



## In This Issue

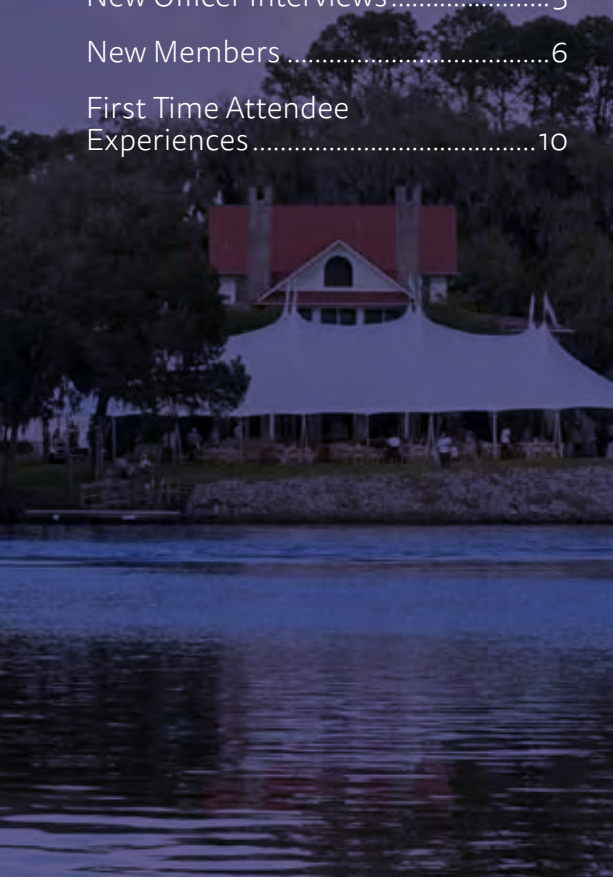
Charleston Delivers, Again!..... Cover

How Does the ADTA Pick its Leaders? ..... 3

New Officer Interviews ..... 5

New Members ..... 6

First Time Attendee Experiences ..... 10



## Charleston Delivers, Again!

By Jamie Hood

In April, the ADTA returned to Charleston, South Carolina for our 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. President Evelyn Davis ensured that from the beginning to the end this Annual Meeting, which was packed with sunshine, time on the water, history, and networking, reflected the warmth and hospitality that has made Charleston Travel & Leisure’s best city in the United States for over a decade. The meeting officially started on Wednesday afternoon when Ron Austin and Ed Wallis, who head up Mentor Committee, welcomed seventeen new members and eleven first time attendees. As a member-led organization hosting a single meeting each year, we understand that member engagement is the key to a vibrant ADTA and history confirms each year, that if we can get our members to the annual meeting, they will become active, engaged, and derive more from their ADTA membership. We held two first-time events on Wednesday. The Women of the ADTA gathered in the afternoon for a Charleston Historic Walking Tour, and the Heritage



Committee met for some social time in one of the Charleston Place restaurants.

That evening Evelyn and Ernie Davis welcomed the ADTA Nation

at the President's Reception. On Thursday and Friday mornings, there were relevant, cutting-edge CLEs fit for a group of trial lawyers. Then President-Elect Jim Craig delivered on his promise to keep us entertained but more importantly for all to leave with practical ways to improve their trial practices. This included a presentation on effective litigation management, using technology to get the most out of accident reconstruction, how to use advocacy to address barriers to diversity, preventing nuclear verdicts, and a fascinating panel on the Alex Murdaugh case.

In the afternoons, our guests selected from a wide variety of activities including



private harbor cruises, kayaking in the estuaries around Charleston, historic walking tours, plantation tours, and inshore fishing. Each day there were several options to get out on the water or dive into Charleston's rich history.



On Thursday evening, we enjoyed the ADTA's first garden party at the William Aiken House. Beneath the magnolia blooms in a Charleston garden and decked out in sundresses and seersucker, our dinner and dance took on a distinctive Charleston flair. The William Aiken House is situated in the heart of downtown on iconic King Street. It is one of Charleston's premier event locations, and in a town known for hosting destination weddings seven days a week, only our own Peggy Schultz could have secured such a

speakers at our upcoming Annual Meetings, so thank you to all those making donations and the bidders for your generous commitment of time, energy and resources!

