ACC Association of Corporate Counsel
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Preparing In-House Lawyers To Lead From Any Seat

PROGRAM INFORMATION

LOCATION

All sessions will be held in-person in the D.C. metropolitan area, provided that public health and/or weather conditions allow. Firms and companies that sponsor the Academy usually host at their offices, most of which are in the District. If we need to meet virtually, we will use Zoom.

PROGRAM DATES

The incoming class kicks off with a half-day orientation in October of the year prior to the class year, and a half-day intro session on developing your professional leadership brand in November. Full-day sessions take place in January (2 consecutive days), February, March, April, May, June, July, and September. Fellows are expected to attend all sessions, and will meet in smaller cohort groups between sessions to optimize learning.

TUITION

Tuition for the Class of 2027 will be $6,250 for ACC members. (Candidates who are not ACC members will be required to join.) Tuition covers: the Academy sessions; a comprehensive 360 assessment; two professional coaching sessions; and a one-year subscription to the Harvard Business Review. Limited financial aid may be available.

APPLY ONLINE

Applications open on November 1, 2025. Completed applications submitted on or before January 31, 2026, will receive priority review. The final application deadline is March 15, 2026.

Applicants generally must have at least two years of in-house experience and seven years of legal practice as of September 2026. Applications require one or two letters of recommendation and three or four short essays.

Developed by in-house counsel for in-house counsel, the ACC National Capital Region Leadership Academy will give you the tools and skills you need to optimize your leadership potential and to succeed at the highest levels of your organization. The Academy curriculum will ready you for the challenges of leading in today's business environment.

As a Leadership Academy Fellow, you will:

- Work with professional coaches to set personal growth and leadership goals, and develop benchmarks to measure your progress.
- Develop skills to become the trusted advisor at your organization that your colleagues, the business units, the senior leadership team, and the board of directors need.
- Cultivate your executive voice and presence to be an impactful colleague and business partner, and advance your role within your organization and the legal community.
- Connect with nationally recognized faculty and leading General Counsel.
- Build strong professional relationships and expand your in-house network across an array of industries and organizations in the National Capital Region.

A class of approximately 30 distinguished in-house counsel – known as Fellows – will be chosen through an admissions process designed to create a well-balanced, high-caliber class. Each Fellow will also be part of a smaller cohort to facilitate learning and to support one another's professional development. The instructional sessions will take place over a 12-month period, from October through September (excluding December and August). Each Fellow will complete a 360 assessment and coaching process over the summer prior to the start of the Academy.

The Academy is taught by nationally recognized faculty at the top of their fields and focuses on leadership competencies essential to advancement in the in-house role, including: how to develop and lead a high performing team, decision-making, managing change, managing difficult conversations, and influencing.

The Academy Board of Advisors is comprised of highly regarded, current and former General Counsel from a variety of companies and organizations across the region. Board of Advisors members interface directly with Academy faculty and participate in each session to deliver key insights and perspectives. Board members also participate in social gatherings over the course of the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Leadership Academy website: accncrleadershipacademy.com
or email: info@accncrleadershipacademy.com
Follow us on LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/acc-ncr-leadership-academy

To be a leader, you need to make the move from a subject-matter expert to a people expert.