



2026 Palm Springs Planning Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Megan Demshki, Greg Rizio

Vice Chairs: Clare Lucich, Kenny Ramirez

Committee: Brian Shapiro, Lauren Vogt, Michael Jeandron, Garrett Chambers, Anne Marie Murphy, Doug Saeltzer, Abbas Kazerounian

Committee Staff: Jennifer Lopez, Katie Pebler

Thursday, April 30

1:30 PM

Golf Tournament Registration

Location: Monterey Country Club, Palm Desert

Separately ticked event and limited spots. Purchase tickets with your seminar registration, or email bjohnson@caoc.org to add this on.

2:30 - 5:00 PM

Golf Tournament

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Golf Tournament Awards Reception

Enjoy an open bar, refreshments, and celebrate the colleagues who won!
Open to all.

6:00 PM

Evening on Your Own

Friday, May 1

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration and Check In

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Visit with Exhibitors

Be sure to spend time with the seminar's **27 exhibitors** as they showcase their latest products, services, and innovative technologies. And, recharge at the specialty coffee station, **Java Justice**, proudly sponsored this year by **Calvin Berman, Esq.**

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Morning Refreshments

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

MCLE Sessions

1.00 General Credit

Lien on Me? Not Today: Strategic Lien Resolutions

Moderator: Bryan L. McNally, McNally Law Firm

Speakers: Bruce M. Brusavich, ACTS Law

Keith P. More, Bentley & More, LLP

Belinda Theam, Belinda Theam Law, ALC

Trying the Difficult Case



CAOIE CAOC OCTLA

Palm Springs SEMINAR

APRIL 30 GOLF

MAY 1 - 2 SEMINAR

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

MCLE Sessions

1.00 General Credit

Know Your Opponent: Insider Strategies on the Usual Defense Experts

Moderator: Brynna Popka, McCune Law Group, APC

Speakers: Eric Vaughn Traut, Traut Injury Law
Lauren Michelle Vogt, Rizio Lipinsky Heiting
Michelle Marie West, Robinson Calcagnie, Inc.

Make Your Move: MSAs as a Strategic Weapon

Moderator: Reid Erlich, Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP

Speakers: Brooke L. Bove, Bove Law Group
Abbas Kazerounian, Kazerouni Law Group, APC
Benjamin Siminou, Singleton Schreiber, LLP

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MCLE Sessions

1.00 General Credit

Arbitration Unpacked: Challenging the Clause and Preparing to Prevail

Moderator: Anthony Modarelli, DiMarco | Araujo | Montevideo

Speakers: Brian G. Hannemann, Hannemann Law Firm, APC
Michelle B. Hemesath, Ikuta Hemesath LLP
Lindsay Aitken Campbell, Aitken Campbell Heikaus Weaver LLP

Med School for Lawyers: Understanding the Degrees of TBI

Moderator: Katey Doherty, Kathleen Doherty, Esq.

Speakers: Ben J. Coughlan, Coughlan & Vinel LLP
Taylor M. Ernst, Ernst Law Group
Molly McKibben, Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Lunch, Keynote and Uber Initiative Update

Moderator: **Kenny Ramirez**, Kenny Ramirez Law Firm and President, CAOIE

Keynote: **Rahul Ravipudi**, Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP

Speakers: **Douglas S. Saeltzer**, Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger and President, CAOC
Nancy Drabble, Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC)

1:45 - 2:45 PM

MCLE Sessions

1.00 General Credit

Exposing the Expert: Smart Cross and Strategic Report Attacks

Moderator: Kristen Falkenstein, Bruno Nalu

Speakers: Richard A. Cohn, Aitken*Aitken*Cohn
Dorothy Clay Sims
Dr. Oregon K. Hunter

Session #9, To Be Determined

CALIFORNIA MCLE: This activity is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California in the amount of 10.75 credit hours of which 1.25 hours may apply to Legal Ethics credits. CAOC certifies that this activity will conform to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulation of the State Bar of California governing minimum continuing legal education. CAOC will maintain your records on this seminar. Provider No. 00324.





3:00 - 4:00 PM

MCLE Sessions

1.00 General Credit

Holding Public Entities Accountable: What You Need to Know

Moderator: Yoshiaki C. Kubota, Kubota & Craig, PC

Speakers: Megan Demshki, Aitken*Aitken*Cohn
Christa Haggai Ramey, ACTS Law
Brian Shapiro, William D. Shapiro Law, Inc.

