

Kate Krebel's ACC St. Louis President's Message

I'm guessing I'm like most people right now, kicking off 2023 initiatives, all the while asking, "Where did 2022 go?" As ACC president, I'm proud to say we had an extremely successful year. As an association we were able to meaningfully engage with a dynamic mix of in person and virtual events and thereby create real value for our in-house members.

The reason behind our advancement is no mystery; it's the commitment of ACC members, volunteer leaders, and sponsors without whose support nothing would be possible. I believe these times have confirmed the value of sticking together as a profession for strength, encouragement and inspiration.

At the 2022 ACC Global Annual Conference in Las Vegas, the St. Louis Chapter was awarded the ACC Chapter of Distinction Award in recognition of our status as a highly active and well managed Chapter. We were also honored to receive the Global Chapter of Achievement Award for the Diversity Bridges Program related to exploring the Underground Railroad in Southern Illinois. Thank you to Tamee Reese, past Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair; Denise Campbell Whitener and Nancy McCahan, past Bridges Committee Co-Chairs, for developing such a meaningful experience for our membership.

Additional highlights for the past year include the overwhelming sponsor support and engagement with 22 individual CLE programs offered to our members. We were so grateful to be able to hold many of our events in person to include our annual Corporate Counsel Institute and Golf Spa Event. Thank you to John Farmer, Program Committee Chair; Ty Ulmer CCI Committee Chair; and Jay Repaso, Golf Spa Committee Chair for making our programming and flagship events such a success.

The Chapter also held 13 quality social and member events to include the first ever event held at the new St. Louis City Soccer stadium. The event provided our members an exclusive opportunity to dine and tour the new stadium that we anticipate and hope will become a "historic" venue for our region. Thank you to our Membership Committee, chaired by Chris Wittenauer, for planning such an amazing evening, and to our many members who attended.

I want to also recognize the Chapter Diversity and Inclusion Committee, chaired by Vikas Sunkari, which carried out the successful implementation of our award-winning Internship Program currently completing its 11th year, which places law student interns with meaningful in-house counsel opportunities. The Chapter also continued its strong partnership with the St. Louis Business Journal and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis. The Pro Bono Committee, chaired by Patricia Duft, focused significant effort to continue our partnership with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and other organizations

such as Operation Food Search in order to provide members with a variety of opportunities to give back.

In closing, I would like to send all ACC members my best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2023. We are ever grateful for your tremendous engagement. I want to thank the Executive Committee, Sven Fickeler, Jenny Herner, Beverly Garner and Danielle Langeneckert as well as all members of the board for your contributions. I also want to thank past Presidents (especially Chrissy Teske, Brian Parsons, and Toni Douaihy), Committee chairs, sponsors, and especially our Chapter administrator Sue Wager. Our Chapter continues to find new ways to engage our members and I am truly excited for what lies ahead. It was my pleasure to serve as President and my very best wishes to Jenny Herner for an undoubtably successful year ahead!

Katherine A. Krebel, Vice President Corporate Counsel, Leonardo DRS Inc., is 2022 President of the St. Louis Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel