



COMMERCIAL LAW LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
EXPERTISE • INSIGHT • RESULTS



# THE 132nd CLLA NATIONAL CONVENTION MAY 13-15, 2026

CHICAGO MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN MAGNIFICENT MILE

## Chicago ATTENDEE GUIDE

PRIORITY REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 25, 2026

FINAL REGISTRATION & HOTEL RESERVATION ENDS APRIL 15, 2026

# THE 132nd CLLA NATIONAL CONVENTION

MAY 13-15, 2026  
CHICAGO MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN MAGNIFICENT MILE



**Richard Payne**  
2025-2026 CLLA President

My Learned Friends,

As I approach the halfway mark of my presidency, the leaves are turning in Toronto. I am also thinking about the League and the wonderful journey that it has been to serve as your president. It has been a particular privilege to be the first non-American to serve in this role and to bring perhaps a slightly different perspective to the League. The salutation above "Learned Friends" may not be familiar to you. In US Courts lawyers are usually addressed as "Counsel." In Canada, the Court will refer to lawyers as Counsel but if the lawyers appearing are referring to one another they use the term "my friend" or, in the instance of a senior lawyer with a King's Counsel, "my learned friend." It is a term of mutual respect and collegiality which I believe are the hallmarks of the League. I am happy and proud to consider all of you my learned friends.

Any organization that has been around for 130 years has a lot of traditions and institutional momentum. However, I think that one of the things that has kept the League dynamic is its ability to build on those traditions and also to embrace change and innovation.

These are exciting times for the League. The Briefing Room has been a great step forward in communicating with and amongst members. It is another way that we are building community and increasing social capital. New members are joining us and getting involved.

Our National Convention in Chicago is a wonderful event. Those of you who have attended know that already. If you haven't then now is the time. Chicago is a wonderful city. It would be difficult to find another city in North America with better transportation connections. The League does a great job at scouting out hotels with awesome facilities and competitive prices. Once you are here the mix of educational opportunities, social engagement and business networking are amazing! Over the last few conventions, we have included Cubs games, our karaoke nights, some hilarious trivia contests and a beer barrel bus. And the city itself from the architecture to the food to the urban sounds of the "L" train screeching around the tracks. So much fun!

The Women's Networking Luncheon will be back this year and my wife, Lisa, is working closely with staff on another wonderful event. Be sure to encourage your spouse/guest to attend. I can assure you it will be great!

This convention will mark the end of my term as President and the handing of the office to my friend Ben Farrow. Ben will be a great leader, and I am confident that he will continue the gains that the League has made over the past number of years.

I look forward to catching up with all of my Learned Friends in Chicago. See you there!

Richard Payne  
2025-2026 CLLA President

*Wednesday, May 13*

**6:30 – 7:30 pm**  
**Cocktails and Conversations**

*Thursday, May 14*

**7:00 - 8:00 am**  
**Membership Breakfast & Networking**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**General Membership Lunch Buffet**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Women's Empowerment & Networking Luncheon**

**4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**  
**The Commercial Law Feud Game, Part 2!**

Back by popular demand, this fast-paced, hilarious, and competitive game show, pitting teams of CLLA members against each other as they try to guess the answers to survey questions!

Hosted by Timothy Wan

**5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday Evening Social**

**10:00 p.m. - Midnight**  
**Karaoke/Dance Party**

Get your dancing shoes ready, voice warmed up...join the New Members' Section Executive Council and fellow colleagues to dance and sing your hearts out all while networking!

# *Networking Opportunities*

*Friday, May 15*

**7:30 - 8:30 am**  
**Continental Breakfast & Networking**

**2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Chicago Pizza Tour—See Chicago One Slice at a Time!**

Hop aboard a luxury bus for a guided tour to iconic Chicago pizzerias. You will enjoy multiple styles of pizza while visiting three locations.

Tour cost: \$175 and includes roundtrip transportation, 1 slice of pizza and 1 beverage (beer/wine/soda) at each stop, plus dessert at the last stop and driver gratuity. Pre-registration is required through the convention registration process.



# Registration

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE

**Friday, April 15, 2026**

Visit <https://ccla.org/national-2026/to/register>.

| IN-PERSON Registration Fee     |                                  |                   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| All CLLA & IACC Members        | Priority Registration* Thru 3/25 | Regular Thru 4/15 |
| 1 Member Rate                  | \$1,100                          | \$1,350           |
| <b>SAVE</b><br>2-3 Member Rate | \$990 each<br>(10% off)          | \$1,240 each      |
| <b>SAVE</b><br>4+ Member Rate  | \$880 each<br>(20% off)          | \$1,760 each      |
| All Non-Members                |                                  |                   |
| Non-Members                    | \$2,200                          | \$2,200           |
| All Spouses and Guests**       |                                  |                   |
| Spouse/Guest**                 | \$429                            | \$429             |

### Member/Non-Member Registration Fee Includes:

- Access to all Educational Sessions
- Continuing Education: CLE/CEU
- Daily Breakfast and Breaks
- Thursday's Lunch Buffet
- Women's Empowerment & Networking Event
- Evening Receptions
- Game Show
- Thursday Evening Karaoke/Dance Party
- Friday's Annual Awards Brunch

### Spouse/Guest Registration Fee Includes:

- Daily Breakfast and breaks
- Thursday's Lunch Buffet
- Women's Empowerment & Networking Event
- Evening Receptions
- Thursday Evening Karaoke/Dance Party
- Friday's Annual Awards Brunch

*\*Disclaimer: CLE credit available to attendees in qualifying states listed on your registration form who register on or before March 25. We cannot guarantee state accreditation after March 25 or accreditation for states not listed on the form.*

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

*Thursday, May 14*

12:00 - 1.00 p.m.

## Women's Empowerment & Networking Luncheon

Hosted by Lisa Payne

### Small Shifts, Big Energy: The Science Explains Why

Recharging isn't rest—it's science. In a world that moves faster than ever—with constant digital demands, increasing incivility, and near-continuous pressure to stay "on"—our energy reserves drain more quickly than we realize. Fatigue, distraction, and emotional depletion aren't personal failings; they're predictable outcomes of how our brains and bodies respond to overload.

Our guest speaker, **Dr. Rajani Katta MD**, will share with us science-backed practical strategies for in-the-moment resets, along with sustainable practices that build long-term resilience.

We hope that you leave this luncheon with a toolkit to help you feel clearer, calmer, and more capable—no matter what the world throws your way!

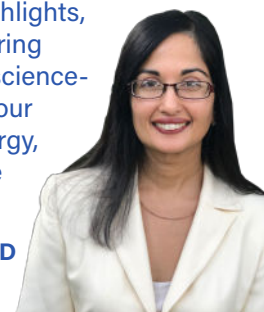
Warm Regards,

Lisa Payne

### The Science of Recharging

In today's world, with information overload, communication overload, and rising rates of incivility, it's no wonder that so many of us are exhausted and overwhelmed. That's why recharging strategies are so vital. Researchers have identified multiple strategies that can help increase your brain, body, and emotional energy reserves, and it's not all about sound baths and spa days. For example, researchers have identified specific types of 10-minute microbreaks that can improve focus and reduce emotional reactivity. Studies have also identified how to make the most of extended breaks to fully recharge. Just like solar panels, the right kind of proactive strategies can help increase long-term energy stores. And just like flashlights, reactive strategies can help during day-to-day challenges. These science-backed strategies can renew your brain, body, and emotional energy, both in the moment and for the longer term.

**Rajani Katta, MD**



# 2026 President's Cup Award Winner



**Gilbert M. Singer**  
Marcadis Singer P.A.

Mr. Singer is a Senior Partner in the law firm of Marcadis Singer, P. A., and has been practicing commercial/collection law in Florida throughout his career. The firm provides legal counsel for clients across the State of Florida and has experienced attorneys who exclusively handle Florida collection law cases in each of the 67 counties in Florida.

Mr. Singer was appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott to the Judicial Nominating Commission of the 13th Judicial Circuit in 2012. He was re-appointed for another four-year term and served as its Chairman. Florida's Judicial Nominating Commissions are constitutionally created non-partisan bodies designed to interview and nominate diverse, highly qualified candidates for judgeships to the Governor for appointment when a judicial vacancy arises.

Mr. Singer was nominated for 2023 Lawyers of Distinction and has been nominated for the 2024 Lawyers of Distinction. He was also selected to the 2024 Top 50 Lawyers in America List.

Mr. Singer received the 2024 Jim Kynes Pro Bono Award and has twice received the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award.

For over 44 years, Mr. Singer has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Tampa where he served as President in 1996-1997, and was the recipient of the Doyle Carlton Memorial Award in 2002 honoring the Kiwanian of the Year. For many years, he has also served as a Board Member on the Tampa Kiwanis Foundation which serves as the charitable organization of the Club.

In 2002, Governor Jeb Bush appointed him to the Florida Commission on Human Relations where he served a four-year term as Commissioner. In 2007, Governor Charlie Crist re-appointed him to the same post where he was elected Chairman. He served as Chairman of the Commission for four years and served a total of 18 years on the Commission.

Mr. Singer serves on the Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee and was their attorney for over 20 years. He led the Hillsborough County legal response team for the re-election of Governor Jeb Bush in 2002. He was also a member of President George W. Bush's Legal Team and actively participated in the 2000 Florida recount. He has been, and continues to be, active as a volunteer in local, statewide, and national political campaigns.

He has served as a volunteer attorney for the Guardian Ad Litem program in Hillsborough County. In 1996, he was honored by The Florida Bar and the Florida Supreme Court for his pro bono service. In 2023, he again was the recipient of The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award. He has also been very active as a Board Member of Crossroads Florida Kids, A Kid's Place, and For the Family, and has served as a member on the Citizens Advisory Commission to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. He currently serves as a volunteer attorney for Crossroads Kids Florida and other charities.

He has served two terms as Chair of the CLLA Southern Region of Conferences to serve on that Board. He is also active with the Creditors Right Section and the CLLA Legislative Affairs Committee.

He is a founding member and former President of the Grand Krewe of Libertia, the first multi-cultural Krewe in Tampa history. Mr. Singer is a member of the Royal Krewe of Privateers and the Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club. He is married and has two adult sons and two outstanding daughters-in-law.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO PREVIOUS PRESIDENT CUP AWARD WINNERS

|      |                                  |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2025 | Joseph. A. Marino, Esq.          |
| 2024 | Hon. (ret.) Judith K. Fitzgerald |
| 2023 | Ronald R. Peterson               |
| 2022 | B. Emory Potter                  |
| 2021 | None presented due to COVID      |
| 2020 | None presented due to COVID      |
| 2019 | Robert P. Ingold                 |
| 2018 | Robert Bernstein                 |
| 2017 | Alan Nahmias                     |
| 2016 | Greg Cohen                       |
| 2015 | Warren Pinchuck                  |
| 2014 | James W. Adelman                 |
| 2013 | Jay L. Welford                   |
| 2012 | Brenda Majewski                  |
| 2011 | Leonard Krulwich                 |
| 2010 | John "Jack" M. Birk              |
| 2009 | Arlene Cohen Miller              |
| 2008 | Manuel H. Newburger              |
| 2007 | Donald B. Kramer                 |
| 2006 | Emil Hartleb                     |
| 2005 | N/A                              |
| 2004 | Gary S. Lewis                    |
| 2003 | Robert E. Caine                  |
| 2002 | Jon Becker                       |
| 2001 | Harry W. Greenfield              |
| 2000 | Charles M. Thorne                |
| 1999 | Robert A. Schatzman              |
| 1998 | I. William Cohen                 |
| 1997 | Jeanette Zolkewitz               |
| 1996 | George A. Rubin                  |
| 1995 | Richard A. Sugermann             |
| 1994 | Andrew M. Dipietro, Jr.          |
| 1993 | Thomas Zide                      |
| 1992 | Leonard O. Abrams                |
| 1991 | Philip J. Hendel                 |
| 1990 | Edwin Elson                      |
| 1989 | Don Baker                        |
| 1988 | R. William Steltemeier           |
| 1987 | Kenneth F. Kahn                  |
| 1986 | Donald E. Stamm                  |
| 1985 | Hon. Saul Seidman                |
| 1984 | Dolphe Marcus                    |
| 1983 | Leo E. Smith                     |
| 1982 | Frank L. Uhlman                  |
| 1981 | Robert I. Morris                 |
| 1980 | Norman E. Reynolds, Jr.          |
| 1979 | Edward A. Kane                   |
| 1978 | Louis W. Levit                   |
| 1977 | Irvine Ungerman                  |
| 1976 | Sidney Feinberg                  |
| 1975 | Stanly Tulchin                   |
| 1974 | David L. May                     |
| 1973 | George H. Bloom                  |
| 1972 | B. Bernard Wolson                |
| 1971 | Louis H. Lewis                   |
| 1970 | Judge A. A. Nathan               |
| 1969 | Florence Dodge                   |
| 1968 | Leon S. Forman                   |
| 1967 | Harry Leviton                    |
| 1966 | Gibson B. Witherspoon            |
| 1965 | Carl W. Williams                 |
| 1964 | Herbert U. Feibelman             |



# Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship will provide you with exposure to attorneys, agencies and commercial collection professionals. This is a great opportunity to showcase your company name as one of the sponsors at the 132nd National Convention. Show your support and sponsor today!

## BENEFITS

All sponsors will be listed on

- CLLA website
- Email promotions
- On-site Signage
- Event Program
- Social Media

## Exclusive Sponsorships

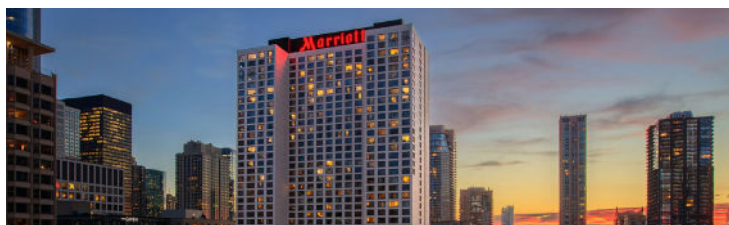
- Program - \$1,000
- Lanyards - \$800 **SOLD**
- Pocket Guide - \$550
- Notepads - \$450
- Pens - \$450 **SOLD**
- 2 Multi Device Charging Stations - \$400

## GENERAL SPONSORSHIPS:

- Evening Receptions - \$800
- Thursday Luncheon - \$800
- Daily Breakfasts - \$600
- Karaoke/Dance Party - \$500
- Networking Breaks - \$450
- General Convention Sponsor - \$300
- Women's Luncheon Toast - \$250 **NEW**



# Hotel Information



## Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile

540 North Michigan Avenue  
(Driveway Entrance at 541 North Rush Street)  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 836-0100

Since opening in 1978, the Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile is a premier hotel located in the heart of Chicago, offering guests a blend of luxury and convenience. Situated just steps away from the iconic Magnificent Mile, the hotel provides easy access to world-class shopping, dining, and cultural attractions. With modern accommodations, including spacious rooms and suites equipped with contemporary amenities, guests can enjoy a comfortable stay. The hotel features a fitness center, an on-site restaurant, and versatile event spaces, making it an ideal choice for both leisure travelers and business professionals. Its prime location and exceptional service ensure a memorable experience in one of America's most vibrant cities.

