

GUIDELINES FOR ACC ADVOCACY LIAISONS

What is an Advocacy Liaison?

ACC asks every chapter and network to appoint one person to work with the Advocacy staff at ACC's headquarters. This person – the liaison – plays two vital roles.

First, the liaison helps alert ACC's Advocacy staff to cases, regulations, legislation, bar rules, and other advocacy matters that are relevant to the chapter or network. Second, when there is an advocacy matter proposed by or relevant to the chapter or network, the liaison helps shepherd the project through ACC's advocacy process.

In short, each liaison serves as the crucial link between her chapter or network and ACC's headquarters on advocacy matters.

What Types of Advocacy does ACC Pursue?

ACC advocates in areas where in-house counsel have a unique voice or perspective and where there is universal agreement among ACC's members on the advocacy position taken. ACC's core advocacy issues are legal professional (attorney-client) privilege; multi-jurisdictional practice, including professional and ethical compliance issues; and gatekeeper liability. ACC also advocates for all chief legal officers to have a "Seat at the Table" at their organizations by reporting to the CEO and having a relationship with the board of directors. Finally, ACC advocates for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as a best practice and supports chapters, networks, and members with resources to assist their adoption of DEI principles.

ACC regularly provides submissions to courts, government agencies, independent regulating bodies, and bar associations. ACC also sets up meetings between ACC's members and certain government regulators and agencies. On limited occasions, ACC lobbies government executives and legislators.

Why Doesn't ACC Advocate on More Issues?

ACC limits its advocacy issues for several reasons. First, ACC's advocacy is most impactful when the organization addresses those topics where its expertise is clear. If ACC engaged in advocacy on specific industry issues, not only would it dilute its limited resources, it would also dilute the power of its message. ACC advocacy staff is happy to connect members with organizations that address specific industry issues.

Relatedly, ACC's voice is strongest when our members are unified behind the advocacy message. Pursuing advocacy for issues where members are in universal agreement maintains this strengthened position and avoids the use of ACC's limited resources on negotiating internal policy disagreements.

What Does an ACC Advocacy Liaison Do?

Stay informed of legal developments relevant to their chapter or network.

- For chapters, advocacy liaisons should investigate what methods the state bar or state Supreme Court uses to notify lawyers in the state of proposed changes to the rules of professional conduct. There is often an email list to which you can subscribe or a bar association section you can join that will provide notifications of proposed rule changes.

- For networks, advocacy liaisons can sign up for law firm alerts relevant to the practice area, or other industry alerts that track regulatory, legislative and other developments.
- For both chapters and networks, advocacy liaisons should stay alert to any cases that touch on issues relevant to the in-house bar, such as legal professional (attorney-client) privilege or criminal or civil liability for in-house counsel.

Shepherd chapter/network advocacy proposals through the Advocacy approval process.

- If the project is one originating with the chapter or network, the advocacy liaison should email advocacy@acc.com with a brief description of the matter along with the submitter's contact information.
- If the matter originated with an individual member or ACC advocacy staff, but is related to the geographic area covered by a chapter or the practice area covered by a network, ACC advocacy staff may reach out to the advocacy liaison for that chapter/network to seek feedback on the matter.

Participate in all Chapter and Network Advocacy Calls hosted by ACC Advocacy staff.

- Calls occur quarterly, with two calls per day to accommodate ACC's global membership.
- After the calls, report back to the chapter or network with the information conveyed about ACC's advocacy efforts.

Want to do more?

- Consider becoming a media contact on advocacy issues. ACC frequently receives inquiries from media outlets seeking an in-house perspective on a variety of issues. These requests are often time-sensitive, so ACC has developed a list of members willing to speak with the media on behalf of ACC. Please email advocacy@acc.com to be added to this list.
- Work with ACC staff to organize a "Meet the Regulator" meeting for your network, or a local event on an advocacy issue for your chapter.

Who Approves ACC's Advocacy Efforts?

The Advocacy Committee of ACC's global Board of Directors must approval all of ACC's advocacy activities. ACC's Advocacy Committee is comprised of board members and has been delegated authority to make advocacy decisions on behalf of the board. **Chapters and Networks cannot engage in advocacy matters without the approval of the ACC Advocacy Committee.**

Advocacy staff will work with chapters and networks to prepare an advocacy matter proposal for the Committee's consideration. If the Advocacy Committee approves the proposal, advocacy staff will work with the chapter or network to implement.

ACC Advocacy Staff Contact Information

Amy Chai, AGC and Director of Advocacy Initiatives
a.chai@acc.com
advocacy@acc.com
 (202) 696-1554