

Chapter President's Call Notes – March 10, 2026

Chapter President Attendees:

Emily Vijayakirth - ACC British Columbia

Rhea Ricard - ACC Southern California

Marisol Gonzalez – ACC San Diego

Nathalia Lossovskia – ACC Singapore

Teresa Stephenson – ACC Washington

ACC Advocacy

- Advocacy is a **foundational ACC function**
- Conducted through:
 - Courts → *amicus briefs*
 - Legislatures/regulators → comments, engagement
 - Media/publications → articles, awareness
- Focus:
 - Issues impacting **in-house counsel specifically** (not industries)

Issue Advocacy

- **Attorney-Client Privilege**
 - Protects in-house counsel communications
 - Major global gap → many countries lack protections
- **Multi-Jurisdictional Practice (U.S.)**
 - State licensing creates complexity for mobile lawyers
- **Gatekeeper Liability**
 - Origin: Sarbanes-Oxley Act
 - Goal: protect lawyers from liability if not involved in wrongdoing

Best Practices

- **Seat at the Table Initiative**
 - CLO should:
 - Report to CEO
 - Have direct access to Board

Global Advocacy Developments

France

- New law → privilege extended to in-house counsel (after ~30 years)
- Limits:

- Only civil/commercial/admin cases
 - Not criminal, tax, or EU investigations
- Includes:
 - Qualification + continuing education requirements
- Effective ~1 year post-enactment

South Korea

- First-ever privilege law (for all lawyers)
- Previously:
 - No privilege; gov't could seize legal work
- Now:
 - Applies to Korean-registered lawyers (in-house + external)
- Open issues:
 - Foreign lawyers coverage unclear
- ACC role:
 - Advising on guidelines + education

Member Role in Advocacy

- Appoint **Advocacy Liaison on your chapter leadership**
- Promote advocacy updates locally
- Monitor:
 - Courts, regulations, legal changes
- Participate in:
 - Media opportunities
 - Quarterly advocacy calls
 - Online advocacy community

Key idea: **Advocacy is member-driven and globally collaborative**

Programming Trends (Across Chapters on the call)

High-Performing Events

- Social / networking events
- Interactive formats (sports, tours, wellness)
- Small-group discussions / roundtables
- Unique experiences (e.g., museum tours, volunteering)

Low Engagement

- Traditional **CLE-only events**
 - Especially short (1-hour) sessions
 - Hard to get in-person attendance

Event Formats That Work

- **Hybrid events** (CLE + social/happy hour)
- **Roundtables / curated small groups**
- **Informal meetups** (lunches, sports)
- **Signature events** (summits, conferences, galas)

Format Insights

- Half-day events → good attendance
- Full-day → declining appeal
- Short CLEs → turnout dependent on topic
- Evening events → better if networking included

Standout Chapter Strategies

Singapore

- **GC Breakfast Roundtables**
 - 10–12 curated attendees
 - Invite-only, high demand
- Wellness + sports programming (padel, etc.)
- Strong survey usage + incentives

Washington State

- Large summits (tech, labor & employment)
- Pre-curated topic lists → avoid duplication
- Experimenting with:
 - Half-day formats
 - Diverse event types (family-friendly, experiential)

Southern California

- Expanding conferences (LA + OC)
- Industry-focused events (sports & entertainment)
- Strong sponsor management (concierge model)

San Diego

- Mentorship + speed networking
- Cross-career engagement focus

British Columbia

- Strong demand:
 - AI programming
 - Volunteer events (e.g., soup kitchen)
- Challenge:
 - Low CLE attendance vs strong social turnout

Membership Engagement Insights

Key Challenges

- Getting **in-person attendance**
- Engaging:
 - Younger lawyers
 - Less active members

What Works

- Social + experiential events
- Smaller, curated groups
- Flexible timing (evenings, weekends)

Timing Insights

- Weekday evenings → professionals
- Weekend mornings → different demographic (often no young kids)

Surveys as a Critical Tool

Common Uses

- Event preferences (timing, format)
- Topic selection
- Speaker recruitment
- Member demographics

Best Practices

- Incentivize responses (gift cards, vouchers)
- Use event-based surveys for higher response
- Collect:
 - Speaking interest
 - Geographic data
 - Networking preferences

Key Findings

- Demand for:
 - Structured networking (assigned seating)
 - Practical tools (e.g., CLE tracking)

Sponsorship Management

Core Challenges

- Attendance expectations mismatch
- Measuring ROI
- Sponsor disengagement

Effective Strategies

Sponsor Relationship Management

- Board “concierge” assignments
- Regular check-ins + feedback loops

Expectation Setting

- Be realistic about attendance
- Guide sponsors on:
 - Venue
 - Format
 - Incentives

Engagement Expansion

- Include sponsors in:
 - Social events
 - Volunteer activities
- Offer value beyond formal events

Segmenting Membership

Existing Segments based on chapter leaders on call

- Industry-based:
 - Tech (Seattle)
 - Sports & entertainment (SoCal)
- Role-based:
 - GCs (Singapore roundtables)

Gaps

- Junior lawyers (hard to attract)
- Need for:
 - Career-stage programming
 - More tailored experiences