On Saturday, our business meeting wasn't just business



marvelous location in Charleston's prime season. Friday evening was our traditional dine around which afforded our members and their guests the opportunity to experience why Charleston has earned a reputation as favorite city for "foodies." And of course, the Hospitality Suite was in full swing throughout the week.

And speaking of Hospitality Suites, this year marked the first year that the ADTA Foundation sponsored a silent auction for baskets built by the ADTA committees and groups. The baskets featured tickets to major sporting events, libations of all sorts, fly-fishing trips and much, much more. It was a tremendous amount of work and more successful than we hoped. The funds raised from that endeavor will help the ADTA Foundation sponsor future



speakers at our upcoming Annual Meetings, so thank you to all those making donations and the bidders for your generous commitment of time, energy and resources!

On Saturday, our business meeting wasn't just business



as usual. We enjoyed a very Charleston-themed morning. We heard from the Honorable Richard Gergel about the incredible story of the blinding of Sergeant Isaac Woodward and the courageous journey of the Honorable Waites Waring as he helped lay the groundwork for the legal principles that brought us *Brown v. Board of Education*. Judge Gergel serves as a judge of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, and his thorough research shined a light on the events in South Carolina that have helped pave the way for change during the Civil Rights Era. We were treated to a performance from the Plantation Singers, a popular Gullah and spiritual acapella group. At the end of their moving performance, we toasted them with Bloody Marys and Sweet Tea featuring locally distilled Firefly Vodka and Sweet Tea Vodka as well as Charleston Bloody Mary mix.



After the meeting concluded, we loaded up and headed to the Bluff, a private farm in the middle of the ACE Basin in the heart of the Lowcountry. Once there, we enjoyed boat rides, laser skeet shooting, a traditional oyster roast, and lawn games. With a full afternoon and evening together, our members had the time to connect and reconnect in a relaxed, outdoor setting. As the sun started its descent, Whiskey Run really got the party going, filling up the dance floor. We enjoyed a beautifully catered dinner beneath the tent along the river, dining on quail and grits, paella, beef wellington, and local favorites like succotash and tomato

pies. At sunset, the Chinese lanterns illuminated the sky and capped off a wonderful ADTA day.

Charleston, like the ADTA annual meetings before, featured unique experiences and opportunities that travelers would not experience on their own. We maintained our focus on spending quality time with each other, ample networking opportunities, and blending history, culture, fun and outdoor activities to make sure there was something for everyone. If you missed Charleston, please be sure to mark your calendars now for Santa Fe which will be another quintessential ADTA experience.

## How Does the ADTA Pick its Leaders?

By Thomas J. Hurney, Jr

Some suggest the selection of leaders by the ADTA is shrouded in secrecy. The Past Presidents assemble, meet and confer in private and out comes a slate of nominees. All that is absent is a puff of white smoke from the chimney of the secret meeting room. While there is some truth here, the process is not as secret as legend may have it. There is a formal process and there is an informal path to leadership. The election process is detailed in the ADTA Constitution and By-Laws, and the nomination process is a matter of long tradition.



First, the formal process.

The ADTA's governing body, according to Article IV (1) of the ADTA Constitution is the Executive Council:

The management of this Association between annual business meetings shall be vested in the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of the officers of the Association, the immediate Past President, and nine other members, with such members being elected, as nearly as practicable, from different geographical areas. Such members shall be nominated and elected at the annual business meeting. Election of the nine members to the Executive Council, unless to complete an unexpired term, shall be for a term of three years. Elections of members to the Executive Council shall be staggered so that each year three new members shall be elected to three year terms. The President of the Association shall be Chairman of the Executive Council.

The officers of the ADTA as provided in Article V of the Constitution "shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected by the membership at the annual business meeting."

The By-Laws provide the process for the election of the officers and members of the Executive Council. Bylaw 1 provides "[t]he election of officers of the Association for the ensuing year and vacancies to the Executive Council shall be by the members by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Association, but said officers shall not take office until the close of said meeting."

The Constitution and By-Laws, then, provide that each year, the ADTA shall elect its officers – a President, President Elect, Vice President, and Treasurer – and fill vacancies to the Executive Council – those members who have served their three-year terms.

