

# Western States Bar Conference 2024

April 3-6, 2024 | Royal Sonesta Kaua'i Resort, Lihue, Hawaii

# Carpe Diem:

*Seize the Present*

Bar Leadership, Lawyering and Governance



Remember there are no mistakes, only lessons. Love yourself,  
trust your choices, and everything is possible.

– Cherie Carter-Scott



Photo shown here: Hideaway Beach, Kaua'i, Hawaii, during sunset and a rainstorm.



Cover photo: Rock formations by the sea at Queens Bath, Kaua'i, Hawaii at sunset.



Shannon S. Sheldon

**President**  
Hawaii State Bar Association

**Partner**  
Berding | Weil LLP

**Past President**  
Maui County Bar Association

**Lecturer**

This Latin phrase, “Carpe Diem”, literally means “pluck the day,” but now is more widely known as “seize the day.” It was used by the Roman poet Horace to express the idea that we should enjoy life while we can. Robin Williams in *Dead Poets Society* says it best: “Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary.” I believe the modern-day equivalent is “YOLO” for “You only live once.”

Recently, Bar Association leaders have had their fill of challenges – navigating COVID, utilizing new technology, engaging the next generation, employment shortages, and political strife. As a resident and attorney on Maui, the wildfires and devastation of beloved Lahaina has been the biggest challenge yet. These events have only confirmed how important it is to make every day count.

So, I invite you to work hard and play harder at this Conference. There is a range of hot topics including *Well-Being*, *Hyperconnectivity and its Effect on the Legal Profession*, and *AI and Ethics*. Some of the inspiring presenters include Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna, Fifth Circuit District Court Judge Gregory Meyers, and William S. Richardson School of Law Dean Cammile Nelson.

As for the “play harder” part of the Conference, it is no wonder why movies such as *South Pacific*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean* were filmed on Kaua’i with its stunning coastline, Grand Canyon of the Pacific, and breathtaking waterfalls and beaches. We hope you take advantage of the activities, which include a Napali Sunset Dinner Tour and a couple of rounds of golf.

Thank you to the wonderful sponsors who make this Conference happen. We are also extremely grateful for our speakers, panelists and guests. I am especially thankful for Deanna Commack, the Executive Assistant of the State Bar of Arizona and Joel England, the Executive Director of the State Bar of Arizona, for planning and coordinating this Conference. Thank you to Pat Shimizu, the former Executive Director of the State of Hawaii Bar, who sadly passed away last year, for nominating me as President. Without Pat, I would have never had the opportunity to meet and learn from leaders from around the country.

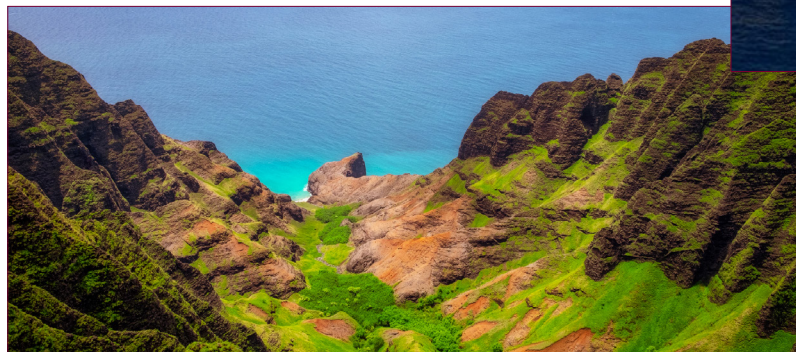
**Shannon S. Sheldon**

2023-2024 WSBC President



## Thursday Afternoon Excursion: Nā Pali Coast Sunset Dinner Boat Tour

We will enjoy quality food, beverages, and witness the awesomeness of the Nā Pali Coast during our 3.5 hour catamaran sunset dinner cruise. We'll ride in comfort and style on HoloHolo, a low center-of-gravity catamaran that is less rocky than other top-heavy, double decker tour boats.



