

Guiding Justice Through Uncharted Waters

Western States Bar Conference 2026
Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort and Spa

----- Conference Agenda -----

Wednesday, April 8

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Paniolo Ocean Terrace

Chief Executives Breakfast

By invite only

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Paniolo III

Western States Bar Conference Executive Director Retreat

Facilitator: Richard Spinello, Executive Director, State Bar of New Mexico

4:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Paniolo Ocean Terrace

Registration

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Paniolo Ocean Terrace

Welcome Reception

Sponsored by Steno

Thursday, April 9

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Paniolo Ocean Terrace

Breakfast

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Registration/Sponsors

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Welcome to the Conference

Joel England, Secretary-Treasurer, Western States Bar Conference

Mark Murakami, President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Ben Hofmeister, President, Western States Bar Conference

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

ABA Update

Michelle Behnke, President, American Bar Association

Moderator: Helen Hirschbiel, Executive Director, Oregon State Bar

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Roll Call of States

Wyoming, Washington, Utah

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9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

Session 1 –Navigating Uncharted Seas: How our History and Enduring Principles will Help the Legal Profession Meet Current Challenges and Change

John Mudd, Executive Director and General Counsel, State Bar of Montana

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.
*Naupaka I/II/III &
Naupaka Lanai*

Sponsor Break

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

Session 2 –Uniform State Laws: What They Are, Where They Come From, and Why We Should Care

Libby Snyder, Uniform Law Commission Special Counsel

12:00 – 12:20 p.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

Roll Call of States

Texas, South Dakota, Oregon, Oklahoma

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
Afternoon Free**

4:15 p.m.

Waikoloa Signature Sunset Sail Check In

Anaehoomalu Bay Beach (directly behind hotel)

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Signature Sunset Sail

Optional Event

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Friday, April 10

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Paniolo Ocean Terrace

Breakfast

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

Sponsors

8:00 – 8:20 a.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

Sponsor Recognition

8:20 – 8:50 a.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

Clio Demonstration

Miquela Anzulovich, Affinity Partnerships Manager, Clio

8:50 – 9:00 a.m.
Naupaka I/II/III

National Conference of Bar Presidents Update

Patrick Palace, NCBP President

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9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/II

Roll Call of States

North Dakota, New Mexico, Nevada

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Session 3 – Using AI in Bar Organizations

Ankur Doshi, General Counsel, Oregon State Bar

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III &

Naupaka Lanai

Sponsor Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Session 4 – Disaster Relief Panel

David Kauila Kopper, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii

Angela Lovitt, Assistant Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii

Facilitator: *Cathy Betts*, Executive Director, Hawaii State Bar Association

11:45 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Roll Call of States

Montana, Idaho, Hawaii, Arizona, Alaska

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Afternoon Free

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Luau Grounds

Reception/Dinner

Sponsored by Clio

Saturday, April 11

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Paniolo Ocean Terrace

Breakfast

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Paniolo I

Breakout Sessions for Bar Leaders

Large Bar (AZ, NV, OR, OK, TX, UT, WA)

Facilitator: *Trey Appfel*, Executive Director, State Bar of Texas

Paniolo III

Small Bar (AK, HI, ID, MT, ND, NM, SD, WY)

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

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9:35– 9:45 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Sponsor Recognition

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Session 5 – Final Four Part 1 – CLEAR Report – Examining Legal Education & Licensing to Better Address Access to Justice

Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, Arizona Supreme Court
Justice C. Shannon Bacon, New Mexico Supreme Court
Chief Justice Daniel Winfree (retired), Alaska Supreme Court
Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald (retired), Supreme Court of Hawaii

Facilitator: *Ben Hofmeister*, WSBC President

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Naupaka I/II/III &

Naupaka Lanai

Sponsor Break

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Naupaka I/II/III

Session 6 – Final Four Part 2 – Ensuring Public Trust

Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, Arizona Supreme Court
Justice Shannon Bacon, New Mexico Supreme Court
Chief Justice Daniel Winfree (retired), Alaska Supreme Court
Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald (retired), Supreme Court of Hawaii

Facilitator: *Ben Hofmeister*, WSBC President

12:00 – 12:10 p.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Announcement of New Leadership

Jeni Jensen, 2026-2027 WSBC President

Elizabeth Wright, 2026-2027 WSBC Secretary/Treasurer

12:10 – 12:20 p.m.

Naupaka I/II/III

Annual Business Meeting (for WSBC Leadership)