The nomination process is a function of longstanding ADTA tradition, not found in the Constitution or By-Laws. Under By-Law II, the ADTA President "shall have the power and responsibility to designate committees and define their duties, as well as appoint the members to all committees." By tradition, the Immediate Past President is appointed

as the Chair of the Nominating Committee which consists of the Past Presidents in attendance at the Annual Meeting and the President of the ADTA (whose term will end – some say joyfully – at the Business Meeting) who is invited as a non-voting member. The job of the nominating committee – commonly known as the Past Presidents – is to meet and propose a slate of officers and three new members of the Executive Council at the Annual Business meeting held pursuant to Article VII of the ADTA Constitution.

Here, the ADTA nominating process differs from its "sister" organizations, DRI, IADC and FDCC which have some form of candidacy for election – a member who seeks a position as a board member of officer must declare candidacy. Each organization has a nominating committee which reviews the candidates, interviews members, and proposes a slate of officers and board members. The ADTA does not have a process for "running for office" – there is no requirement of declaration of candidacy, and no venue for "running." In fact, the ADTA tradition, unlike other groups, is that members do not campaign for positions. Instead, a member earns nomination by demonstrating commitment to the ADTA.

The Nominating Committee meets during the Annual Meeting. An important tradition is the express agreement that the discussions between the Past Presidents will be kept confidential to ensure a frank discussion about the potential leaders of the ADTA.

Preparation for the meeting of the nominating committee falls on the Immediate Past President, who, with the help of the current Officers, prepares information on potential candidates for Officer and Executive Council positions. Information about candidates is prepared for review by the Nominating Committee, including a biographical sketch and summary of ADTA involvement – length of membership, annual meetings attended, committee, and other work for the organization. Candidates for officer positions typically include the "graduating class" of EC members and others who have chaired significant committees, like membership. Care is taken to ensure the consideration of candidates reflects the ADTA's Diversity Mission statement: "To promote and advocate diversity, to create an atmosphere of total inclusion in the membership, leadership, speaking opportunities, and for all

activities and functions of the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys.

The Nominating Committee meets and discusses candidates for officer and Executive Counsel positions. Any Past President will tell you that the discussions are cordial, civil and frank. While there is no formula or recipe, the Past Presidents are uniformly concerned with appointing candidates who have done the work of the ADTA and demonstrate leadership qualities and commitment to the ADTA's tradition of excellence. Regular attendance at annual meetings is considered as a measure of commitment to the ADTA.

Selection must include three "new" Executive Council members and one "new" officer - the Vice President - who is chosen with the expectation that he or she will continue to serve the "rotation" through President-Elect and President. But each year, the Nominating Committee must propose candidates for each officer position, as each serves for the term between annual meetings. Executive Council members, once elected, serve three-year terms.

While the Nominating Committee votes on each candidate, most votes are unanimous and by consensus after collegial discussion. Once all positions are filled, the Immediate Past President, acting as the Chair of the Nominating Committee, presents the candidates to the members of the ADTA in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution. There is always opportunity provided for nominations from the floor. The members then vote and select the next leaders.

Now, the informal path to leadership.

The path to leadership in the ADTA starts with involvement in ADTA operations and services. The quickest way to engage in these activities is to join one or more committees. If you are interested, we encourage you to ask about serving on committees. Please do not wait for someone to tap your shoulder and select you. More often, the task is up to you to identify where you would like to serve and then express that preference. This grass-roots approach ensures that the ADTA grows leaders from the bottom to the top, rather than anointing leaders from the top down. In addition to committee work, other areas of service include writing for our publications and

website, volunteering for a webinar, and the like. As stated, a key element of this path to leadership is routine attendance at annual meetings. The ADTA has one meeting a year, so it is your best opportunity to network with other ADTA members so you can meet others and have others meet you.

We're glad to have you in the ADTA. Your membership proves that the tradition of excellence continues. We encourage you to get involved, speak up about how we should do things, and let's plan on seeing you next year in Santa Fe.

---

## New Officer Interviews

New Officers of the ADTA were asked to answer a few questions for membership to get to know them better. Below are responses from Ron Austin, Treasurer and Amanda Cialkowski, Class of 2026.

