

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.

March 8, 2022

Luncheon
“Georgia’s State-wide Business Court: Observations and Experiences During the First 18 Months”
Sponsored by Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs

March 15, 2022

Women’s Initiative
Whiskey Tastings, Tours, and Togetherness
Sponsored by Fisher & Phillips LLP, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., Taylor English Duma LLP, Consilio + Legility and SimpleLegal

March 23, 2022

Webinar, Deep Dive, or Special Event
“Evolution of Legal Career Options for Women”
Sponsored by Consilio + Legility

April 14, 2022

Women’s Initiative
Book Club Event with Wanda Morris
Sponsored by Fisher Phillips, LLP, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., Taylor English Duma LLP, Consilio + Legility and SimpleLegal

**Programming subject to change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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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 – follow the ACC Georgia LinkedIn page. 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 Chapter" in the search bar to find our page.

By following our page, you’ll stay up to date on the latest member events, CLE luncheons and more happening. We look forward to connecting with you online!

DEAR ACC GEORGIA MEMBERS:



*Kathryn Hutton
ACC Georgia President*

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022! I am honored to serve as President of the Georgia chapter of the ACC. Before I discuss my focus for the coming year, please join me in congratulating and thanking the 2022 ACC Georgia Board. Our exceptional board members include veterans of the Georgia and California ACC Boards as well as new volunteers. I’m excited to see how their enthusiasm and ideas will shape our organization!

I am also extremely grateful for the leadership of our Immediate Past President Melloney Douce. In her farewell address, Melloney called herself ACC GA’s “COVID president” but Melloney’s eponymous title does not fully reflect the powerful impact that Melloney had on ACC GA. Under Melloney’s leadership, ACC GA hosted or sponsored over 30 virtual and in-person events in 2021, in the middle of a once-in-a-century epidemic, culminating with the in-person ACC holiday party on December 15 at City View Terrace in Sandy Springs, which you can see photos of on page 6.

Let’s recognize and embrace how ACC GA has evolved as a professional development and networking organization. Capitalizing on the momentum from last year, your board is actively working to design and host hybrid virtual/in-person events throughout 2022. We hope you’ll join us in person on March 15 for our first Women’s Initiative event, “Whiskey Tastings, Tours, and Togetherness.” We encourage all of our members to consider attending as this is not a women-only event.

But ACC GA isn’t the only one that has evolved.

All of us have flexed and both given (and received!) inordinate amounts of grace during the re-shaping of our work situations, home lives, and, indeed, ourselves as individuals. Let’s use 2022 as a great year to acknowledge and embrace who we have become as individuals and explore how to re-brand ourselves as in-house counsel in our evolved work environments.

But who have I become over the course of the pandemic and how do I re-brand myself?

My focus as President for 2022 will be to continue offering educational and social events for in-house counsel to network and learn about timely legal topics while earning CLE credits. I also want to diversify the content and delivery of ACC GA programs that accommodate and address how work, home life and the role of in-house counsel has changed.

For starters, update your social media presence by following the NEW Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter LinkedIn page (www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-corporate-counsel-georgia-chapter/).

And personifying re-branding, Wanda Morris, past President of ACC Georgia, founder of ACC Georgia’s Women’s Initiative, and newly published author, will lead a discussion on her debut legal thriller, All Her Little Secrets. The first 20 registrants for this hybrid event, scheduled for April 14, will receive a complimentary copy of the book!

Here’s to saying “Yes” to new experiences and opportunities!

Kathryn Hutton
ACC Georgia President

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Godfrey

Senior Counsel, Aetna, a CVS Health Company



Q. What attracted you to the type of law you practice?

I always enjoyed writing as a child and using my analytical skills in classes such as science and math, so the practice of law seemed like a good fit. I knew early in my career that I wanted to focus on health law and sought opportunities to grow my expertise in that area and take assignments related to health law. It has worked out well because I have been able to work with and for some phenomenal companies in the health care space.

Q. What do you like about working at Aetna, a CVS Health Company?

Aetna is a great company to work for and an important one during a time when access to health care is supremely important to many. Not only is it in the business of providing access to important health insurance products and services but it also consists of a great group of people—whose values I align with, and who are focused on putting customers first and helping them along their health care journey. I enjoy collaborating and working with my colleagues to imagine and realize new and innovative ways to improve our customers' journey within the health care space.

Q. What is your biggest legal challenge?

Helping business clients balance their desire to innovate and create new customer experiences with the need to address and prepare for potential legal and regulatory obstacles. As in-house counsel we must often help our business clients navigate legal “grey areas” by calibrating and adjusting to risks as business plans unfold and change over time.

