

## President's Letter

*It's Been an Honor!*

By Chrissy Teske, 2019 ACC St. Louis President

As we begin to celebrate with family, friends and colleagues, and the new year approaches, I am finishing up my work as President of the Chapter. What an amazing honor it has been to serve as your Chapter President! This past year has been an incredible and fulfilling ride for me and one that I have enjoyed immensely. It is with great gratitude that I write my final President's Letter – gratitude for the opportunity to lead this dynamic chapter, gratitude for all the incredible people I have had the opportunity to meet and work with, and gratitude for a Board of Directors that is dedicated to making our ACC chapter one of the very best in the country. Through their creativity, focus and hard work, we continue to be the premier organization for in-house counsel in the St. Louis metro area and one of the best chapters on the globe.

2019 has been a very busy and exciting time for our Chapter, offering a total of 42 events. We continue to offer (7) premier Career Development offerings and partnered again with Washington University's Executive MBA Program, to offer a highly acclaimed workshop on Business Strategy for In-House Counsel. These events were in addition to our Chapter favorites such as the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf/Spa and the 38th Annual Corporate Counsel Institute. Through these programs, our members were offered 22.4 hours of free CLE credit, with another 9.2 hours at CCI.

There were many fun networking opportunities offered this year, kicking off with a Chocolate and Wine Pairing at Bissingers Chocolates, Pop up Pedi to launch the summer season, fun Summer Social at O'Fallons Brewers and the Fall Social at The Boat House in Forest Park, membership recruiting and new member welcome events, and finished the year with a fabulous holiday social at the St. Louis Art Museum.

Through the generosity of our sponsors, we offered programming and opportunities for our members to engage in the Chapter's diversity efforts. The Pro Bono Committee offered continuing education and training, volunteer opportunities through LSEM and (3) pro bono clinics to work with the public, and collected more than \$330 in food and supplies for the same local food bank, partnered with the Social Committee to collect more than \$750 in school supplies for the St. Louis City Schools. Finally, we had great success with our student externship programs provided through the Chapter's Law Student Relations Committee. The Diversity Committee held (3) Diversity Leadership Trainings, a successful Street Law with (92) students from Cardinal Ritter High School and completed our 9th year of Summer Diversity Interns offered through the Diversity Committee.

2019 was also a year of continued growth and learning for our Communications Committee. We continue to work with a public relations firm to make sure our Chapter's news is reaching the broader

business community through (6) press releases, with (12) published. We continue to work to grow our social media presence on LinkedIn and Facebook, are you Following or Friends with ACC St. Louis? While these efforts are very much a work in progress, the Communications Committee is off to a great start as we prepare for 2020.

The success of the Chapter has been the result of many factors, most significantly through the efforts of a very enthusiastic and dynamic Board of Directors, who are incredibly committed to the success of our Chapter, talented Committee members, a growing and engaged membership and a very supportive and generous group of law firm sponsors.

Looking forward to 2020, it is our mission and goal to continue to build on our past success. The Board has already been hard at work planning activities and events for next year and we are certain 2020 will provide even more value through opportunities to network with your fellow in-house attorneys, as well as to enhance your professional growth and development. It is my hope that you will take advantage of your membership and get involved in a committee or join us for some of the great events that we will be hosting in 2020.

Finally, as my term as President comes to an end in January, I want to thank you for giving me this truly amazing opportunity to serve as Chapter President in 2019. As President, I have been able to meet and interact with more of the Chapter membership, which has been extremely rewarding. I have enjoyed every moment of this year and could not be more appreciative for this experience.

Here's wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions or comments you may have for the Chapter at [chrissy.teske@commercebank.com](mailto:chrissy.teske@commercebank.com) or 314.746.7286.

Best Regards,

Chrissy Teske

2019 ACC St. Louis Chapter President