



# Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel

August 21, 2017

## Message from the President

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute for our annual meeting. I want to especially thank our immediate past president, Michael McCarty Harrison, for organizing an amazing meeting for us in a beautiful setting. Based upon the feedback I have had it was a successful meeting with great food, great music and terrific speakers. Michael did a wonderful job as President and our membership is at a record high. Under her leadership, not only has our membership grown but we have revamped our website. Most importantly, she increased our effectiveness as an organization by making our membership more aware of proposed legislation that may impact our members and their clients through the efforts of our legislative committee.

We have also made great strides in increasing defense counsel membership to the Board of Governors and House of Delegates. Thanks to those members who served on the legislative committee and analyzed bill after bill and to those members who have agreed to commit their time to serving in positions of leadership with the Arkansas Bar. Michael has accomplished so much during her presidency to make this organization more relevant to its membership. We should all be thankful for Michael's dedication and commitment to the AADC.

I also want to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as President of the AADC. I am honored and humbled to serve you. I will do my best to continue the strong leadership

of my predecessors. I believe we can continue to grow our organization and make it even better, but (there is always a but) I need your help. Please let me know what we can do to make the AADC better, stronger and more of a benefit to defense lawyers in this state. I am completely open to your suggestions and welcome your feedback both about what we are doing right and where we have opportunity for improvement.

I also need your help with the newsletters. If you would like to contribute something, we are always looking for material. Please email me if you have something you would like to contribute. In addition, if you have a topic you would like to see covered, please let me know that as well.

Those of you who were in attendance know that there was a fairly lively discussion regarding SJR8 and whether our organization should as an organization take a position for or against it. We are awaiting a written proposal on the issue and our Executive Committee has been charged with the responsibility to meet and discuss ways to address the issue best as an organization.

Thank you all for your commitment to this organization and for your willingness to share ideas and exchange information with each other. I know that this organization is a great resource for my practice mostly because of the caliber and experience of the lawyers involved in it.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you this coming year.

**Rebecca D. Hattabaugh, President  
Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel**



**We welcome your articles and thoughts for future editions.**

**We Are Better Together:  
Support the AADC**

**Following are highlights from the  
AADC's Annual Meeting & Seminar:**

