

# 2025 Litigation Section Annual Conference

April 30–May 2, 2025  
Hilton Chicago  
Chicago, IL

Early bird  
discounts  
end April 8!



[ambar.org/sac2025](https://ambar.org/sac2025)  
#LitigationSAC

**ABA**<sup>®</sup>  
AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION  
Litigation Section

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Wednesday, April 30

### **Welcome Reception** | 5:30 PM–6:30 PM | *Included in Registration*

This kick-off reception provides an opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and make new connections. Drinks and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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### **Committee Networking Dinners & Dine-Arounds** | 7:00 PM–9:00 PM |

*Pay on Own*

Gather with those who share your professional and practice interests. All attendees are welcome, including those who are not committee members or are new to the Litigation Section. More details to follow.

## Thursday, May 1

### **Networking Breakfast** | 7:30 AM–8:45 AM | *Included in Registration*

Meet in small groups with Section leaders and other attendees to network and learn how the Litigation Section can deliver results for your practice and professional development.

### **John Minor Wisdom & Diversity Leadership Awards Luncheon** |

12:15 PM–1:30 PM | *Ticketed: \$100*

A highlight of the Litigation Section Annual Conference, this event celebrates strides in equality of justice and diversity in the legal community. During this luncheon, the Section will present the John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award and its Diversity Leadership Award.

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### **Networking Reception** | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM | *Included in Registration*

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your network. Drinks and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Thursday, May 1 (Cont.)

**Networking Dinners & Dine-Arounds** | 6:30 PM–8:30 PM | *Pay on Own*  
Continue the conversation from the day's sessions and reinforce lasting relationships with fellow attendees. Each pay-on-your-own dinner will be led by a Litigation Section leader. More details to follow.

## Friday, May 2

**Committee Networking Breakfast** | 8:00 AM–9:00 AM | *Included in Registration*

Start your day by networking with litigators whose practice areas match yours. Learn how to get involved in the Section's 34 open-enrollment committees and advance your practice.

**Networking Luncheon** | 12:00 PM–1:15 PM | *Ticketed: \$75*

Meet new attendees and reconnect with colleagues at this networking lunch.



# SCHEDULE

Schedule as of 12/3/2024

TIME	CLE	EVENT
Wednesday, April 30		
12:00 PM–6:00 PM		Registration
2:45 PM–3:45 PM	Ethics	<b>Breakout:</b> The Cover-Up is Worse Than the Crime
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Courtroom Feud: Survey Says...Juror Psychology Matters!
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Whistling Past the Graveyard: The Latest on Whistleblower Laws
3:45 PM–4:00 PM		Networking Break
4:00 PM–5:15 PM	General	<b>Plenary:</b> The Court of Public Opinion: Litigating in the Media Spotlight
5:30 PM–6:30 PM		Welcome Reception
7:00 PM–9:30 PM		Committee Dinners & Dine-Arounds ( <i>Pay on own, open to all</i> )
Thursday, May 1		
7:00 AM–4:00 PM		Registration
7:30 AM–8:45 AM		Networking Breakfast
8:45 AM–9:00 AM		Welcome Remarks
9:00 AM–10:15 AM	General	<b>Plenary:</b> Has the Supreme Court Created a New Balance of Power?
10:15 AM–10:30 AM		Networking Break
10:30 AM–11:30 AM	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Insurance Essentials: Navigating Its Role in Litigation
	Wellness	<b>Breakout:</b> Attorneys Who Stumbled and Came Back Even Stronger: Lessons in Wellness

