

President's Message:

The Best of Times



**By: 2023 ACC St. Louis
Chapter President, Jenny Herner,
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It was the best of times. It was a banner year.

I've spilled a lot of ink on our award-winning professional development, diversity, and leadership programs, CLEs, and social events. But none of these would have happened without the amazing ACC Board and the Committees they led.

If you're reading this, you've seen our monthly newsletter, crafted by Aaron Mutnick and our Communications Committee.

Bob Craddick guided his good team to plan our sellout Golf-Spa CLE, split in two this year by a heat wave.

Vikas Sunkari led our Diversity Committee, including the sought-after Diversity Internship Program; and Lisa Savoy headed the Social Justice Committee's SLAM program that won global accolades.

If you joined one of our veterans' estate planning clinics, you have Pat Duft and the Pro Bono Committee to thank. Pat and her team joined Pam Howlett's Law School Relations Committee on a cultural competency and pro bono ethics program at St. Louis University Law School.

Geoff Grammer led our Professional Development programming, which – with the help of President-Elect Beverly Garner - included the globally recognized leadership program with Washington University's Olin School of Business.

If you attended one of our monthly CLEs, you have John Farmer and his dedicated Program Committee to thank.

Erika Schenk and Kate Molamphy led our leaders at the General Counsel Forum, where area chief legal officers networked and shared best practices.

Past Presidents Toni Douaihy and Brian Parsons organized our Employment and Litigation PANs; and Past President Ty Ulmer led his team on the popular Corporate Counsel Institute, which he has done for more than a decade.

Indefatigable Chrissy Teske, also a Past President, headed the Social Committee to organize painting, karaoke, happy hour, and Top Golf gatherings.

Understanding the value former Presidents can bring, Past President Sven Fickeler formed the Past Presidents Committee to ensure the collective wisdom of our former leaders is not lost.

None of this would have been possible without our ACC sponsors, the recruiting and care of which rested in Denise Whitener's and Jennifer Feldhaus's hands, or our members, the development and appreciation of which Chris Wittenauer and his Membership Committee ably led.

And the Executive Committee - Beverly Garner, Danielle Langeneckert, Jay Repaso, and Kate Krebel - steered the ship.

Individually, each of these Board members are leaders at their companies and in their communities. Together, their tireless efforts on behalf of the membership made this the best of years. The COVID-closed doors were opened. We had everything before us. And we made the most of it.

Happy New Year to the dedicated ACC Board and Committee members, and here's to an even better year to come!