, without a direct path to redress through the courts, interested parties have taken to placing pressure on the businesses that they believe have largely contributed to the global climate crisis. Recently, several large institutional investors made public comments suggesting they would be shifting their focus to investing in companies that took efforts to implement environmental-friendly practices into their businesses and disclosed those efforts.⁵ Evidently concerned by such comments and various related lobbying efforts, Jay Clayton, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, spoke out against a push for uniform corporate ESG disclosures in May.⁶ Clayton warned that mandating these disclosures could place unnecessary strain on businesses while failing to provide information that would actually be useful to investors and the public.

Notwithstanding the range of opinions on mandated corporate ESG (and other environmental) disclosures, it seems inevitable that companies will face increased calls (and perhaps legislative mandates) to provide the public with greater access to this type of information. It thus seems equally inevitable that corporate counsel will see a significant increase in the amount of time they must devote to overseeing strategic, compliance and public communication efforts focused on their clients' ability to insulate themselves, their business partners, and their shareholders from the worst potential effects of climate change.

Authors:

Philip R. Stein

is the Practice Group Leader of Bilzin Sumberg's Litigation Group. He focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and heads the firm's Homebuilder, Financial Services, and Data Security teams. He regularly acts as lead counsel to mortgage companies, financial services companies, and large national homebuilders on a broad range of issues of importance to companies in those industries. Phil is particularly experienced in litigation involving: financial



fraud, other business torts, and consumer product claims; corporate governance; trade secrets; class action defense, and professional liability issues (including director and officer liability issues, and accounting malpractice claims). Phil has been consistently recognized by Chambers USA in the General Commercial Litigation category, by Benchmark Litigation as a Local Litigation Star", and by Florida Super Lawyers. Phil earned his J.D. at Duke University and his B.A. at the University of North Carolina.

Benjamin Mitchel

is an Associate in Bilzin Sumberg's Litigation Practice Group where he focuses his practice on business disputes, financial services, and antitrust litigation.

While Benjamin was working on his J.D. at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, he served as Judicial Intern at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida where he conducted legal research, prepared memoranda of law, and drafted Orders and Reports & Recommendations pertaining to a variety of criminal and civil cases. He also held leadership roles as President of the Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity, Director of Intramurals for the Intrafraternity Council for the University of Florida, and editor of the Florida Law Review. Benjamin earned his J.D. and his B.A., cum laude, from the University of Florida.



¹ Nearly \$60 billion of that damage occurred in the Asia Pacific region, an area considered critical in many industries' supply chains.

See <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/11/climate-change-risk-business-regional-doing-report/>

² See <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/16/business/climate-change-global-risk-wef-davos/index.html>

³ See https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article247681520.html?ac_cid=DM339580&ac_bid=-1212172687

⁴ 947 F.3d 1159 (9th Cir. Jan. 17, 2020).

⁵ <https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2020/08/03/legal-liability-for-esg-disclosures/>

⁶ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bhaktimrhandani/2020/05/29/what-to-make-of-the-secs-warnings-on-esg-ratings-and-recommendations-for-esg-disclosures/?sh=fbadb8d31841>

Are Your Company's Drug Testing Policies About to Go Up In Smoke?

By Mihai Vrasmasu, Antar Vaughan, and Matt Bernstein, Shook Hardy and Bacon

Florida's current employee drug testing laws, codified as the Drug-Free Workplace Act in sections 112.0455 and 440.102, *Florida Statutes*, provide certain benefits to private employers—like discounts on workers' compensation premiums. And they place virtually no limits on an employer's ability to adopt anti-drug policies and implement employee drug testing. But in 2016, Florida passed

a "medical marijuana law" with 71% of the vote. That law is codified in section 381.986, *Florida Statutes*. There is also a high probability of future legislation allowing for recreational marijuana consump-

SHOOK
HARDY & BACON

tion in Florida as there are pro-cannabis groups currently pushing for a 2022 ballot measure to

legalize such use. Given these significant developments, you may be asking your-

continued on page 4

self: How will my company's employee drug screening policies be impacted over the coming years? The short answer tracks the old adage—the more things change, the more they stay the same—and not much will likely change. At least not in the short term.

Unfortunately, Florida does not presently have any case law analyzing the interplay between the Drug-Free Workplace Act and Florida's medical marijuana law. Yet because most states tend to look at what others have done as a blueprint for future action, we can gaze outside the Sunshine State to predict what may emerge in Florida once all the smoke clears.

