



ACBA BENCH-BAR

CONFERENCE

★ 2025 ★

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Thursday, June 12

Athletic Events

Donald W. Bebenek Golf Tournament – <i>Sponsored by SWMW Law</i>	7 a.m.
*Post-Golf Lunch and Reception – <i>Sponsored by Perry Calder Law</i>	
Sporting Clays and 5-Stand Event – <i>Sponsored by Husch Blackwell</i>	8:30 a.m.
*After Shoot Lunch and Reception – <i>Sponsored by Tucker Arensberg</i>	
Pickleball Tournament – <i>Sponsored by University of Pittsburgh School of Law</i>	10 a.m.

Educational Programs

Women in the Law Division Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	2 p.m.
Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	2 p.m.
Construction Law Section Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	2 p.m.
Homer S. Brown Division Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	3:15 p.m.
Committee for Diversity and Inclusion Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	3:15 p.m.
Criminal Litigation Section/Criminal Division Program – 1 Substantive and 1 CJE credit.....	3:15 p.m.
Young Lawyers Division Program – 1 Ethics credit.....	4:30 p.m.
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (Judges-Only CJE) Program – 1 CJE Ethics credit....	4:30 p.m.

Social Events

WLD Reception – <i>Sponsored by Vuono & Gray</i>	5:30 p.m.
YLD Reception and Passing of the Gavel – <i>Sponsored by Compass Rose Financial</i>	5:30 p.m.
Craft Beer and Chairman Select Wine Tasting – <i>Sponsored by Very Law</i>	6:30 p.m.
Barbecue – <i>Sponsored by ACBA Insurance Program – My Benefit Advisor</i>	7:30 p.m.
ACBA Team Trivia – <i>Hosted by David Fudor, Bennington Law</i>	9 p.m.
Cigar and Bourbon Tasting – <i>Sponsored by Fort Pitt Capital</i>	9 p.m.
Drag Show.....	10:30 p.m.

Friday, June 13

Athletic Events

Yoga – <i>Sponsored by F.N.B. Wealth Management / Running</i>	7 a.m.
Bowling / Axe Throwing – <i>Sponsored by GRB Law</i>	3:45 p.m.

Educational Programs

Breakfast with the Judges Program – 1 Ethics credit – <i>Sponsored by Shrager Defense Attorneys</i> ..	8:45 a.m.
Feature Presentation – 1 Substantive credit – <i>Sponsored by UPMC, UPMC Health Plan and bit-x-bit</i> ..	10 a.m.
Appellate Practice Committee Program – 1 Substantive and 1 CJE credit.....	11:45 a.m.
Family Law Section/Family Division Program – 1 Substantive and 1 CJE credit.....	11:45 a.m.
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Program – 1 Ethics credit.....	11:45 a.m.
LGBTQ+ Rights Committee Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	11:45 a.m.
Civil Litigation Section/Civil Division Program – 1 Substantive and 1 CJE credit.....	2:30 p.m.
Probate and Trust Law Section/Orphans' Court Division Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	2:30 p.m.
Labor and Employment Law Section Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	2:30 p.m.
Federal Court Section/Federal Court Program – 1 Substantive credit.....	3:45 p.m.
Pro Bono Program – 1 Ethics credit.....	3:45 p.m.
Judges-Only CJE Program – 1 CJE Ethics credit.....	3:45 p.m.

Social Events

Breakfast and Bloody Mary/Mimosa Bar – <i>Sponsored by Nemeroff Law Firm</i>	7:45 a.m.
Luncheon/Passing of the Gavels/Amram Award – <i>Sponsored by Plummer Slade</i>	12:45 p.m.
Poolside Reception – <i>Signature Cocktail Sponsored by Bennington Law Firm, LLC</i>	6:15 p.m.
Dinner Buffet and Entertainment – <i>Sponsored by AmeriServ Wealth & Capital Management</i>	7 p.m.
Karaoke Party – <i>Sponsored by Judge Lenihan Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>	10 p.m.

Saturday, June 14

Breakfast Buffet, Closing Remarks, Door Prize Drawings and Adjournment – <i>Sponsored by HBK Valuation, Litigation & Forensics</i>	8 a.m.
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BENCH-BAR WELCOME



BENCH-BAR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Hon. Lisa P. Lenihan

🌟 **Welcome to the 61st Annual Bench-Bar Conference!** 🌟

As Chair of the 2025 ACBA Bench-Bar Conference Committee, I am excited to welcome you to the 61st annual Bench-Bar Conference, where we're throwing it back to the swinging 60s! Whether you're reliving your high school and college glory days or getting a taste of the wild, groovy vibes of the decade for the first time, we've got an unforgettable experience lined up for you.

Our amazing Committee, along with the hardworking ACBA staff, has pulled out all the stops to bring you a perfect mix of top-notch education and pure fun. I have had the honor of working alongside my fantastic Vice-Chair, Andrew Rothery, to plan this memorable event. Similar to the significant societal and cultural changes of the 60s, we will be exploring some current changes, such as the use and impact of Artificial Intelligence in the legal profession.

We're thrilled to have you here at the beautiful Seven Springs Mountain Resort, where you'll find plenty of opportunities to connect, learn and create memories that will last a lifetime. I know that Bench-Bar has been a highlight of my legal career and I hope it will be the same for you.

On behalf of myself, Vice-Chair Andrew Rothery, the entire Bench-Bar Conference Committee, and the incredible ACBA staff – welcome! We hope you have an amazing time.