### Hotel Reservations

Make your hotel reservation as early as possible to ensure you receive the discounted rate (subject to availability).

Make your reservation by phone, call 1(877) 303-0140. Be sure to mention the CLLA 2026 National Convention to receive the group rate.

Online reservations can be made by clicking the link below:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/83dfac93>

**Room Rate:** \$290/night, single/double occupancy, plus applicable taxes (currently 17.4%) (NO resort fee). Room cut-off is Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Visit [CLLA.org/Events](http://CLLA.org/Events) web page to access our special online reservation link to the hotel.

### Parking

Valet Parking overnight with in/out access is \$80 per night  
Nearby Self-Parking Garage: ROW Self Park (Rush-Ohio-Wabash), 50 East Ohio Street, Chicago 60611 (Located Northwest of the hotel) with in/out access is \$62 per night

### Weather

Average Chicago temperatures for mid-May are high 70/low 50. Come prepared, it's Chicago!

THE 132nd CLLA NATIONAL CONVENTION

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Code of Conduct

The Commercial Law League of America has zero-tolerance for discrimination and all forms of harassment, including but not limited to sexual harassment. Our zero-tolerance policy means that no form of discriminatory or harassing conduct by or towards any CLLA member, exhibitor, presenter, attendee, vendor or staff member will be tolerated. The CLLA is committed to assuring compliance with its policy at all levels within the association. By registering for this event, you agree to accept the Code of Conduct Policy.

### Presentation Information

Commercial Law League of America's 2026 National Convention presentation materials will be available to view/download through a link provided via email the week following the convention.

### Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be submitted in writing. Registration fee refunds will be granted on the following schedule.

Cancellation notice received by Monday, April 20, 2026, will receive 100% refund less \$50 processing fee, between April 21-May 4 will receive a 50% refund and no refund on or after May 10, 2026.

### CLE Credit

The Commercial Law League is applying for CLE with those states that require CLE credits for their licensed attorneys. All attorney attendees will receive a CLE Attendance Record form in their registration packet. At the conclusion of the Convention, please submit your form at the Registration Desk or via email to Mary McCann, [mary.mccann@clla.org](mailto:mary.mccann@clla.org), by Friday, May 29, 2026.

### Name Badges

The Commercial Law League of America requires all attendees to properly display their name badge at all Convention sessions and events.

### Cell Phones

Please be considerate in your cell phone use. CLLA requests that electronic devices be silenced in all sessions as a courtesy to the presenters and attendees.

### Dress Code

All CLLA Convention events are business casual.

### Special Needs

The Commercial Law League of America is happy to assist you with any special needs or requirements you may have. Visit the Registration Desk and a staff member will be happy to assist.

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 13, 2026

**8:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Registration (Waveland Foyer, 4th Floor)**

**1:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**Registration (Halsted, 4th Floor)**

## All Attendees Welcome to Networking Events

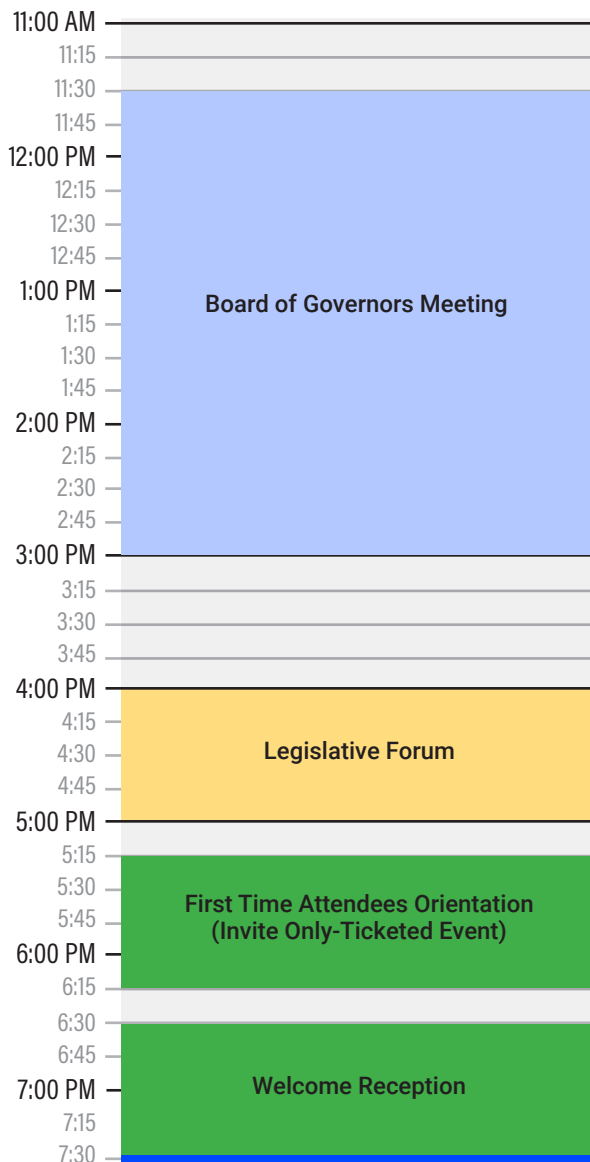
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### KEY

■ NETWORKING

■ MEETINGS

■ EDUCATION

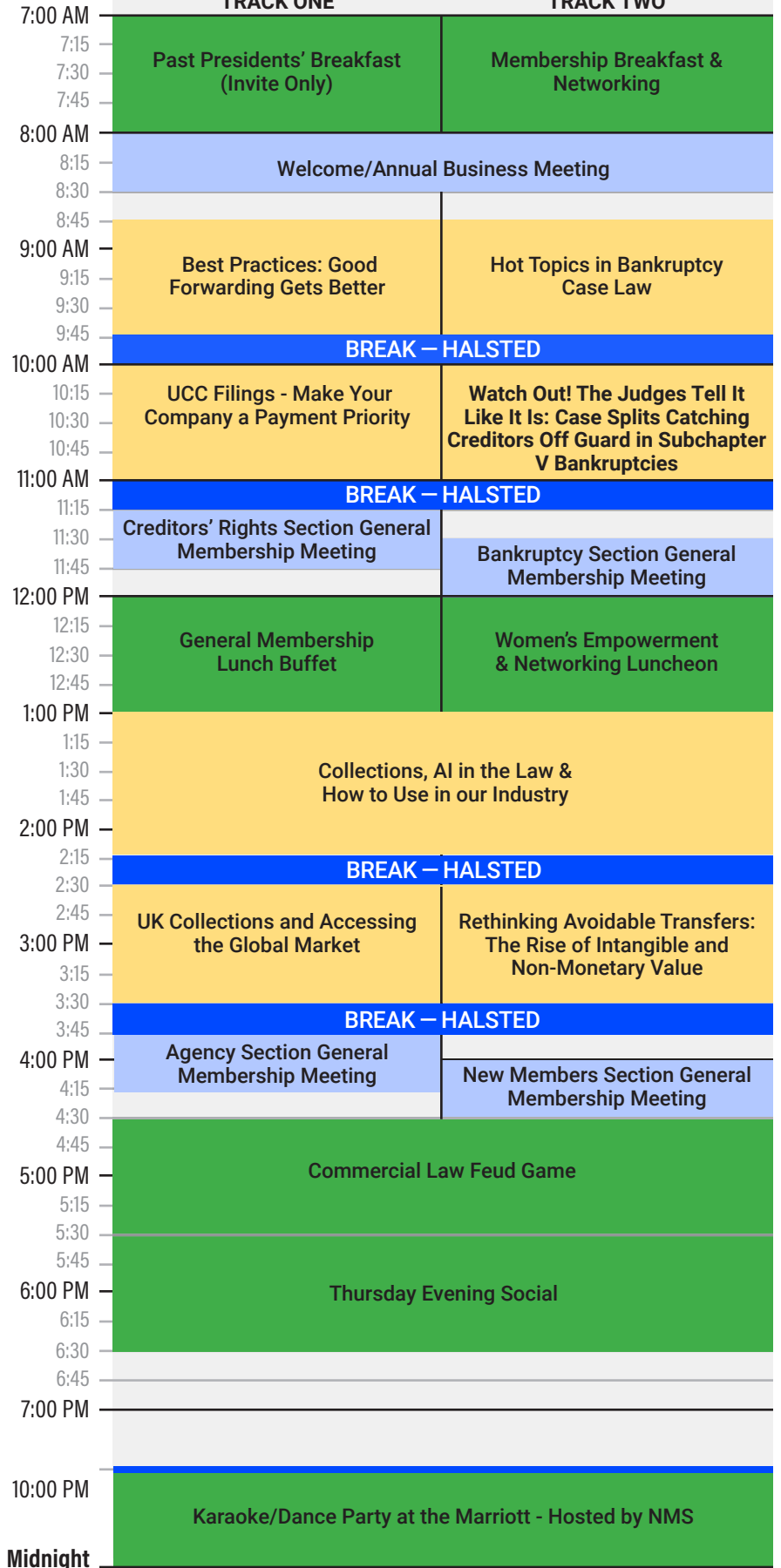


## THURSDAY | MAY 14, 2026

**7:00 am - 6:00 pm** Registration (Halsted, 4th Floor)

### TRACK ONE

### TRACK TWO



## FRIDAY | MAY 15, 2026

7:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Registration (Halsted, 4th Floor)

|          |                                                                                                                 |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM  |                                                                                                                 |
| 7:15     |                                                                                                                 |
| 7:30     |                                                                                                                 |
| 7:45     |                                                                                                                 |
| 8:00 AM  | Continental Breakfast & Networking                                                                              |
| 8:15     |                                                                                                                 |
| 8:30     |                                                                                                                 |
| 8:45     | The Uniform Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Law is Here. Will it or Won't it Become Law in Every State? |
| 9:00 AM  |                                                                                                                 |
| 9:15     |                                                                                                                 |
| 9:30     | BREAK — HALSTED                                                                                                 |
| 9:45     |                                                                                                                 |
| 10:00 AM | Managing the Practice: Insights from Legal Operations Veterans                                                  |
| 10:15    |                                                                                                                 |
| 10:30    |                                                                                                                 |
| 10:45    |                                                                                                                 |
| 11:00 AM |                                                                                                                 |
| 11:15    |                                                                                                                 |
| 11:30    |                                                                                                                 |
| 11:45    | Brunch Buffet, Annual Awards, and Farewell                                                                      |
| 12:00 PM |                                                                                                                 |
| 12:15    |                                                                                                                 |
| 12:30    |                                                                                                                 |

### KEY

- NETWORKING
- MEETINGS
- EDUCATION

## Convention Events

**Business Session** – a Town Hall Meeting that includes the Annual Report from the League President and the Treasurer's Report.

**Nominating Debates** (when necessary) – Make informed decisions on candidates running for office.

**Change of Officers** – Introduction of the newly installed officers.

**President's Cup** – Recipient recognition.

## Education Programs

Here's your chance to fulfill your CLE and CEU certification requirements by attending the educational programs throughout the event.

"As your National Education Committee Chair, I am excited to share details about the upcoming educational opportunities at the CLLA National Convention. This year's convention promises to be an enriching experience with a diverse lineup of sessions designed to enhance your knowledge and skills in our ever-evolving industry.

As your National Education Chair, I encourage all members to take full advantage of the presentations the committee and sections have organized. Whether you are looking to expand your technical expertise, learn about the latest best practices, or network with fellow professionals, there is something for everyone.

I urge you to participate actively, engage with our speakers, and connect with your peers. Together, we can foster an environment of learning and collaboration that will benefit not only our individual practices but also the collective growth of our association.

Let's make the most of this opportunity to learn, share, and innovate. I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago!"

**Michelle Garcia Gilbert, Esq.**  
CLLA National Education Chair

## 10:00 p.m. - Midnight Karaoke/Dance Party

Get your dancing shoes ready, voice warmed up...join the New Members' Section Executive Council and fellow colleagues to dance and sing your hearts out all while networking!

## EDUCATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

*Wednesday, May 13*

### Legislative Forum

CLLA panelists will provide a review of CLLA legislative and government affairs' efforts during the past year, inform members about the political make-up of the current Congress and possibilities for legislation impacting commercial law, and educate attendees about the legislative process; including drafting legislation and policy positions for consideration by members of Congress and aligned interested parties and organizations.

**Panelists:** **Peter C. Califano**, *Niesar & Vestal, LLP*, San Francisco, CA; **Jeffrey N. Schatzman**, *Schatzman & Schatzman, PA*, Miami, FL; **Gilbert M. Singer**, *Marcadis Singer P.A.*, Tampa, FL

*Thursday, May 14*

### Best Practices: Good Forwarding Gets Better

Join us for another practical discussion between a panel of agencies and attorneys as we talk about the appropriate and soundest practices in Forwarding and Receiving claims. We'll be discussing the preferred methods for the entire process from placing to closing a claim, and what should and often happens in between. The focus will be on the handling of cases, situations, and circumstances in direct relation to what are the best practices for the relationship.

**Panelists:** **Robert Ash**, *Radius Global Solutions*, Ramsey, NJ; **Brandon James**, *Tucker Albin & Associates, Inc.*, Richardson, TX; **Christopher S. Young**, *BTLG*, Columbia, MD

### Hot Topics in Bankruptcy Case Law

This will be an overview of the most recent bankruptcy cases around the country, covering hot topics.