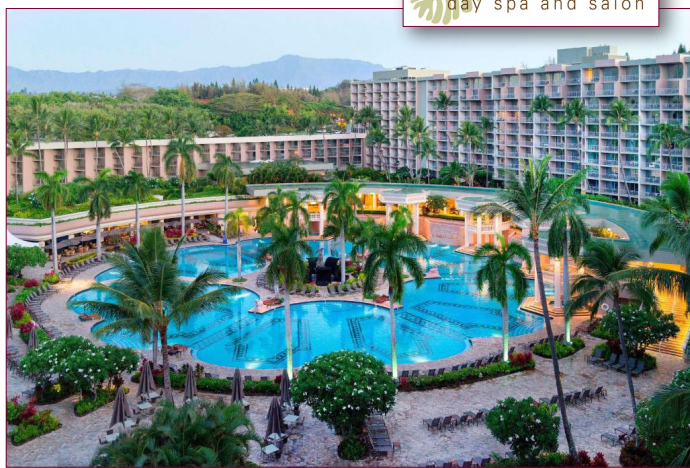
Kauai's northwest coast is truly something to behold with possible sightings of rainbows and dolphins along the way, in addition to waterfalls and birds flying through Honopu Arch. The Sunset Cruise is an exceptional way to level-up your evening plans and turn dinner, drinks and sunset into a beautiful exploration!

## At the Hotel:

### Amenities | Features + Lihue Airport Shuttle

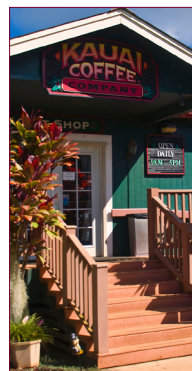
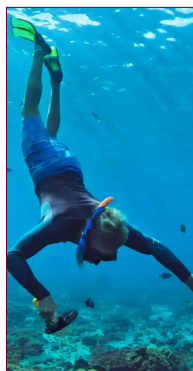
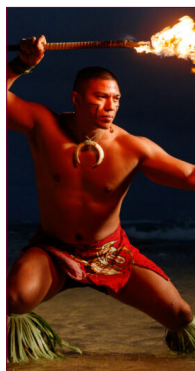
Nestled on the golden sands, the Royal Sonesta Resort is a prime location with direct access to Kalapaki Beach. Amenities and features include a swimming pool, fitness center, laundry services, and an opportunity for a day of pampering at Alexander Day Spa & Salon.

Enjoy a stress-free arrival and departure with complimentary shuttle service between The Royal Sonesta Kaua'i Resort Lihue and Lihue Airport (LIH), located just 2 miles away. This convenient service is available to all resort guests around the clock.



## Island Adventures:

Luau Kalamaku on Kaua'i • Luau Ka Hikina • Ziplining • Snorkeling • Helicopter Tours  
Kaua'i Movie Tours • Kaua'i Coffee Farm Tour





# – Conference Agenda –

## Wednesday, April 3

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7:00 – 8:45 a.m.

*Puna Court*

**Chief Executives Breakfast**

*By invite only*

9:00 a.m. – Noon

*Ha'iku and Kipu*

**Western States Bar Executive Director Retreat**

Facilitator: *Trey Apffel* – Executive Director, State Bar of Texas

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

*Kaua'i Court*

**Registration**

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

*Luau Grounds*

**Welcome Reception**

*Sponsored by: Get Registered*

## Thursday, April 4

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7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

*Kaua'i Court*

**Breakfast**

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

*Kaua'i Court – Walkway*

**Registration**

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**Welcome to the Conference**

*Shannon Sheldon* – WSBC President 2023-2024

*Joel England* – WSBC Secretary

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**Opening Remarks and Welcome to Kaua'i**

*Emiko Meyers* – Past President Kauai Bar Association and Kauai Director on the Hawaii State Bar Association

*Mark E. Recktenwald* – Chief Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court

9:00 – 10:10 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**SESSION 1: Is Hyperconnectivity Helping or Harming the Legal Profession and Bar**

Smartphones are now our companions for work, social, leisure, and even family life. However, excessive use can lead to problems of dependence, addiction, and anxiety.

Recent studies have shown that there has been a dramatic increase in impairment due to alcoholism, addiction, and mental health disorders among members of the legal profession.

This session examines the negative impacts of technology on lawyers, how the pandemic exacerbated this public health crisis, and what strategies can be developed in one's own life to help safeguard personal well-being.