At least 34 other states permit medical marijuana use. And as of late 2020, a significant number of jurisdictions—including California, Colorado, Washington, District of Columbia, Oregon, Alaska, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada—have passed laws decriminalizing recreational marijuana use. This push will likely continue well into 2021 and beyond. Already, numerous state legislatures including Hawaii, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Virginia have introduced a cloud of cannabis-related bills aimed at adopting a variety of pro-cannabis policies.

Yet despite this legislative push toward allowing some form of legal marijuana use, thus far employers are largely free to drug test employees. Florida and other similarly situated states that only allow medical marijuana use (like Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Ohio) do not require employers to accommodate such use in the workplace. In fact, even most jurisdictions that have entirely decriminalized marijuana do not protect employees from being disciplined or terminated for off-duty marijuana use. For example, California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia—all of which already allow both medical and recreational consumption—do not require employers to accommodate medical or recreational use in the workplace and let them discipline employees who test positive for marijuana. And two of those

states, California and Colorado, have gone so far as to allow employers to punish employees with a valid medical marijuana card for off-duty marijuana use.

Given the makeup of our State's legislature and in light of the foregoing, we anticipate that any Florida law decriminalizing marijuana will, at least initially, have no direct impact on an employer's ability to regulate its workplace under the Drug-Free Workplace Act. This is particularly probable considering the types of employer protections already found in Florida's medical marijuana law. Specifically subsection 15 of the statute—titled "Applicability"—does not compel employers to create special accommodations for medical marijuana users, and permits them to enforce drug-free workplace policies. Importantly, it also "does not create a cause of action against an employer for wrongful discharge or discrimination."

Additionally, any legal challenges to existing employer drug-free workplace policies that may make their way to the Florida Supreme Court will likely bear little fruit in the near term. Courts in states that decriminalized marijuana have generally upheld the right of employers to drug test and punish employees for marijuana use. For example, in *Roe v. Teletech Customer Care Management*, the Washington Supreme Court affirmed an employer's right to terminate a call-center employee for medical marijuana use, even though she had a valid medical marijuana card. Similarly, in *Coats v. Dish Network*, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld an employer's right to terminate a quadriplegic employee who had a valid state-issued medical marijuana license and used cannabis to control leg spasms. The *Coats* court noted that although medical marijuana is legal under state law, it is still illegal under federal law and therefore not protected as a "lawful" activity under a state law that prohibits employers from discharging employee based on their lawful outside-of-work activities. Courts in California and Oregon have also ruled against employees in comparable situations. Similar results are highly likely in Florida particularly given our Supreme Court's current conservative bend.

So, absent some unexpected legislative act or judicial ruling, the status quo will initially remain intact in the short term, even if Florida decriminalizes marijuana. Private employers will likely continue to have the right to prohibit marijuana use, whether medical or recreational, and conduct drug testing as prescribed under Florida's Drug-Free Workplace Act.

But this does not mean that companies should sit idly by, because change is coming. Not only are more states proposing laws to legalize marijuana use, but there is also a growing push for legalization at the federal government level. Even Florida's own Nikki Fried recently asked the Biden-Harris administration to work with Congress to federally legalize marijuana for adult use. Assuming momentum continues in this direction, marijuana will likely become socially and legally more akin to alcohol. And it will be important for companies to have drug policies that embrace these changes, both to lessen their potential exposure and to recruit and retain talented employees who may value their legal off-duty marijuana use. Businesses should be proactive, and engage experienced legal counsel in order to identify, assess, and mitigate future risks.

Authors:

Mihai M. Vrasmasu is a litigation partner at Shook Hardy and Bacon's Miami, Florida office. He has extensive experience defending Fortune 100 companies in a

broad range of areas from case inception through resolution and appeal. In 2017, Mihai was seconded to Bayer, where he spent nearly a year working as in-house counsel. While at Bayer, he gained valuable perspective regarding the unique challenges faced by companies in today's ever-evolving legal landscape. In addition to defending businesses involved in complex litigation, Mihai provides litigation risk assessments and other consulting services to companies in the surgical robotics and the cannabis spaces.

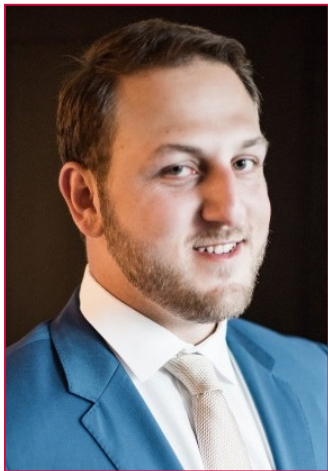


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Antar Vaughan is an Of Counsel with Shook Hardy & Bacon in the firm's Miami, Florida office, who has substantial experience in various areas of litigation including complex commercial work, banking, insurance and products liability. Antar currently works in Shook's product liability practice area. Additionally, he also handles matters in the corporate business transactions and intellectual property spaces.