# SCHEDULE

TIME	CLE	EVENT
<b>Thursday, May 1</b>		
10:30 AM–11:30 AM	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Administrative Law Overturing “Chevron Deference”: Recent SCOTUS Decisions Impact Regulatory Powers of Federal Agencies
11:45 AM–1:00 PM		John Minor Wisdom and Diversity Leadership Awards Luncheon ( <i>Ticketed: \$100</i> )
1:15 PM–2:15 PM	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Class Actions—Beyond 23(b)(3)
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Jeopardy: Damages in Commercial Cases
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> The Future of Third-Party Releases After <i>Harrington v. Purdue Pharma, L.P.</i>
2:15 PM–2:30 PM		Networking Break
2:30 PM–3:30 PM	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Litigating Voting Rights in the Trump Era
	Ethics	<b>Breakout:</b> The New Duty of Inquiry: Are Lawyers Now Sheriffs?
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Antitrust in the New Administration
3:30 PM–3:45 PM		Networking Break
3:45 PM–4:45 PM	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Preparing for Battle: How to Select and Arm Your Expert
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Mastering Mass Arbitration: Understanding the Phenomenon
	Diversity	<b>Breakout:</b> The Big Ask: How to Self-Advocate in the Workplace

# SCHEDULE

TIME	CLE	EVENT
<b>Thursday, May 1</b>		
5:00 PM–6:00 PM		Networking Reception
6:30 PM–8:30 PM		Networking Dinners & Dine-Arounds ( <i>Pay on own</i> )
<b>Friday, May 2</b>		
7:30 AM–1:30 PM		Registration
8:00 AM–9:00 AM		Committee Networking Breakfast
9:00 AM–10:15 AM	Non-CLE	<b>Plenary:</b> Beyond the Field: Legal and Practical Conversations on Women in Sports
10:15 AM–10:30 AM		Networking Break
10:30 AM–11:30 AM	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Using Artificial Intelligence in Discovery & Motion Practice
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> The Next Frontier of Diversity: A Mock Argument Regarding Potentially Acceptable Considerations
	General	<b>Breakout:</b> Let's Make an Appeal! A Preservation-of-Error Game Show
11:45 AM–1:00 PM		Networking Luncheon ( <i>Ticketed: \$75</i> )



# PLENARY PROGRAMS

## **The Court of Public Opinion: Litigating in the Media Spotlight**

**Wednesday, April 30** | 4:00 PM–5:15 PM | *General CLE*

Hear from attorneys who have been in the spotlight of high-profile litigation as they discuss the unique challenges of handling highly publicized cases and their impact on trial strategy. On one hand, it's crucial to ensure that these high-visibility cases are reported fairly and accurately—a growing challenge in today's increasingly polarized media landscape. On the other hand, how can we protect our witnesses, jurors, and other participants from being influenced by the surrounding publicity?

## **Has the Supreme Court Created a New Balance of Power?**

**Thursday, May 1** | 9:00 AM–10:15 AM | *General CLE*

The Constitution provides for three, coequal branches of government and checks and balances on each: the legislative, to make the laws; the executive, to take care that the laws are faithfully executed; and the judicial, to decide cases and controversies in law and equity. Recent landscape-shaking decisions, coupled with signals from some justices that may have invited particular controversies, have caused some to wonder whether the Court is actively reshaping American life, strategizing on how to do it, and asserting disproportionate power over law and policy. Our star-studded panel will share their insights into the power of the Court moving forward and what that might mean for the country.

## **Beyond the Field: Legal and Practical Conversations on Women in Sports**

**Friday, May 2** | 9:00 AM–10:15 AM | *Non-CLE*

Both legal professionals and lay members of the sports industry will discuss recent challenges and rapid changes for women in sports. Discussion topics will include Title IX, pay equity, increasing female presence on the business side, DEI initiatives and their outcomes (both expected and unexpected), and more.

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Wednesday, April 30**

## **The Cover-Up is Worse Than the Crime**

2:45 PM–3:45 PM

*Ethics CLE*

Every litigator has been there: your client forgot about responsive documents, a written declaration is inaccurate, or perhaps you made a calendaring error and missed a deadline. What are your next steps? This panel of litigators and a judge will discuss the best strategies for dealing with errors, both from a practical and ethical perspective.

**Moderator:** **Syed S. Ahmad**, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Washington, DC

**Speakers:** **Jean H. Cha**, Cha Law Ethics, Orange, CA; **Hon. Kent A. Delgado**, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, IL; **Michael S. LeBoff**, Klein & Wilson LLP, Newport Beach, CA

## **Courtroom Feud: Survey Says... Juror Psychology Matters!**

2:45 PM–3:45 PM

*General CLE*

Attorneys and experts feud over courtroom practices and how jurors think. Cutting edge research reveals what jurors say they dislike about witnesses, what the most important things are to do during voir dire, and what do lawyers do that turns off jurors during opening statements.