*Liam Deeley* – Executive Director of the Attorney's and Judge's Assistance Program, Hawaii Supreme Court

## Thursday, April 4

continued

10:10 – 10:30 a.m.

*Halele‘a (Salon 2)*

**Sponsor Break**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

### **SESSION 2: Trending Towards a Renewed Need for Leadership**

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic years, we might emerge fortified to better serve a society in which law and legal questions are ever more prominent.

Enhancing legal education as places situated to support lawyers as societal leaders may create opportunities to reimagine new paths forward. Significantly, recalibrations, or recommitments, would be driven by a mission to enhance access to legal services and thereby better serve the interests of justice.

This session focuses on trends and observations that are important for students of the law as we emerge from the global pandemic, and urges the creation of more inclusive, trans-disciplinary, tech-incorporating, empowering, and entrepreneurially underwritten law schools.

*Dean Camille Nelson* – University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law

11:30 – 11:50 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**Roll Call of States**

*Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii*

11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**Update from the ABA**

*Bill Bay* – President-Elect, American Bar Association

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

1:00 – 7:30 p.m.

*Meet in lobby at 12:45 p.m.*

**Nā Pali Coast Sunset Dinner Cruise (Optional Event)**

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

## Friday, April 5

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

*Kaua‘i Court*

**Breakfast**

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

*Kaua‘i Court – Walkway*

**Registration**

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**Sponsors Welcome to the Conference**

*ALPS, Euclid Technology, Clio, Member Central, National Judicial College, and Law Firm Websites*

8:35 – 9:05 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

**Roll Call of States**

*Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico*



## Friday, April 5

continued

9:05 – 10:10 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

### SESSION 3: Artificial Intelligence and Legal Ethics

Large Language Models such as ChatGPT, Bard/Gemini, Copilot, and others have caused a storm of development, discussion, hype, litigation, investigation, testimony before Congress, an executive order, initial regulations, and present many ethical issues for attorneys who fail to understand these tools. This session presents an overview of the issues, including: the perils for lawyers who do not embrace technology, an overview of current AI tools and their capabilities, risks and weaknesses, and a look also at the promise and disruptions they increasingly present for the legal world.

*Matthew Stubenberg* – Innovator in Residence, University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law

*Glenn Melchinger* – Counsel, Dentons

10:10 – 10:30 a.m.

*Halele'a (Salon 2)*

### Sponsor Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

### SESSION 4: Well-Being in the Law

During this session, our speakers will discuss the importance of lawyer well-being and the effects of burnout in the legal community, as well as the Hawaii Supreme Court's response via its *Well-Being Task Force Report* and establishment of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Well-Being Committee, as an example of the significant role Bar associations can play to foster health and well-being throughout its legal communities. In addition to promoting education on stress, attorney burnout and self-care, Bar associations can encourage and model a culture of secure collegiality that not only builds resilience, it harnesses our naturally hardwired, human potential to thrive in connection with others.

*Justice Sabrina McKenna* – Hawaii Supreme Court

*Dr. Cindy Goodness-Zane, PSy.D., J.D.*

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

### Roll Call of States

*North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas*

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN – AFTERNOON FREE**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

*Luau Grounds*

### Reception/Dinner

*Sponsored by: Fastcase*

## Saturday, April 6

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

*Kaua'i Court*

### Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

*Ha'iku and Kipu*

### Breakout Sessions for Bar Leaders

Large Bar — AZ, CA, NV, OR, TX, UT, WA

Facilitator: *Terra Nevitt* – Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association

*Nawiliwili and Niʻumalu*

Small Bar — AK, HI, ID, MT, ND, NM, SD, WY

Facilitator: *Richard Spinello* – Executive Director, New Mexico State Bar



9:05 – 10:20 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

## **SESSION 5: Access to Justice Panel Discussion**

Access to Justice continues to be a significant challenge. Our speakers will share their perspectives on access to justice and various approaches being used to lessen the gap, remove barriers, and create meaningful and accessible legal services to their communities.

*Chief Justice Robert Brutinel* – Arizona Supreme Court

*Judge Gregory Meyers* – 5th Circuit Court State of Hawaii

*Nikole Nelson* – CEO, Frontline Justice

Facilitator: *Tony Weiler* – Executive Director, State Bar Association of North Dakota

10:20 – 10:40 a.m.

