



# Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association

## *NEWSLETTER*

### **TDLA Attends DRI Regional Meeting**

TDLA Leadership had the privilege of participating in the annual **Southern and Southeastern DRI Regional Meeting**, which convened in our nation's capitol on May 20-22. Within the Southern Region, we engaged with State and Local Defense Organizations (SLDOs) from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi, while the Southeastern Region welcomed representatives from Georgia, Alabama,

and Florida. These gatherings provide intimate settings to glean insights into the triumphs and trials of our regional counterparts, offering valuable opportunities for collaboration and learning. Among the topics explored during our sessions were leadership development and board competencies, succession planning, as well as strategies fostering organizational growth and engagement. Overall, it proved to be a wonderful networking opportunity and enriching learning experience for both our seasoned veterans and emerging leaders within our organization.



From L to R: **Hank Spragins**, President-Elect; **Cate Dugan**, DRI Southern Region Director; **Hannah Lowe**, DRI State Rep; **Mary Gadd**, TDLA Executive Director; **Michael Haynie**, TDLA President.

# Welcome New Members!

In the last few months, *TDLA welcomed the following new members:*

- **Iris “McKay” Devault**, Hodges Doughty Carson, Knoxville
- **Tanner Gibson**, Meridian Law, Brentwood
- **Daniel Ginn**, Rainey Kizer Reviere & Bell, Jackson
- **Terri Bernal**, MGC Law, Nashville
- **Danielle Cheney**, Zurich, Germantown
- **Amanda Coop**, Groth, Makarenko, Kaiser & Eidex, Nashville
- **Louise Biedenharn**, Hall Booth Smith, Memphis
- **Erica Davis**, MGC Law, Nashville
- **Bradley Eskins**, Eskins, King & Barney, Memphis
- **Lesley Floyd**, Leitner Williams Dooley & Napolitan, Memphis
- **Jonathan Garner**, Walker & Garner, Springfield
- **Neal Lewis**, Hancock Daniel & Johnson, Johnson City
- **Warren McWhirter**, McWhirter Gaia & Sadler, Memphis
- **Eric Miles**, North Pursell & Ramos, Nashville
- **Scarlett Sloane**, MGC Law, Nashville

## InQuis

*Evidence-Based Rehab Experts*

**WHAT  
WE  
OFFER**

Life Care Planning  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Wage Loss Analysis  
Litigation Consulting

Our consultants are experienced and credentialed life care planners and vocational rehabilitation counselors, in addition to being nationally-recognized experts in their respective fields.

Their knowledge of their areas of expertise, as well as experience testifying in and out of court, allows InQuis to facilitate optimum outcomes grounded in evidence.



843.566.4208



[jwoody@inquisglobal.com](mailto:jwoody@inquisglobal.com)



[inquisglobal.com](http://inquisglobal.com)



# TDLA Emerging Leaders Program

TDLA Immediate Past President Hannah Lowe is excited to launch the Emerging Leaders program. **Emerging Leaders is a Leadership Development Program whereby lawyers in our organization can have the opportunity to learn and develop leadership skills and be recognized for their participation in various TDLA activities.** Anyone wishing to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program will be able to sign up using the link on the TDLA website. Each participant will receive a Progress Tracker, which will have space for each participant to mark when a task is complete.

The tasks are divided into two groups: Level 1 (more basic tasks), and Level 2 (more advanced tasks). When members complete 6/8 tasks in each level, they will be recognized as a TDLA Emerging Leader either Level 1 or Level 2 and receive recognition as a graduate of the TDLA Emerging Leaders Program at the TDLA Annual Meeting Awards Dinner, in the Newsletter and/or Journal, and on the TDLA website.

There will be no specific deadline for completion of the tasks on the list; however, if a member wishes to be recognized at the Annual Meeting, the Progress Tracker must be submitted (to [office@tdla.net](mailto:office@tdla.net)) by the end of the month before the annual meeting. Members who have already completed one or more task on the lists at the time of the Program Launch may mark the task complete with the completed date on the Progress Sheet.

Any members who have completed 6 of 8 tasks from either Level 1 or Level 2 by the time of the next TDLA Annual Meeting and submit their form by the end of the month before the meeting (TDLA's next annual meeting will be in October 2024) will be recognized as a graduate of the Emerging Leaders Program at the Annual Meeting. They will also receive recognition in the TDLA Newsletter and/or Journal, and on the TDLA website. We plan to dedicate at least one hour of the TDLA Young Lawyers Boot Camp at the Annual Meeting to leadership training as part of the Emerging Leaders Program.

TDLA is excited about identifying and working with our emerging leaders to help them to develop the leadership skills they need to thrive not just in our organization but in the legal profession generally.

Emerging Leaders Program Tracker - **PDF form:** [click here](#)

Emerging Leaders Program Tracker - **Online form:** [click here](#)

# Upcoming Events

**TDLA/ ADLA Joint Summer Conference** - June 13-16, 2024 - Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL. - Join TDLA and Alabama Defense Lawyers for our annual joint summer conference in Orange Beach. Registration is through ADLA. Plan your CLE in a tropical location and vacation now! [Click here for more information and how to register.](#)

**TDLA Next Gen Webinar: Party Depositions - Avoiding Disaster and Going on Offense** - June 27, 2024 - On Thursday June 27th at 1pm EST/ Noon CST, TDLA member **Scott Rhodes** with *White and Rhodes* in Brentwood, TN will present the Next Gen webinar on "Party Depositions - Avoiding Disaster and Going on Offense". This webinar will provide practical tips and strategies for party depositions from the perspective of a Defendant. Party depositions are usually the third critical litigation phase following investigation/pleadings and written discovery. Failure to adequately prepare yourself and your client can be lethal to the defense while a well-focused deposition of a Plaintiff can have the same effect on your opponent's case. Topics that will be discussed include points of emphasis when preparing the client to testify (including careful review of pleadings, discovery, and response strategies), what information and strategies need to be at the forefront of defense counsel's mind going into the depositions and pertinent rules and applicable law for depositions. **To register:** [Click Here](#)

**TDLA/ KDC Annual Meeting 2024** - October 9-11, 2024 - Hilton Lexington Downtown, Lexington, KY - Please join us this fall in Lexington, KY for a joint annual meeting with Kentucky Defense Counsel. Networking and CLE available with horse racing at Keeneland and bourbon tastings in the works as part of our activities. **Registration Coming Soon!** [Click here for updates](#)

**DRI Annual Meeting 2024** - October 16-18, 2024 - Seattle, WA. - Registration now open for the 2024 DRI annual meeting on the west coast. Keynote speakers include Rick Steves and Bill Bradley. Join the nationwide network of civil defense attorneys at this DRI annual meeting, where relationships build business! [Click here to view more](#) and register.

# TDLA Sponsors

## PRIME

---



**elliott davis**

## PRESENTING

---



**BRC**

ANALYZING HOW INJURIES ARE CAUSED™



## TITLE

---



**THE EXPERTS**  
**Robson Forensic**

## PATRON

---



Know.

*Please thank these sponsors of TDLA who make our programming and events possible for our members! To view 2024 Sponsorship opportunities: [click here](#)*