**Participants:** **Elizabeth S. Fenton**, Ballard Spahr LLP, Wilmington, DE; **Ann T. Greeley**, ATGreeleyconsulting, State College, PA; **Chaney Hall**, Fox Rothschild, Wilmington, DE; **Shireen Meer**, BRG, Washington, DC; **Deena Pack**, Round Table Group, Washington, DC; **Anne Marie Seibel**, Bradley, Birmingham, AL



# CLE BREAKOUTS

Wednesday, April 30

**Whistling Past the Graveyard: The Latest on Whistleblower Laws**

2:45 PM–3:45 PM

*General CLE*

The Supreme Court's unanimous 2024 decision in *Murray v. UBS* held that whistleblowing employees under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act need only prove their protected activity was a "contributing factor" in an employer's adverse action against the employee, not that the employer acted with "retaliatory intent." The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission have imposed tens of millions of dollars in fines for language in employment agreements deemed to have a chilling effect on whistleblowing. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has warned companies that verbiage in employment agreements might violate whistleblower protections. The U.S. Department of Justice has raised the stakes, announcing the creation of new whistleblower rewards programs and a "Mergers & Acquisitions Safe Harbor Policy" aimed at promoting self-disclosure of misconduct discovered during the due diligence process. This session will examine what in-house counsel need to consider as they review and, if necessary, revise policies, procedures, agreements, and codes of conduct to withstand agency scrutiny, and will also provide insights from practitioners in this field.

**Moderator:** **Mark N. Mallery**, Ogletree Deakins, New Orleans, LA

**Speaker:** **Sarah N. Flanagan**, Intel, Portland, OR; **Gurbir S. Grewal**, Milbank, New York, NY

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Thursday, May 1**

**Insurance  
Essentials:  
Navigating Its Role  
in Litigation**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

*General CLE*

Show me the money! Insurance plays a role in virtually every type of litigation. This session will teach you what law school didn't about how insurance coverage intersects with litigation: funding defense, paying a settlement, strategic decisions about pleading, and more! Leaders of the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee will arm you with practical advice and tips for your next case, no matter your practice area.

**Moderator:** **Seth H. Row**, Stoel Rives LLP, Portland, OR

**Speakers:** **John Bonnie**, Weinbger Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial LLC, Atlanta, GA; **Latosha Ellis**, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Washington, DC; **Sara Schroeder**, Allied Professionals Insurance Services, Newport Beach, CA

# CLE BREAKOUTS

Thursday, May 1

**Administrative  
Law Overturing  
“Chevron  
Deference”:  
Recent SCOTUS  
Decisions  
Impact Regulatory  
Powers of Federal  
Agencies**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

*General CLE*

This panel will review the potential impacts of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo, et al.* and its potential limitations to antitrust enforcement. While *Loper* may have overruled *Chevron*, holding that administrative agencies are not entitled to deference, it left open the question of whether courts can (and should) defer to agency interpretation. This panel will explore the complex questions implicated by the holding in *Loper*. Do the regulated industries now litigate every regulatory decision hoping for a better outcome in the courts? Do the courts take into consideration the typically exhaustive administrative record developed by agencies in rule making? What, if any, new cost and risk considerations are there for the regulated industries?

**Speakers:** **John C. Cruden**, Beveridge & Diamond LLP, Washington, DC;  
**Sanne H. Knuden**, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA

# CLE BREAKOUTS

Thursday, May 1

## **Attorneys Who Stumbled and Came Back Even Stronger: Lessons in Wellness**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

*Wellness CLE*

This panel will highlight the stories of how two successful lawyers—Michele Weinstat, General Counsel of the Fortune Society, and Jeff Grant, founder of the White-Collar Support Group—were buffeted by the demands of their practice and abused substances, violated ethical rules, lost their licenses, and faced criminal charges. In particular, they will share what they wish they would have known and what we can learn from their experiences. The panel will also feature David Lat, legal journalist and founder of Above the Law and *Original Jurisdiction*, who will give a global view of wellness in the profession, describe the impact of the Task Force on Wellness Report, and suggest additional measures the profession still needs to take to promote wellness. Finally, Dr. Priya Narayanan will give practical, realistic suggestions about how busy litigators can cultivate a healthy lifestyle. The panel will be moderated by Elizabeth Kelley, a criminal defense lawyer who focuses on representing people with mental disabilities.

