



D.C. Defense Lawyers' Association's Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE...



Event Calendar

NOV 13

Monthly Dinner

6:00 PM

Sponsored by Boerger Investigative Services
Founding Farmers & Distillers - Chinatown
600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

NOV 19

Shuker Scholarship Event

5:30-8:30 PM

Shuker Scholarship Wine Tasting
American University Washington College of Law
Must RSVP Separately

DEC 11

Holiday Luncheon

12:00 PM

Bobby Van's Grill
1201 New York Avenue, NW

JAN 22

Annual Ethics CLE

5:30 PM

"No Kings, No Excuses: Ethics Rules for Everyone"
Presented By Eccleston & Wolf, PC
Carmines: 425 7th Street NW

Adam Smith is requesting additional volunteers to help review cases for the biannual Case Update Digest. Adam puts in a lot of time and effort each year on this project and any assistance will be greatly appreciated. To help, please contact Adam directly. Also, anyone with Orders, Decisions or Rulings from Courts in MD, DC or VA, please email Adam with information so he can include in the Case Update Digest. Any assistance we can offer in locating matters to be included will be greatly appreciated. Adam's email is: awsmith@jackscamp.com

The President's Brief

-Ify Ezeigbo-

Welcome to the 2025-2026 programming year! As I reflect on the invaluable educational and social experiences we shared during the past year, I am genuinely excited for what lies ahead. First and foremost, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Paul E. Knupp, for his outstanding service and leadership as our President this past year. Our Annual Conference in The Bahamas was a tremendous success, and that achievement is a testament to Paul's dedication and efforts. We are truly grateful for his service and commitment.

Looking forward, I am eager to collaborate with my fellow Executive Board Members—Gordon Woodward (Vice-President), Channing Shor (Secretary), and Matt Ainsley (Treasurer) as well as our new Board of Directors (Paul E. Knupp, Matthew Berkowitz, Jack Lapidus, and Ben Peoples). Together, we aim to build upon last year's successes, strengthen relationships with our valued sponsorship partners, cultivate new partnerships, and provide enriching, high-quality programming for all members.



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Ifeanyi O. Ezeigbo
Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann



Vice President
Gordon S. Woodward
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani



Treasurer
Matthew E. Ainsley
Thomas, Thomas & Hafer



Secretary
Channing L. Shor
Eccleston & Wolf

We have an exciting calendar ahead, including our monthly dinner on November 13, the Holiday Luncheon with the judges of D.C. Superior Court on December 11, multiple opportunities to earn CLE credits, the Annual Banquet in June, and, of course, the Annual Conference next fall. I hope that next year's conference will be as memorable as the one we recently enjoyed in The Bahamas. As your President, my primary goals are to increase member engagement and expand participation, especially among young lawyers. I warmly welcome your feedback throughout the year as we continue to uphold our proud traditions of camaraderie, civility, and professional development.

Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and to a successful year ahead.

Yours truly,

Ify Ezeigbo

President, DC Defense Lawyers Association

RECAPPING THE ANNUAL BANQUET

The DCDLA held its Annual Banquet at the Chevy Chase Club in Bethesda, Maryland. This year's event was very well attended: More than 50 members, guests and sponsors alike came to celebrate with us. We announced our annual awards for Lawyer of the Year and Firm of the Year. Congratulations to this year's recipients, who are noted below. A special thank you to our generous sponsors who helped to make this event possible: Thornton Tomasetti, TD&P Consulting, SEA Ltd., Exponent, and Planet Depos! Thank you all for making this a great event.

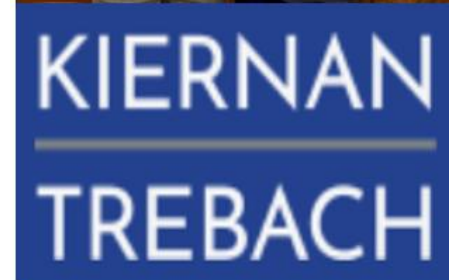
1. Congratulations to DCDLA's Lawyer of the Year – Bob Lynch

We are pleased to announce this year's recipient of the Lawyer of the Year Award– Bob Lynch! Bob—pictured behind the microphone below and at left—is a partner at Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, LLP, who has spent nearly his entire career as a civil defense lawyer. Bob's commitment to the defense bar and his many years of membership in DCDLA are a small part of what this award seeks to recognize. More broadly, we want to thank you for setting an example of civility and professionalism that we can all aspire to in the defense bar. Thank you, Bob, and congratulations.



2. Congratulations to DCDLA's Law Firm of The Year – Kiernan Trebach, LLP

A big congratulations to this year's Law Firm of the Year, Kiernan Trebach, LLP! Long-time DCDLA Member Alan Block (to the right) accepted the award on behalf of the firm. Kiernan Trebach has served as a staple of DC's bar since its founding in 1989. Kiernan Trebach exemplifies the qualities that make the defense bar in the District so great. And its attorneys have long supported DCDLA as members. Thanks for the support and congratulations to the team at Kiernan Trebach.