### Interview with Ron Austin, ADTA Treasurer

#### 1. ADTA leadership path to current position?

I joined the ADTA in 2014 and attended my first meeting in 2016 in Monterey, CA. I was asked to speak at the 2017 meeting in Nashville, TN. I presented the topic of litigating non-compete



agreements. At the 2017 meeting, the chair of the Mentor Committee, Clayton Hall, asked me to serve as vice-chair of the committee. I agreed. In 2020, I was asked to serve on the Executive Council. In 2021, I became the chair of the Mentor Committee. In 2023, I completed my three-year term on the EC. At the 2023 meeting in Charleston, I was elected to serve as treasurer of the ADTA.

#### 2. Favorite memorable moment from ADTA annual meeting?

My favorite ADTA memory is my first meeting in Monterey, CA. It was in a beautiful location, we played golf at Pebble Beach Golf Course, and we visited and shopped in nearby Carmel,

CA. We had a fabulous time.

**3. What would you like to share about your family?**

I am married to Dr. Tonja Austin (a/k/a my “Louisiana bride”). This year, we will celebrate our 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We have two daughters. Our oldest, Dominique, graduated in 2023 from the University of Maryland with two degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminology in New York. Our youngest, Gabrielle, graduated in 2023 from high school and is pursuing a degree in architecture at my *alma mater*, Florida A&M University. I am very proud of the ladies in my life.

**4. What is the nature of your practice?**

My practice areas are employment law, business litigation, and product liability litigation.

**5. What do you like to do when not working?**

Traveling, bike riding, swimming, and spending time with my family.

**Interview with Amanda Cialkowski, Class of 2026:**

**1. ADTA leadership path to current position**

I joined committees as soon as I joined ADTA. I’d served on a number of them, including chairing Member Engagement before being asked to join the Executive Committee. I love that the ADTA is always looking for enthusiastic people to engage with and improve the organization.



**2. Favorite memorable moment from ADTA annual meeting,**

There have been a lot of memorable moments, most of which center around spending quality time with our members. I’ll never forget dinner at my first meeting, when it seemed like the room was shaking. I initially thought I’d been overserved, but once we all started checking our phones, we determined that there had in fact been an earthquake.

**3. What would you like to share about your family,**

I have a great spouse, two amazing daughters,

a dog and 3 cats. I’m also very close with my siblings who all live in the Twin Cities. We love to play games and spend time outdoors.

**4. What is the nature of your practice, and**  
I typically do injury work, including catastrophic injury and toxic exposures. I love working with expert witnesses and helping them teach a jury what it needs to know to decide a case. I also do preventive advice to help my clients minimize those injuries.

**5. What do you like to do when not working?**

I really enjoy arts and crafts of all kinds. I also love spending time outdoors, including in Northern Minnesota.

## New Members

**William Bulfer  
Teague Campbell**

Bill is a partner in Teague Campbell’s Asheville, North Carolina office, where he co-chairs the firm’s Insurance Coverage Services Group. His practice focuses on complex insurance coverage and municipal law. Bill provides coverage opinions, prosecutes and defends declaratory judgment actions, including claims for extra-contractual relief, and assists in the drafting of manuscript insurance policies. He is a fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel and an active member of both DRI and IADC. When not engaged in the practice of law, you can usually find Bill traveling throughout the southeast in unseasonably warm clothing as part of his more exciting role of “hockey dad.”



**Joseph D. Cohen  
Porter Hedges, LLP**

Joe leads Porter Hedges’ Litigation Practice Group and is ranked nationally by *Chambers USA* among the leading lawyers for Product Liability & Mass Torts. His practice focuses on handling the defense of catastrophic injury and wrongful



death cases arising from allegations of products liability (including pharmaceuticals and medical devices), chemical and substance exposure, general negligence, and commercial litigation. Joe has successfully tried cases to verdict and engaged in extensive motion practice, including complex summary judgment issues and intricate challenges to experts in a variety of disciplines. He also provides individual representation to employees (current and former) of pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers and biotech companies in both civil and criminal contexts, including U.S. Department of Justice and State Attorneys General investigations. In addition to his products liability practice, Joe handles disputes related to fraud, theft of trade secrets, non-competition matters, deceptive trade practices, breach of contract, commercial and residential lease disputes, and copyright and trademark infringement, including the Anti-Cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act (ACPA). He is currently a member of the IADC Board of Directors and a former National Director on the DRI Board of Directors.