Now, let your hair down, put on your grooviest outfit and let's make this a far-out adventure!

2025 BENCH-BAR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Hon. Lisa P. Lenihan

VICE-CHAIR

Andrew Rothey

IMMEDIATE PAST-CHAIR

Holly Deihl

MEMBERS

Susan Abramowich

Amy Coco

Hon. Robert Colville

Jessica Crown

Jamie Drennen

Hon. Kim Eaton

Jesse Exilus

Robin Frank

Joseph Froetschel

Mark Hamilton

Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor

Keymo Hoshing

Elizabeth Hughes

Linda King

Hon. Emily Kinkead

Sarah Krolkowski

Hon. Beth Lazzara

Tricia Martino

Jessyca McCarl

Hon. Michael McCarthy

Hon. Mary McGinley

Kerven Moon

Jessica Nelson

Marla Presley

Connor Sease

David Shrager

Jonathan Stewart

Dianne Wainwright

Hon. Christine Ward

Regina Wilson

Hon. Michael Wojcik

Gina Zumpella

IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION

The ACBA Bench-Bar Conference is a **members-only, adults-only** event.

Wi-Fi is offered in the conference rooms free of charge.

The password is 86753099

NAME TAG REQUIREMENT

Name tags have been issued to all conference registrants. Registrants are asked to wear them throughout the conference. This will ensure everyone attending events has registered for the conference and also will enable other participants to identify you easily.

GENERAL POINTS OF INFORMATION

You must be in attendance on Saturday morning for the door prize drawings in order to win.

CLE/CJE CREDITS

CJE credits are NOT reported by the ACBA staff. These must be reported by the individual. CLE credits will not be reported to the PA CLE Board unless a CLE reporting document is received no later than Sunday, June 15, 2025. If received after this date, a \$25 additional fee will be charged.

CASHLESS FACILITY

All outlets within the Seven Springs resort are cashless. Charges can be placed either on a debit/credit card or placed onto your room.

SEVEN SPRINGS POLICIES REGARDING ALCOHOL SERVICE

Seven Springs is committed to adhere to all liquor laws and are enforcing the following policies:

- No one under age 21 can purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.
- Seven Springs requires proof of age from ALL GUESTS entering a 21 and over venue. This includes sponsored parties and hospitality areas.
- Please have photo identification with you during the Bench-Bar Conference.
- Seven Springs reserves the right to deny access to any bar or lounge or sponsored parties to anyone who is visibly intoxicated and reserves the right to discontinue service to any guest who is harassing to others, involved in a physical altercation or is creating an unsafe situation for themselves or others.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

FEATURE PRESENTATION

DIAMOND



LANYARD

WELCOME GIFT

BARBECUE



SPORTING CLAYS

BREAKFAST WITH
THE JUDGES

FRIDAY DINNER



FRIDAY LUNCH

FRIDAY GOURMET
COFFEE BREAK

SATURDAY BREAKFAST



CIGAR AND BOURBON
TASTING

BEER AND WINE
TASTING



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

PLATINUM



WELCOME DRINK

POST-GOLF LUNCH
RECEPTION

AFTER SHOOT LUNCH
RECEPTION



FRIDAY MORNING MIMOSA/
BLOODY MARY BAR

FRIDAY POOLSIDE RECEPTION
SIGNATURE COCKTAIL

KARAOKE



PICKLEBALL

YOGA

YOUNG LAWYERS
DIVISION RECEPTION



WOMEN IN THE LAW
DIVISION RECEPTION

AXE THROWING

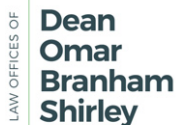


THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

GOLD



Private Wealth
Management
Elisa Cavalier



BRONZE



THURSDAY, JUNE 12

MORNING – ATHLETIC EVENTS

7:00 a.m.

DONALD W. BEBENEK BENCH-BAR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Highlands Golf Club

Sponsored by SWMW Law

Pre-registration required

Hit the links on one of the region's most picturesque courses.

POST-GOLF LUNCH AND RECEPTION

Highlands Golf Club

Sponsored by Perry Calder Law

Pre-registration required

Enjoy a post-round gourmet lunch and refreshments.

8:30 a.m.

SPORTING CLAYS

Highlands Sporting Clays

Sponsored by Husch Blackwell

Pre-registration required

Whether you're an avid shooter or you've never fired a gun, there's no better way to enjoy the Laurel Highlands than a round of sporting clays.

AFTER SHOOT LUNCH AND RECEPTION

Highlands Sporting Clays

Sponsored by Tucker Arensberg, P.C.

Pre-registration required

After the shoot, enjoy food and beverages while the winners collect prizes.

10:00 a.m.

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Courtyard

Sponsored by University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Pre-registration required

Whether you're a pro or brand new to the sport, this tournament will be a blast.

11:00 a.m.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

Hotel Lobby

Please check in so that you can enjoy all that Bench-Bar has to offer.

Welcome Drink – *Sponsored by Phillips Froetschel*

Lanyard – *Sponsored by Aligned Partners Trust Company*

Welcome Gift – *Sponsored by ACBA Insurance Program - USI Affinity*

A Trusted Partner

**FOR MESOTHELIOMA
AND ASBESTOS LUNG
CANCER LITIGATION**

OUR CO-COUNSEL APPROACH

- Fair and flexible co-counsel arrangements
- All agreements in writing
- 30-day or shorter co-counsel fee payment

PARTNER WITH SWMW LAW FOR:

- Faster, larger settlements
- Decades of complex consumer litigation experience
- People-first approach, dedication to clients and their families

AFTERNOON – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Dress for the day is resort casual with a 60s flair

2:00 p.m.