**Moderator:** **Elizabeth Kelley**, Elizabeth Kelley Law, Spokane, WA

**Speakers:** **Jeff Grant**, GrantLaw, New York, NY; **David Lat**, Legal Journalist, Summit, NJ;

**Dr. Priya Narayanan**, Psychiatrist;

**Michele Weinstat**, The Fortune Society, New York, NY

# CLE BREAKOUTS

Thursday, May 1

## **Class Actions— Beyond 23(b)(3)**

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

*General CLE*

FRCP 23(b)(3) damages classes and “predominance” disputes are the heart and soul of class action practice. But that’s not the whole story. What about “issue” classes when a damages class can’t be certified? Are “fail safe” classes allowed? When does a defendant class make sense? Are proposals for “negotiation classes” viable? What are practitioners and courts doing to address fraudulent settlement claim submissions? Our panel of plaintiff and defense bar practitioners will get you up to speed on some of the hottest procedural and ethical issues in current class action practice and offer insights from both sides of the “v.”

**Moderator:** **Jennifer Scullion**, Seeger Weiss LLP, Ridgefield Park, NJ

**Speakers:** **Madison Kitchens**, King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta, GA; **Samantha Machock**, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, San Diego, CA; **An Truong**, Simmons Hanly Conroy LLP, New York, NY

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Thursday, May 1**

**Jeopardy:  
Damages in  
Commercial Cases**

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

*General CLE*

Even though damages are essential, too often a party's precise damages theory or defense in a commercial dispute is an afterthought. This program, which will combine a Jeopardy!-style gameshow and a panel discussion, will help counsel avoid damages pitfalls. The gameshow will feature two litigators and a BRG damages expert as contestants and will be hosted by a federal judge. Both the gameshow and the panel discussion afterward will cover complex damages issues that arise in commercial disputes, disclosure requirements under the Federal Rules, and traps to avoid. The program will be appropriate for both young lawyers and experienced practitioners.

**Moderator:** **Lauren F. Dayton**, MoloLamken LLP, Chicago, IL

**Speakers:** **Hon. Jeremy C. Daniel**, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, IL; **Zachary Kaye**, Reed Smith LLP, New York, NY; **Cleve B. Tyler**, BRG, Washington, DC; **Heather A. Waller**, Latham & Watkins LLP, Chicago, IL



# CLE BREAKOUTS

Thursday, May 1

**The Future of Third  
Party Releases  
After *Harrington  
v. Purdue Pharma,  
L.P.***

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

*General CLE*

This program will explore the implications of the Supreme Court's decision in *Harrington v. Purdue Pharma, L.P.*, that the Bankruptcy Code does not permit nonconsensual third-party releases. Panelists will explore the issues settled by the *Purdue Pharma* decision, those that remain unsettled, and how courts around the country have read and applied the decision, including courts' use of "opt-in" and "opt-out" provisions for releases and what constitutes "full payment" of creditor claims so as to permit use of third-party releases.

**Moderator:** **James I. McClammy**, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, NY

**Speakers:** **Roy Leaf**, Nyemaster Goode PC, Cedar Rapids, IA; **Alissa M. Nann**, Foley & Lardner LLP, New York, NY; **Garrett Wotkyns**, Chemicles Schwartz Kriner & Donaldson-Smith LLP, Scottsdale, AZ

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Thursday, May 1**

**Litigating Voting  
Rights in the Trump  
Era**

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

*General CLE*

States are increasingly enacting laws that impose new requirements on voting, often disproportionately affecting racial and ethnic minorities, as well as individuals with disabilities. With an anticipated shift in Department of Justice enforcement priorities under the new Trump administration, uncertainty looms regarding federal support for voting rights protections. This panel will examine recent changes in voting laws and highlight some of the most significant active cases challenging them. Panelists will also discuss how litigators can engage in efforts to defend voting rights within their communities.