Q. What makes a successful leader?

Someone who is willing to let others shine and also believes in their team enough to let them take on challenges and achieve things they never thought possible. The best leaders inspire you to achieve things you didn't know you were capable of.

Q. What is your best advice for outside lawyers?

My best advice for outside lawyers is to seek to understand as much as you can about how your client's business functions and how the issue you are working on relates to the company's broader goals and objectives. Issues are seldom as discrete and easily solved as they may seem from the outside. There may be resource limitations, competing business priorities or other company-specific reasons that may make it harder for a company to pivot from point A to point B, and that needs to be taken into account by outside counsel when recommending courses of action.

Q. What have been the most challenging aspects of the pandemic? What have been your guideposts?

One of the most challenging aspects of the pandemic has been keeping in touch and maintaining relationships with colleagues and business clients in a virtual environment. I have had to be more intentional about finding time to meet virtually with those whom I was accustomed to seeing in person around the office or at company events.

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

Be patient with yourself and kind to others, as everyone is trying to figure out what their “new normal” will look like after the pandemic. Everyone will have to make yet another big shift once workplaces reopen again and there will, of course, be some new routines to develop and some anxiety about whether we are getting it right.

Q. How did you go about building your personal brand?

I have been able to build my personal brand as an in-house counsel through my work ethic, judgment and approachability. I have found that even if you have to recommend a different path than the one business clients prefer, if your view is a reasoned one, and they trust that you are trying to help them achieve their goals in a way that limits legal and regulatory risks, they will respect your judgment and role as their legal counselor.

Q. What are your favorite words of wisdom?

That it doesn't cost anything to be kind to others.

Q. What is your favorite travel destination?

I count Paris as the most beautiful city I have ever visited. The longest trip I have taken was to Singapore, which I loved as well.

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

I would probably still do something that involves writing, like being a novelist or screenwriter.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter would like to thank our recent luncheon and event sponsors. 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.

December 15 – Women's Initiative – End-of-Year Gathering – Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP, Fisher Phillips LLP, Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart P.C. and Taylor English Duma LLP

2022 Women's Initiative Sponsors

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ACC Georgia extends a special thank you to Poston Communications for production of our newsletter, public relations and other activities.

We also thank the Daily Report for publishing our newsletter in their In-House Georgia special report.

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>.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lillian Nash Caudle

Acting Head of Litigation, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC



Q. How'd you get to your position today?

After college at Wake Forest, I started out aiming to be a newspaper journalist because I liked searching for truth, being an objective observer and storytelling. Litigators also do those things, so I attended the University of Mississippi School of Law. I eventually became a partner at Jones Day, then a Fulton County magistrate and then in-house counsel at Mercedes-Benz USA. On January 1, I became acting head of litigation.

Q. What attracted you to the type of law you practice?

As I mentioned, I am drawn to the search for truth, which is the core of litigation advocacy. In practice, that means confronting the facts – good and bad – and obtaining the best possible result for the client given the factual reality, whether that is a negotiated resolution or vindication by jury verdict. Litigators get in trouble when they forget facts are destiny.

Q. What do you like about working at Mercedes-Benz?

Working in-house at Mercedes-Benz presents the perfect combination of cutting-edge litigation, exceptional legal and technical colleagues, a sophisticated brand and an industry experiencing generational transformation in terms of electrification, automation and digitalization.

Q. How did you go about building your personal brand?

People often remark I am one of the happiest lawyers they know. I didn't set out to be a happy lawyer, but I have seen my share of unhappy lawyers and knew I didn't want to be one of them. That is why I always told myself I had permission to do something else if practicing law stopped being a fun challenge. The mindset has served me well for 20 years and counting.

Q. What have been the most challenging aspects of the pandemic? What have been your guideposts?

I joined Mercedes-Benz USA on March 16, 2020, so on a personal level, the pandemic is all that I have known in this role. In getting to know my internal clients and outside counsel, the pandemic has given me every reason to be flexible, patient and creative, and those will remain my guideposts as we enter new waves and seasons of the pandemic.

Q. What is your responsibility for managing crises?

Litigation is a lagging indicator for any kind of crisis. But I'm called in from time to time when a crisis arises. As a litigator, I can give timely advice for actions to take now that can mitigate the need for or exposure in litigation later.

Q. What keeps you up at night?

I'm not a worrier. I tend to spend my time and energy focusing on the matters that are on my desk.