**Warner Fox  
Hawkins Parnell & Young, LLP**

A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Warner has almost 40 years' experience as a defense trial lawyer. His law practice involves transportation law, traumatic brain injury cases, and product liability litigation. Warner is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, past president of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, a member of DRI, the American Law Firm Association, the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance. He has been recognized as a "Best Lawyer in America" for personal injury and products litigation for and as a Georgia Super Lawyer every year for over ten years. Outside of work, Warner is the co-founder of the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition.



**Mark Hsu  
Hawkins Parnell & Young, LLP**

A New York City litigator for more than twenty years, Mark has practiced extensively in state and federal court and is actively involved in all phases from inception of the case through trial and appeal. Mark represents domestic and international clients in product liability, toxic tort cases, commercial disputes, employment matters and insurance coverage litigation. He also operates as outside general counsel for startup companies. He is particularly experienced in managing and litigating asbestos cases. As national coordinating counsel for several manufacturing and premises defendants, he has helped develop and coordinate the defense of tens of thousands of cases around the country.



Mark was a founding co-chair of the diversity committee at Hawkins Parnell & Young. Proficient in Italian, Japanese and French, he is the North America Regional Officer and Communications Officer for the Young Lawyers' Committee of the International Bar Association. He has spoken frequently on resilience and emotional intelligence issues specifically relevant to the legal profession. Before private practice, Mark clerked two years for the Honorable Judge Lawrence R. Leavitt of the U.S. District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada. He attended law school at Washington University School of Law where he served as Associate Editor of Washington University Law Review.

**Mary H. Kim  
Dechert LLP**

Mary H. Kim is an associate in Dechert's product liability and mass torts practice group. She focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation matters, with particular emphasis on representing major pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers in federal multidistrict litigation and coordinated state court proceedings involving claims of personal



injury and consumer fraud.

Over her career, Ms. Kim has handled all aspects of litigation strategy from discovery and case workup, to motions practice, to trial. She has considerable experience developing expert witnesses and preparing company witnesses for deposition and trial, and has successfully briefed and argued motions in both state and federal court.

Ms. Kim maintains an active pro bono practice, including successful representation at trial of plaintiffs challenging state voter registration laws in the District of Kansas and in the Tenth Circuit.

### **John Kubis Teague Campbell**

John recognizes that each case deserves a tailored approach to fit a client's needs. Whether that means early resolution, or a more aggressive strategy, John has the experience to deliver results. Drawing upon an appellate background, John brings an insider's understanding to the appellate process and approaches legal matters with an eye toward navigating the long-term strategy.



John practices primarily in the areas of liability defense and litigation, focusing on complex litigation. He provides counsel to and litigates on behalf of a broad range of clients, including insurance companies, businesses, corporations, government entities, and individuals. John has successfully litigated matters on behalf of his clients throughout North Carolina's state and appellate courts.

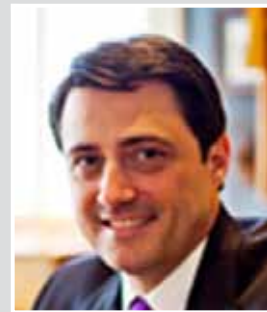
Before joining Teague Campbell, John served as law clerk to the Deputy Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court. John received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from North Carolina State University and his Juris Doctor from Appalachian School of Law in Virginia. While in law school he was a member of the Natural Resources Law Journal and Phi Alpha Delta.

#### **For more information on ADTA please contact:**

Peggy Schultz, Executive Director  
12507 Palomino Court • Tampa, FL 33626  
304-552-7794  
pschultz@adtalaw.com

### **Matthew Lawrence Young, Thagard, Hoffman, LLP**

Matthew received his J.D. degree from Georgia State University. His practice areas include civil litigation, including defense litigation. He is a member of the Georgia Bar Association and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Bar Association. Matthew is also a member of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, and enjoys an AV Preeminent Peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Additionally, he has given talks at defense seminars, Chamber of Commerce educational programs, and spoken to forestry groups around the state on the topic of Civil Liability for Prescribed Fire. Matthew's family members have been Georgia residents for the last two hundred years. He and his wife have two children. Outside of his practice, he is an avid woodworker and serves as the chairman of the South Georgia Regional Library Board of Trustees.