**Speakers:** **J. Dalton Courson**, Disability Rights Louisiana, New Orleans, LA; **Elissa Gershon**, Center for Public Representation, Berkeley, CA; **Bradley E. Heard**, Southern Poverty Law Center, Washington, DC

# CLE BREAKOUTS

Thursday, May 1

## **The New Duty of Inquiry: Are Lawyers Now Sheriffs?**

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

*Ethics CLE*

Model Rule 1.16 was amended to require lawyers to inquire into and assess the facts and circumstances of each representation before accepting the representation. Just how far must a lawyer go to determine whether a prospective client is legit? And what happens if the lawyer assessed incorrectly after the representation has begun? We will work through these and other thorny issues to identify the boundaries of the new duty to inquire.

**Moderator:** **John M. Barkett**, Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP, Miami, FL

**Speakers:** **Patricia Astorga**, Mintz Group, New York, NY; **Hon. Keathan B. Frink**, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; **Deborah Winokur**, Cozen O'Connor PC, Philadelphia, PA

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Thursday, May 1**

**Antitrust in  
the New  
Administration**

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

*General CLE*

This program will explore the new administration's antitrust priorities with a particular focus on Big Tech antitrust enforcement, scrutiny into labor markets, and investigations and actions against hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry. We will also look into trends in environment, social, and governance enforcement both at home and abroad. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of how to best advise their business lines and clients, as well as what we can expect from the next four years of antitrust enforcement.

**Moderator:** **Britta Abeshaus**, The Coca-Cola Company, Austin, TX

**Speakers:** **Abraham Chang**, Norton Rose LLP, Houston, TX; **Brinkley Tappan**, AT&T Inc., Washington, DC; **Lauren Weinstein**, MoloLamken LLP, New York, NY

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Thursday, May 1**

**Preparing for  
Battle: How to  
Select and Arm  
Your Expert**

3:45 PM–4:45 PM

*Ethics CLE*

Rather than exclusively relying on *Daubert* motions to assess the scope and admissibility of expert opinion testimony, more courts are holding evidentiary expert witness hearings, as well as concurrent expert evidence hearings (“hot tub hearings”), to assess the scope and admissibility of expert opinion testimony. Using case studies from recent opinions, this panel will address how to select expert witnesses who will survive challenge to prepare expert witnesses to support their qualifications and opinions in these evidentiary hearings, and to adduce evidence that points out the flaws in opposing expert opinions.

**Moderator:** **Rebecca E. Kuehn**, Hudson Cook LLP, Washington, DC

**Speakers:** **John G. Papianou**, Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP, Philadelphia, PA; **Evangeline C. Paschal**, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Washington, DC; **Monica Poole**, Round Table Group, Gainesville, FL

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Thursday, May 1**

**Masstering Mass  
Arbitration:  
Understanding the  
Phenomenon**

3:45 PM–4:45 PM

*General CLE*

Learn about the current state of mass arbitration from experts practicing in the field. Understand how mass arbitration has emerged and evolved. Get practical tips on how to manage mass arbitrations efficiently. See how arbitration providers have reacted with varying rules and procedures. If you could find yourself on either side of a mass arbitration, this in-depth presentation will provide valuable insights.

**Moderator: Raymond A. Garcia**, Garcia & Milas, New Haven, CT

**Speakers: Adam C. Shoneck**, American Arbitration Association, Johnston, CT;

**Rachel Thorn**, Cooley, New York, NY;

**Jonathan Waisnor**, Labaton Keller Sucharow, New York, NY



# CLE BREAKOUTS

## Thursday, May 1

### **The Big Ask: How to Self-Advocate in the Workplace**

3:45 PM–4:45 PM

*Diversity CLE*

From asking for promotions to work assignments, effective self-advocacy can reduce workplace inequities. The program will focus on what prevents advocates from making big asks from the lens of diversity, and tools for effectively making those asks and creating a workplace culture that promotes self-advocacy among diverse members.

