

Lawyers for Civil Justice





Lawyers for Civil Justice

A Partnership of Corporate and Defense Counsel

For corporations conducting business in America, the soaring cost of litigation has become a heavy burden. Litigation costs are in fact so high that American companies may soon be unable to compete effectively in the global marketplace.

Lawyers for Civil Justice (LCJ) is addressing this issue head on. As a partnership of leading corporate counsel and defense bar practitioners, LCJ forges alliances among its members and leverages the strength of those alliances to help restore and maintain balance in the civil justice system. By uniting the business and defense bar communities in propelling reasonable reform initiatives, LCJ protects the interests of America's corporations and delivers tremendous returns to its member defense litigants.

Your investment in LCJ membership will provide your organization with an amplified voice in civil justice reform and strengthen ongoing civil justice programs, which will save millions in defense costs.



LCJ Membership Provides Multiple Benefits

LCJ members include senior corporate counsel from some of the nation's leading companies and experienced practitioners from the nationally organized defense bar – DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar, Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, and the International Association of Defense Counsel.

LCJ members enjoy access to invaluable resources including...

Advocacy Capability: LCJ provides defense lawyers a united voice in advocacy through white papers, official testimony, formal comments, briefs and other tangible resources. Operating in the heart of the nation's capital for more than 20 years, LCJ has cultivated partnerships that have proven valuable in advancing its advocacy initiatives.

Conferences That Turn Information Into Action:

Twice yearly, LCJ assembles nationally recognized policy makers and practitioners including members of Congress, distinguished judges and other opinion leaders to discuss the latest developments in civil justice reform. LCJ conducts dynamic interactive sessions in which its members identify priorities for reform and develop strategies to promote litigation reform at the state and federal levels. These meetings represent an exchange of ideas between LCJ members and the nation's most important decision makers. Speakers from previous conferences have included Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, Transportation Secretary Ray J. LaHood, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson and Texas District Court Judge Lee Rosenthal.

Rapid Response System: LCJ has created a rapid response system to respond to legislative and rulemaking developments. With this system, LCJ can harness an effective network of committed defense lawyers in every state.

Resource Bank: LCJ provides its members with a knowledge base of information and experts on key civil justice issues.

Volunteer Network: LCJ member firms volunteer thousands of hours of work each year to ensure the success of LCJ initiatives. These more than 20,000 experienced defense counsel contact legislators, provide testimony before state and federal rulemaking bodies, and advocate systemic improvements on behalf of the defense community.

Continuing Legal Education Credits:

LCJ provides members opportunities to satisfy their Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit requirements since each LCJ conference is CLE approved in most states.

A Legacy of Achievement

History and Mission

The leadership of the organized defense bar formed LCJ in 1987 with the financial support of several “Fortune 500” companies. The purpose of the organization was to develop a network of broad, national support for ongoing legal reform initiatives. By tapping into the resources of the defense bar organizations, and the more than 20,000 legal practitioners that they represent, LCJ provides crucial support for ongoing legislative and procedural rules initiatives.

Record of Success

Reducing the Burdens of Discovery

LCJ’s advocacy resulted in many significant improvements in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Beneficial revisions included improving the 2000 Discovery and 2006 E-discovery Amendments by limiting the scope of attorney-managed discovery, rationalizing pre-discovery disclosure and reemphasizing judicial authority to require payment of discovery costs.

Protecting Corporate Privacy and Property Rights

Since 1990, in Congress and in more than 40 states, LCJ has successfully opposed legislation and rules that would endanger the privacy and intellectual property rights of litigants by ensuring that judges maintain discretion to issue protective orders and seal settlement agreements. Without these protections, plaintiffs’ attorneys would have open-ended access to confidential information of defendant corporations disclosed in litigation.

Protecting Disclosure of Privileged Information

LCJ led the effort that resulted in a major legislative and rulemaking victory when the new Federal Rule of Evidence 502 was enacted. This Rule clarified privilege waiver and helped limit the cost of privilege reviews.

Creating Favorable Summary Judgment and Expert Evidence Rules

LCJ supported amendments that restored the mandatory nature of the grant of summary judgment under FRCP 56 and significantly improved FRCP 26’s provisions on expert evidence.

Improving the Quality of Expert Testimony in Federal Courts

LCJ was a forceful leader in giving judges the tools to eliminate “junk science” from the courtroom.



“ Although LCJ represents an independent voice of the defense bar, it has been a powerful ally in many state and federal legislative and rulemaking initiatives and deserves the strong support of the business community. The experienced defense practitioners involved in LCJ have focused their energy on enacting meaningful class action reform, adopting rules and legislation that will ingrain *Daubert* standards into state law, and protecting the privacy rights of defendant corporations that are frequently victimized by open ended discovery. ”

– Jeffrey W. Jackson
Vice President and General Counsel
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company



“ I have been particularly impressed with LCJ’s network of defense bar leaders who are not afraid to take on the plaintiffs’ bar in both the legislative and judicial arenas. LCJ represents a true partnership of corporate defense counsel and defense trial lawyers. I believe this program deserves our full support. ”

– Robert A. Armitage
Sr. Vice President and General Counsel
Eli Lilly and Company



Major Initiatives and Current Agenda

I. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

LCJ is leading efforts to improve the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in four key areas:

Pleadings

LCJ supports implementing heightened pleading “plausibility” standards that would change the legal system’s “plead nothing, discover everything” approach to litigation.

Limited Discovery

LCJ is striking at the heart of overly broad discovery practices by encouraging the limitation of discovery and e-discovery to relevant, material information.

Preservation

LCJ advocates adopting preservation rules that limit the scope of preservation obligations, define the triggering of preservation duties and permit spoliation sanctions based only on willful destruction of information.

Cost Allocation

LCJ seeks rule amendments that require each party to pay the costs of the discovery it seeks.

II. State E-discovery Program

Through the use of nationwide surveys and state-specific action teams, LCJ lawyers act as effective advocates of favorable e-discovery laws in key states.

III. Protective and Sealing Orders

LCJ protects defendants’ sensitive and proprietary information from exposure in litigation by preserving judicial discretion to issue protective and sealing orders.

IV. Improving the Quality of Testimony in State Courts

LCJ supports revising state rules to overcome the problematic use of “junk science” in the courtroom.

V. Judicial Salaries

LCJ is working to ensure that federal judges, the backbone of a respected judiciary, are adequately compensated.



How to Join

Corporations and organizations may join LCJ by submitting a membership application along with the requisite annual membership contribution. To become part of LCJ's network, please notify us of your interest in joining by contacting the LCJ office at 202.429.0045.

Structure and Membership

LCJ is incorporated in the District of Columbia as a non-profit organization with a 501(c) (6) status as recognized by the IRS. The organization is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors that is evenly composed of corporate entities and defense bar member organizations. An Executive Committee of eight members reflects the composition of the Board and provides ongoing oversight.

Corporate Members

Boston Scientific Corporation
DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar
Eli Lilly and Company
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Fedex Express
Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
Ford Motor Company
General Electric Company
GlaxoSmithKline
H5
International Association of Defense Counsel
Johnson & Johnson
Merck & Co., Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
Novo Nordisk, Inc.
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pfizer Inc
Shell Oil Company
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
Solar Turbines Incorporated, a Caterpillar Company

Lawyers for Civil Justice
1140 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 503
Washington, DC 20036
202.429.0045
www.lfcj.com