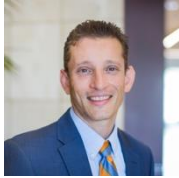


January 2025
ACC Litigation Network Monthly Newsletter

Message from the Network Chair – Ivan Hannel, General Counsel, Zoe Holding Company



More walks, more learning, more feeling.

I don't know about you, but I tend to start each year rudderless. I don't set a particular goal, despite having many things to accomplish, and thus I don't have real purpose for the year, or, by implication, myself. I forgive myself this personal flaw not because it isn't a true indictment but because I feel beset by too many vectors to make anything more than a general plan to survive the year. But it may be time to set some very small goals for myself that I can experience, if not accomplish. I don't know quite how to put it: I want to return to feeling, not doing. This doesn't mean that to return to feeling won't take some effort, but the effort should be lovely or pleasurable at least—not yet another task.

This year, I want to return to history and learn about the Greeks. It seems our civilization reached very high about 5,000 years ago, and now we are here for whatever that means. I want to be surprised by the Greeks and learn something new. I think I wasted my classical education on practical things like getting good grades, which is what children from economically challenging environments tend to do when the ladder to the tower lowers down; you grab it without looking to see if that's where you want to climb.

I want to travel, at least in my imagination, to when I was a kid languidly looking at the clouds while lying in the cut grass with no obligations in the world, such that someone will say: "Look at him. What's Ivan doing laying in the grass?" Failing that, I'll settle for learning how to make some decent bread and give a good memory of smell to my almost 12-year-old son and tolerant wife, who objects to my literally unmeasured approach to cooking—and baking requires precision. I'm also going to take more walks with my dog along a nearby river path I just discovered. I might even try meditation, but that seems like a lot of work.

I'm going to return to physical suffering. That sounds strange, but it is only through some physical pain that I find myself understanding human nature. Everyone has their own capacities, and for some, a vigorous walk brings the clarity I get from avoiding blows. That's fine—just move the body to the extent you can. How many of the people we know wouldn't be better for taking a walk in response to a challenging situation? More walks, more learning, more feeling.

I recognize my plans are idiosyncratic and don't fit together, but that's okay. Maybe that is one way to return to feeling. **In the meantime, please do me a favor and [vote for this network's annual meeting's topics](#).** Our own Jennifer Denny may be **putting together an online chess tournament**, so we'll be learning more about that. And finally, I'm putting together **a webinar on UFOs, FOIA, and generally government transparency and accountability**. I have a feeling the next days, weeks, and months are going to bring about some significant interest in this important but confounding topic.

I hope your year abounds in curiosity and feeling! Let's have some fun.

Upcoming Events

- January 21, 2025 - **Re-thinking Compliance and Litigation Risk Assessments in a World of Digital Transactions: Modern Third-Party Risks Need Modern Risk-Rating Models – [REGISTER HERE](#)**
- January 28, 2025 - **January Legal Update – Pain or Gain?: AI in the Workplace – [REGISTER HERE](#)**
- February 25, 2025 - **February Litigation Network Legal Update – TBD**

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR AN ANNUAL MEETING TOPIC/PANEL BY JANUARY 23rd – [VOTE HERE](#)

Have an idea or request for a legal update topic? Email the program chairs at: S. Michael Lee at Smichael.lee@engaging.ai or Julianna Hanlon at jihanlon@mgb.org.

Spotlight on Cozen O'Connor – Michael Schmidt – Vice Chair, Labor & Employment, mschmidt@cozen.com



For more than 25 years, Mike has assisted businesses and their management teams throughout the United States accomplish their goals through litigation, negotiation, and day-to-day counseling. Mike is a trial lawyer who represents employers in federal and state courts, in arbitration, and before government agencies on issues including discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; wage and hour, including class and collective actions; FMLA, ADA, and other federal, state, and local leave obligations; breach of contract; whistleblowing, including SOX and other laws; restrictive covenants, noncompetes, and nonsolicits; social media use; WARN; and other employment law matters.

He is also a legal and business counselor providing day-to-day advice to employers on all employment law issues from hiring to firing. Mike drafts and reviews employment and severance agreements; reduction-in-force plans; employee handbooks and individual policies; non-compete and non-solicit agreements; and other documents used in conjunction with the employer-employee relationship.