WOMEN IN THE LAW DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Seasons 1 and 2

So Now She's a Star

The wide world of women's sports is exploding with tons of new, incredible and inspiring athletes. Ilona Maher brought rugby to the forefront of the world stage at the Olympics. Angel Reese and Caitlin Clark spent months going toe-to-toe in college basketball and then competing for Rookie of the Year in the WNBA. Nike put together its first Super Bowl commercial in 27 years to the tune of \$16 million and what was the feature? Women's sports. Women athletes are becoming more lucrative than ever both nationally and internationally. Paige Bueckers of UConn cashed in by selling her sport and herself as she became the first NIL athlete to design and launch a basketball sneaker. This CLE will discuss various expected, and surprising, legal hurdles that these athletes face. Panelists will address Title IX concerns for college athletes, issues with agents and contracts and how social media can catapult these stars, or send them crashing to Earth. Join this session to talk sports (law).

Speakers:

The Hon. Robert J. Colville, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Heather Lyke, FBS Athletic Directors Association

Daniel Kunz, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Orphans' Court Division

Moderator:

Sarah Krolkowski, Krolkowski Law, LLC

2:00 p.m.

BANKRUPTCY AND COMMERCIAL LAW SECTION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Sunburst

Should I Stay or Should I Go Now?

How Pending Litigation May Clash with the Automatic Stay

A bankruptcy filing can wreak havoc on a carefully orchestrated litigation strategy. This program will provide an overview of the Bankruptcy Code's automatic stay and discuss how it applies to litigation that is pending outside of the Bankruptcy Court. The panelists will help non-bankruptcy practitioners navigate the applicability and impact of the automatic stay and will discuss how to protect a client's interests while avoiding a potential violation of the Bankruptcy Code.

A Trusted Partner

**FOR MESOTHELIOMA
AND LUNG CANCER
LITIGATION**

HOLLY DEIHL

Partner
📍 Pittsburgh

OUR CO-COUNSEL APPROACH

- Fair and flexible co-counsel arrangements
- All agreements in writing
- 30-day or shorter co-counsel fee payment

PARTNER WITH SWMW LAW FOR:

- Faster, larger settlements
- Decades of complex consumer litigation experience
- People-first approach, dedication to clients and their families

We've recovered more than **\$750 million** for thousands of hardworking families who were the victims of companies putting profits over people.

Our partners are involved in every case through every step, from initial intake through settlement and/or trial. Working with us ensures a mutually beneficial relationship with results you can count on.

Contact Partner Holly Deihl today to get started.

Speakers:

Elizabeth Slaby, Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, LLC
Michael A. Shiner, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
Maribeth Thomas, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
Andrew Pratt, Calaiaro Valencik

2:00 p.m.

CONSTRUCTION LAW SECTION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Wintergreen

What is a Construction Lawyer Anyway?

Attorneys from other practice areas, and even other civil litigators, often wonder: What exactly is a construction lawyer? How does construction law differ from “regular” civil litigation? In this program, three leading construction practitioners will outline the interdisciplinary nature of construction law, highlighting both legal and practical issues.

Panelists will discuss transactional services, including contract drafting and negotiations; review of insurance provisions; bonding issues; assisting clients seeking minority or women business enterprise status; and addressing intellectual property issues related to construction design documents. The panel also will discuss governmental compliance services, such as assisting clients who might be bidding projects involving public facilities or public financing, including bid disputes, change order issues and project close-out issues.

Additionally, the panel will discuss construction claims, dispute resolution and litigation services. This portion will cover assisting clients involved in claims related to a construction project, including counsel on disputes during the course of the project; change order claims; insurance coverage disputes; assisting clients with prosecuting or defending mechanics lien claims; advising clients related to disputes submitted at various stages in the dispute resolution process including negotiation, mediation, arbitration and litigation; and advising clients on the selection of appropriate dispute resolution forums, including ADR.

Speakers:

Lori Wisniewski Azzara, Cohen Seglias
Chad I. Michaelson, Meyer Unkovic & Scott
Julian E. Neiser, Spilman Thomas & Battle

3:15 p.m.

HOMER S. BROWN DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Snowflake

Truth in the Shadows:**The Impact of Intellectual Property on People of Color**

This program is an interactive session intended to highlight different creations and works of art from people of color and how intellectual property law has



University of
Pittsburgh®

School of Law



PITT LAW ALUMNI

LEADING THE ACBA

Pitt Law celebrates Regina C. Wilson (JD '07) and Amy J. Coco (JD '94) for their leadership of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

As Regina concludes a successful term as President, we thank her for a year of exceptional service and leadership. We also congratulate Amy as she steps into the role of President!

YOUR LEADERSHIP MAKES PITT LAW PROUD.



treated such works. The program will educate attendees about creations that have been misperceived throughout history and provide an understanding of measures that can remedy injustices in this area of law.

Speaker:

Renel Datulma, InnovaPriva PLLC

3:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Sunburst

Invisible Disabilities, Lawyers and the Law

“Invisible disabilities” affect every class, gender, race and age of society. This program will dive into what it means to have an invisible disability. It also will cover the shared experiences of those who have invisible disabilities and of those who care for persons with invisible disabilities. Finally, the program will cover federal protections for those with invisible disabilities, and where those protections may fall short.

