CLLA

COMMERCIAL LAW LEAGUE OF AMERICA

EXPERTISE • INSIGHT • RESULTS

Southern Region Conference

March 5-6, 2027

Dolly Parton's SongTeller Hotel

Nashville, TN

Priority Registration Ends
Friday, January 29, 2027
Regular Registration Ends
Friday, February 5, 2027

Join Colleagues and Experience the Brand New SongTeller Hotel in Nashville, TN.



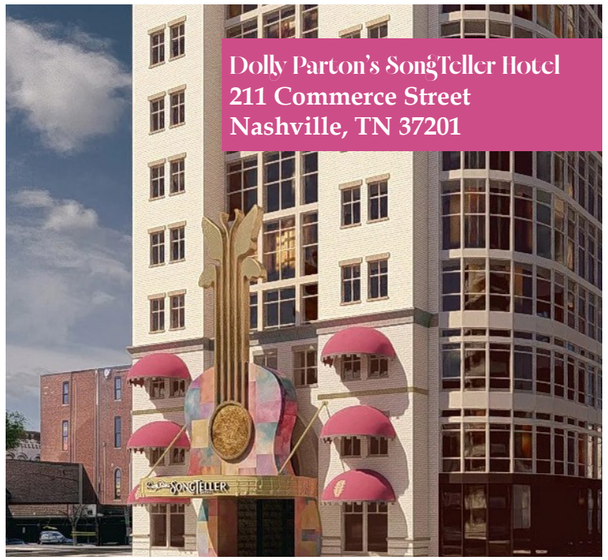
Dear CLLA Members,

Mark your calendars for March 5 - 6 and make plans to join us at the brand-new SongTeller Hotel in downtown Nashville for the CLLA Southern Region Conference!

From engaging speakers and industry updates to networking with fellow professionals, this event is designed to help you connect, learn, and grow. Add in Nashville's world-famous music, dining, and Southern hospitality, and you have the perfect conference destination. Register today and be part of an unforgettable experience.

We can't wait to see you in Nashville!

Southern Region Chair
Crystal R. Cole,
CRC Legal Group, Nashville, TN



Dolly Parton's SongTeller Hotel in Nashville, TN, is a vibrant tribute to the legendary country music icon and her remarkable storytelling legacy. Nestled in the heart of Music City, this unique hotel blends Southern charm with contemporary design, offering guests an immersive experience that celebrates Dolly's rich musical history. From its thoughtfully curated decor inspired by her songs to a range of exclusive amenities, the SongTeller Hotel invites visitors to explore the soulful narratives behind some of Dolly's most beloved hits, making it a must-visit destination for music lovers and fans alike.

Who Should Attend?

Professionals who benefit the most are those who attend structured meetings to maximize contact with colleagues from around the US, Canada and abroad. This in-person conference attracts an audience of professionals from various aspects of the commercial law arena interested in forming business connections. The conference site and schedule will allow you to do business and still take advantage of all that Nashville has to offer.
Visit www.CLLA.org/events for more details.

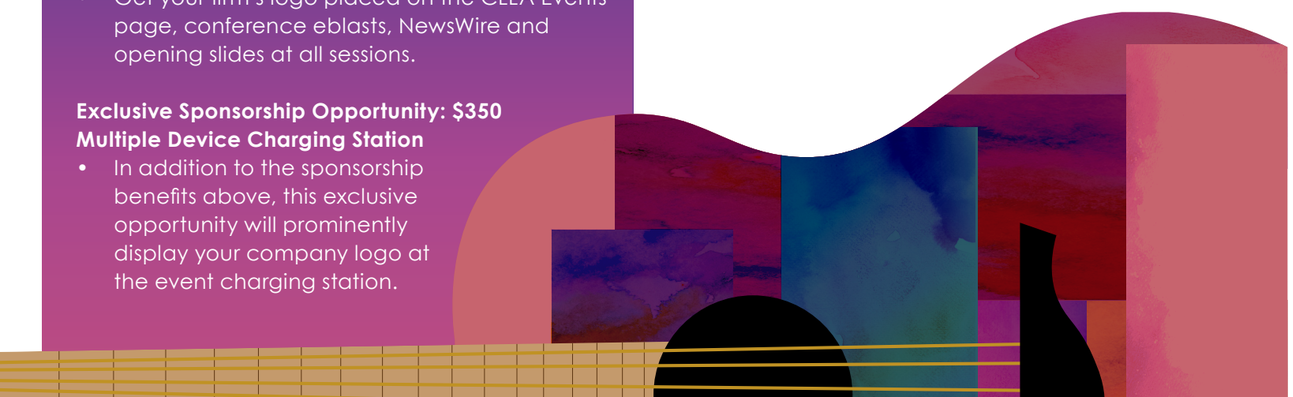
Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunity: $200

- Get your firm's logo placed on the CLLA Events page, conference eblasts, NewsWire and opening slides at all sessions.

Exclusive Sponsorship Opportunity: $350
Multiple Device Charging Station

- In addition to the sponsorship benefits above, this exclusive opportunity will prominently display your company logo at the event charging station.