### **Gillian G. Lindsay Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP**

Gillian G. Lindsay is a Partner in Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP's ("Taft") Chicago office. She represents clients ranging from closely held businesses to Fortune 100 companies across various industries and throughout every phase of commercial litigation. In her practice, she handles complex disputes involving breach of contract, consumer and business torts, trade secrets, labor and employment disputes, commercial and equipment loan enforcement, judgment enforcement and collection, and trademark infringement.



Gillian's litigation practice includes a focus on biometric privacy issues, specifically relating to the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA). She navigates emerging compliance issues and counsels clients on insurance coverage and claims options. With the increased risk of BIPA class-action litigation, Gillian brings her experience across a wide



range of legal issues to effectively defend clients at trial, throughout pre-trial litigation, and during pre-litigation dispute resolution.

Prior to joining Taft, Gillian was a Partner at Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, a senior associate at GCT LLP, an associate at Baker & Hostetler LLP, and a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Lesley Wells in the Northern District of Ohio. She holds a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law where she graduated Order of the Coif, Order of the Barristers, and *cum laude*, and a B.A., *cum laude*, from Miami University in Political Science, where she served as Captain of the varsity field hockey team and studied abroad in Urbino, Italy.

Gillian lives in Chicago with her husband and two, soon-to-be three, boys.

**Jeffrey C. McDaniel**  
**Brooks Law Firm, P.C.**

For more than 30 years Jeff has engaged in the general trial legal practice, including insurance defense, commercial litigation, and representation of local governmental entities. He is licensed in Illinois and Iowa. Jeff practices law in eastern Iowa (Davenport) and western Illinois (Rock Island), part of communities commonly known as the Quad Cities. He is a member of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, Iowa Defense Counsel and DRI. He is an active volunteer in his community, holding leadership positions in those local organizations. Jeff and his wife are the parents of three adult children. His non-work passion revolves around family, home, garden, travel, and University of Iowa athletics.



**Alastar McGrath**  
**Kozacky Weitzel McGrath, P.C.**

Alastar is a managing partner of KWM. A graduate of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, his practice focuses on emerging insurance and reinsurance issues and business-related defense, including professional liability



and employment claims. A member of the Illinois Bar, Alastar is also a member of the Defense Research Institute, the Claims Litigation Management Alliance, the Professional Liability Underwriting Society, and a frequent pro bono contributor.

**Melinda Morgan**  
**Michael Best & Friedrich LLP**

Melinda represents companies in commercial matters with a focus on defending asbestos and silica product liability claims. She draws on her experience across business sectors and issues that include insurance coverage, risk management, railroad, leasing, and entertainment. Melinda also has experience assisting individuals as they pursue and defend personal injury and civil sex offense cases. In the pro bono area, Melinda advocates for inmates who appear before the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole. She received her B.A. and J.D. from Brigham Young University.



**Margarita Rosado-Toledo**  
**Colón & Colón, P.S.C.**

Margarita was admitted to the practice of law ten years ago, and since then has focused on litigation in medical malpractice, premises liability, personal injury, and employment practices liability. She also handles insurance coverage matters involving CGL, E&O and D&O insurance products. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus and received her law degree, *cum laude*, at Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. She is involved with the Puerto Rico Bar Association, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and Defense Research Institute. She is fluent in English and Spanish.



**Gina S. Vogel**  
**Lewis Thomason**

Gina S. Vogel is Special Counsel in Lewis Thomason's Knoxville office, where she focuses her practice on civil litigation, governmental entity defense, employment law, and medical malpractice defense. Gina received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, *summa cum laude*, and attended law school at the University of Tennessee College of Law. She is admitted to practice in all Federal and State courts in Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mrs. Vogel has achieved successful results for her clients through defense jury verdicts, summary judgments, mediations, and on appeal.



