



**Biography - Susan Hackett, CEO**  
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Susan Hackett founded [Legal Executive Leadership](http://www.legalexecutiveleadership.com), in the Fall of 2011 after serving for 22 years as the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the Association of Corporate Counsel ([ACC](http://www.acc.com)) in Washington, DC. Susan's practice is designed to help legal executives successfully lead law departments and law firms, as well as lead other legal industry service organizations: she helps legal leaders to leverage knowledge, increase value, deliver results and practice more efficiently in the "New Normal."

Over the course of her career with ACC, Susan worked with hundreds of law firms and thousands of law departments, examining and sharing leading practices, and helping legal executives improve their service to their clients, across most every kind of industry and legal specialty. This rare insight and access to the practical workings of corporate legal service affords her an unusual advantage as a consultant: she's been tapped for retentions to plan and deliver innovative law firm and department retreats, to lead strategic planning initiatives, to facilitate executive discussion think-tanks, to benchmark leading practices and assess their application to firm and department clients, to develop client survey tools and evaluate law firm and department performance, to deliver keynote presentations for major conferences, and to consult on process, structure, and service delivery options to improve firm, law department, and legal vendor performance and value.

During her career at ACC, Susan held a number of roles and responsibilities. Often referred to as the "[voice of the in-house bar](#)," she is most widely recognized for founding and fostering the [ACC Value Challenge](#) initiative (to reconnect value to the cost of legal services), developing "leading practices" and leadership discussion networks for [CLOs](#) and [law department executives](#), and for her leadership in driving [ACC's advocacy efforts](#) [including ACC's amicus program, attorney-client privilege protection, the development of in-house legal ethics and professionalism resources, testimony and representation before decision-making authorities, in-house corporate responsibility initiatives, and multijurisdictional practice (MJP) reform].

Susan has addressed more than 500 legal audiences as one of the industries most sought-after speakers, and has been quoted by most every major US legal and business publication and media outlet covering legal issues.

Susan also led ACC's pro bono and diversity initiatives for corporate law departments, partnering with the [Pro Bono Institute](#) to create and implement [Corporate Pro Bono](#), and with [Street Law](#) to create and implement the [ACC/Street Law Corporate Legal Diversity Pipeline program](#). She instituted and led ACC's efforts to partner with the diverse bars to create new legal leadership opportunities for women, lawyers of color, and other groups promoting diversity in the legal profession.

Susan is a 1983 graduate (dual B.A. in political philosophy and international relations) of [James Madison College at Michigan State University](#), and a 1986 graduate of the [University of Michigan Law School](#). Prior to joining ACC, Susan served as a transactional associate at [Patton Boggs LLP](#).