

NEW MEMBER PACKET



THE FOUNDING OF ACC

On December 1, 1981, Robert S. Banks, then general counsel of Xerox Corporation, hosted a luncheon that would change the legal profession. Conversation ranged from the changing role of general counsel to whether resources available from national, state, and local bar associations were adequate for in-house counsel. Those in attendance agreed that while there were considerable resources for lawyers practicing in firms and working in government, there were not enough resources for in-house counsel.

In addition, in-house counsel had very few networking opportunities. Although several American Bar Association committees attempted to address some corporate practice issues, they were neither for nor made up of in-house lawyers. No organization really represented the specific interests of in-house counsel.

Gray Castle, former general counsel of Xerox, Cigna, and the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, as well as a past partner in major law firms, remembers, “[We needed] a national organization, especially one that would help raise the sights of in-house counsel and provide a unified voice for our profession. It was not until the 1981-1982 meetings, however, that things really got rolling.”

A second meeting in 1982 attracted more than 50 in-house counsel, who discussed the nascent organization in further detail. Most of those present pledged to enroll their entire legal department, at least for the first few years, so that the fledgling group would have a sustainable membership base.

On March 11, 1982, the American Corporate Counsel Association (ACCA) was officially born with a meeting at Amfac Hotel and Resort in Dallas, TX.

ABOUT ACC NATIONAL

ACC is a global legal association that promotes the common professional and business interests of in-house counsel who work for corporations, associations, and other organizations through information, education, networking, and advocacy.

ABOUT ACC MICHIGAN

Launched in 1983, the Michigan Chapter’s membership has grown from an initial group of about 35 to just under 650 attorneys serving as General Counsel, Assistant General Counsel and Corporate Counsel to automotive companies, financial institutions, health care providers, utilities, retailers, science and technology companies, educational institutions and the like located throughout the state of Michigan. The Chapter maintains an active board of directors and officers that are elected by its membership. ACC Michigan was the recipient of the Chapter of Distinction Silver Award in 2019, as well as the Best Membership Strategy Award, also received in 2019.

ACC Michigan is the local chapter of ACC that allows members to connect with local, similarly situated in-house counsel, with the opportunity to benchmark, learn, compare best practices, and socially engage.

2023-24 ACC MICHIGAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ACC Michigan Board of Directors comprises various members representing a wide range of corporate employers across the state of Michigan. The Board is eager to connect with prospective and new members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to make a personal connection.



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Michael Qaqish
Director at Large
International Automotive
Components Group



Jill Soubel Walsh
Director at Large
Keep Looking Ahead



Lexi Woods
Director at Large
Great Lakes
Commercial Finance



Tracey Lee
Director at Large
Word of Faith
International Christian
Center



ACC MICHIGAN COMMITTEES

ACC Michigan maintains an active roster of committees focused on navigating the work laid out by the Board of Directors through the strategic plan. Ultimately, joining a committee provides many opportunities for personal and professional development.



GOLF COMMITTEE

Focused on planning and executing the Annual Golf Outing, ACC Michigan's largest and most well-attended fundraising and networking event.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Focused on meeting member needs, while always looking ahead to anticipate what the membership might be looking for down the road.



PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Focused on expanding ACC Michigan's commitment to Pro Bono work by partnering with outside firms and organizations to provide members with a variety of opportunities.



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Focused on ensuring that ACC Michigan has a full calendar of opportunities for members to take advantage of throughout the year.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Focused on providing scholarships from ACC Michigan to one deserving individual at each of the main Michigan law schools.



WEST MICHIGAN COMMITTEE

Focused on increasing membership engagement on the west side of the state by creating a space for those members to connect professionally and socially.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A NEW MEMBER?

- Check out www.acc.com for a wealth of materials and other resources.
- Reach out to an ACC Michigan Board Member for a personal introduction.
- Sign up for a program to meet the board and others in person and to start making local connections.
- Connect through social media to keep up-to-date with new developments.
- Join a committee to get small group time and contribute to ACC Michigan.

ARTICLES OF NOTE

Helpful Articles To Get You Acclimated!

Top Ten Tips to be Successful as a New In-House Counsel (and Beyond)

By Sarah Karlgaard, General Counsel of Vital Images and Mark Roellig, former General Counsel of four Fortune 500 companies and recipient of the 2012 Association of Corporate Counsel Excellence in Corporate Practice Award

Are You A New General Counsel? Top Ten Actions to Ensure Your Success

By Mark Roellig, former general counsel of four Fortune 500 companies

Actions to Take During Your First Year as General Counsel

Mark Roellig, Senior Client Advisor at Perkins Coie

Top Ten Risk Allocation Pitfalls to Avoid

By Lisa Temple, editor, Practical Law Commercial

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ACC NATIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA



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ACC MICHIGAN SOCIAL MEDIA

Get Social! ACC MI is active on LinkedIn. [Click here](#) to follow the ACC MI LinkedIn page. Below are a few suggestions that YOU can incorporate on your LinkedIn page to assist in engaging with other ACC MI members and colleagues.

[Click here](#) to follow the ACC MI LinkedIn page.

- Under organizations on your profile, please add that you are a member of ACC MI.
- Repost any items of interest from the ACC MI page.
- Tag ACC MI and your colleague in posts that align with ACC MI; we will do the same.



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