Precision & Persuasion: Courtroom Tech That Works

Moderator: Michael Jeandron, Roberts | Jeandron Law

Speakers: Martin I. Aarons, Aarons Ward
Kristy M. Arevalo, McCune Law Group
Kelly B. Hanker, Trial Lawyers For Justice, Hanker Law PC

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Poolside Welcome Reception

Bring your crew to the Conchilla Pool (yellow umbrellas) to unwind after education on the first day.

5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Evening on Your Own

9:00 PM - 12:00 AM

New Lawyers Division Party, Sponsored by Baldwin Settlements

Saturday, May 2

8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Registration and Check In

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8:30 - 10:30 AM

Morning Refreshments

9:00 - 10:45 AM

MCLE Sessions

1.75 General Credit

Voir Dire in Action: Plaintiff and Defense Experts at Work

Moderator: Gregory G. Rizio, Rizio Lipinsky Heiting

Speakers: Brian Chase, Bisnar Chase
Dana Fox, Lewis Brisbois
Benjamin T. Ikuta, Ikuta & Hemesath, LLP
Jason R. Sanchez, The Simon Law Group

(Cont. on next page)



CAOIE
CAOC
OCTLA

Palm Springs SEMINAR

APRIL 30 GOLF MAY 1 - 2 SEMINAR

9:00 – 10:45 AM

MCLE Sessions

1.75 General Credit

From Intake to Action: The Pre-Lit Playbook

Moderator: Nolan Kistler, Law Offices of Harlan B. Kistler

Speakers: Garrett Ryan Chambers, Cervantes & Chambers, PC
Cory Weck, McCune Law Group
Jean-Simone Serrano, Rizio Lipinsky Heiting
James G. Perry, Atticus Injury Law, PC
Sharon P. Ramirez, Kenny Ramirez Law Firm
Brett S. Sachs, MVP Accident Attorneys

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

MCLE Sessions

How the Best Open: Real Courtroom Openings, Real Strategy

1.25 General Credit

Moderator: To be announced

Speakers: Gregory L. Bentley, Bentley & More, LLP
John C. Carpenter, Carpenter & Zuckerman
Gretchen M. Nelson, Nelson & Fraenkel LLP
William David Shapiro, William D. Shapiro Law, Inc.

Ethics Update: New Rules + Specialty Credit

1.25 Ethics Credit

Moderator: Anastasia Olano, Dordick Law Corporation

Speakers: Casey R. Johnson, Aitken*Aitken*Cohn
Nancy Drabble, Consumer Attorneys Of California
Justice Turner, Carpenter & Zuckerman
Carolyn K. Shining, Shining Law Firm
Senator Tom Umberg, California State Senate

12:15 PM

Grab and Go Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Keynote: Dorothy Clay Sims, Bestselling Author: Latest Tactics to Expose Dishonest Experts

1.00 General Credit

Discover her newest strategies for uncovering flawed reports, challenging misleading testimony, and taking control in expert depositions.

Moderated by Clare Lucich, Bentley & More and President, OCTLA

2:15 PM - 4:00 PM

How the Best Close: Portions of Real Closings and What is Impactful

1.75 General Credit

Moderator: Scott Saunders, Walter Clark

Speakers: Keith G. Bremer, Bremer & Whyte LLP
Ricardo Echeverria, Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP
Brian J. Panish, Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP
Nicholas C. Rowley, Trial Lawyers For Justice
Kelly Winter Weil, Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP





SEMINAR

APRIL 30 GOLF

MAY 1 - 2 SEMINAR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

CAOIE Awards Ceremony

Celebrate your CAOIE colleagues and join in honoring the exceptional accomplishments of attorneys and judges who have made a profound impact on the legal community and beyond. Awards presented are for **Trial Lawyer of the Year** (Brian Panish), **Streetfighter of the Year** (Kenny Ramirez), and **Judge of the Year** (Hon. Harold Hopp).

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Palm Springs Seminar Send-Off Bash

Join seminar attendees for a farewell party, location to be disclosed at a future date. Bring your people! Partners, spouses, kids – everyone is invited. A fun night out is promised! Stay tuned for more details. *Thank you to our sponsors Rizio Lipinsky Heiting + more!*

Save the Date!

The 2027 Palm Springs Seminar by CAOIE/CAOC/OCTLA is
April 29 (Golf) * April 30 – May 1 (Seminar)