**Moderator:** **Guneev Bhinder**, McMillan LLP, Toronto, ON

**Speakers:** **John Mitchell**, KM Advisors, Chicago, IL; **Beena McDonald**, Chimicles Schwartz Kriner & Donaldson-Smith LLP, Haverford, PA; **Susana Sandoval Vargas**, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Chicago, IL; **Amy M. Stewart**, Stewart Law Group PLLC, Dallas, TX

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Friday, May 2**

## **Using Artificial Intelligence in Discovery & Motion Practice**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

*General CLE*

This panel of e-Discovery litigators, experts, and a retired judge will discuss the potential opportunities and pitfalls of using artificial intelligence for research, drafting, and discovery, including ethical considerations.

**Moderator:** **Joseph V. Schaeffer**, Babst Calland, Pittsburgh, PA

**Speakers:** **Ashley P. Dubin**, Day Pitney LLP, Hartford, CT; **Hon. Ronald J. Hedges (Ret.)**, Ronald J. Hedges LLC, New York, NY; **Meghan A. Podolny**, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Richmond, VA

## **The Next Frontier of Diversity: A Mock Argument Regarding Potentially Acceptable Considerations**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

*General CLE*

In the aftermath of *Students for Fair Education v. Harvard*, educational institutions and employers are left to determine what considerations regarding diversity in applications, pay, and recognition may be legally acceptable. This program features a mock appellate argument regarding potential factors such as family hardship, geographic location, special community needs, and unique achievements that could promote diversity.

**Moderator:** **Lawrence D. Rosenberg**, Jones Day, Washington, DC

# CLE BREAKOUTS

**Friday, May 2**

**Let's Make an  
Appeal! A  
Preservation-  
of-Error Game  
Show**

**10:30 AM–11:30 AM**

*General CLE*

During the heat of trial, lawyers are focused on winning. At the same time, however, they must anticipate a loss and preserve issues for appeal. But many appeals are lost because trial counsel did not do so. This game-show-style workshop will begin with the moderator presenting panelists who have extensive trial and appellate experience with complex questions and scenarios involving error preservation. The scenarios will be based on issues from real cases. Panelists will “hit the buzzer” first to answer as to whether an issue has been properly preserved for appeal, while other panelists and audience members can chime in if they agree or disagree. The moderator—a retired federal judge—will then reveal the appellate decision. Following the game show portion, the panelists will provide brief comments on error preservation issues they have faced in practice and practical tips on preserving issues for appeal. Audience members will have an opportunity for Q&A with the panel.

**Moderator:** **Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr. (Ret.)**, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, Newark, NJ

**Speakers:** **Raffi Melkonian**, Wright Close & Barger LLP, Houston, TX; **Steven F. Molo**, MoloLamken, Chicago, IL; **Jaime A. Santos**, Goodwin Procter LLP, Washington, DC

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Hotel Information

Hilton Chicago  
720 South Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312-922-4400

A block of rooms has been reserved at the discounted rate of \$269 and applicable tax per night. The deadline for room reservations at the discounted rate is **Tuesday, April 8, 2025**, at 5:00 PM CT. To reserve, visit the [website](#) or call 312-922-4400 and reference the ABA Litigation Section 2025 Section Annual Conference. All reservations are subject to availability.

## MCLE Information

The ABA will seek 9.75 hours of CLE credit (including 2.0 hours of ethics, 1.0 hour of elimination of bias, and 1.0 hour of wellness CLE credit) in 60-minute states and 11.7 hours of CLE credit (including 2.4 hours of ethics, 1.2 hours of elimination of bias, and 1.2 hours of wellness CLE credit) for this program in 50-minute states. Credit hours are estimated and are subject to each state's approval and credit rounding rules. Please visit [americanbar.org/mcle](http://americanbar.org/mcle) for general information on CLE at the ABA.

## Program Course Materials

Course materials will be sent via email to registrants and posted online before the conference. You may bring a laptop, smartphone, or tablet to view the materials onsite as complimentary Wi-Fi access will be available.

## Registration/Participant Image and Voice Agreement

Registration for, attendance at, or participation in the 2025 Litigation Section Annual Conference and other associated activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant to permit the ABA to use and distribute (both now and in the future) the participant's image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions, or audiotapes of such event.