Speakers:

Sima Lotfi, Bookoff McAndrews

Ian Michel, Allegheny County Law Department

Sarah Itzkoff, Allegheny County Law Department

Danielle Mundekis, K&L Gates

3:15 p.m.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION SECTION/CRIMINAL DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE and 1 Substantive CJE credit

Wintergreen

Program open to all registrants

Happy Birthday: The First Year of Pennsylvania’s Act 44: Probation Reform

Pennsylvania’s Act 44 went into effect on June 11, 2024, with a focus on reforming probation in criminal cases. This program will address how the first year of the new Act has fared. Act 44 was meant to reduce additional incarcerations for minor probation violations while putting an emphasis on rehabilitation. Most notably, the Act allows for the early termination of probation in certain instances. The panel will introduce the Pennsylvania Act 44 including defendant eligibility or ineligibility. The panel will discuss how the Act has impacted courtrooms during the first year and a discussion will address unintended consequences that have been observed. Judges and attorneys will discuss the implications of the Act during plea negotiations and how judges use the Act during their acceptance or rejections of proposed plea agreements.

Speakers:

The Hon. Beth A. Lazzara, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Criminal Division

WITH SO MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT PITT LAW, HOW WILL YOU MAKE YOUR IMPACT?



Hire Pitt Law Grads and Interns and bring top legal talent to your organization.

Mentor a Pitt Law Student and share your insight and experience with the next generation of legal professionals.



Take Pitt Law CLEs and stay up to date with our expert-led continuing legal education programs.

Join the University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Association to connect with fellow alumni.



The Hon. Thomas P. Caulfield, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Criminal Division
Lyle Dresbold, Shrager Defense Attorneys
Mike Sullivan, Krolikowski Law, LLC

Moderator:

Sarah Krolikowski, Krolikowski Law, LLC

4:30 p.m.

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Ethics CLE credit

Seasons 1 and 2

Mentorship, Networking and Professionalism Throughout Your Legal Career

Have you ever wanted to get more involved with the ACBA or another professional organization but didn't know where to start? Do you feel overwhelmed by the prospect of attending another happy hour where you don't know anyone? Have you ever had anyone call and ask you a question about an issue outside of your practice area? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, this is the program for you. Listen to a panel of experienced lawyers, judges and leaders to discuss the importance of mentorship and networking throughout your career and involvement with professional associations. With the advice from a knowledgeable panel, you'll learn how to improve your career skills and be more involved with the community at large.

Speakers:

The Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Family Division

Daniel Kunz, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Orphans' Court Division
Jesse Exilus, City of Pittsburgh

Julian E. Neiser, Spilman Thomas & Battle

Moderator:

The Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan (Ret.), Judge Lenihan ADR

4:30 p.m.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE PROGRAM

1 Ethics CJE credit

Sunburst

Program Open to Judges Only

**Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.6 Ensuring the Right to Be Heard –
Court Access and Judicial Conciliations**

The Rule of Law is paramount to a functioning democracy. Litigants need confidence that judges will apply the law fairly and effectively to their cases. The Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct provides essential rules and guidance to assist judges and enhance their abilities to evenhandedly hear disputes, try cases and conduct meaningful conciliations. This program will address Judicial Code



Digital Forensics | eDiscovery | Cybersecurity & Incident Response | Information Governance

LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER

Legal insights meet state-of-the-art technology at bit-x-bit, where our dedicated lawyers and analysts provide eDiscovery and forensic services that deliver exactly what you need. From data collection and preservation to advanced analytics to genAI solutions for document review and case management, bit-x-bit supports your success at every turn.

The ACBA has endorsed bit-x-bit as the provider of choice for forensic and eDiscovery services for its members since 2008. We take that recommendation to heart and commit to exceeding your every expectation.



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We get it.

Section 2.6: Ensuring the Right to Be Heard. In this session participants will explore best practices for applying this rule and complying with this Code of Judicial Conduct. Additionally, the program will outline best practices for working with attorneys, their clients and pro se litigants throughout judicial conciliations.

Speakers:

The Hon. Terrence R. Nealon, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas

The Hon. Mary C. McGinley, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Civil Division

The Hon. W. Scott Hardy, United States District Court for the Western District of
Pennsylvania

Moderator:

The Hon. Andrew F. Szefi (Ret.), Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.

EVENING – SOCIAL EVENTS

Dress for the evening is resort casual with a 60s flair

5:30 p.m.

WOMEN IN THE LAW DIVISION RECEPTION

Seasons 3 and 4

Sponsored by Vuono & Gray

Women in the Law Division members are invited to celebrate the end
of the bar year at this informal social gathering.

5:30 p.m.

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION RECEPTION AND PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Timberstone

Sponsored by Compass Rose Financial

Fresh off of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the ACBA Young Lawyers Division, the YLD is holding its 20th Bench-Bar Conference Division meeting and reception this year. Rebeca Himena Miller will be formally introduced as the new chair of the YLD, succeeding Danielle Parks. YLD members are invited to join their colleagues for open bar refreshments, networking and information about the YLD. If you ever wanted to get involved with the YLD but did not know how, attend this event to get information on the opportunities from current council members and officers.

6:30 p.m.

