

President's Message:

By: 2022 ACC St. Louis Chapter President

Kate Krebel, Vice President, Corporate Counsel, Leonardo DRS, Inc.

Welcome back to work! I hope you are all returning to your computer following an enjoyable weekend of celebration and appreciation. We are more than halfway through our 35th year of the St. Louis Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. First, let me thank and recognize our members for your involvement, and our sponsors for your generosity and partnership. My appreciation extends further to our Board for its dedicated leadership of our Chapter. It is because of each of you that we continue to be recognized for our achievements on a national level.

Like many of you, this holiday break offered an opportunity to spend time with family, and perhaps also a chance to reflect on how to best address new challenges. The importance of these challenges are daily underscored by the devastating loss of life and freedom in Ukraine, economic volatility as well as the fatigue of ongoing COVID impacts to name a few. All of these examples have very real impacts for each and every one of us, our families, and the companies we represent.

These challenges require us to keep up with our legal and regulatory environment in order to provide guidance to our internal clients. As in-house lawyers we rely heavily on training, education and experience. These qualifications are based on a foundation of precedent – but as we all know by now, in many ways there is no precedent for the times we are in.

I recently attended a conference focused on leadership in a VUCA world. VUCA meaning “Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous” – a concept coined in the 1980’s and widely introduced by the US Army War College following the Cold War. Guidance was given regarding the need to be agile and thoughtfully responsive without prolonged hesitation. Emphasis was placed on the importance of being prepared by anticipating and planning for failure. Now, more than ever before, we must connect with our fellow in-house lawyers. In doing so, we foster the meaningful, professional relationships that enhance our daily lives and serve as a foundation of support as we help our companies navigate this VUCA world.

I encourage every member to maximize the benefits of belonging to the ACC St. Louis by getting involved. Attend our events, and learn from our expert sponsors, as well as meet new and old friends and colleagues. You can take a look at the [CLE we have offered throughout the last year](#), to include the flagship Corporate Counsel Institute, to get an idea of the types of education and social events we offer. Additionally, we are very excited for our [upcoming events](#) to include a member appreciation event currently planned at the new Centene MLS stadium as well as the always much anticipated Golf and Spa event coming up in August.

If you are new to in-house or to ACC as an association, now is a great time to become a member, and experience all the opportunities to learn and connect. For returning members, we encourage you to take the first step in getting more involved by joining a board committee (click [here](#) for more information about how to join). If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of chapter leadership. I look forward to connecting with you at our next event.