*Halele'a (Salon 2)*

## **Sponsor Break**

10:40 – 11:00 a.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

## **Roll Call of States**

*Utah, Washington, Wyoming*

11:00 a.m. – Noon

*Kona (Salon 1)*

## **SESSION 6: Trust Relationship and Service in Times of Crisis**

Mahalo! As our time in Hawaii is coming to a close, how will you carry the aloha spirit—the inspiration and collegiality we have experienced here together—home to continue to guide you in your leadership journey?

This session will provide a lasting north star to call upon when you face the inevitable challenges ahead (and there will be challenges!). Our speakers will give you the decision-making compass of “trust, relationship, and service,” and tell you how they have discovered that these are the guiding values that will both steer you through your toughest leadership decisions and be the ultimate hallmark of your leadership legacy. We hope this will be your ultimate takeaway from Western States 2024, so days and years from now, you will feel the warm sunshine on your face and think “trust, relationship, and service” during the challenges and opportunities that come with your season of leadership.

*Bill Pickett* – Larson Giftee and Pickett PLLC

*Sara Niegowski* – Chief Communications and Outreach Officer, Washington State Bar Association

Noon – 12:15 p.m.

*Kona (Salon 1)*

## **Announcement of New Leadership**

*Matt Thiel* – 2024-2025 WSBC President

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

## **Annual Business Meeting (for WSBC Leadership)**

*aloha!*



# thank you

Sponsors

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## Silver Level



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THE NATIONAL  
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John Shaw Field, Nevada.....	1954–1955	Robert R. Redman, Washington.....	1991–1992
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Glenn R. Jack, Oregon .....	1960–1961	Daniel E. Winfree, Alaska .....	1997–1998
Joseph H. Gordon, Washington.....	1961–1962	Timothy J. Kirven, Wyoming .....	1998–1999
William Gaunt, Colorado .....	1962–1963	Steven T. Walther, Nevada .....	1999–2000
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Roy A. Bronson, California .....	1964–1965	Reed L. Martineau, Utah .....	2001–2002
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Herbert H. Anderson, Oregon .....	1966–1967	Don Bivens, Arizona.....	2003–2004
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John Gavin, Washington.....	1968–1969	Dale Carlisle, Washington .....	2005–2006
Ray R. Christensen, Utah.....	1969–1970	Andrew Suenram, Montana .....	2006–2007
Edward L. Benoit, Idaho.....	1970–1971	Thomas Fritz, South Dakota.....	2007–2008
John Joe Wilkinson, Colorado.....	1971–1972	Daniel J. O'Brien, New Mexico .....	2008–2009
John Huneke, Washington .....	1972–1973	Eduardo Rodriguez, Texas.....	2009–2010
John U. Yerkovich, Oregon .....	1973–1974	John J. Tiemessen, Alaska .....	2010–2011
David K. Robinson, California.....	1974–1975	David S. Maring, North Dakota.....	2011–2012
Jerry V. Smith, Idaho.....	1975–1976	Nathan D. Alder, Utah .....	2012–2013
Henry Loble, Montana.....	1976–1977	Salvador A. Mungia, Washington .....	2013–2014
Joseph Novak, Utah .....	1977–1978	Mitzi M. Naucler, Oregon.....	2014–2015
Mark I. Harrison, Arizona.....	1978–1979	Molly O'Leary, Idaho .....	2015–2016
Leo J. Puccinelli, Nevada .....	1979–1980	Eric E. Jones, Wyoming.....	2016–2017
James R. Crouch, New Mexico .....	1980–1981	Andrew J. (Drew) Cloutier, New Mexico.....	2017–2018
David D. Hoff, Washington.....	1981–1982	Pamela Reiter, South Dakota.....	2018–2019
Jon R. Kerian, North Dakota.....	1982–1983	Alex Vakula, Arizona .....	2019–2021
Donna C. Willard, Alaska .....	1983–1984	Frank Stevenson, Texas .....	2021–2022
Dwight M. Rush, Hawaii.....	1984–1985	Bryan K. Scott, Nevada .....	2022–2023
Thomas S. Smith, Wyoming.....	1985–1986	Shannon Sheldon, Hawaii.....	2023–2024
Charles W. Deaner, Nevada .....	1986–1987		