Additionally, Mike hosts [Employment Law Now](#), a podcast that brings listeners the latest trends and developments in employment law.

Litigation Network Member Spotlight - Julianna Hanlon, Sr. Legal Counsel, Mass General Brigham



Julianna joined Mass General Brigham’s Office of General Counsel in 2020 and is currently serving as Senior Legal Counsel in the office’s litigation, compliance and contracting section. She provides guidance across the organization on a variety of topics, with a focus on pre-litigation alternative dispute resolution, and litigation arising from business disputes, contracting issues, real estate and construction disputes. She also serves as the point person in OGC on export controls related issues and compliance. Additionally, Julianna serves as Managing Counsel for Nantucket Cottage Hospital, advising senior leadership across a broad array of issues that arise in managing a small island hospital. Julianna graduated from Simmons College in 2013, and from Northeastern University School of Law in 2016. During her time at law school, she completed legal co-ops at Mass General Brigham’s OGC, the Massachusetts Division for Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, the United States Attorney’s Office and was a judicial intern at the Massachusetts Land Court and a summer associate at a large multinational firm. She also worked as a legal intern at several mid-sized regional firms.

Julianna began her career as a litigation associate at a large multinational firm and practiced there for 4.5 years. There, her practice focused on a variety of matters with a special emphasis on healthcare enforcement defense, general business litigation and real estate and construction litigation. Julianna is active in her local Bar Associations and is currently serving on the healthcare law steering committee for the Boston Bar Association. Additionally, she is a young partner with the Boston Ballet and, much more locally, serves as the room parent for her daughter’s toddler school program.

Julianna is a retired marathon runner who now enjoys long walks, hiking and lifting heavy to stay active – although, she may make a return to marathons at some point in the near future. In her spare time Julianna enjoys painting, spending time with her husband and 2-year-old old daughter and spontaneous family travel. A fun fact is that she grew up on an island of 700 in Downeast Maine called Beals Island. Everyone on her father’s side of the family going back generations are full-time lobster fisherman and her very first job was as a steerman on her father’s boat (F/V Rhythm and Blues – unapparelled at the World’s Fastest Lobster Boat Races). Her latest podcast obsession is the Telepathy Tapes.

Would you like to be featured in an upcoming Litigation Newsletter? We would love to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to feature your role, your company, or your #morethanalawyer achievements!

Have you ever considered joining our committee? The Litigation Network committee is always open to potential new members for upcoming years. If you have any questions about available roles, time commitments, etc., please reach out to shane@neweraadr.com with your interests and questions!

Litigation Laughs

1st yr associates showing us their brief outline:



Any career goals or objectives for 2025?

Any personal New Years Resolutions worth sharing?

Mine (Shane) is to actually read the stack of career-focused books I have been hoarding over the years and that have done nothing but collect dust ever since. Let me know if you have any good recommendations (although I have quite a few to get through already)!

Let's hear from you in the [Litigation Discussion Forum](#)!

2024 ACC Litigation Network Leadership		
Chair	Ivan Hannel General /Counsel Zoe Holding Company (602) 710-7573 ihannel@zoeholdingco.com	
Vice-Chair	Jennifer Denny Senior Litigation Counsel Cardinal Financial Company, LP (636) 565-0716 jennifer.denny@cardinalfinancial.com	
Legal Update Program Chairs	S. Michael Lee COO & CLO Engaging.ai (408) 431-1224 Smichael.lee@engaging.ai	Julianna Hanlon Legal Counsel Mass General Brigham jihanlon@mgb.org
Annual Meeting Chairs	Abby Adams VP, General Counsel National Association of Home Builders (212) 266-8345 aadams@nahb.org	Beverly Garner Associate General Counsel Bunge (314) 292-02514 Beverly.Garner@bunge.com
Membership Chairs	Shane Mulrooney Co-Founder & General Counsel New Era ADR (630) 853-8536 shane@neweraadr.com	Brian Murren Assistant General Counsel Pennsylvania Automotive Association bmurren@paa.org
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