## Cancellations and Substitutions

Registration cancellations must be made by **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, and are subject to a \$50 administrative fee. No refunds will be provided for requests made after this date. Registrants who do not cancel before **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, and who do not attend, will receive a copy of the program materials after the conference. Written substitutions will be permitted until **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**. Substitutions are not permitted once a registrant has registered onsite or the conference has occurred. Only the substitute will be eligible for CLE credit. The substitute and original registrant must work out the payment between themselves. Please submit all requests to Erin Stanton at [erin.stanton@americanbar.org](mailto:erin.stanton@americanbar.org) or 312-971-8721. The ABA reserves the right to cancel any programs and assumes no responsibility for personal expenses.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships to defray tuition expenses for CLE programs are available upon application, on a program-by-program and case-by-case basis. Preference will be given to public-interest lawyers, government lawyers, full-time law professors, solo or small firm practitioners of limited means, and unemployed attorneys. Scholarship applications must be received by **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**. You will be notified prior to the conference if your application is approved. A minimum fee may be charged on all approved scholarship applications to defray expenses. For programs with tuition costs over \$500, qualifying attorneys will receive at least a 50% reduction in the course fees.



## Services for Persons with Disabilities

If special arrangements are required, please contact Maria Gamboa at [maria.gamboa@americanbar.org](mailto:maria.gamboa@americanbar.org). Please submit requests at least two weeks prior to the conference.

## FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

Maximize your Conference experience with a Meeting Mentor! Request a Meeting Mentor during the registration process. One of our Section leaders will contact you before the Conference to answer any questions you might have and arrange to meet you in Chicago to introduce you to others in the Litigation Section.



# REGISTRATION

Registration Fees	Through 4/8/25	After 4/8/25
Litigation Section Member	\$720	\$820
Join the Litigation Section—for ABA Members*	\$795	\$895
Litigation Section Member—Young Lawyer (Age 35 or younger or in practice less than 5 years) **	\$420	\$520
Law Student Section Member ( <a href="#">Free to join</a> )**	\$25	\$50
In-House Counsel (Does not include solo practitioners, contract lawyers, vendors, or law firm attorneys) **	\$395	\$495
Government/Academic/Public Service/Judge	\$420	\$520
ABA Member	\$820	\$920
Non-ABA Member	\$900	\$1,000

\*ABA Members can join the Litigation Section for a \$75 fee and receive the Litigation Section Member registration rate. Please note: Section membership will be applied within five business days. \*\*Rate applies to Litigation Section members only. Join the ABA at [americanbar.org/membership](http://americanbar.org/membership).

## Ticketed Events and Prices

### Wednesday, April 30

Welcome Reception	Included
Committee Dinners & Dine-Arounds	Pay on Own

### Thursday, May 1

Networking Breakfast	Included
John Minor Wisdom & Diversity Leadership Awards Luncheon	\$100
Networking Dinners & Dine-Arounds	Pay on Own

### Friday, May 2

Committee Networking Breakfast	Included
Networking Luncheon	\$75



# THANK YOU

## 2024–2025 Section Leadership



**Larry Kristinik**  
Nelson Mullins Riley &  
Scarborough LLP  
Columbia, SC  
Section Chair



**Richard Gaal**  
Jones Walker LLP  
Mobile, AL  
Managing Director



**La'Jessica Stringfellow**  
Robinson Gray Stepp &  
Laffitte LLC  
Columbia, SC  
Managing Director



**Lara White**  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA  
Managing Director

## 2025 Litigation Section Annual Conference Co-Chairs



**Julia Emfinger**  
Greenberg Traurig LLP  
Chicago, IL



**David Kroeger**  
Jenner & Block LLP  
Chicago, IL



**Tonya Newman**  
Neal Gerber &  
Eisenberg LLP  
Chicago, IL



**Hon. Griselda Vega Samuel**  
Cook County  
Circuit Court  
Chicago, IL

## Corporate Counsel Track Co-Chair



**Rudy Perrino**  
Kutak Rock LLP  
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