Q. What is your biggest legal challenge?

There are state statutes aiming to be consumer friendly, but in practice they incentivize frivolous litigation. In California and some other states, a plaintiff can be awarded nominal damages while their lawyers receive a windfall.

Q. What makes a successful leader?

A successful leader sees and unlocks the barriers hindering others from reaching their maximum potential. That requires knowing, respecting and empathizing with each team member; not taking their challenges personally; and devoting yourself to others' success.

Q. What is your best advice for outside lawyers?

Help me help you. For example, if an individual wants me to review an answer to a complaint, they should include a copy of the complaint with the copy of the answer. They should make it as easy as possible for me to understand how well they have done.

Q. What are your favorite words of wisdom?

Teamwork makes the dream work.

Q. Who is a mentor or a personal hero?

U.S. District Court Judge Marvin H. Shoob was my mentor and still is a personal hero. I had the opportunity to serve as his judicial clerk for two years after law school, and he embodied everything that is good about the legal profession – service, kindness and integrity.

Q. What keeps you busy outside of work?

I am actively involved in the Atlanta Bar Association and the Judge Clarence Cooper Inn of Court at Emory Law School. I enjoy working with all different kinds of lawyers to put on CLE programming, perform community service and mentor the next generation of lawyers.

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

My Cousin Vinny.

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

I am looking forward to visiting Sedona, Arizona, this summer with my parents, sister, husband and son.

WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF ACC GEORGIA!

Natasha Banks
Lillian Caudle
Carsten J. Fiege
Chris Frey
Drew Lincoln
Erica Matos

Leigh Monteith
Jennifer Reimer
Dustin Stevens
Larry E. Wollert II
Daniel Zapeda

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>.

ACC MEMBER SURVEY

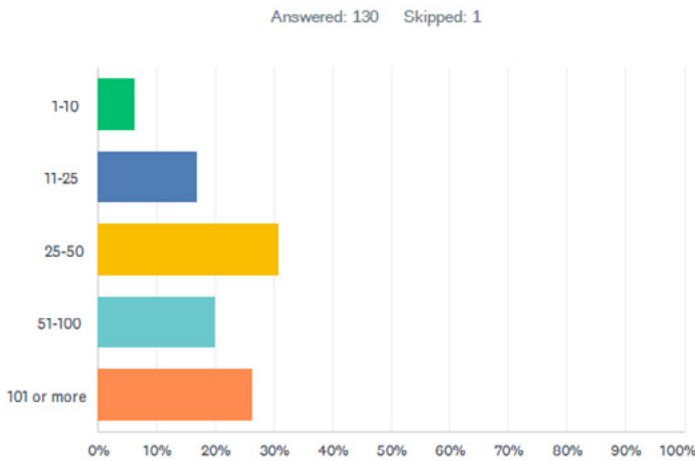
We Heard You! Here's What You Said...

In early February 2022, the ACC Georgia chapter sent out a membership survey, asking for feedback on topics such as when members would consider meeting in person for an ACC GA event, where members prefer to meet for in person events and what time of day they'd be most likely to attend.

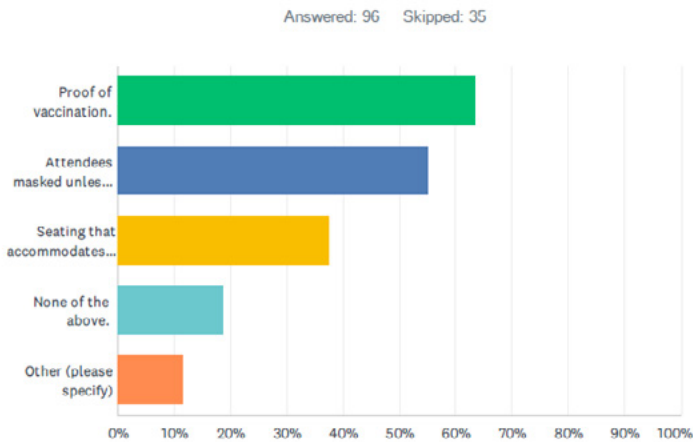
The results showed that preferences have shifted as a result of COVID-19. For example, 64% of members who participated in the survey expressed interest in attending midday events. Before the pandemic, after-work events were the most preferred time of day to attend.

Below are some of the insights collected from the survey.

What is the maximum number of people with whom you would be comfortable meeting in person inside?

