

NEWSLETTER



Abby Adams
General Counsel
National Association
of Home Builders

Message From the Network Chair

Happy February. While this month often brings cold and challenging weather - in Washington, D.C., we are currently blanketed in snow and ice - it also offers a meaningful reminder of love, generosity, and compassion. My children's schools have even shifted from traditional Valentine's Day celebrations to "Kindness Day" events, and I appreciate the intentional focus on encouraging kindness.

In the legal profession, especially in litigation, kindness can be easy to overlook. It might even feel counterintuitive due to the adversarial nature of our work. Yet civility and empathy strengthen our advocacy, enhance our credibility, and support more productive relationships with clients, colleagues, and opposing counsel.

The value of empathy and civility is perhaps most evident in dispute resolution, where cooperation, respect, and constructive communication often determine the success of a mediation or negotiation. These principles are also central to the work of our new Alternative Dispute Resolution Subcommittee, which launched last month with an insightful program on Neutral Selection. If you weren't able to attend, the recording is available on ACC's website, and more engaging programming from our ADR leaders is already on the way.

In the meantime, don't forget to register for our "State of the Court" program on February 24th, where we'll review significant recent decisions and preview key matters before the Supreme Court.

And remember: kindness is not a departure from strong lawyering—it is an essential part of it.

February 24, 2026 – The State of the Court – Discussion of recent significant U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and key decisions on the horizon – [REGISTER HERE](#)

March 24, 2026 – Litigation Network March Legal Update – [REGISTER HERE](#)

April 28, 2026 – Litigation Network April Legal Update – [REGISTER HERE](#)

Have an idea or request for a legal update topic? Email Max Colby at m.colby@acc.com



WHAT'S NEW IN THE LITIGATION NETWORK

Litigation Committee Members needed!

We are seeking a volunteer to serve as our Community Chair! The Community Chair serves an important role for the Network of monitoring relevant litigation related content and topics. The Community Chair is also asked to monitor content broadcasted by the Network, and promote the Network on social media. You can learn more about our network here: [Litigation Network | Association of Corporate Counsel \(ACC\)](#).

The role descriptions can be provided upon request. You can learn more about our network here: [Litigation Network | Association of Corporate Counsel \(ACC\)](#).

New Updates on the Litigation Community Webpage:

1. An "Unanswered Questions," section has been added to help answer every question asked on the forum. Check it out through the [LINK HERE](#)

Member spotlights needed!

The Litigation Network community has over 7,200 in-house attorneys subscribed! Each month in our newsletter, we prominently feature one of those 7,200 counsel in our monthly spotlight. We are always looking for volunteers to be featured as our Member spotlight. It is a great way to network, and to get your name out there to your community members. If you have any interest in being featured, please reach out to Brian Murren <bmurren@paa.org> or Max Colby <M.Colby@acc.com>.



**Cozen
Spotlight**

Christophr Hennessy
Member
chennessy@cozen.com

Chris focuses his practice on litigation and represents businesses across numerous industries. He also assists his clients with risk management and conflict avoidance and works with them to understand their businesses from the inside out. This allows him to assist those businesses throughout the gamut of their operations, including drafting and negotiating contracts, employment, and non-disclosure agreements; developing written policies concerning biometric information; assessing insurance and risk management needs; and developing litigation strategies. Chris's litigation and trial experience enables him to protect the rights of his clients through verdict, and also informs his counseling strategies.

The wide range of Chris's experience is evident from the variety of industries in which he has represented clients.

He has represented multiple defendants — both employers and timekeeping technology companies — against alleged violations of the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) and the Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA). He has extensive experience defending timekeeping technology clients and employers in BIPA class actions and employers and businesses in GIPA class actions. He has also helped clients with ERISA claims brought by union pension and welfare funds alleging improper or insufficient contributions under multi-employer plans and defended employers from wage grievances brought pursuant to collective bargaining agreements. Chris has significant and varied experience in more traditional litigation involving personal injury and property damage claims, handling those cases from case inception through verdict. He has experience in defending product liability claims that result in both property damage and personal injury, including product failure cases in the plumbing industry and personal injury cases arising out of claims against retailers and manufacturers of dietary supplements.



Member Spotlight

Amy Steacy
General Counsel
BBB National Programs

Amy is the General Counsel of BBB National Programs, the non-profit home of industry self-regulation in the United States. Headquartered in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, BBB National Programs' independent industry self-regulation, accountability, and dispute resolution programs have a long track record of success, beginning with the founding of BBB National Programs' National Advertising Division in 1971. Today, BBB National Programs operates more than twenty industry self-regulation and dispute resolution programs that have been helping enhance consumer trust in business for more than fifty years.

Amy joined BBB National Programs in June 2024. At BBB National Programs, Amy is a member of the organization's Executive Leadership team and is responsible for providing strategic legal advice to the organization. Prior to joining BBB National Programs, Amy was most recently a partner at the law firm of Kaleo Legal, where her practice included providing fractional general counsel services and advising clients across a wide array of practice areas. Before joining Kaleo Legal, Amy established and built out the legal function at Custom Ink, an e-commerce company, where she remained for a decade handling all of the company's legal matters. Earlier in her career and following the completion of a judicial clerkship, Amy was a corporate attorney at the international law firms of Morrison Foerster and Cooley, where she counseled private and public companies across a range of industries, with her practice having an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions.

When not at work, Amy can most likely be found at the barn – Amy is a lifelong equestrian. Following a many-years hiatus due to college, law school and her career, Amy is back in the saddle again focused on the discipline of dressage.

Would you like to be featured in an upcoming Litigation Newsletter? We would love to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to feature your role, your company, or your #morethanalawyer achievements!

Have you ever considered joining our committee? The Litigation Network committee is always open to potential new members for upcoming years. If you have any questions about available roles, time commitments, etc., please reach out to shane@neweraadr.com with your interests and questions!



Litigation Laughs

Encountering any nuanced procedural or case law issues?

Need any general guidance on navigating new legislation or regulations?

[Let's hear from you in the Litigation Discussion Forum!](#)



Leadership Team

2026 ACC Litigation Network Leadership

Chair

Abby Adams
VP, General Counsel
National Association of Home Builders
(212) 266-8345
aadams@nahb.org

Vice Chair

Shane Mulrooney
Co-Founder & General Counsel
New Era ADR
(630) 853-8536
shane@neweraadr.com

Legal Update Chair

Christopher DiLeo
Associate General Counsel
Becton, Dickinson and Company
(858) 663-5478
Christopher.DiLeo@bd.com

Programs Chair

Amy Steacy
General Counsel
BBB National Programs
asteacy@bbbnpp.org

Membership Chair

Brian Murren
Assistant General Counsel
Pennsylvania Automotive Association
(717) 255-8311
bmurren@paa.org

ADR Subcommittee Chair

Duncan MacKay
Deputy General Counsel & CCO
Eversource Energy
duncan.MacKay@eversource.com

Where to find the ACC Litigation Network:

LinkedIn: [Click Here](#)

ACC Litigation Network
Website: [Click Here](#)