## First Time Attendees Experiences

**By William Bulfer**

At the time I arrived in Charleston for the 2023 ADTA annual meeting, I had been a new member for a whopping two weeks. Just three weeks earlier, I was driving home and received a call from Johnston Cox, asking me if I would be interested in another great organization. As an active member of DRI, IADC, and the American College of Coverage Counsel, I was hesitant to get involved. Johnston was upbeat, encouraging and reassuring. With a deep breath and two weeks to rearrange schedules, I agreed to join and planned my trip to Charleston.



From the moment planning started, my hesitancy at being more involved with ADTA began to wane. Peggy Schultz worked diligently to ensure I'd be staying with the rest of the members at the fantastic Charleston Place Hotel. The first timers welcome was easy and inviting. The larger, opening reception was as well. To a person, every member of ADTA I met in Charleston was accomplished, impressive, and the best of their profession. At the same time,

everyone I encountered, from fellow first timers to our acting and incoming presidents, was welcoming and encouraging.

Over the course of the conference, I was grateful to connect with new colleagues and make new friends. From discussions on the future of the practice of law and the use of artificial intelligence, to learning what happened to the Canadian penny, each interaction served to further solidify my interest in growing with this great organization. In the coming year I will be serving on the insurance law committee. I look forward to staying involved and seeing everyone in Santa Fe.

**By Eric R. Holway**

As a new member and first-time ADTA Annual Meeting attendee, I immediately felt welcomed into this incredible community of exceptional attorneys. Virtually everyone I encountered went out of their way to say hello, personally welcome me, and introduce me to others.



The induction ceremony was special. What a cool tradition.

The CLE presentations were all good. The litigation management presentation was excellent, with fantastic presenters and content that was highly relevant to what I do.

The dinner and dance at the William Aiken House were a lot of fun, as was The Bluff - awesome band, food, and setting.

I particularly enjoyed the small group sessions/activities, as that was where I really got to know people.

Being in Charleston, I had to take advantage of the water. Schooner Pride was perfect - relaxing, beautiful, and a great way to meet a smaller group of people. The charter boat was also a lot of fun, made more enjoyable by a small group of members and their spouses hanging out, laughing a lot, and getting to know each other.

Overall, I had a great time. The ADTA community of members is incredible. It's unlike anything I've been a part of, and I'm very much looking forward to the next meeting in Santa Fe!

---

**By C. Daniel Atkinson**

As with any new, unfamiliar event, I approached my first ADTA Annual Meeting with a bit of uncertainty. I certainly did not know what to expect, but I knew that the members from the South Carolina defense bar were people I respected and with whom I enjoyed fellowship; so I was excited to go to Charleston for my first meeting. Even with my anticipation, the event exceeded my expectations.



I have been actively involved in my local defense organization for years, and the SCDTAA is noted for great meetings. Even so, ADTA really knocked it out of the park with this year's meeting. I was excited to begin with a new member reception, where I was able to share fellowship with all of the other first-time attendees, but I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the organization's leaders at the very beginning of our meeting. I also enjoyed the excellent continuing education offered, but, even more, I learned a great deal from the opportunity to talk with ADTA members during unstructured free time. I believe we all grow stronger from the opportunity to share successes and failures with our peers. Of course, I wisely accepted Matt Bailey's advice to spend time in the hospitality room, which gave me an opportunity to make friends throughout our organization.

For me, particular highlights were our discussion of how to foster diversity and openness in our firms, my friend Stuart Mauney's wise counsel regarding mental health in the profession, as well as John T. Lay's insight into the Murdaugh case. And who can ever forget the once in a lifetime chance to share oysters, fellowship, and dancing at The Bluff?

I look forward to our next meeting in Santa Fe, as well as another opportunity to gather with new friends and colleagues around the continent. Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to my mentor and friend, David Holler, as well as to Jamie and Katy Hood for serving as such great meeting hosts. Of course, we all are grateful to Immediate Past President Evelyn Fletcher Davis and to Peggy Schultz for providing us such an outstanding event. I cannot wait until April, 2024.