Matt Bernstein is an experienced litigator and represents companies in all phases of litigation. He has experience litigating a wide range of matters, including complex product liability cases involving wrongful death and significant personal injury, and complex commercial disputes involving contract breaches, deceptive and unfair trade practices and trade secret actions. Matt is also a combat veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Alex Perez

Board Member

Senior Counsel, Business Legal, Assurant

How long have you been an ACC South Florida member?

Since joining Assurant in 2015, which is my first in-house role.

Why did you join the ACC?

Being new to in-house, I wanted to connect with others outside of Assurant to learn and share experiences with other in-house counsel. I have a pretty unusual career path because I jumped straight from being a prosecutor to being in-house. One of my favorite aspects of being a prosecutor was having a large group of peers to trade war stories with. The ACC quickly filled that role.

What is a typical day like for you at Assurant?

I would honestly say there is no typical day at Assurant. I'm in our General Counsel side of the legal department so I focus mostly on our transactional issues and supporting our business and sales teams. However, being that Assurant is an insurance company, at any given moment I can be dealing with an insurance regulator inquiry, resolving an insurance claim, working on an M&A, or helping draft potential legislation.

What do you most enjoy about being in-house?

I love helping create things. In-house counsel, at least at Assurant, is really part of the "innovation team" and gets to be involved very early in the ideation process. The insurance industry is highly regulated, meaning there are a ton of issues to work through when developing a new product or opportunity, so while the process can definitely be frustrating, the feeling at the end is fantastic.

When you're not working, where would we find you?

With my wife, chasing around our toddler at a local park. In a pre-Covid world you could probably find me at whatever band or concert is happening in South FL on a given weekend. I love live music.

What's your favorite book right now?

I just moved into my first house and therefore purchased my first grill/smoker, so right now my favorite books are Meathead: The Science of Great Barbecue and Grilling and Franklin Barbecue: A Meat-Smoking Manifesto.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you.

I performed improv comedy for almost a decade. In the beginning I started performing just to get over my fear of public speaking, but then I started to really love it. When I was living NYC I even started to perform at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater.

My Take: Pursue Justice!

By Jo Anne Schwendinger

A message from the Chair of the ACC
Global Board of Directors

Even as the world was grappling with COVID-19, other threats demanded our attention in 2020. Following the disturbing killing of George Floyd at the hands of police officers in the United States, people from many nations marched, protested, and demanded change. In the United States, this was followed by a period of political tension, culminating in an attack on the Capitol building in January of this year. On the world scene, refugee crises continue, with a growing number of people living in a country other than the one where they were born. Income gaps continue to widen. Food insecurity remains an intractable issue. Employers continue to make hiring and promotion decisions based on factors other than objective qualifications, thereby denying opportunities to disadvantaged groups. These events and realities are sobering reminders that we must be relentless in our pursuit of social justice.

The pursuit of social justice is not new. Gaps in social justice are not unique to a particular time, community, or place. In fact, the global dimension of social justice issues was recognized by the United Nations when, on November 26, 2007, the General Assembly declared that February 20, would be celebrated annually as the World Day of Social Justice.

The pursuit of social justice is not new. Gaps in social justice are not unique to a particular time, community, or place.

As lawyers, who are also a part of a world in need of repair, what can we do? How can we contribute to the fight? Certainly, we must uphold the laws of the lands in which we work and live. As in-house counsel, we advise and instruct our clients on all areas of the law. We can therefore be advocates for compliance with laws that call for things like greater diversity and inclusion, as well as protections for



the planet. And some of our in-house colleagues work for nonprofits and NGOs that promote social justice causes like fairness in housing, healthcare, and access to the legal system. There are many ways that in-house counsel can engage in the pursuit of social justice daily.

That said, is there a role for in-house counsel that goes beyond compliance with laws? If so, what should that role be, both within our organizations and within society?

Finding a role that is both meaningful and acceptable within work norms can be daunting. Nevertheless, there are tangible actions we can take to become allies for change within the profession and within our own legal departments. I encourage you to use the ACC Docket article, "[The Time is Now: 10 Ways In-house Counsel Can Advocate for Change](#)," as a jumping off point for ideas on how to leverage your position to promote diversity and inclusion, call out bias, and make colleagues feel welcome.

