



By any measure, ACC Tennessee's inaugural state-wide CLE event was wildly successful! The half-day event, titled *MBA in a Half Day*, was held on Friday, December 13, at the Belmont University College of Law in Nashville.

More than 100 in-house attorneys from across the state attended the event, representing more than 50 companies, including Asurion, Bridgestone, Cigna, Community Health Systems, CoreCivic, Dollar General, EPRI, FedEx, Hankook Tire, HCA, HealthTrust, Ingram, Lee Company, Mars, Nashville Soccer Club, Nissan, Numotion, Permobil, Philips, Premier Parking, Regal Entertainment, ServiceMaster, Siemens, SmileDirect Club, Southern Land Company, SpecialtyCare, TransCore, Vanderbilt University, YMCA of Middle Tennessee, and many more. The event provided attendees with one hour of general CLE credit and three hours of dual CLE credit. After a delectable lunch provided by Belmont University, the first CLE presentation kicked-off at noon.

Dr. Marilyn Young, Professor of Accounting at the Massey Graduate School of Business at Belmont University, presented *Understanding Financial Statement: A Guide for Corporate Counsel*. Her engaging presentation provided an overview of the four primary financial statements: the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity, the Balance Sheet, and the Statement of Cash Flows. Dr. Young also provided practical guidance for understanding their purpose and interpreting the financial statements, and discussed several real-life examples of how the statements affect in-house attorneys and how they impact internal controls and compliance.

Dorene Burkhalter, a certified executive coach and organizational and workplace consultant with Paramount Potentials and Belmont University's Center of Executive Education, presented a session on *Performance Conversations*. Her uniquely interactive presentation covered the four primary roles corporate attorneys play in the work environment, focusing on how to receive and provide feedback using several interactive scenarios.

John Thalheimer, Executive Director of True Start Leadership and a certified leadership coach and facilitator for Belmont University's Center of Executive Education, presented the *Business Case for Emotional Intelligence*. Studies have shown that emotional intelligence is one of the strongest predictors of career performance, and John's presentation spoke on the top behaviors which derail careers and how emotions and emotional intelligence (or a lack thereof) contribute to those behaviors. Using both self-awareness and social awareness, John shared strategies for managing behaviors and reactions to improve communications and relationships.

Lucian Pera, a Partner in the Memphis office of Adams & Reese, presented a *2019 Year-end Ethics Review* tailored to corporate attorneys. Lucian's highly entertaining session covered the most important rulings and developments in legal ethics, professional responsibility, and attorney-client privilege, focusing on how these developments impact corporate counsel and how in-house attorneys can use this practical guidance to protect themselves and their companies more effectively.

Attendees commented positively on the location, presenters, and program topics, with one attendee commenting in his/her review, "Best program of the year!" On behalf of ACC Tennessee, thank you and we agree!

ACC Tennessee would like to thank all of those who contributed to making this inaugural statewide event a success, starting with you, our members, who came out and joined us for a fun and educational afternoon of CLE. In addition, we would like to give a special thank you to the Belmont University College of Law, for allowing us to host our event at their beautiful school. Many thanks also go to our presenters, Dr. Marilyn Young, Dorene Burkhalter, John Thalheimer, and Lucian Pera, for sharing their knowledge, enthusiasm, and practical advice with our members. Finally, we would like to thank our ACC Tennessee Chapter Executive Director, Melanie Grand, our Chapter Administrator, Emily Johannsen, our Chapter's Programming Committee Chair, Peter Malanchuk, and all of the Board members and Committee members who contributed significantly to the success of this inaugural statewide event.

By Scott Ellis, President-Elect,  
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