**We are thankful to those listed for their time and effort to bring this Association Press to publication:**

- **Rose Marie Joly**,  
*Sulloway & Hollis, PLLC*,  
Publications Chair



- **Deedee Gasch**,  
*Cranfill Sumner LLP*,  
Publications  
Vice-Chair



- **David Lauritzen**,  
*Cotton, Bledsoe,  
Tighe & Dawson, P.C.*,  
Publications  
Outgoing Chair



- **Peggy L. Schultz**,  
ADTA Executive  
Director



# Charleston Delivers, Again!







*Join Us for*  
**Annual "Dutch-Treat" Dinner**  
*During DRJ Annual Meeting*  
*in San Antonio, TX*

**October 25, 2023 • 7:30 pm**  
**Alamo Room**  
**203 S. Mary Street**

RSVP to [pschultz@adtalaw.com](mailto:pschultz@adtalaw.com)  
ADTA Will Pay The Tab For The Evening, Equally Divide and Invoice Each Member

**Biga**





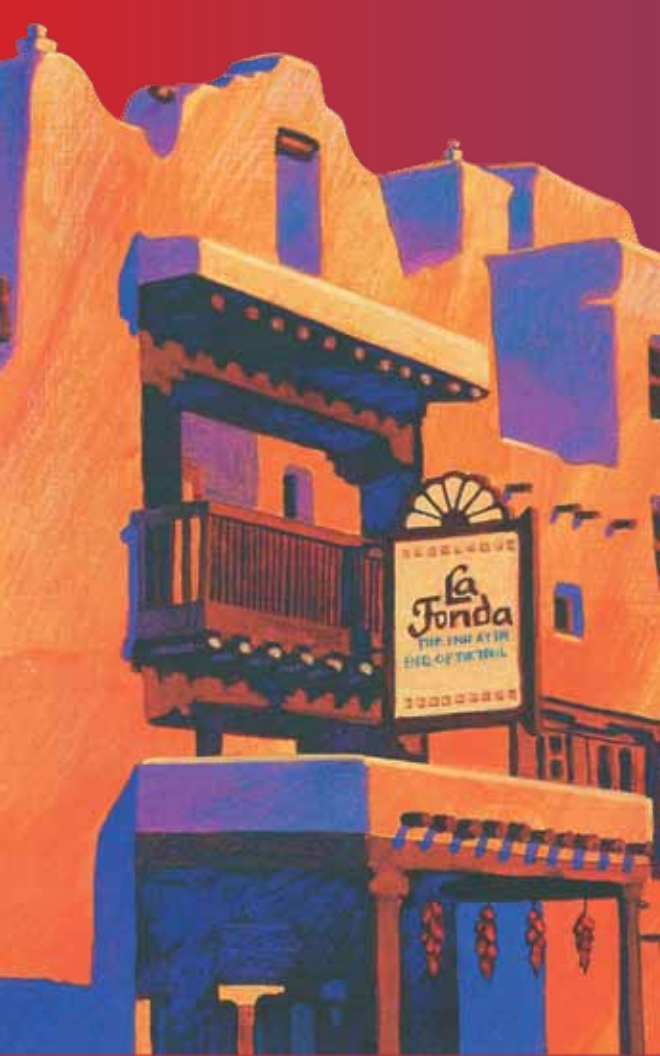
# ADTA 83<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

## SAVE THE DATE

# La Fonda

*on The Playa*

SANTA FE, NM  
APRIL 24 – 28, 2024



**M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S  
H  
I  
P  
  
N  
O  
M  
I  
N  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N**

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(proposed member's name)

for (Prime)(Associate) membership in the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (ADTA). Please send an application to

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of applicant)

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_

Office telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip code)  
Office Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Year admitted to practice in my state \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member

Name of applicant's spouse (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: **Jeanne Loftis, Bullivant Houser Bailey, P.C., Suite 800, One SW Columbia Street, Portland, Oregon 97204**

Telephone: (503) 228-6351

Email: [jeanne.loftis@bullivant.com](mailto:jeanne.loftis@bullivant.com)

#### Membership Requirements:

A trial lawyer doing principally civil defense work in insurance and self-insurance activities, with more than five (5) years defense trial experience is eligible.

**Prime Members:** The first lawyer member from a firm is the prime member. There can only be one Prime Member from any town, city or metropolitan area of less than a million population. One additional Prime Member is allowed for each additional one million population, or portion thereof, for a city or metropolitan area.

**Association Member:** Partners or associates of a Prime Member are eligible and encouraged for membership as Associate Members, at the will of the Prime Member.