

**Guiding Justice Through Unchartered 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  
**Benjamin 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*

# Guiding Justice Through Uncharted Waters

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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)