## Secretaries/Treasurers

Leland M. Cummings, Utah .....	1946–1954	Bruce Hamilton, Arizona .....	1986–1991
John H. Holloway, Oregon.....	1954–1961	Linda L. McDonald, New Mexico & Texas .....	1991–1996
Alice Ralls, Washington .....	1961–1966	Charles C. Turner, Colorado.....	1996–2000
Dean W. Sheffield, Utah .....	1966–1971	Diane K. Minnich, Idaho .....	2001–2005
Eldon L. Husted, Arizona.....	1971–1973	Allen Kimbrough, Nevada .....	2005–2006
G. Edward Friar, Washington .....	1973–1974	Diane K. Minnich, Idaho .....	2006–2007
Ronald L. Kull, Idaho .....	1974–1978	Kimberly Farmer, Nevada .....	2007–2010
Eldon L. Husted, Arizona.....	1978–1979	Joe Conte, New Mexico .....	2011–2015
Celene Greene, New Mexico & Minnesota.....	1979–1983	Paula C. Littlewood, Washington .....	2016–2019
Robert J. Elfers, Oregon .....	1983–1985	Helen Hierschbiel, Oregon .....	2020–2023
Celene Greene, Oregon.....	1985–1986	Joel F. England, Arizona.....	2023–Present

## WSBC Locations

San Francisco.....	1949	Coronado.....	1968	San Antonio.....	1987	San Diego.....	2006
Salt Lake City .....	1950	Maui.....	1969	Kaua'i.....	1988	Kohala Coast .....	2007
Denver.....	1951	Colorado Springs.....	1970	Monterey .....	1989	Tucson.....	2008
Portland .....	1952	Scottsdale .....	1971	Waikōloa Village.....	1990	Turtle Bay, Oahu.....	2009
Reno.....	1953	Albuquerque.....	1972	Santa Barbara.....	1991	San Antonio.....	2010
Sun Valley .....	1954	Vancouver, BC.....	1973	Maui.....	1992	Maui.....	2011
Phoenix .....	1955	Guadalajara, Mexico .....	1974	Carmel.....	1993	Las Vegas .....	2012
Cheyenne.....	1956	Monterey .....	1975	Maui.....	1994	Kaua'i.....	2013
Santa Fe.....	1957	Palm Spring.....	1976	San Diego.....	1995	Palm Desert.....	2014
San Francisco.....	1958	Maui.....	1977	Kaua'i.....	1996	Kohala Coast .....	2015
Salt Lake City .....	1959	Scottsdale .....	1978	Scottsdale .....	1997	San Diego.....	2016
Honolulu .....	1960	San Diego.....	1979	Waikōloa Village.....	1998	Maui.....	2017
Seattle.....	1961	Acapulco, Mexico .....	1980	San Diego.....	1999	Santa Barbara.....	2018
Denver.....	1962	Tucson.....	1981	Maui.....	2000	Kaua'i.....	2019
Phoenix .....	1963	Maui.....	1982	Waikōloa Village.....	2001	Arizona (Cancelled).....	2020
Reno.....	1964	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands... 1983		Las Vegas .....	2002	Arizona (Cancelled).....	2021
Monterey .....	1965	Kaua'i.....	1984	Kaua'i.....	2003	Kohala Coast .....	2022
Las Vegas .....	1966	San Diego.....	1985	Scottsdale .....	2004	San Diego.....	2023
Guadalajara, Mexico.....	1967	Waikōloa Village.....	1986	Maui.....	2005	Kaua'i.....	2024



– Notes/Kakaha –

aloha!



– Notes/Kakaha –

aloha!



Photo shown here: A Gold Dust Day Gecko feeding on a tropical flower, the Lobster Claw. Photographed on the island of Kaua'i, Hawaii.



For more information, visit the WSBC website – or scan the QR code:

[www.westernstatesbarconference.com](http://www.westernstatesbarconference.com)







**WSBC 2025**  
**The Wigwam Resort – Litchfield Park, AZ**  
**April 2-5, 2025**