**Speaker:** **Kirk B. Burkley**, *Bernstein-Burkley, PC*, Pittsburgh, PA

### UCC Filings – Make Your Company a Payment Priority

Gain a strategic edge with a clearer understanding of the UCC process. This session from NCS Credit explores how secured transactions and perfected UCC filings can protect assets, strengthen credit positions, and reduce exposure in the event of customer insolvency. You will learn how the UCC supports sound risk management and why it is an essential tool for safeguarding company interests in complex financial environments. Other discussion topics include:

- Leverage UCC filings as part of a broader credit risk and asset protection strategy
- Understand how secured creditor status affects recovery in bankruptcy and default
- Identify key filing requirements that determine enforceability and priority
- Mitigate financial exposure through proactive credit and legal coordination
- Use UCC tools to support stronger governance and financial resilience

**Speaker:** **Alec Papesch**, *NCS Credit*, Cleveland, OH

### Watch Out! The Judges Tell It Like It Is: Case Splits Catching Creditors Off Guard in Subchapter V Bankruptcies

New disagreements in the courts over how to interpret and apply certain sections of Subchapter V bankruptcies are rife to catch creditors off guard. Two sitting bankruptcy judges will take on hot topics and discuss topics such as (1) When can/should a court appoint a creditors committee in a Sub V?; (2) Has the 1111(b) election been abrogated by virtue of section 1190(2)?; (3) How should a court determine that a plan is fair and equitable and what remedies to apply to protect creditors if plan payments are not made under 1191(c)(3)(B)?; (4) Are sub V corporate debtors entitled to discharge certain debts allegedly involving fraud and other bad acts under section 523(a)?; (5) What constraints apply when the Sub V Trustee serves as a mediator in the case?; and more. Learn about standard orders that some courts are issuing when the Sub V case is filed and how that affects creditors' concerns and deadlines. This presentation on current events in Sub V cases is something that every lawyer who has a client involved in a Sub V case should attend.

**Panelists:** **Hon. Judith K. Fitzgerald**, *Tucker Arensberg PC*, Pittsburgh, PA; **Hon. Thomas Lynch**, *US Bankruptcy Court, North District of IL*, Rockford, IL; **Hon. Mary Ann Whipple**, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of OH*

Thursday, May 14

### Collections, AI in the Law & How to Use in our Industry

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how collections and bankruptcy professionals work — from document automation and workflow streamlining to research, drafting, and compliance management. This session brings together three leading women in collections and bankruptcy law, plus a global legal service provider, for a practical look at how AI is being used right now in the credit-to-collection lifecycle. Learn how tools such as Lexis+ AI, Spellbook, ChatGPT, and Microsoft Copilot are transforming back-office operations, legal drafting, and communication, while raising new ethical, confidentiality, and billing considerations. The panel will share real-world examples of RPA, generative AI, and voice-based automation in practice, plus strategies for maintaining accuracy, oversight, and compliance with FDCPA, FCRA, and professional standards.

Attendees will leave with actionable insights — and confidence to adopt AI responsibly and effectively in their own firms and agencies.

**Speakers:** **Salene Kraemer**, *Mazur Kraemer Law Group*, Pittsburgh, PA; **Neeraj Mendiratta**, *KnovaOne*, Wellington, FL; **T. Britt Rudman**, *Law Offices of T. Britt Rudman*, Tarzana, CA; **Marguerite DeVoll**, *Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, LLP*, McLean, VA

### UK Collections and Accessing the Global Market

This session explains how strong debt collection practices in the UK can help American businesses grow internationally. We will cover how UK collections work, why they are effective, and how they can improve cash flow and reduce financial risk. You will learn how partnering with UK-based collection services or applying their strategies can give your business the stability and confidence to expand into global markets.

**Speakers:** **Liam Worthington**, *CCI Credit Management Ltd.*, Porthmadog, UK; **David Bevan**, *CCI Credit Management Ltd.*, Porthmadog, UK

### Rethinking Avoidable Transfers: The Rise of Intangible and Non-Monetary Value

The panelists will discuss recent developments in bankruptcy avoidance actions, including avenues for recovery of intangible assets. The panelists will address avoidance of terminated contractual rights to payment and avoidance of licenses where the debtor is licensor. The panelists will also provide updates on application of the Golden Creditor rule extending look back periods and on avoiding Crypto as a commodity or currency. The panelists will further discuss recent case law concerning whether an injury to creditors is required to recover for an intentionally fraudulent transfer.

**Speakers:** **Randall Woolley**, *Darcy & Devassy, PC*, Chicago, IL; **Candice Kline**, *Univ. of Toledo College of Law*, Maumee, OH; **Eyal Berger**, *Akerman LLP*, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Suggested Audience Key:



*Friday, May 15*

### The Uniform Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Law is Here. Will it or Won't it Become Law in Every State?

BKY CLE CEU

Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors proceedings (“ABCs”) are popular alternatives to bankruptcy filings under certain circumstances. However, unlike federal bankruptcy, state court ABCs can differ drastically from one state to another. In an attempt to address this issue, in 2022, a Study Committee on ABCs commenced its work to develop a uniform law that could be adopted in each state. After several years of hard work, the Uniform Law Commission adopted a proposed Uniform Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Act at its annual meeting in July 2025. This panel will discuss this new proposal focusing on some of the provisions which were heatedly discussed and the resolutions reached. Some of the key points that will be discussed include:

- The structure of the new ABC statute
- Whether or not, or when Court Oversight will be required
- Claims Procedure
- Rights of the Assignor
- Rights of the Assignee
- Rights of the Creditors

**Speakers:** **Wanda Borges**, *Borges & Associates, LLC*, Syosset, NY; **Marc D. Miceli**, *S Mitnick Law PC*, Oldwick, NJ

### Managing the Practice: Insights from Legal Operations Veterans

AGY CRS CLE CEU

Being a good attorney does not mean you know how to manage a law practice. Join a panel of seasoned law firm leaders as they share tips, tricks, and best practices on the business side of legal practice. Topics will include hiring, developing, and managing talent (both attorneys and staff), building, and sustaining firm culture, compensation and benefits, and retention strategies. We will also dive into how technology, automation and process optimization can improve efficiency, reduce burnout, and help your firm run smarter—not just harder.

**Speakers:** **James T. Hart**, *Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA*, Cincinnati, OH; **James Kozelek**, *Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA*, Dublin, OH; **Jeffrey S. Nicolet**, *Wagner, Falconer & Judd, Ltd*, Minneapolis, MN



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**CLLA** Nov 4-5, 2026

# Eastern Region Conference



## PRESENTER BIOS



**Robert Ash** is a seasoned veteran of the collection industry; with nearly 30 years' experience in Accounts Receivable Management, Consumer and Commercial Debt Collections. His longstanding career with Allen, Maxwell & Silver, (AMS), now the Commercial Business Division of Radius Global Solutions, began in 1997, when Robert joined the collection team. After six years of delivering exceptional recovery results and service to AMS' clients, Robert was promoted to Legal Department Manager. Robert's financial expertise and strong communication skills provide a seamless transition from collections to litigation.

Robert has developed and cultivated close associations with a network of collection attorneys throughout the country, as well as clients, ensuring AMS' clients have the best representation to meet their legal needs and protect their rights as creditors.

Robert is Chair of the Agency Section and their representative on the Board of Governor's for the Commercial Law League of America (CLLA) and actively participates within the CLLA's Eastern Region.



**Eyal Berger** is a Partner in Akerman's Ft. Lauderdale Office and has over 21 years' experience focusing on complex business reorganizations, out-of-court debt restructuring, representation of Creditor Committees, assignments for the benefit of creditors, corporate dissolutions, Article 9 transactions, and the enforcement of creditors' rights. He also protects the interests of financial institutions and lessors as secured and unsecured creditors in a myriad of insolvency proceedings by assisting them in preserving, liquidating, or repossessing their collateral. Mr. Berger is a graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law.



**David Bevan** has extensive knowledge of regulatory compliance, is responsible for managing CCICM's compliance programmed, ensuring company operations adhere to regulatory requirement both domestically and internationally. His efforts help maintain the company's reputation and avoid legal pitfalls, enabling smoother operations across various international markets.