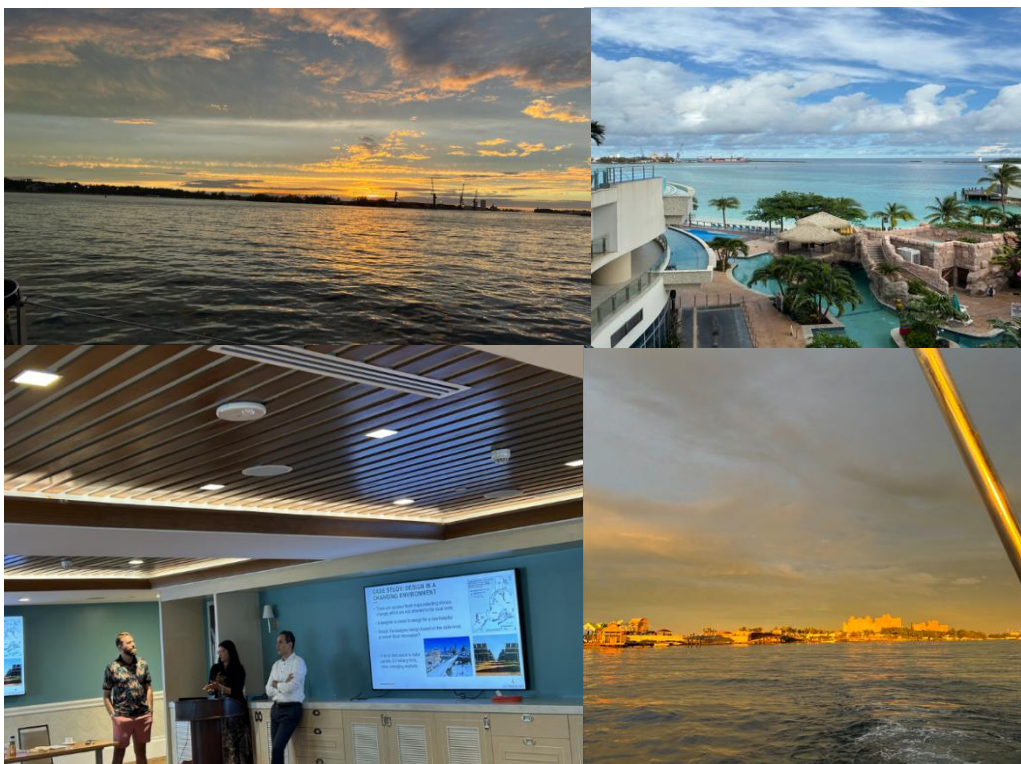
RECAPPING DCDLA’S ANNUAL CONVENTION IN NASSAU BAHAMAS

DCDLA held its Annual Convention from October 9-12, 2025 at the Margaritaville Beach Resort in Nassau, Bahamas. The conference was made possible by our generous yearly sponsors. And a special thank you is owed to our conference-sponsors: Exponent, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual, Thornton Thomasetti and Resolution Economics. As always, this great weekend would not have been possible without our sponsors’ support, and we are thankful for the generous support.

Beyond the great social opportunities, the weekend was filled with some excellent continuing legal education opportunities. The first day included a presentation on the admissibility of expert testimony in DC, Maryland and Virginia from Matt Ainsley, and Chris Monk, of Exponent, Inc. This was followed-up by a presentation on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Profession from Craig Brodsky. Tracie Jones, of Rimkus, and Paul Knupp, finished off the first day with a presentation on Evidentiary Issues in Motorcycle Accident Cases. The second day of presentations featured the DC case law update from DCDLA’s Adam Smith, a Review of the Standard of Care from Ali Ahsrafi & Rupa Patel of Thornton Thomasetti, and Paul Knupp, and a presentation on the Collateral Source Rule by Tom Dawson of Resolution Economics and Ify Ezeigbo.

We capped off the weekend with sunset dinner cruise out of Paradise Island. This brought great food and even better views of the Bahamian sunset. Kudos to our intrepid leader Paul Knupp who wouldn’t let a little early-afternoon rain sink this cruise.

Thank you again, sponsor, and hats off to Paul Knupp for organizing this tremendous trip.



NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Madeline Dwivedi

Madeline has been nominated for membership in the DCDLA. Madeline Dwivedi is a trial attorney and an associate at Waranch & Brown, LLC. Madeline began her career in the health care industry as a registered nurse, working in the emergency department and, more recently, pediatric intensive care unit, where she received the “Nurse of the Year” award in 2020.

Madeline received her law degree in 2023 from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, graduating *cum laude*, with a specialty in health care law. She interned at Kennedy Krieger Institute’s Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), providing legal services to patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Additionally, Madeline served as an Associate Editor on the Journal of Health Care Law & Policy and worked for another local medical malpractice firm throughout her time in law school. Prior to law school, Madeline obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.



