



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 ticketed 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

(Continued on next page)



CAOIE CAOC OCTLA

Palm Springs SEMINAR

APRIL 30 GOLF MAY 1 - 2 SEMINAR

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

MCLE Sessions

1.00 General Credit

Trying the Difficult Case

Moderator: Michael Geragos, Carpenter & Zuckerman

Speakers: Trish Law, Law Offices of Patricia A. Law
Geoff Wells, Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP

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
Pamela Prescott, 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)

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.





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

Multi-Topic Masterclass

Moderator: Ted Bryan Wacker, TBW Law

Speakers: Kim Valentine, Valentine Law Group
Chris E. Purcell, Purcell Law
Paul Matiasic, The Matiasic Firm

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

Visit with Exhibitors

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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, BD&J

Benjamin T. Ikuta, Ikuta & Hemesath, LLP

Jason R. Sanchez, The Simon Law Group

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: Alain Kinaly, Kinaly Law

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

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 Heating + more!*

Save the Date!

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