**Wanda Borges**, Borges & Associates, LLC - For more than forty-five years, Ms. Borges has concentrated her law practice on commercial litigation and creditors' rights in bankruptcy matters, representing corporate clients and creditors' committees throughout the United States in Chapter 11 proceedings, out of court settlements, commercial transactions, and preference litigation. She is a member and Past President of the Commercial Law League of America, has been an Attorney Member of its National Board of Governors, a Chair of the Bankruptcy Section and Creditors' Rights Section, serves on the Executive Council of the Eastern Region and has been President of the Commercial Law League Fund for Public Education. She is a member of several bar associations, including the American Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Institute, and the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers. Ms. Borges serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Commercial Collectors, of which her firm is an associate member. She is an internationally recognized lecturer and author on various legal topics which impact trade creditors. She is the Co-Chair of the Board of Associate Editors for the Commercial Law League of America's "Commercial Law World" magazine and regularly contributes articles to that magazine as well as her column "Heard and Overheard." Her treatise *Hidden Liens: Who is Entitled to What?* was published in the Fall, 1998 Edition of the Commercial Law Journal. She has authored *Antitrust, Restraint of Trade and Unfair Competition: Myth Versus Reality*, published by the NACM and most recently updated in 2017. Ms. Borges is the lead author and Editor-in-Chief of *Enforcing Judgments and Collecting Debts* in New York, a treatise updated annually and published by Thomson Reuters Publishing Company. She routinely publishes lectures for the National Association of Credit Management, on a national level and for several of its Associates on various legal topics including antitrust, artificial intelligence, bankruptcy, and fraud. Her article titled "Uniform Voidable Transactions Act" was published in *Insolvency Intelligence*, a law journal published by Thomson West in the UK. Ms. Borges has been included in the New York Super Lawyers – Metro Edition list (Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights) each year since 2009. In November 2010, Ms. Borges received the "Robert E. Caine Award for Leadership" from the Commercial Law League of America. She is listed in Who's Who in America. In January 2025, Ms. Borges received the Leadership and Distinguished Service Award from the International Association of Commercial Collectors.



**Kirk B. Burkley** is the Managing Partner of Bernstein-Burkley, P.C. Kirk's practice emphasizes all aspects of bankruptcy and restructuring, creditors' rights, business and corporate transactions, litigation, real estate, and oil and gas. He's a well-respected lawyer in his field, as evidenced by his numerous awards by many of the credible lawyer lists that he has been presented. Kirk conducts seminars, live webinars and workshops on bankruptcy, creditors' rights, and oil and gas. He has lectured for the National Association of Credit Management (NACM), the American Bankruptcy Institute, and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and is a regular panelist for NBI and Lorman Educational Services on various legal topics. Kirk has written several publications related to the bankruptcy field, with work appearing in ABI Journal, Equipment Leasing Newsletter, Pennsylvania Association of Credit Managers Newsletter the Creditor and more. He is the President of the CLLA Bankruptcy Section Executive Counsel, an emeritus board member of the American Board of Certification as well as the past President and the past President of the Turnaround Management Association. He is a member of Allegheny County Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Institute, and the Western District of Pennsylvania Local Rules Committee. Kirk earned his J.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and his B.S. degree from Ohio University.



**Peter Califano** has over 35 years of experience in representing various parties in all aspects of bankruptcy and insolvency matters, in bankruptcy, federal and state court litigation, alternative dispute resolution, along with related business transactions. Mr. Califano has successfully represented a wide range of individuals and institutional clients in the documentation, collateralization, litigation, enforcement and bankruptcy phases of the credit cycle.



**Marguerite Lee DeVoll** is a partner in Watt Tieder's Creditors' Rights, Bankruptcy, and Insolvency Practice. Marguerite's practice focuses on business restructurings, bankruptcy, and creditors' rights, as well as complex commercial disputes in state and federal courts across the United States. She has handled complex chapter 11 cases and out-of-court workouts involving a variety of industries, including real estate, hospitality and services, education, and construction. She has represented creditors in corporate and individual chapter 7, 11, and 13 cases.



**Hon. Judith K. Fitzgerald (Ret.)** A long-time member of CLLA, Retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Judith K. Fitzgerald has been blessed with an exciting, challenging and intellectually stimulating career. As a Judicial Law Clerk, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Professor of Law, Practitioner at Tucker Arensberg, Consultant, Arbitrator, Mediator, Author, and Expert Witness, she has experienced a wide variety of legal disciplines and administrative responsibilities. Judi is a Professor in the Practice of Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she teaches Bankruptcy and Advanced Bankruptcy. She is active in national and local professional organizations including the Commercial Law League of America, the American Law Institute, the American College of Bankruptcy, The American Bankruptcy Institute, and the American Inns of Court. Among other offices, she has served as President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and as Chair of the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Committee to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Judi has received numerous awards and recognitions including the Commercial Law League's Lawrence P. King Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy and the American Inns of Court Bankruptcy Alliance Distinguished Service Award. She serves as an expert witness and mediator/arbitrator. Judi consults and lectures in matters involving trial strategy, evidence, procedure, contracts, bankruptcy, ADR, and professional responsibility, and participates on several committees and boards dedicated to fostering legal education and improving access to justice.



**Jamie Hart** works diligently and tirelessly to resolve each and every matter efficiently, so his clients can focus solely on operating their business.

Let's face it, no one ever seeks the help of an attorney when things are going great. It's usually only after something goes awry that impacts a person's livelihood and/or business that legal counsel is sought. As a creditors' rights attorney, Jamie understands the aggravation and trepidation - or even fear - his clients encounter when faced with the prospect of having to recover money or collateral they depend on for their business to thrive.

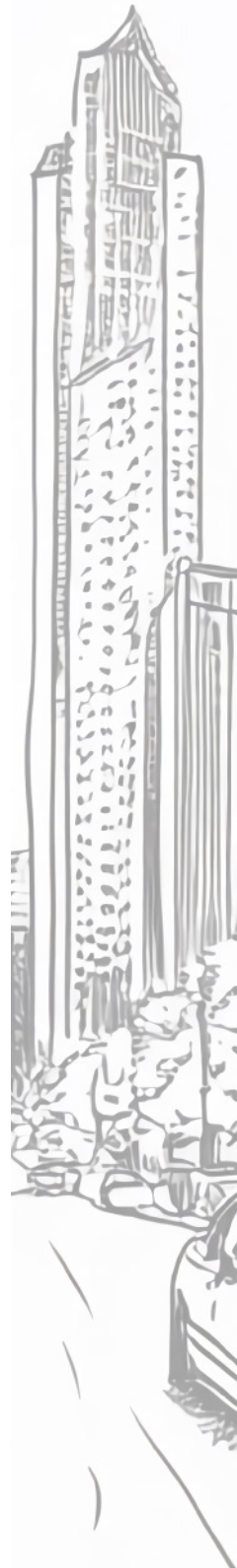
Working with a variety of big and small retail and commercial banking institutions, individuals, and small business owners, Jamie helps his clients develop and implement strategies to maximize their recovery efforts. His clients know that for him, their case is personal - and he'll be there to protect what is theirs - no matter what. As an Eagle Scout, Jamie learned early on that it is important to always "be prepared," and he applies that philosophy in both his professional and personal life. He is immensely proud of his Kentucky roots and brings a blue-collar work ethic to his practice.

With an undergraduate degree in history, it's probably no surprise that Jamie's love for research is what initially attracted him to the legal field. He has always enjoyed writing, organizing, and analyzing voluminous and varied bodies of information, and then using logic to form opinions or arguments over a particular topic. In the courtroom, Jamie combines these skills with his ability to convey compassion and understanding to ultimately obtain a favorable resolution for his clients.