Madeline is licensed in Maryland, the District of Columbia, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, and the Fourth Circuit. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association.

Maya Habash

Maya was nominated for membership in the DCDLA. Maya T. Habash is a trial attorney and associate at Waranch & Brown, LLC. Prior to joining Waranch & Brown, Maya served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Anthony F. Vittoria on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, where she worked on civil, criminal, and family law matters.

Maya received her law degree in 2022 from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, graduating *cum laude*. During law school, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class. She also worked as a Summer Associate for another local medical malpractice firm and as a Judicial Intern to the Honorable George L. Russell, III, on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. Upon graduation, Maya was a recipient of the William P. Cunningham Award for exceptional achievements and service to the law school.



Prior to law school, Maya obtained her Bachelor of Arts in criminology & criminal justice and government & politics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Maya is licensed in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kennedy Davis

Kennedy has been nominated for membership. She is an Associate with Eccleston & Wolf, P.C. She has been nominated for membership in DCDLA by Member Justin Flint and seconded by Matt Ainsley. Kennedy graduated cum laude from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, where she served as an Associate Editor for the Catholic University Law Review. During law school, Kennedy worked at various law firms and agencies, focusing on employment-related matters.

Kennedy's litigation practice focuses on professional liability, general liability, casualty, Homeowner's Associations (HOA), Community Organizations and Management Companies, premises liability, and attorney discipline and grievance matters.



Ryan Allshouse

Ryan has been nominated for membership. He is an attorney with Kiernan Trebach, LLP's Washington, D.C. office. Prior to joining the firm, Ryan worked at a boutique firm in Rockville, Maryland where he specialized in civil defense litigation handling insurance defense, professional liability, insurance coverage disputes, and personal injury. Ryan has litigated cases for both individual clients and insurance.

During law school, Ryan was the co-chair of the Pro Bono Board, took active leadership roles in various other organizations, and was selected to the Constitutional Law Appellate Advocacy Clinic where he aided in the drafting of an amicus curiae brief sent to the United States Supreme Court. After graduation, Ryan served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Karen M. Dean of the Wicomico County Circuit Court on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.



Alex Smith

Alex has been nominated for membership in the DCDLA. She is an associate with Greenstein, Delorme & Luchs, P.C. She represents clients in commercial and residential real estate and business matters. Her litigation practice concentrates on real estate disputes, contract disputes, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) matters, landlord-tenant disputes, Human Rights claims (e.g., housing discrimination and ADA reasonable accommodation claims), and eviction proceedings. She is well-versed in each stage of the litigation process: fact investigation, development of case strategy, discovery, preparation and filing of dispositive motions, and more. She prioritizes client goals, concerns, and values and aims to resolve matters in a practical and efficient manner.



NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kimana Bowen

Kimana Bowen has been nominated for membership in the DCDLA. Kimana is an Associate in the Alexandria office and is a member of the Commercial Litigation and Employment Law practice groups.

She represents employers in various facets of both public and private labor and employment law. She provides guidance to employers on issues related to discrimination, wrongful termination, and other employment-related matters. Her practice also focuses on how companies can protect their proprietary information by utilizing non-competes and non-disclosure agreements. She is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Ohio, and is a graduate of Cleveland State University College of Law, where she received the Community Service and Pro Bono Award.



Meghan Corlis

Meghan has been nominated for membership in the DCDLA. She is Counsel at Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann and a member of the firm's Medical Malpractice Practice Group. She has been nominated for membership in the DCDLA by Member and President Ifeanyi Ezeigbo and seconded by Craig Brodsky.

Meghan defends healthcare providers and institutions against allegations of medical negligence. Before joining the firm, Meghan was Assistant State's Attorney for the State's Attorney's Offices for Baltimore City and Baltimore County. She received her J.D. from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where she served as Articles Editor and Executive Board Member for *The Journal of Health Care Law & Policy*.



Meghan is an Executive Board Member of the Baltimore Carroll Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland. Meghan is licensed in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

**Interested in Nominating New Members?
Contact a Member of the Executive Board!**

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. Anita Josey-Herring (Ret.)

Retired Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Anita Josey-Herring, the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, recently retired after twenty-seven years of distinguished judicial service. As the Deputy Presiding Judge and later the Presiding Judge of the Family Division, she played a key role in reorganizing what is now known as the Family Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she served as the Deputy Director of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. A respected legal, governmental, and community leader, Judge Josey-Herring has served as the 4th District Chair of the National Association of Women Judges, a Member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Board of Trustees, and Chair of the Judicial Council of the Washington Bar Association. She is a past recipient of Washingtonian's Most Powerful Women Award and the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Woman Lawyer of the Year Award. Judge Josey-Herring now brings this exemplary record of dedication and leadership to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation and arbitration needs of lawyers and litigants in D.C. and beyond.

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