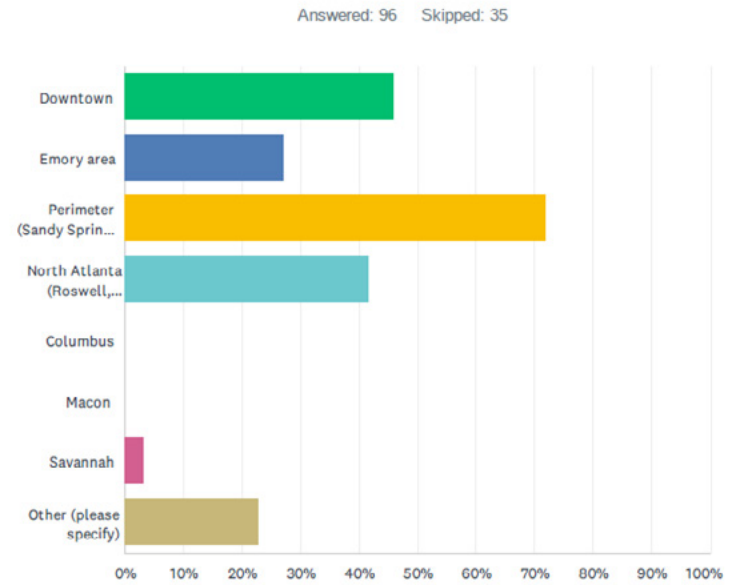


Which of the following would you prefer be required for an in-person event? Check all that apply.

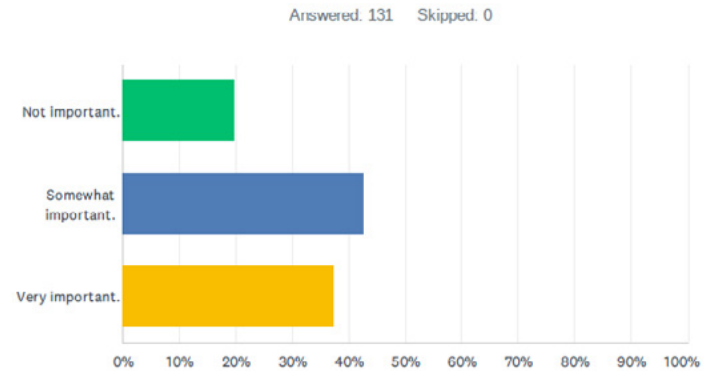


Members also shared feedback in our open-ended question about which specific areas of law or topics they would like to see discussed at an upcoming ACC event. Responses varied but common suggestions included fintech, regulatory topics, compliance, contract negotiations, privacy and cyber security.

Where would you prefer to meet for an in person event in 2022? Check all that apply.



How important is it to you that ACC GA events be hybrid (in-person and accessible virtually) in 2022?



As the chapter continues to navigate the challenges created by the pandemic, your feedback and participation in our surveys is extremely valuable. You can always share your feedback with the chapter by emailing georgia@accglobal.com.



Whiskey Tastings, Tours, and Togetherness

The ACC Georgia Women's Initiative invites you to join our first event of 2022 at the Buckhead location of ASW Distillery. We'll have the opportunity to sample whiskeys, tour the distillery, and enjoy some time in the company of our friends and colleagues. Not a whiskey drinker? We'll have plenty of other beverage options (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and tasty bites. Attendance is capped at 50, so register early and we'll see you at the distillery! We welcome and encourage allies of the Women's Initiative to attend.

Go to <https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/georgia/events> to register.

ASW Distillery
199 Armour Drive, Suite C
Atlanta, GA 30324

Tuesday, March 15, 2022
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

ACC 2022 CLO Survey, in Partnership with Exterro, Highlights Broadening Responsibility of CLOs, Planning to Hire More Staff, and Accelerating Investments in Legal Operations

Washington – The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) 2022 Chief Legal Officers Survey (CLO Survey), in partnership with Exterro, the exclusive ACC Alliance Partner for E-Discovery, Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Compliance, provides new insights into the growing scope of CLO responsibilities as an integral business partner. Respondents noted the need to devote more legal resources to significant transactions (M&A, spin-offs, etc), focus on cybersecurity, compliance, and data privacy (highlighted as the most critical areas for the business), anticipate greater workloads due to increased regulatory enforcement, and further navigate ESG-related issues in 2022. As a result, CLOs highlighted plans to increase capacity in their legal departments, which include hiring more staff across the board and increasing investments in legal operations.