Born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky, Jamie now resides in northern Kentucky with his family. He enjoys working out at his local gym, playing the guitar, and spending time with friends and family. He is a diehard Kentucky Wildcat and Chicago Bears fan, and his all-time favorite band is Pink Floyd.



**Brandon James** is currently the Chief Business Development Officer at Tucker, Albin & Associates and has been with them for over 14 years. His last company he worked for over 7 years, accumulating over 20 years in the Commercial Collection Agency industry.



## PRESENTER BIOS



**Candice Kline** is a full-time assistant professor of law at the University of Toledo College of law (JD '08) and part-time practitioner with Saul Ewing LLP, where she was a partner. Candice has a record of accomplishment of award-winning restructuring and pro bono service with nationwide cases ranging from small business and nonprofits to large chapter 11 cases. She has represented debtors, creditors, fiduciaries, and public interest stakeholders. Candice serves in leadership at various nonprofits and associations, including the CLLA. She has an MBA from Chicago Booth and a BA from Oberlin College and enjoyed a career in international banking and business before entering the legal profession. Candice is licensed in Illinois and Ohio and has appeared in cases throughout the country.



**Jim Kozelek** comes to us from Columbus, Ohio ...home of THE Ohio State University... where he is a Shareholder at Weltman, Weinberg & Reis; the Managing attorney for the firm's second largest office; and the chair of the firm's Commercial Collections Business Unit. Jim oversees a business unit of over 30 people and an office of over 110. Jim also waters the plants, routinely turns off the lights in rooms where no one is; and finally, once, cooked over 10 pounds of mini corn dogs in an air fryer for the staff. Jim is one of four attorneys in his family ...but the only real one... and spent his prelaw years singing and playing guitar in a band. When asked "were you any good," Jim replies "Yes! We were so good, I am an attorney."



**Salene Kraemer** is the founding principal of MAZURKRAEMER, an entrepreneurial business law and consulting firm. With offices in New York, NY, Weirton, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, PA, MAZURKRAEMER counsels' entrepreneurs and small to middle market companies at every stage of the business cycle in a broad range of business transactions, particularly reorganization and general business litigation.

Salene concentrates her personal practice on Chapter 11 commercial bankruptcy law, along with general business transaction work. She represents businesses and individuals in courts all over the country.

Salene earned J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and M.B.A. from West Virginia University. Salene is Board-Certified in Business Bankruptcy by the American Board of Certification. An active business blogger and former turnaround management consultant, she earned a Certified Turnaround Analyst designation from the Turnaround Management Association. She recently launched a new podcast: The Pivot Playbook- rescuing businesses, redesigning midlife.

Salene lives in Mt. Lebanon, PA (Pittsburgh), with her 3 kids, ages 18, 16, and 8! She loves to ski and travel.



**Judge Thomas Lynch** was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois in January 2013. He is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law. Judge Lynch earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton and M.A. from the University of Chicago.

Prior to joining the bench Judge Lynch practiced law in Chicago. He began his legal career in the litigation and bankruptcy departments of Winston & Strawn. He was a partner at Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon, and later Baker & Daniels. For nearly thirty years he tried cases throughout the United States, representing clients in business disputes and bankruptcy and commercial matters. Before law school, Tom was an economic analyst and executive in the public sector. While a senior executive in the City of Chicago's Department of Finance during the late 1970's, he assisted with the formulation and implementation of the city's financial restructuring.

Judge Lynch is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He has been an adjunct faculty member at the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law since 1998 and for more than two decades has served on the faculty of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). Judge Lynch frequently lectures on debtor-creditor issues, and on evidence, ethics and trial practice to the bench, bar, business organizations, and the general public.



**Neeraj Mendiratta** established KnovaOne in 2012 with the aim of helping law firms in the Collections and Default industry to improve their processes and performance, provide visibility into their operations, and provide staffing support for back-office and administrative tasks. KnovaOne established its India operations in Pune, India. KnovaOne was acquired by Data Search BY, Inc in April 2024.

KnovaOne provides operational support to its clients that helps them balance workload and focus internal resources on more complex or revenue generating tasks. KnovaOne services help clients save costs, increase production, reduce turnaround time, and effectively manage workload without HR challenges. The clients include Default & Collections Law Firms, Mortgage Servicers, Debt Buyers, Collection Networks, Data Providers, and Process Servers.

KnovaOne has been helping clients automate their processes, build customized applications, and improve productivity using latest automation and AI tools. It has built a compliance platform, Audit Information Management (AIM), a Business Intelligence dashboard, several document management applications, web docket scraper, and email management application using these latest technologies.

Before starting his own businesses, Neeraj was Head of Default for Ocwen. Neeraj briefly served as the Head of Attorney Network at NCO Financial in 2011. Prior to this, he donned several hats at Capital One managing analytics, first party and third-party agencies, and the legal collections network. In his various roles, Neeraj has built complex analytical models, developed risk and operation strategies, and managed vendor operations.

Neeraj has Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (USA), and a B. Tech (Honors) from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (India).

Neeraj is a member of several professional organizations in Collections and Default industry, and actively participates in CLLA, NCBA, RMAI, ALFN, ACA, Five-Star, and HFMA.



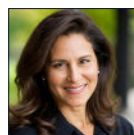
**Marc D. Miceli's** practice focuses on all areas of insolvency law, with a special emphasis on state court general assignments for the benefit of creditors' proceedings, federal bankruptcy proceedings, corporate liquidations, asset recovery, and creditors' rights. As part of his practice, Marc routinely represents court-appointed fiduciaries such as assignees, receivers, and chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees in state and federal court proceedings where he serves as counsel in complex litigation involving contract disputes, debt collection, fraud, and preference and fraudulent transfer litigation.



**Jeff Nicolet** is a shareholder with the firm Wagner, Falconer & Judd, Ltd. ("WFJ"). WFJ is a law firm that has been in the commercial collections business for over 90 years. Jeff has been practicing law for over 31 years, 27 at WFJ. In addition to his firm management responsibilities, he focuses his practice in the areas of commercial collections and business litigation, with an emphasis on construction-related claims. He is a frequent lecturer on topics of commercial collection, mechanic's liens, and bond claims. Jeff is currently Chair of the Creditors' Rights Section Executive Council. Jeff is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and earned his law degree at William Mitchell College of Law (nka Mitchell Hamline School of Law) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He is admitted to practice law in Minnesota and Wisconsin.



**Alec Papesch** is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at NCS Credit, the industry's only B2B full-service provider of Notice & Mechanic's Lien, UCC Filing, and Commercial Collection services. Alec consults Credit Associations and Industry Trade Groups nationwide, providing expert guidance on the complexities of Construction Credit and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Alec specializes in demonstrating the advantages of secured transactions and leveraging technology to improve operational efficiency and strengthen financial reporting capabilities.



**T. Britt Rudman** is the attorney-owner of the Law Offices of T. Britt Rudman in Los Angeles, California. With over 32 years of legal experience and AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, Britt began her career at the San Diego Public Defender's Office, working on death penalty cases, before dedicating the majority of her practice to the collections industry. She is recognized for her creative problem-solving and provides strategic representation in creditor's rights, commercial collections, and recovery of tax excess funds for clients ranging from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. Her experience spans account receivable management, surety bond collections, construction debt recovery, judgment enforcement, domestication of foreign judgments, and complex entertainment industry collections.

