

2023 ABA YLD Western States Conference
The Elizabeth Hotel, Fort Collins, Co
April 13-15, 2023

Thursday, April 13th

4:00 pm

Conference & Hotel Check In

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Kick Off Social Hour

On-site in Sunset Lounge

Friday, April 14th, 2023

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Networking Breakfast

On-site at the Magic Rat (accessible from Hotel)

8:50 am - 9:00 am

Conference Introduction

9:00 am - 9:50 am

CLE 1 Mental Health and Diversity in the Legal Profession – Young Lawyers' Perspective

This program focuses on mental health in the legal profession and the young lawyers' push for diversity. It draws from two separate studies conducted by the presenters of Nevada young lawyers.

Speakers:

Alex Velto

Caleb Green

10:00 am – 10:50 am

CLE 2 Social Media, Jury Trials, and the Right to a Fair Trial.

This CLE will educate attorneys on the threats that social media use poses to fair adjudications in jury trials. Social media has become ubiquitous, and widespread social media usage may threaten the right to a fair trial when jurors engage in social media use. This CLE will provide an understanding of the ubiquity and impact of social media usage in society, before turning to a review of recent instances where social media use has resulted in mistrials and remands for new trials. The CLE will explain why traditional juror management practices are ineffective to guard against the new threats posed by social media, and the CLE will conclude by providing practical recommendations for safeguarding jury trials against social media misconduct.

Speakers:

Blake Klinkner

11:00 am - 11:50 am

CLE 3 The Public Trust Doctrine in Nevada

Learn about water rights allocation laws and the role of the Public Trust Doctrine in water rights allocation decisions.

Speakers: Tori Sundheim

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Networking Lunch

On-site at the Magic Rat (accessible from Hotel)

1:10 pm – 2:00 pm

CLE 4 The Public Utility Commission’s Role in Renewable Energy Development and Practice Tips

This CLE will introduce new practitioners to a broad overview of the regulatory landscape around renewable energy and how it ties into public energy utility law in Nevada, including a procedural overview and tips for practicing before the Commission.

Speakers:

Tori Sundheim

2:10 pm – 3:00 pm

CLE 5 Tremors Ahead - Judicial and Regulatory Responses to Seismic Activity Linked to Saltwater Disposal Operations

There is now a growing body of research and litigation that alleges a link between seismic activity (i.e., earthquakes) and the oil and gas industry’s practice of disposing saltwater underground. This program will provide an overview of saltwater disposal operations and the resulting litigation that has followed. Attendants can also expect to learn about the rules and regulations that various western states have enacted, or plan to enact, to regulate saltwater disposal activity. This program will benefit attorneys who represent players in the oil and gas industry, including those that represent producers, operators, leaseholders, landowners, interest owners, and others.

Speakers:

Miranda Caballero
Sushant Mohan

3:10 pm – 4:00 pm

Presentation 6 [Resource]ful Attorneys: Using Your JD Outside the Courtroom NON CLE

Speakers:

Blake Klinkner
Cali Franks

Description:

When you turn on TV all you see are the “sexy” sides of the legal profession - court room drama and getting justice. However, young lawyers are becoming increasingly interested in alternative paths to utilizing their JD. In this program, you will hear from three attorneys who took their careers outside of a law firm and the courtroom. They will highlight their background, their path into their unique positions, and how their JDs have helped them.

4:10 pm – 5:00 pm

CLE 7 Regulation of Novel and Intoxicating Cannabinoids, a State or Federal Issue?

With the proliferation of consumer products containing novel and intoxicating cannabinoids throughout the United States, state and federal governments struggle to find a coherent approach to regulate the same. This presentation explores the varying current approaches to regulating these novel and intoxicating cannabinoids by the federal government and the state of Colorado, as well as propose legislative and rulemaking recommendations pursuant to Senate Bill 22-205. Further, we analyze the implications of the same, as they relate to intellectual property protections, in light of the Ninth Circuit’s decision in *AK Futures LLC v. Boyd Street Distro, LLC*.

Speakers:

Matt C. Cooper
Clement Hayes

Saturday, April 15th

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Networking Breakfast

On-site at the Magic Rat (accessible from Hotel)

9:00 am – 9:50 am

CLE 8 Underrepresented Representatives: How to Navigate a Profession that Does Not Look Like You

Despite the increased emphasis on diversity and inclusion, the legal profession remains one of the least diverse fields in the professional world. The underrepresentation of various sections of our population is obvious. The numbers are staggering and undeniable. While we all agree, representation matters, black and brown and other people of color and members of the LGBTIA+ community have disproportionately low representation. Further, within the legal profession, these individuals face unique and often more prevalent obstacles than the general population.

Speakers:

Tamara Nash
Jessica Perez
Joyce Akhahenda

10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Trip to Horse & Dragon Brewing Company

124 Racquette Dr, Fort Collins, CO

11:00 - 11:50

CLE 9 Three Tier Tears: The Alcoholic Beverage Business Regulatory Hangover

The presentation will provide a general overview of the licensing and trade practice regulations applicable to the manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of alcoholic beverages.

Speakers:

Anda Stephenson

12:00 – 12:50

CLE 10 Herding the Cats: Effective Strategies for Leading Lawyers and Non-Lawyers Alike

Two of Colorado's most prominent judicial officers will discuss the qualities of being a good leader-lawyer and what types of strategies they believe work for good leader-lawyers. They will then discuss recipes for lawyers stumbling or failing at certain elements of being a good leader. Finally, they will discuss personal case studies in leadership and how to avoid leadership failures.

Speakers:

Rich Gabriel (Justice of Colorado Supreme Court)
Susan Blanco (Chief Judge of 8th Judicial District)

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Networking Lunch

On-site at the Magic Rat (accessible from Hotel)

Saturday Bowling 7:30 - 9:30 PM:

830 North - Live Music, Bowling, Arcade (Located in Poudre Liquors)
830 N College Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80524