CRAFT BEER AND CHAIRMAN SELECT WINE TASTING

Pavers Circle

Sponsored by Very Law

Choose from a selection of craft microbrews and fine wines while
enjoying an array of fun appetizers.

ALIGNED PARTNERS *is ON the MOVE!*



More *people*. More *locations*. More *opportunities* to align with you.



People: Jim Wilharm has joined Aligned Partners, bringing over 30 years of trust real estate experience, and strengthening and expanding our capabilities.



Locations: **New** main office: 1606 Carmody Court, Suite 300, Sewickley, PA 15143
New city office: 310 Grant Street, Suite 1120, Pittsburgh PA 15219



Opportunities: Pennsylvania now has a directed trust statute, making it easier for counsel, financial advisors and other professionals to better work together for their clients.

Call us today to discuss your trust and estate needs.

HOW CAN WE **ALIGN** WITH YOU?

Trustee | Agent for Trustee | Trustee with Independent Investment Advisor
Executor | Guardian of the Estate | Financial Agent Under POA



Aligned Partners
TRUST COMPANY

Blaymore One | 1606 Carmody Court, Suite 300, Sewickley, PA 15143

(412) 258 3590 | alignedpartners.com

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY NIGHT BARBECUE

Outside Ski Lodge

Sponsored by ACBA Insurance Program – My Benefit Advisor

Enjoy delicious barbecue cuisine at this popular Bench-Bar tradition.

9:00 - 10:30 p.m.

ACBA TEAM TRIVIA

Timbers

Pre-registration required

What's more fun than a game of bar trivia? ACBA member David Fudor – who routinely conducts trivia contests at bars throughout the Pittsburgh area – will conduct this trivia game. With a bunch of lawyers playing trivia, do you think this might get competitive...? Come with a team already assembled, or form one on the spot with other Bench-Bar attendees looking to join the fun. Your Bench-Bar drink ticket can be redeemed at this event; cash bar available as well.

9:00 - 10:30 p.m.

CIGAR AND BOURBON TASTING

Matterhorn Deck

Sponsored by Fort Pitt Capital

Pre-registration required

After a long day of CLEs and networking, join your fellow members on the Matterhorn Deck for an evening of cigars and bourbon. John Sabino and ACBA member Donald Murano, proprietors of Cigar and Ash, will have their traveling humidors on site where members can browse and purchase cigars from around the world. Your Bench-Bar drink ticket can be redeemed at this event; cash bar also available.

9:00 - 10:30 p.m.

NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Matterhorn

With a day of CLEs, sporting events and dining under your belt, kick back and mingle with your fellow Bench-Bar attendees. Your Bench-Bar drink ticket can be redeemed at this event; cash bar also available.

9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

SNACKIN' AND RELAXIN'

Suite 436

Open to all registrants

Stop by and enjoy an array of non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, candy and more.

10:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

DRAG SHOW

Matterhorn

Open to all registrants

Cut loose and enjoy an entertaining drag show, performed by DJ Etzi & Company. Your Bench-Bar drink ticket can be redeemed at this event; cash bar also available.



The Allegheny County Bar Association is proud to offer you access to the My Benefit Advisor (MBA) program as your solution for employee benefits and health insurance.

My Benefit Advisor guides employers of all sizes through planning, communicating, and managing a successful employee benefits program. Local experts are here to help you understand the insurance market, make the best decision for your business, and provide first-class service.

Contact Us

We are ready to help you find a solution for your employee benefits program or if you are an individual in need of coverage.

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(412) 414-4495
acba.mybenefitadvisor.com



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION**
Serving the Pittsburgh Legal Community

**MYBENEFIT
ADVISOR**

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Dress for the day is resort casual with a 60s flair

MORNING – ATHLETIC EVENTS

7:00 a.m.

YOGA

Lake Tahoe Area (Weather back up location: Maple Room)

Sponsored by F.N.B. Wealth Management

Pre-registration required

Whether you're an experienced yogi or brand-new, all attendees are welcome to start the day with a yoga session, conducted by ACBA member Lisa Standish.

7:00 a.m.

RUNNING

Lodge Hotel Lobby

Open to all registrants

Start the day with an invigorating run, led by ACBA member Bill Labovitz.

7:45 a.m.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

Stag Pass

Please check in so that you can enjoy all that Bench-Bar has to offer.

7:45 - 9:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST AND BLOODY MARY/MIMOSA BAR

Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by Nemeroff Law Firm

Recharge with a refreshing Mimosa or tasty Bloody Mary.

MORNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

8:45 - 9:45 a.m.

BREAKFAST WITH THE JUSTICES AND JUDGES PROGRAM

1 Ethics CLE credit

Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by Shrager Defense Attorneys

AI and the Law

The use of artificial intelligence is becoming more widespread in all areas of life, including the legal field. Two Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and a Judge from the Superior Court of Pennsylvania will be featured on stage, along with a Commonwealth Court Judge and a retired Judge from the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pa. Additionally, several Pennsylvania Appellate, Federal and Court of Common Pleas judges will be seated among the audience. Together with legal practitioners, they will discuss the ethical issues surrounding the use of AI in the legal profession.



HUSCH BLACKWELL

Uncommon for Good Reason

Husch Blackwell is a different kind of law firm. One that is consistently recognized for our innovative solutions and collaborative approach. Our respect for individuals is backed by the resources of an Am Law 100 firm, enabling us to provide flexible work arrangements, robust mentoring, and unique professional development opportunities.