If taking up the social justice challenge feels like the right approach for your legal department, there are many avenues available to you. For one, you can hire legal service providers who promote social issues. For example, you can include in your outside counsel RFPs questions about a firm's diversity and inclusion initiatives — and even better — ask for their D&I metrics and scorecards.

Ask about the causes they support, and perhaps even suggest partnering on pro bono activities that promote the social justice causes that are important to you and your client. Also, consider choosing law firms that demonstrate a commitment to work-life balance, with programs or policies that encourage lawyers to take time beyond the billable hour to care for family, community, and themselves.

If you choose your legal service providers based on their social commitments, I challenge you to keep track of how they are doing, and to take work away if they do not live up to their promises. These are hard conversations to have, especially with trusted counsel or firms your organization has worked with for years. But they are necessary to move the needle and go beyond platitudes. While no one action will end injustice, each thoughtful act moves us closer.

If you are looking to do more with social justice, reform, and corporate citizenship, don't forget that ACC is always there to help. For example, following the release of [ACC's statement on George Floyd](#) last summer, the ACC Foundation launched its [IDEAL](#) initiative and has since released many resources and produced programming on diversity. Recent programming, featuring notable diverse counsel, includes the two-part series, "[What Every GC, Board, and Corporation Needs to Know About Diversity](#)."

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[Inclusion, and Equity.](#)” You can find both sessions and more [On-Demand.](#)

In addition to IDEAL, we continue to expand our Seat at the Table initiative. While it’s critical that we champion the access and reporting structure of CLOs and those in leadership positions within the legal department, it is equally important that all levels of our teams have a clear pathway to earning their seats. I recently had a conversation with ACC’s Ramsey Saleeby to discuss this topic in “[Find Your Seat – Earning the Role of Strategic Business Partner.](#)” And as I encourage individual lawyers to seek and earn recognition, I also ask those in leadership positions to take a stand on

equity within your departments. Being an ally to diverse communities truly matters in this area. I am optimistic when I read in the recently released [2021 Chief Legal Officers Survey](#) that 72.7 percent of CLOs surveyed believe a focus on diversity and inclusion will continue to grow in importance in 2021 and beyond.

How we show up in our personal and professional lives matters. Standing up and saying something matters. Whether through a company statement or via a hiring decision, we have the power to make a difference, to be allies for change. As the keepers of the law, and those charged with managing risks and liability, we are uniquely positioned to champion

these issues. I applaud you for the strides you are making and challenge you to do more; to go further. And as you grapple with finding a response to the question, what can we do, I encourage you to share your thoughts and insights with your fellow ACC members.



Jo Anne Schwendinger
II-VI Incorporated
Chief Legal & Compliance
Officer & Secretary

ACC News

ACC In-house Counsel Certification Program

1–11 March & 19–29 April

The [In-house Counsel Certification Program](#) covers the core competencies identified as critical to an in-house career. This virtual training is a combination of self-paced online modules and live virtual workshops. The workshops will be conducted over a two-week period, four days a week for three hours each day.



ACC Xchange 2021

16-17 June

This two day experiential learning experience was specifically created for in-house counsel and legal operations professionals. Over the course of two days, attendees will be immersed in an advanced, practical, and interactive educational environment. [Get the details and registration rates.](#)



ACC Foundation Cybersecurity Summit

2–4 March

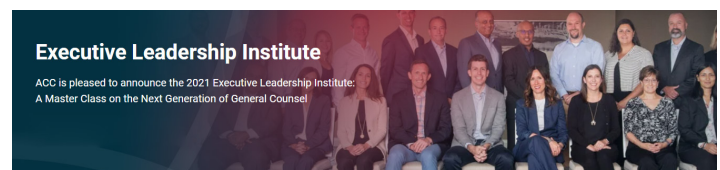
The [ACC Foundation Cybersecurity Summit](#) offers three days of education and networking, designed to engage and educate professionals. Sharpen your skills and knowledge while tackling today’s most pressing cybersecurity concerns.



ACC Executive Leadership Institute

20-23 July

Invest in your high-performers and put your succession plan in place. [Nominate](#) your rising stars to gain the professional development they need to one day lead your department at the [2021 Executive Leadership Institute.](#)



Introducing the ACC Data Steward Program

Your law firms are holding some of your company’s most sensitive data but are you certain that it is secure? The [Data Steward Program](#) – Single Client Option – allows you to gain assurance that your law firms are secure, while the DSP Program does all the work.



Welcome New Members!

Robert Caldwell

MMA Global Group, Inc.

Alex Edwards
Carrier

Christy Evans
Rendina Healthcare Real Estate

Laura Farinas
CDR Maguire Inc.