Hotel Reservations

Hotel Reservations and Registration
Deadline is Friday, February 5, 2027.
Online reservations can be made by clicking below:

CLLA 2027 Booking Link

Individual reservations can be made by calling **(877) SONGTELLER** by Friday, February 5, 2027.
Be sure to use our **group code: 20270304CLRL**

Room Rate: $309/night, single/double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. Check-In is 4pm on arrival day. Check-Out is 11am on departure day.

Registration Fees

Registration	Priority* Thru 1/29	Regular* Thru 2/5
CLLA Members	$589	$739
Spouse/ Guest**	$279	$279
Non Members	$1178	$1178

Fee Includes:

- Friday Evening Welcome Reception
- Saturday Breakfast
- Educational Sessions
- Breaks
- Lunch
- Saturday Evening Cocktails

*Disclaimer: CLE credits ARE available to attendees in qualifying states who register on or before February 5. We cannot guarantee state accreditation after February 5.

**Please note that business colleagues are not eligible to register under this category

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be submitted in writing to dawn.federico@clla.org. Registration fee refunds will be granted on the following schedule: Cancellation notices received by February 12, will receive 100% refund less $50 processing fee. Notices received between February 13-21 will receive a 50% refund. No refund will be provided for notices received on or after February 22.

CLLA ESSAY CONTEST

The CLLA Southern District Region will be holding its Southern Region Conference on March 5 - 6, 2027 in Nashville, TN. In conjunction with this meeting the CLLA Southern Region will be sponsoring a writing contest for law students in the geographical area of the conference location.

Essay Topics:

- Evaluate how Tennessee law balances the interests of creditors, businesses, and the broader commercial community, and recommend one practical legal or policy change that would better position Nashville for continued economic success.
- Analyze whether Tennessee's current legal framework appropriately balances the rights of creditors with opportunities for financially distressed businesses to recover.

Some Essay Requirements:

- Entrants should choose one of the listed topics
- Essays should be between 1,500-2,000 words exclusive of footnotes.
- The essay must be the entrant's original work
- The essay should be typed, double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" paper with 1-inch margins on all sides

Selected Winners Will Receive:

1st Place

- $500.00 cash prize
- Their essay published in CLLA's publication, The Commercial Law World.

2nd Place

- $250.00 cash prize

3rd Place

- $100.00 cash prize.

In addition all selected winners will receive:

- Invitation to the Southern Region Conference for presentation of the award.
- A one year subscription to the Commercial Law World.
- A one year complimentary admission to the Commercial Law League of America.

For all details and information visit: https://clla.org/clla-conference-southern-region-2027/

We look forward to reading your submission and to meeting you at the Southern Region Conference!

2027 Schedule

Friday, March 5, 2027

6:00pm – 7:30pm
Welcome Reception
Acoustic Lounge – 2nd Floor
SongTeller Hotel

Saturday, March 6, 2027

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Registration, Breakfast and Welcome Studio - 2nd Floor

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

AI in the Trenches: What Actually Works in Law Practice Today CLE

Speaker: Ed Lanquist, Jr., Baker Donelson, Nashville, TN

Forget the hype and the headlines about lawyers sanctioned for fake citations. This program cuts straight to what's working right now in real law offices. Drawing on more than 30 years of practice and hands-on experience with today's leading AI tools, the presenter walks through practical, field-tested uses for research, drafting, document review, and client communication, and flags where these tools still stumble. Attendees will see live examples of prompts that deliver, workflows that save real hours, and guardrails that keep you on the right side of your ethical duties of competence, confidentiality, and candor. Whether you're a skeptic, a dabbler, or already using AI daily, you'll leave with techniques you can put to work Monday morning.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
BREAK

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

From Barrels to Balance Sheets: 100 Years of Alcohol Regulation CLE

Speakers: Curtis S. Harrington, II, Belcher Skyes Harrington, PLLC, Brentwood, TN; Ryan A. T. Mercurio, Belcher Skyes Harrington, PLLC, Brentwood, TN

The alcoholic beverage industry operates within closely regulated state and federal schemes where the production, distribution, and sale of alcohol is tightly controlled. Counsel will present the regulatory framework governing industry members to provide you with a foundational understanding of alcohol laws and how the worlds of beverage alcohol regulation and credit laws intersect.

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
BREAK

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Hot Legal and Business Topics for Broadway's Honky Tonks and Nashville's Hospitality Market CLE

Speaker: Sean Marshall, Big Plan Holdings, Nashville, TN

Nashville's Honky Tonk scene is a vibrant cornerstone of the city's hospitality market, but it faces a myriad of current legal and business challenges that owners must navigate. Issues include the complexities of obtaining and maintaining alcohol licenses. Labor shortages and compliance with employee rights laws. Lease negotiations in Nashville's competitive real estate market. Business owners must also prioritize liability and risk management. Intellectual property considerations, such as trademark protection and music copyright compliance. Staying informed and adaptable is crucial for Honky Tonk owners to thrive.