We are proud to support the Allegheny County Bar Association's Bench-Bar Conference and to promote networking and education for Pittsburgh-area legal professionals.

Julie Friedman

Partner | Pittsburgh
202.378.5358 | julie.friedman@huschblackwell.com

Thomas F. Cocchi

Attorney | Pittsburgh
202.378.2412 | thomas.cocchi@huschblackwell.com

Brady Hunt

Attorney | Pittsburgh
202.378.5364 | brady.hunt@huschblackwell.com

How it works: A question will appear on video screens throughout the ballroom, then each table will have 15 minutes to discuss the first question. Start by selecting one person to serve as your table's spokesperson. After 15 minutes, select participants will be asked to report on their discussion. The panel of judges also will provide their input and perspectives on these topics.

After each segment, judges at each table will be asked to get up and move to another table so that more attorneys can interact with each judge, then the discussion will continue.

Speakers:

The Hon. Christine Donohue, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

The Hon. David N. Wecht, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

The Hon. Alice Beck Dubow, Superior Court of Pennsylvania

The Hon. Michael H. Wojcik, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

The Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan (Ret.), Judge Lenihan ADR

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

1 Substantive CLE credit

Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by UPMC, UPMC Health Plan and bit-x-bit

AI: Legal Tech or Legal Trick – Don't Worry, It Knows What You Don't Know

Artificial intelligence or AI is here to stay, and its impact on the legal industry is enormous. AI is also rapidly evolving, leaving many attorneys feeling as if they do not know where to start, much less keep up.

This presentation will offer a brief overview of what AI is and how it works, along with information regarding the various types of AI and their applications for lawyers. Simulations will provide real world examples of how AI can benefit your practice, increasing your efficiency and competency in line with the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

The program will end with a robust discussion regarding the ethics of AI, including its implications on privilege, billing and disclosure and how these considerations are being handled by the courts.

Speakers:

Wesley M. Oliver, Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University

Morgan A. Gray, University of Pittsburgh, ISP; University of St. Thomas, School of Law

David Horrigan, Relativity

Jeffrey W. Chivers, TLATech Inc. (Syllo)

Moderator:

Tricia A. Martino, Pion, Nerone, Girman & Smith, P.C.

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11:45 a.m.

APPELLATE PRACTICE COMMITTEE PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit and 1 Substantive CJE credit

Wintergreen

Program open to all registrants

Supreme Court 'Secrets' –

A Look at Internal Review Processes at the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

A knowledgeable panel will provide a review and discussion of Pa. Supreme Court's procedures in cases other than published, precedential opinions so that attendees can learn all the work that goes into the Court's per curiam dispositions. Topics include what the Court looks for from both practitioners and judges alike in the context of petitions for allowance of appeal, direct appeals from Commonwealth Court decisions and the Court's miscellaneous docket.

Speakers:

The Hon. Christine Donohue, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

The Hon. David N. Wecht, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

The Hon. Kevin M. Dougherty, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Moderators:

Corrie Woods, Kline & Specter, PC

Zachary N. Gordon, Del Sole Cavanaugh Stroyd LLC

11:45 a.m.

FAMILY LAW SECTION/FAMILY DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit and 1 Substantive CJE credit

Seasons 1 and 2

Program open to all registrants

Family (Law) Feud

This program will focus on substantive hot topics and best practice tips for the family law bench and bar. Inspired by the famous evening gameshow "Family Feud," family division judges and divorce hearing officers will face off and provide tips and tools for trying cases in front of our fact finders. Survey says...topics will include rules of evidence and discovery disputes.

Speakers:

The Hon. Kim D. Eaton, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Family Division

The Hon. Sabrina Korbelt, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Family Division



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The Hon. Cathleen Bubash, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division
Jacquelyn Obara, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division
Serena Newsom, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division
Chris Stachtariar, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division

Moderator:

Joseph R. Williams, Pollock Begg

11:45 a.m.

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS PROGRAM

1 Ethics CLE credit

Sunburst

'I Don't Belong' – Imposter Syndrome in the Legal Profession

Imposter syndrome – also called “perceived fraudulence” – involves feelings of self-doubt and personal incompetence that persist despite your education, experience and accomplishments. While early studies focused on highly successful women, it is now clear that it can affect anyone in the legal profession – from law students to Big Law executives.

Living in constant fear of discovery, those impacted strive for perfection in everything they do. They might feel guilty or worthless when they can't achieve it, not to mention being burned out and overwhelmed by the continued efforts. The results can be devastating.

An experienced speaker discusses the impact of the untimely death of his mentor and how trying to “fill his shoes” became more than a job; it took over his life. The consequences were a decades-long effort to cope with and then conceal those feelings with alcohol and drugs.

This program will look at the impacts of imposter syndrome, and lawyers' ability to uphold the Rules of Professional Conduct. It also will offer practical guidance for overcoming imposter syndrome, how to support attorneys battling imposter syndrome, and the confidential, safe, free and supportive resources available through Lawyers Assistance Programs.

Speaker:

Brian S. Quinn, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania

11:45 a.m.

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS COMMITTEE PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Snowflake

Transgender Rights Post-Skrmetti – A State Law Approach

On Dec. 4, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *United States v. Skrmetti*, regarding laws passed in Tennessee and Kentucky prohibiting gender-affirming care for transgender minors. The Supreme Court will decide whether

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categorical bans on transgender healthcare are a form of sex-based discrimination in violation of the Equal Protection Clause. The arguments in this case get to the core of transgender rights and will have wide-ranging impacts on the right to bodily autonomy.

