

Getting to Know Your 2023 ACC St Louis President – Jenny Herner



On January 26, 2023, **Jenny Herner** was elected the 32nd President of the St. Louis Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. She has been working as in-house counsel for 24 years. In her current role at Anheuser-Busch, she provides transactional support, including M&A, sponsorship, license, distribution, and procurement agreements. In prior roles, she has set up global privacy and compliance programs and managed litigation and employment. She received the Missouri Lawyer's Media In-House Counsel Award in 2020, and, in 2012, was named a Most Influential Businesswoman by the St. Louis Business Journal. She is an alum of the University of Missouri Journalism School and Georgetown University Law School, serves on the Advisory Board of The Crossing church, and lives in University City with a Jack Russell "Terrorist" known by her friends as The Wild Thing.

1. If I were not a corporate lawyer, I would be: A journalist. I turned down a job opportunity at The Washington Post to go to law school.
2. My hobbies are: I like to run (have completed a few dozen half marathons and just registered for my 5th full marathon), play the guitar (badly), and draw (mostly faces).
3. When I want to relax I: Meet my friends for coffee or a beer.
4. My music playlist is dominated by: Vampire Weekend!
5. My guilty food pleasure is: Does anyone not answer "chocolate" to this question?
6. My favorite vacation was: I went to Paris to run a marathon a few years ago and set a rule that I would speak only French and do only things I hadn't done there before. So, I spoke very little, went to the Rodin Museum and catacombs, saw Munch's The Scream at The Foundation Louis Vuitton, and kissed Oscar Wilde's grave!
7. My favorite type of book to read is: I love leadership books and have read The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership and The Advantage multiple times.
8. I became involved with the ACC because: My boss told me to! When I took my first in-house position, my boss said I should join because of the great resources, including templates and white papers, and programming, including the Corporate Counsel Institute. He was right!

9. I think the real value our members get from involvement with ACC is: The ability to connect with and learn from each other. I read once about a litter of puppies who dragged their back legs behind them - not because there was anything wrong with them but because they were imitating their injured mother – so they had to be taught how to stand. I think our job as in-house counsel is to help others – our internal clients and peers - stand on their own feet. The ACC provides so many opportunities to do this, through networking and professional development opportunities, legal education, community outreach, and practice-area-networks, among other things.
10. What are your goals as President: In November of 2020, 140-year-old paint company Benjamin Moore decided to outsource its legal function and laid off its entire legal department. It didn't understand the value of in-house counsel. One of my and the Chapter's main goals is to elevate the profile of in-house counsel, within our community and within our companies, to help our employers understand our value. We also want to maximize member engagement, including more programming for those new to in-house. I'm not sure all members realize how extraordinary our chapter is. We have 660 members (more than San Diego, Singapore, and 14 U.S. states), represent over 180 companies, and consistently are singled out at a global level as a Gold Chapter of Distinction for our commitment to promoting member involvement, meeting our members' needs, and demonstrating leadership and best practices. I hope that, by continuing to add value, more members will become engaged and benefit from our award-winning programming.
11. The best way to get more involved with ACC St. Louis is: Sign up and show up! We have a place on our website ([here](#)) where you can sign up to join a committee, and we have so many great events and programs!
12. My advice to lawyers who are new to in-house is: First, learn as much about the business as you can. In-house lawyers are in a unique position to see all parts of the business. This helps you do your job better and lets you help others connect the dots, understand and find synergies. Second, be the bridge not the roadblock. Unless there is a potential violation of law or policy, be judicious with your "no's." If something is high risk, it's your job to identify the risk to the business and help them minimize it or find a less risky alternative if they choose.