12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Whiskey Tasting Lunch Experience
Speaker: Ed Lanquist, Jr., Baker Donelson, Nashville, TN

Sponsored by:

CRC LEGAL GROUP

Join us for a distinctive whiskey tasting experience during lunch at the CLLA Southern Region Conference. Guided by a whiskey expert, attendees will sample a selection of premium whiskeys while learning about their history, craftsmanship, and unique flavor profiles. Whether you are a longtime whiskey enthusiast or simply curious to explore new spirits, this event offers the perfect blend of education, networking, and Southern hospitality. Connect with colleagues, share insights, and enjoy a memorable lunchtime experience.

2:30 p.m.
Explore Nashville On Your Own

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cocktails at the Listening Lounge – 2nd Floor

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Dinner on Your Own

Get To Know Our Speakers

Ryan A. T. Mercurio
Belcher Skyes Harrington, PLLC, Brentwood, TN



Ryan's practice focuses on alcoholic beverage law and the full spectrum of practice areas that come along with it, including business formation, commercial contracts, distribution agreements, hospitality law, and civil litigation. He provides practical counsel to clients and excels at balancing the competitive demands of business with the governmental restrictions of closely regulated industries. His previous career experience as a sommelier allows him to communicate as kin to industry members and translate complex and esoteric legal issues into readily understandable concepts.

Before joining the firm, Ryan served as counsel to the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission where he represented the agency in administrative hearings, pursued investigations of tied-house violations, and led direct-to-consumer wine shipping enforcement.

He received his B.S. in Agriculture from the University of California, Davis, and his J.D. as a member of the fourth graduating class of Belmont University College of Law.

Sean Marshall
Big Plan Holdings, Nashville, TN



Sean Marshall co-founded BPH Hospitality in 2023, Broadway Management in 2025 and currently serves as President overseeing and directing a staff of around 200. Sean is also the Chief Operating Officer, Principal, and General Counsel of Big Plan Holdings, a diversified family office based in Nashville with investments spanning real estate, entertainment, sports, and hospitality.

He brings a strong blend of legal and business expertise, having previously worked with Nashville's largest owner of Honky Tonks and entertainment venues, focusing on operations, revenue growth, and risk management. He also served as in-house counsel for the NHL's Nashville Predators and Bridgestone Arena, handling contracts, litigation, intellectual property, and capital improvement projects. Earlier in his career, Sean practiced law and worked in real estate finance in South Florida, with roles at Grandbridge Real Estate Capital and as a Prosecutor.

He holds three degrees from the University of Florida and is licensed to practice law in Florida and Tennessee. Sean is the Former Chairman of the Downtown Nashville DISTRICT. He lives in Brentwood with his wife, Taylor, and their three children.

Ed Lanquist, Jr.
Baker Donelson, Nashville, TN



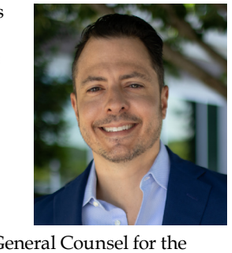
Ed helps companies build, protect, and enforce the intellectual property (IP) that drives their value. His practice spans patent, trademark, and copyright litigation; IP counseling; trademark prosecution; and technology law–giving clients an advisor who can secure their rights and defend them in court.

For more than 30 years, he has prosecuted more than 150 patent applications and more than 1,400 trademark registrations and litigated more than 170 IP cases. Before joining Baker Donelson, Ed co-founded a full-service IP and technology law firm in Tennessee. Over his career, he has designed IP protection programs for more than 40 companies, built trade secret protection plans, and led IP due diligence on numerous corporate transactions. Clients rely on Ed not just to protect their IP, but to make it pay. He counsels clients on how to structure their portfolios and weigh the economic stakes of protection and enforcement.

Ed is at the forefront of how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping IP law. He advises clients on the IP questions AI now forces them to confront who owns AI-generated inventions and content, how to protect proprietary models and training data as trade secrets, the discoverability and privilege risks of AI prompts and outputs, and the rapidly developing law of secondary and contributory liability as it extends to AI tools. He teaches AI for Lawyers at the Nashville School of Law. Clients turn to him not for theory, but for practical guidance on building IP strategies that hold up as the technology – and the law around it – keeps moving.

Ed also lends his experience pro bono, helping non-profit organizations protect their trademarks.

Curtis S. Harrington, II,
Belcher Skyes Harrington, PLLC, Brentwood, TN



Curtis is a founding partner of Belcher Sykes Harrington, PLLC, he focuses on assisting alcoholic beverage/hospitality and cannabis industry members both inside and outside of the state of Tennessee, which he has been doing for over 17 years. Curtis represents beverage alcohol manufacturers such distilleries, breweries, and wineries, as well as beverage alcohol retailers such as bars, restaurants, liquor stores, hoteliers, airports, stadiums, and arenas. Curtis has served as General Counsel for the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Tennessee since 2010 and serves as counsel to the Tennessee Wine and Spirits Retailers Association.

Save the Date

CLLA 133rd National Convention
May 12-14, 2027
Westin Chicago River North

CLLA 134th National Convention
May 10-12, 2028
Westin Chicago River North

Conference Locations



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