An early adopter of technology, Britt is always exploring innovative solutions and is excited about the future impact of AI on the legal industry. She currently serves as Chair Elect for both the Creditors' Rights Section and the Western Region of the Commercial Law League of America (CLLA). She is the former Chair of the CLLA Western Region and the CLLA New Members Section. A native of Joliet, Illinois, she holds a B.S. in Industrial Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from California Western School of Law in San Diego.

## PRESENTER BIOS



**Jeffrey N. Schatzman** is the principal shareholder in the Miami, Florida law firm of Schatzman & Schatzman, P.A. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Florida in 1986 and his J.D. degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Western Michigan University) in Lansing, Michigan in 1989.

Mr. Schatzman is a member of The Florida Bar and is admitted to practice in all Florida State Courts as well as the Federal District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Schatzman concentrates his law practice in the areas of Bankruptcy, representing creditors, debtors, and trustees; Commercial Collections; Commercial Litigation; Business Transactions; and Residential and Commercial Real Estate Transactions and frequently lectures on the topics of bankruptcy and creditors' rights.

He has been a member of the Commercial Law League of America since 1991 and has held numerous positions within the League including a three-year term as an attorney member of the CLLA Board of Governors and President of the CLLA from 2013 to 2014.

Mr. Schatzman has achieved high ratings and recognition by his peers, clients and various organizations including Super Lawyers, an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell, a 10.0 rating by AVVO, one of Florida Trend Magazine's "Legal Elite" Top Attorneys in the State of Florida and ALM's Top Attorneys in South Florida.



**Gil Singer** is a collection attorney and is a Senior Partner in the law firm of Marcadis Singer, P. A. The firm provides legal counsel for clients across the State of Florida and has experienced attorneys who exclusively handle Florida collection law cases in each of the 67 Florida counties.

He was born in New York, graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in 1979 with a JD degree, and was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1979 and is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. He currently is Chair of the Commercial Law League of America Southern Region and a member of the International Association of Commercial Collectors. Mr. Singer has maintained an AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell for over 20 years.

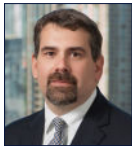
Gil was appointed to the 13th Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission in 2012 and was elected as its Chair in 2018. Florida's Judicial Nominating Commissions are constitutionally created non-partisan bodies designed to interview and nominate diverse, highly qualified candidates for judgeships to the Governor for appointment when a judicial vacancy arises.

He serves as a Board Member at A Kid's Place which is a children's shelter focused on keeping abused, abandoned, and neglected children together as sibling groups. He also serves as a Board Member and volunteer attorney for Crossroads Kids Florida, which serves children aging out of the foster care system.

Mr. Singer has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Tampa for over 44 years. He is married and has two adult sons.



**Hon. Mary Ann Whipple** has served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, in Toledo, Ohio, since 2001. She served as Chief Judge from 2019 through 2023. She has also served on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1977 with an A.B. degree in Russian Studies and from Stanford Law School in 1981. Before becoming a bankruptcy judge, Judge Whipple practiced law as a commercial, bankruptcy, and employment litigator with the Toledo firm Fuller & Henry Ltd. She also taught Creditor/Debtor Law for many years as a part-time faculty member at the University of Toledo College of Law.



**Randall Woolley** concentrates his practice in creditor-side bankruptcy litigation and commercial litigation. Mr. Woolley represents his clients nationwide, in matters ranging from claims against lessees and borrowers for breach of contract, replevin and fraud, and representing creditors in bankruptcy proceedings, including filing claims, lift stay motions, objections to discharge, objections to plans, preparing cash collateral orders and defending preference and lien avoidance actions. Mr. Woolley received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University in 1999 and his Juris Doctor from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 2003. Mr. Woolley is a member of the Commercial Law League of America where he currently serves as a member of the Bankruptcy Section Executive Council and Chair of the Education Committee. Mr. Woolley is also a member of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. Mr. Woolley is licensed to practice law in Illinois, as well as the federal courts for Illinois and Indiana, the First Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.



**Liam Worthington** predominantly focuses on international collections and is responsible for onboarding new partners to the International Credit Exchange, of which CCICM are founding members. Liam ensures new partners meet the necessary high standards of compliance set by the network, as well as providing guidance to international partners on regulatory requirements and best practice.



**Chris Young** is the managing member of the Business & Technology Law Group (BTLG). BTLG is a Maryland general business law firm with a focus on litigation and a wide range of transactional services for entrepreneurs and small to mid-size organizations.

Chris' legal practice is concentrated on business litigation and general counsel to business management. As a litigator, Mr. Young has represented clients at every level of Maryland's court system, and in administrative proceedings regarding employer-employee issues at the county, state, and federal level. Chris has been a member of the Maryland bar since 1996.

Chris received a B.A. degree from the University of Maryland, and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore, School of Law.

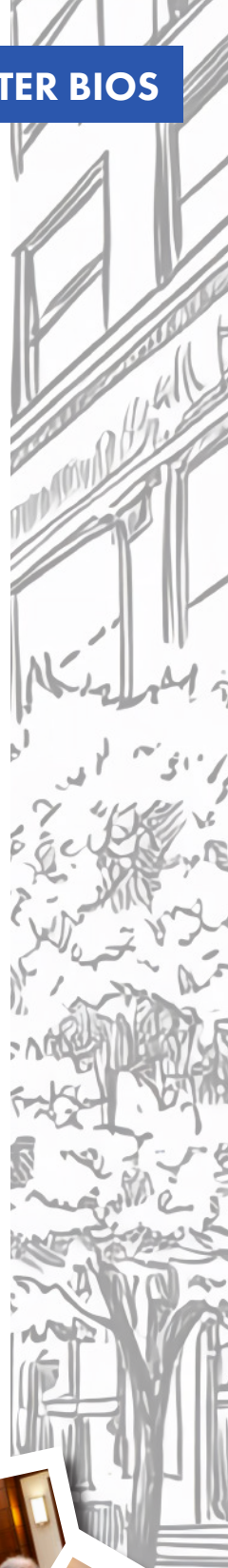
Active in both his profession and community, Chris has been involved with the Maryland State Bar Association, through various sections and committees, including the Young Lawyers section and a special task force on multi-disciplinary practice. He has been a leader in the Hon. James McGill Inn of Court, and a member of the Howard County Bar Association, and the Maryland-DC Creditor Bar Association.

Chris has served on, and chaired, the board of directors of JREF (The Jim Rouse Entrepreneurial Fund) a non-profit, small business lender, and the Howard County YMCA. He has also served on boards for the American Lung Association of Maryland, the Howard Community College Technology Advisory Board, and the YMCA of Central Maryland. He has been active with the legislative affairs committees of the Howard County and Maryland Chambers of Commerce.

Chris was an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) where he taught business law. As a partner with Howard County Public Schools, Mr. Young has been a mentor to gifted and talented students and has also worked with high school mock trial teams.

During his time as Chair of the Board of the Howard County YMCA, Chris worked closely with senior management at the YMCA of Central Maryland Association headquarters in their efforts to embark on a capital project for renovation and new construction of the facilities at the Howard County Family YMCA. The Board persevered through lengthy negotiations, numerous rezoning hearings, and various development plans, negotiating with potential buyers of the YMCA's acreage, to construct a new multi-million dollars facility that now serves the local community in a much greater capacity today.

While Chris is a native of Howard County, Maryland, he currently makes his home in Nashville, Tennessee to maximize time with his grandchildren.



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