Jenn Greenberg
Fridababy, LLC

Karina Inigo
Universal Property & Casualty Insurance Company

Steve Lee
Flexport, Inc.

Alexander Lima
WESCO Distribution, Inc.

Elan Lowenstein
Early Charm Ventures

Cara Morris
Carrier

Denise Pedulla
NeoGenomics Laboratories, Inc.

Melissa Quintana Portal
Sony Corporation of America

William Rudnick
Cresset

Gretel Salazar
Chewy.com

Lucy Savorgnan
Carrier

Sponsors for 2021

PLATINUM

Bilzin Sumberg

GOLD

Fisher & Phillips LLP
FordHarrison LLP

Gunster
Littler

Shook, Hardy and Bacon, LLP

SILVER

Akerman

Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
Bowman & Brooke LLP

Cozen O'Connor
Exterro

Jackson Lewis P.C.
Squire Patton Boggs

BRONZE

Alvarez & Diaz-Silveira LLP

Baker McKenzie

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
CSC

DLA Piper

Nelson Mullins

Robert Half Legal

Shutts & Bowen LLP

Miami-Dade Progressive Dinner

Shook, Hardy and Bacon, LLP
(Premier Sponsor)

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
(Dinner Sponsor)

DLA Piper (Dessert Sponsor)

Palm Beach Progressive Dinner

Shutts & Bowen LLP (Premier Sponsor)

FordHarrison LLP (Dessert Sponsor)

Member Appreciation Event

Foley & Lardner

Holiday Party

Cozen O'Connor (Miami)

DLA Piper (Palm Beach)

Coffee Talk CLE Series

Baker McKenzie

Fisher & Phillips LLP

Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell

White & Case LLP

Chief Legal Officer Roundtable

Nelson Mullins

Sports Outing & CLE Program

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Registration is now open for ACC South Florida's **11th Annual CLE Conference, Roaring Into the 20s: The Next Decade In-House.** Presented by Platinum Sponsor, Bilzin Sumberg, the conference will be taking place on **Friday, April 30** at the **Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino** for **in-person attendees** or you can **attend virtually!** Please [click here](#) to explore the event website and register.

Early bird pricing of \$65 for ACC South Florida Members registering to attend in-person is available until March 19 so please take advantage of this special pricing. In addition, if you register during Early Bird pricing, you can add a guest for just \$34 more. Virtual attendees can register for \$99 at any time.

Attendees will be able to attend seminars on a variety of timely topics and earn up to 6.0 CLE credits*. With your support, we are confident this will be the best conference yet!

Do you have more than four attorneys from your company registering for the conference? If so, please e-mail southflexec@accglobal.com for a special discount.

*credits pending with Florida Bar

Chapter Leadership

President

Jessica Rivera

EVP, Global Sales & Corporate Affairs, MotionPoint Corporation

Immediate Past President/ CLE Conference Chair

Carlos Cardelle

Senior Deputy General Counsel, ShiftPixy

President-Elect/Sponsorship Co-Chair

Aline Drucker

General Counsel, Invicta Watch Group

Secretary

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CLO / General Counsel, Velocity Solutions, LLC

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Corporate Counsel, ChenMed

Community Outreach Co-Chair

Sharaine Sibblies

Deputy General Counsel - Corporate Services,
JM Family Enterprises, Inc.

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Alex Perez

Senior Legal Counsel, Assurant

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Alan Kramer

Associate General Counsel, Deutsche Post DHL

Executive Director

Christina Kim

Christina Kim
Executive Director

Executive Director Note

Dear Members,

Happy 2021! We kicked the year off with a fun, family friendly, virtual Disney Trivia Night! Thank you to all the members that join with their loved ones – it was great to see everyone in their Disney finest. We hope to host more of these throughout the year.

Thank you for also supporting our community. This month, Nelson Mullins is hosting a family-friendly murder/mystery event with ZooMiami and donating towards conserving animals and in April, we will be working with Legal Aid of Broward County on their Legal Advice Hot Line.

We are also excited registration has launched for our 11th Annual CLE Conference taking place on April 30 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Attendees are able to join us both in-person or virtually. Pls be sure to check out our [registration site](#) for more info and sign-up! Early bird pricing for in-person attendance ends March 19. We look forward to many of you joining us in either format.

It has been a long 12 months and I know we are all eager to get to the light at the end of the tunnel. I hope you are continuing to keep safe and healthy. Brighter days are ahead!

Sincerely

Christina Y. Kim

Executive Director, ACC South Florida



Christina & family enjoying her son's Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby 3rd place win!