



*From the  
PRESIDENT  
FDCC*

Dear Federation Friends,

WOW, AWESOME, COOL, SPECTACULAR, WONDERFUL, and BEAUTIFUL are just a few of the superlatives used to describe our Winter Meeting last week in Charleston, SC. This was the Federation's first meeting in South Carolina, but I doubt it will be the last. The sun shone for us all week with absolutely perfect weather and everyone was able to get out and enjoy the sights, sounds, and food of the Holy City.

Great meetings come from great leadership and I want to compliment and applaud Michael and Lee Scott. Their approach to the meeting in Charleston was to make it unforgettable, they succeeded in that goal. It will long be remembered in the annals of the FDCC as a great meeting. Their hospitality and attention to detail made it a pure joy for all of those who attended. I bet if we took a vote, everyone would vote for them to do it again in Charleston and soon. On behalf of the Federation thanks to Michael and Lee for their dedication, sacrifice and hard work on this meeting which was truly "Above & Beyond"!

Great programs come from great creativity and Clark Hudson needs a permanent light bulb over his head. His ideas for making the plenary sessions memorable were unique and incredibly creative. I heard more positive compliments about this program than I have ever heard. Who would have thought that Reptiles, Active Shooters, the Charleston Church Shooting, Gunnery Sergeant Popaditch and Justice Abella would come together so well in a program that truly highlighted the American justice system and helped us as lawyers to "Perfect Our Practices"? A smooth running Registration Desk is integral to running a great meeting and many thanks to Debbie Hudson and all of the volunteers who made our registration process so welcoming and efficient. Finally, great programs come also from our many members who selflessly give us their time and knowledge; we thank you for making our programming extraordinary.

I also want to thank Tiffany Alexander and John Mitchell for a great Trial Masters Program. This program was interactive, very educational and fun. The venue of the Riviera Theatre gave us a real courtroom feel. Thank you to our Sponsors, Tom Oakes and Stuart Simon, for their help with Trial Masters. This outstanding program provided us with new insights into the millennial mind.

We launched two new programs at this meeting: our Professional Women's Forum and our Art of Marketing. Thanks to our PWF leaders Deb Varner, Vi Clark, Alison Christian, Gena Sluga and Lana Olson. Also, thanks to Frank Ramos, Alison Christian and Casey Stansbury and the many Art of Marketing volunteers. Both programs were a smashing success and both fit squarely within our strategic goal of providing more value to our members. I am confident that both will soon become two more crown jewels for the FDCC.

Lastly, I wish to thank Kimberly LaBounty, Regina Legoo and all of the Apex staff who were on duty for us all week. Our Executive Director and her team were there 24/7 to take care of all the behind the scenes details that made for a great meeting.

Looking forward: we have a wonderful program on the immediate horizon; our Joint Law Firm Conference in Chicago which begins on April 5<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. If you want to learn what the best firms are doing to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, you need to attend this program.

Thanks to all of you who continue to awe me with all that you do to make the Federation the premiere invitation only defense bar organization.

Mills