

Inspiring Professionalism and Service to the Bar
Western States Bar Conference 2025
Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, Arizona

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

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Palo Verde Foyer

Chief Executives Breakfast

By invite only

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Palo Verde Room

Western States Bar Conference Executive Director Retreat

Facilitator: Elizabeth Wright, Executive Director, Utah State Bar

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Sachem Foyer

Registration

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Sachem Terrace

Welcome Reception

Sponsored by Clio

Thursday, April 3

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Sachem Terrace

Breakfast

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Sachem Foyer

Registration/Sponsors

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

Sachem East

Welcome to the Conference

Matt Thiel, WSBC President 2024-2025

Joel England, WSBC Secretary/Treasurer

Doreen McPaul, Vice President, State Bar of Arizona

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Sachem East

Opening Remarks and Welcome to Arizona

Ann A. Scott Timmer, Chief Justice, Arizona Supreme Court

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Sachem East

ABA Update

Bill Bay, President, American Bar Association

9:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Sachem East

Session 1 – What You Do Matters

This session is presented with approved materials from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and was created in concert with USHMM Historian(s) and is focused on ensuring legal

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and criminal justice professionals' model ethical behavior, rules of professional conduct, and responsibility. Course materials are derived from history, court opinions, case law arising from the application of legislation, civil rights violations, and de-humanizing treatment of people. Lessons also come from the Nuremberg trials where Judge Robert Jackson took leave of the United States Supreme court to preside over the trials. The trials directly related to crimes against humanity for unethical practice of law and disparate human treatment. Throughout the course there is continued focus on addressing specified ways and concepts related to legal professionalism, civility, and ethical conduct. The course focuses on enactment, legal and ethical treatment, and prosecution based upon laws created under the Reichstag Fire Decree as well as the Enabling Act. These legal changes and practices relate to our fourth amendment and first amendment within the practice of law and were instrumental in the "slippery slope" of unethical behavior over a nine-year period. There is no better example than to utilize history for ethical learning.

Elizabeth Burton Ortiz, Executive Director of the Arizona
Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Sachem East Foyer

Sponsor Break

11:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Sachem East

Session 2 – Role of Lawyers in Society

This panel of state and national bar leaders will share their perspectives and insights on several critical issues lawyers and bar associations are facing today as they consider their role in supporting an independent judiciary, upholding the principles of justice and rule of law, and the importance of maintaining and improving the image of bar associations in order to be of the greatest benefit to serving the public and upholding the principles of democracy.

Michelle Behnke, President-Elect, American Bar Association
Daniel Cotter, President, National Conference of Bar Presidents
Toni Tease, President, Montana State Bar
Ted Schmidt, President, State Bar of Arizona
Facilitator: *Matt Thiel*, WSBC President

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Sachem East

Roll Call of States

Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii

1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Heard Museum Trip (Optional Event)

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Meet in the lobby at 1 p.m.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Friday, April 4

6:30 – 7:15 a.m.

Pima

Yoga with David

Mat & Towel provided

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Sachem Terrace

Breakfast

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Sachem East Foyer

Sponsors

8:00 – 8:10 a.m.

Sachem East

Sponsor Recognition

8:10 – 8:30 a.m.

Sachem East

Clio Demonstration

Miquela Anzulovich, Affinity Partnerships Manager, Clio

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Sachem East

Roll Call of States

Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Sachem East

Session 3 – Well-Being in the Arena: Finding and Prioritizing your Why

Well-being may be seen as something separate from lawyering—something to leave the office for or to squeeze in when time allows. But *Boudreaux* forces a deeper look at why well-being isn't just something to do outside of the office, but essential to how we show up in this profession. It challenges us to go beyond surface-level discussions and examine how well-being directly impacts our ability to practice law with clarity, professionalism, and resilience. In this session, we'll explore how internal narratives shape our work and how prioritizing well-being creates stronger lawyers and a stronger profession. Through discussion, reflection, and experiential exercises, we'll work through practical tools to move forward—not just for ourselves, but for the organizations and communities we serve.

David Rosen, Past President, Oregon State Bar

10:00 – 10:20 a.m.

Sachem East Foyer

Sponsor Break

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10:20 – 11:45 a.m.

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Session 4 – Update on Pathways to Licensure

This session provided an update on the evolving landscape of bar admissions and alternative pathways to legal licensure across several states. Panelists will discuss recent developments in Utah, Nevada, and Oregon, highlighting innovative approaches designed to assess competency and expand access to the legal profession.

Helen Hirschbiel, Executive Director, Oregon State Bar

Emily Lee, Deputy Counsel, Utah State Bar Admissions

Sydney Lisy, Admissions Director, State Bar of Nevada

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

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Sachem East

Roll Call of States

California, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Afternoon Free

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Trellis Garden

Reception/Dinner

Sponsored by Vlex Fastcase

Saturday, April 5

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Sachem Terrace

Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Sachem West

Breakout Sessions for Bar Leaders

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

Facilitator: *Helen Hirschbiel*, Executive Director, Oregon State Bar

Kiva West/Sabuaro

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

Facilitator: *Danielle Bailey*, Executive Director, Alaska Bar Association

9:05 – 9:15 a.m.

Sponsor Recognition

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Session 5 – LawOS: Rebooting the Legal Industry with AI

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Join us for an engaging exploration of how artificial intelligence is transforming the practice of law today and reshaping our profession for tomorrow. This session goes beyond theoretical discussions to showcase real-world applications of generative AI technologies currently being implemented in law firms, legal departments, and courts nationwide. You'll discover how forward-thinking legal professionals are leveraging these tools to enhance client service, improve access to justice, and create competitive advantages in an evolving marketplace.

As bar leaders, you'll gain valuable insights into the implications of this technological revolution for continuing legal education, attorney competence standards, and the changing landscape of legal employment. We'll examine both the opportunities and challenges ahead, providing you with actionable strategies to help your members navigate this transformation successfully. Whether your bar is just beginning to address AI governance or already implementing innovative programs, you'll leave with a clearer vision of how to support your legal community through what promises to be the most significant technological shift in our profession's history.

Whitney Stefko, Associate Director and Senior Counsel, Ford Motor Company

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Sachem East Foyer

Sponsor Break

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Sachem East

Roll Call of States

Utah, Washington, Wyoming

10:45 a.m. – Noon

Sachem East

Session 6 – Access to Justice Trends and Experimentation

The access to justice gap is widening, not closing, and bar associations can play a role in creating space for creative solutions that don't rely entirely on lawyers. During this session, panelists will share trends with respect to the access to justice gap, highlight successful models for increasing access to justice and share tips to help your bar design effective solutions, identify the role of the bar, and tackle some of the concerns and questions that are often raised in response to innovation and experimentation.

Sam Thumma, Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One
Leah Wilson, Executive Director, California State Bar

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Rebecca Sandefur, ASU Director and Professor, the Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics

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

Noon – 12:15 p.m.

Sachem East

Announcement of New Leadership

Ben Hofmeister, 2025-2026 WSBC President

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting (for WSBC Leadership)