

2024 Presidential Update



**By: 2024 ACC St. Louis
Chapter President, Beverly Garner,
Associate General Counsel, Bunge**

On January 26, I opened LinkedIn to post a photo from ACC's Annual Dinner and Volunteer Recognition Night. My draft started, "I am honored to serve as the 33rd President of the St. Louis Chapter of the ACC." Serving as President of this distinguished Chapter is an honor and being the 33rd President has added meaning for me. I wore the number 33 on my high school basketball uniform, and my father wore the number 33 on his. This shared uniform number has served as an unending thread stitching Dad and me together in ways beyond our shared love of the game.

Even though my high school basketball uniform has long been turned in, 33 has remained my special number. When it shows up, *and it seems to show up often*, it serves as a sign. It symbolizes strength, comfort, and goodness. When I realized I was the 33rd President of this awesome organization, I paused. I knew 2024 would be a great year.

In fact, 2024 is off to a wonderful start. More than 50 members attended the Annual Dinner and Volunteer Recognition Night at Bar Napoli. We honored Geoff Grammer and the Professional Development Committee as the Committee of the Year, Dante Tamprateep as the Member of the Year, and Michael Curoe with the 2023 William E. Jaudes Award. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for your contributions to ACC. We also thanked Pat Duft, Pam Howlett, Brian Parsons, Chris Wittenauer, and Denise Whitener, who are departing the Board, for their excellent service to the Board. Finally, we send a big thank you to Bill Corrigan and Shook Hardy & Bacon for sponsoring the Annual Dinner and for being a new ACC sponsor in 2024.

In addition to Shook Hardy & Bacon, we want to thank all of our 2024 sponsors. We are excited to introduce Lewis Rice and McMahon Berger as our inaugural platinum sponsors. Our law firm and resource sponsors are listed on the sponsor page of our website (<https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/st-louis/sponsors>). Please thank our sponsors when you speak with them.

Also, 2024 programs have started and many more are being planned. Please watch your email, the newsletter, and the events page on our website (<https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/st-louis>) for upcoming events and links to register.

Do you know an in-house counsel who is *not* a member of ACC? *Invite them* to join or send us their name, and we will reach out to them. Similarly, if you have coworkers who are members of ACC, encourage them to join you at an ACC event and to join a committee.

Finally, ACC offers numerous resources to its members. ACC, together with Exterro (one of our Chapter's resource sponsors), recently released the 2024 ACC Chief Legal Officers Survey results. More than 900 general counsel and chief legal officers from numerous countries and many industry sectors participated in the survey. If you are a general counsel, please check it out here: <https://www.acc.com/resource-library/2024-acc-chief-legal-officers-survey>. If you are not a general counsel, please share the link with your general counsel, others on your team, and check it out yourself! The survey results provide valuable information about challenges and priorities for corporate legal departments.

I am excited for 2024. If you have questions about ACC, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Board.

See you soon,

Beverly