With uncertainty at the federal level, many advocates are turning to state constitutions for civil rights protections, especially considering the broad ramifications of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Regardless of the outcome of *Skrmetti*, Pennsylvania's Constitution is binding on state law claims regarding sex-based discrimination and affords broader protections than the federal Equal Protection Clause. In January 2024, the Pa. Supreme Court affirmed this in *Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Pa. Department of Human Services*, reinvigorating the Equal Rights Amendment in defense of bodily autonomy.

This is a novel issue, as Pennsylvania's ERA and Right to Privacy have not yet been interpreted to protect against discrimination based on gender identity. Although, decisions from other states may be instructive in this regard. This panel will cover relevant arguments from these cases and discuss potential safeguards for transgender rights in Pennsylvania going forward.

Speakers:

Christine Porter, Education Law Center
Jason Landau Goodman, Pennsylvania Youth Congress
Richard T. Ting, ACLU of Pennsylvania
Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Women's Law Project

Moderator:

Nicky Ripley, Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation

AFTERNOON EVENTS

12:45 p.m.

LUNCHEON AND CEREMONIES

Grand Ballroom

Enjoy lunch, comments from ACBA leaders and recognition ceremonies.

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The Hon. Lisa P. Lenihan
Bench-Bar Conference Committee Chair

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Regina C. Wilson
K&L Gates LLP, ACBA President

REMARKS BY INCOMING ACBA PRESIDENT

Amy J. Coco
DiBella Weinheimer, ACBA President-Elect



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REMARKS BY INCOMING ACBF PRESIDENT

Bryan S. Neft

Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, ACBF President-Elect

REMARKS

David A. Blaner

Allegheny County Bar Association Executive Director

AMRAM AWARD PRESENTATION

Award presented by Hon. Christine A. Ward

The Amram Award is a truly unique award, and it is given in the spirit of the Bench-Bar Conference and honoring the ideals and legacy of Philip Werner Amram. The Bench-Bar Conference is dedicated to professional development and to enhancing and improving the bar association and the justice system in our community. Similarly, the Amram Award recognizes individuals who personify professional excellence and who have demonstrated substantial commitment to the ideals of the ACBA, as well as to the betterment of the greater community.

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AFTERNOON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

2:30 p.m.

CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION (AND ANNUAL MEETING)/ CIVIL DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit and 1 Substantive CJE credit
Seasons 2, 3 and 4

Program open to all registrants

Same Robes, New Roles:

Administrative Updates from the Civil Division Judges

This program is designed to educate the bench and bar on a host of new administrative updates within the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Civil Division, as implemented this year under newly appointed Administrative Judge Alan D. Hertzberg. Featuring four of the court's judges and its Deputy Court Administrator, the CLE will delve into both new administrative procedures and the reasons for them, providing insight to all judges in attendance on best judicial practices, as well as to members of the bar on new procedural developments to consider in their civil cases. The program will discuss the court's envisioned transition from an attorney-controlled trial scheduling system to a court-controlled trial scheduling system, along with previews of new practices and procedures in the court's specialized handling of commerce and complex litigation, discovery matters and construction cases. ACBA Civil Litigation Section annual meeting to follow CLE.

Speakers:

The Hon. Alan D. Hertzberg, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Civil Division

The Hon. Arnold I. Klein, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Civil Division

The Hon. Mary C. McGinley, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Civil Division

The Hon. Daniel D. Regan, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Civil Division

Dianne S. Wainwright, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Civil Division

Moderator:

Michael K. Feeney, UPMC

2:30 p.m.

PROBATE AND TRUST LAW SECTION/ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit
Snowflake

2025 Probate, Trust, Tax and Orphans' Court Primer

Stay informed on the ever-evolving landscape of Pennsylvania probate and estate law. Recent legislative changes, impacting everything from taxes to guardianship, have made this a key focus, with the Orphans' Court playing a



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central role. This presentation will feature expert panelists for a discussion on the latest legislative updates and Orphans' Court rulings. This engaging and informative conversation is a must for practitioners in this collaborative field.

Speakers:

The Hon. Susan Evashavik DiLucente (President Judge), Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Orphans' Court Division

Todd T. Jordan, Williams Coulson

Carol Sikov Gross, Sikov and Love, P.A.

Daniel Kunz, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Orphans' Court Division

2:30 p.m.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Wintergreen

Legal Jeopardy: Employment Law Edition

Get ready for a fun, interactive experience in a game show-style CLE designed for both employment and non-employment law attorneys. This fast-paced and engaging program will test your legal knowledge on recent developments in employment law. Whether you're an expert in employment law or just looking to brush up on your knowledge, this fun, competitive format will keep you on your toes. Prizes will be awarded.

Speakers:

The Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan (Ret.), Judge Lenihan ADR

Nicholas Kennedy, Horne Daller

Brian D. Lipkin, Riverpath Law

AFTERNOON ATHLETIC EVENTS

3:45 p.m.

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3:45 p.m.

AXE THROWING

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AFTERNOON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

3:45 p.m.