“For the past several years, we’ve observed the CLO’s role steadily continue to expand in the C-suite and have pronounced these times to be the ‘age of the CLO.’ But the disruption of the global pandemic and complexity of other challenges facing today’s businesses have accelerated unprecedented growth in the CLO’s range of responsibilities. CLOs are overseeing more corporate functions and to handle the additional workload, they are anticipating hiring increases across their departments,” said Veta T. Richardson, ACC president & CEO. “The unique skillsets and abilities that CLOs bring to the table make them invaluable business partners both strategically and for day-to-day operational issues – ensuring that this ‘age of the CLO’ will continue well into the foreseeable future.”

“We’re thrilled to partner once again with ACC to promote this valuable resource for legal departments,” said Bobby Balachandran, President and CEO of Exterro. “The 2022 Survey provides insights that reinforce the critical need for CLOs to adopt new strategies for managing the legal governance, risk and compliance obligations facing their broadening scope of responsibilities, including legal operations, privacy, and regulatory and cybersecurity compliance.”

The “age of the CLO” continues, with 80 percent of respondents reporting to the CEO and maintains a long-term trend we’ve seen over several years. The survey also found that CLOs are being tasked to oversee more functional areas of the business in 2022 versus 2020, including ESG (plus 9 percent), public/corporate affairs (plus five percent), compliance (plus four percent), risk (plus four percent), and communications (plus three percent).

With the additional responsibility and work for corporate legal departments, 45 percent of respondents anticipate hiring lawyers and 29 percent expect to hire more paralegals, a 13-point and nine-point increase from 2021, respectively. Even with hiring more staff, 41 percent expect to send more work to law firms in 2022, the highest percentage observed since 2019 and seven points higher than last year.

Legal operations investments also continue to accelerate, with six in ten legal departments having at least one dedicated legal operations professional, three times higher than in 2015. In addition, 70 percent of CLOs reported legal operations as their department’s top strategic initiative.

The survey’s additional key insights include:

- The CLO as a key business partner is only intensifying, as a solid majority of CLOs always attend board meetings, meet with other business leaders to discuss operational issues, and are consulted by other executives on key business decisions.
- 55 percent of CLOs report planning to adopt new technology solutions in 2022, and of those, 70 percent identified contract management as their top technology priority.
- **Cybersecurity, compliance, and data privacy remain the most critical areas for businesses.** The high importance given to these three areas aligns with CLOs’ expectations that industry-specific regulations and data protection privacy rules will most likely pose the biggest legal challenges to the business. Sixty-six percent anticipate that industry regulations will cause the biggest legal challenges this year and 55 percent list data protection rules as a cause for legal concern.
- **ESG continues to gain relevance and impact business strategy.** Four in ten CLOs indicate that ESG issues are forcing companies to improve their compliance efforts to adapt to new environmental regulations and satisfy the growing number of investors and customers that are emphasizing ESG and corporate social responsibility.
- Half of CLOs report **delivering value to customers** as their organization’s top priority. Interestingly, 19 percent of CLOs say their organization’s top focus will be on **investing in employees**, a nine-point increase from the 10 percent seen in 2020.

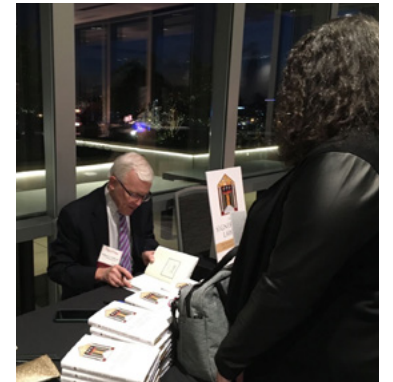
The survey analyzed data from 861 CLOs across 20 industries and 38 countries.

The complete report is available at acc.com/about/newsroom for complimentary download.

ACC: The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) is a global legal association that promotes the common professional and business interests of in-house counsel who work for corporations, associations and other organizations through information, education, networking, and advocacy. With more than 45,000 members in 85 countries employed by over 10,000 organizations, ACC connects its members to the people and resources necessary for both personal and professional growth. By in-house counsel, for in-house counsel. For more information, visit acc.com and follow ACC on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.*

Exterro: Exterro was founded with the simple vision that applying the concepts of process optimization and data science to how companies manage digital information and respond to litigation would drive more successful outcomes at a lower cost. We remain committed to this vision today. We deliver a fully integrated Legal GRC platform that enables our clients to address their privacy, regulatory, compliance, digital forensics, and litigation risks more effectively and at lower costs. We provide software solutions that help some of the world’s largest organizations, law enforcement and government agencies work smarter, more efficiently, and support the Rule of Law. For more information, visit exterro.com.

2021 End-of-Year Gathering Event Photos



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