FEDERAL COURT SECTION/FEDERAL COURT PROGRAM

1 Substantive CLE credit

Seasons 2, 3 and 4

Top 10 Differences Between Litigating Civil Cases in Federal and State Court

This program will discuss the significant differences between litigating civil cases in Federal and State Court, including variances in filing, service, case management, discovery and pre-trial procedures. The panel will be composed of members of the federal judiciary who either served as state court judges or spent a significant amount of their practice litigating in state court. The program also will offer practice pointers on how to prepare a case before filing to ensure compliance with early disclosure deadlines and other requirements of federal court that do not exist in the state system. Finally, the program will include commentary from the federal judiciary that will include tips to assist lawyers who primarily practice in state court and are making their first appearance in federal court.

Speakers:

The Hon. Marilyn J. Horan, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
The Hon. Patricia L. Dodge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
The Hon. Kezia O.L. Taylor, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Moderator:

Julian E. Neiser, Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC

3:45 p.m.

PRO BONO/ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

1 Ethics CLE credit

Wintergreen

Understanding Barriers to Equal Access to Justice from the Unrepresented Litigant's Perspective

Individuals with low incomes often face barriers when trying to navigate the legal system without legal representation. Things like limited English proficiency, lack of access to technology and financial constraints make it hard for people to accomplish their goals. Using hypotheticals based upon real experiences, this interactive program will explore common barriers to the courts and legal representation for people with very low incomes.

Speakers:

Kristine Bergstrom, Neighborhood Legal Services
Olivia Hilborn, Allegheny County Bar Foundation Pro Bono Center
Barbara Griffin, Allegheny County Bar Foundation
The Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas,
Family Division
Katy McKee, Pennsylvania Health Law Project



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3:45 p.m.

JUDGES-ONLY CJE PROGRAM

1 Ethics CJE credit

Sunburst

Open to Judges Only

A Day in the Life of a Conduct Complaint

This course offers a practical examination of the ethical frameworks, procedures and personal demands judges face when confronting a conduct complaint. It will provide judges with legal and procedural knowledge, best practices and strategies for risk management. The program will address unique challenges such as professional isolation, confidentiality concerns, maintaining impartiality and upholding public trust. The course will break down the complaint process, including the thresholds for filing complaints, types of allegations and formal and informal evaluation procedures. It will also examine the Judicial Conduct Board Rules, Canons 1 and 2 and Rule 2.15 on responding to misconduct. Risk management techniques and resources will be discussed to help judges avoid violations of the Canons and Rules.

Speakers:

Amy J. Coco, DiBella Weinheimer

The Hon. Robert J. Colville, U.S. District Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania

EVENING – SOCIAL EVENTS

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POOLSIDE RECEPTION

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7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

STROLLING DINNER BUFFET AND ENTERTAINMENT

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10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

KARAOKE PARTY

Seasons 2, 3 and 4

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SATURDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by HBK Valuation, Litigation and Forensics

Enjoy breakfast before hitting the road.

8:45 a.m.

CLOSING REMARKS, DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The final event of the conference:

Hear closing comments and get a quick look at next year's Bench-Bar.

The Hon Lisa P. Lenihan

Bench-Bar Conference Committee Chair

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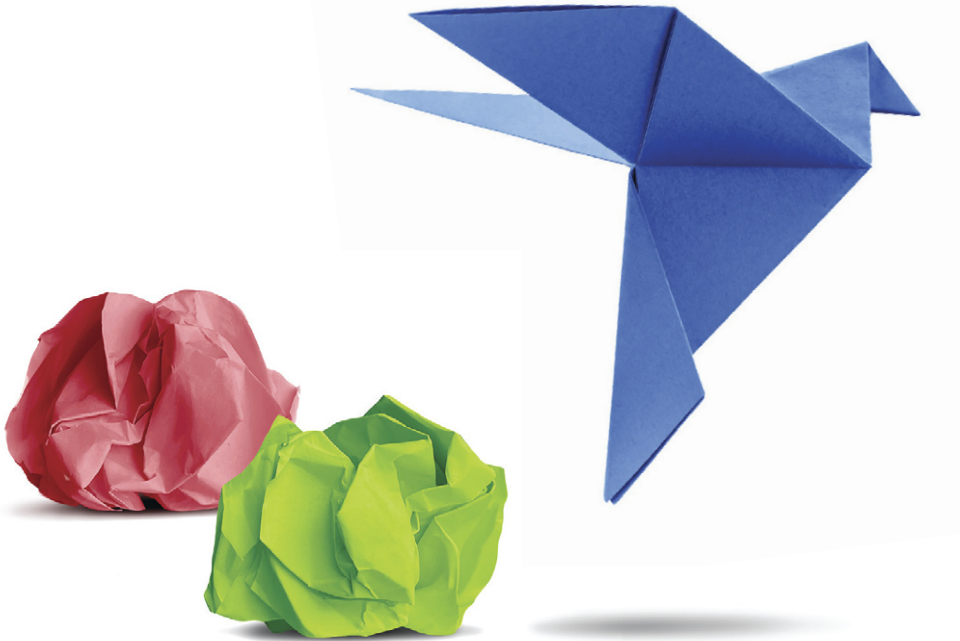
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All members of the Allegheny County Bar Association are expected to act in accordance with the Association's Mission Statement and Code of Professionalism. The behavior of members toward one another and in public should reflect the Association's commitment to equality and diversity. Members are expected to diligently promote and maintain the collegiality and the positive image of the bar at all times. Disparaging language, offensive actions or other conduct which is contrary to the Mission Statement and the Code of Professionalism are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.