



ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S


2024

BENCH BAR

CONFERENCE



"I Love the
Bench Bar!"



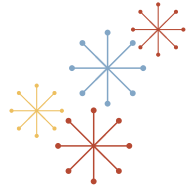
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2024
CHAUTAUQUA HARBOR HOTEL
CELORON, NY



ECBA



WELCOME!



Dear Attendees,

Welcome to the Erie County Bar Association's 2024 Bench Bar Conference in the comedy capital of the United States, Jamestown, NY!

We're thrilled to have you join us over the next several days for laughter, learning, and legal camaraderie.

This year's conference promises a unique blend of humor and legal insights. We've curated a lineup of talented speakers and panelists who will deliver informative and entertaining presentations on a variety of legal topics.

We hope you'll take full advantage of this opportunity to network with fellow legal professionals, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

Thank you for choosing to attend our conference. We look forward to a fun-filled and informative time together.

Sincerely,

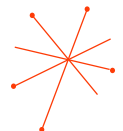
Eric Purchase

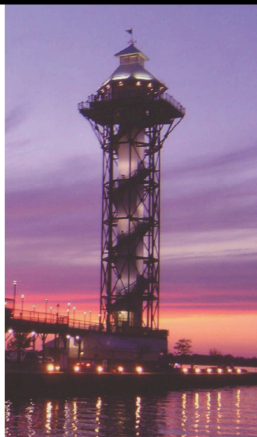
2024 ECBA Bench Bar Conference Chair

THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE!



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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 7

| TIME | LOCATION | EVENT |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Pre-Function Room | Registration |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE/CJE |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|

Rules of Engagement: Discovery, Authentication and Admissibility of Texts and Social Media (Substantive: 1 CLE/CJE)

Presenters: Judge Jamie Mead and Attorney Eric Purchase

Join Judge Jamie Mead and Attorney Eric Purchase as they embark on a hilarious and informative journey through the treacherous terrain of digital evidence. From catfishing capers to emoji espionage, this session will equip you with the tools to untangle the web of digital deceit and extract the golden nuggets of admissible truth.

This class is perfect for anyone who has ever wondered if a "like" is legally binding or if a DM can be used as evidence of a crime. So, grab your digital magnifying glass and join us for a fun-filled exploration of the digital frontier.



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| 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Pre-Function Room | Welcome Reception |
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Join us for an evening of merriment, mingling, and maybe even a few punchlines. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, refreshing beverages, and the company of fellow legal professionals. As we gather to celebrate the law and the lighter side of life, let's raise a glass to camaraderie and a good laugh.

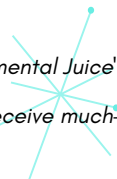
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| 9:00 pm - ? | Columbia / Room 102 | Hospitality Suite |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|

Need a break from the serious legal stuff? Come unwind in our Hospitality Suite, where the drinks are strong, the laughs are louder, and the legal minds are looser.

Enjoy:

- *Mind-Bending Cocktails: Sip on our signature concoctions, like the "Judgemental Juice" or the "Objectionable Old Fashioned."*
- *The "I Survived Another CLE" Therapy Corner: Share your war stories and receive much-needed commiseration.*

So come on in, relax, and let your hair down (or your wig, as the case may be).



Friday, November 8

| TIME | LOCATION | EVENT |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 8:00 am - 9:30 am | Pre-Function Room & Richmond/DeCeloron | Registration/Visit Vendors/ Continental Breakfast |

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| 9:30 am - 10:30 am | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE/CJE |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|

Arrested Development: Distressed Lawyers and Judges - An Occupational Hazard? (Ethics: 1 CLE/CJE)

Presenter: Attorney Brian Quinn, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

Join Attorney Brian Quinn as he delves into the darker side of the legal profession. This session is a heartfelt exploration of the emotional toll that the practice of law can take on even the most seasoned attorneys and judges.

From the stress of high-stakes litigation to the pressures of maintaining a healthy work-life balance, this session will cover it all. Learn how to identify the signs of burnout, manage stress effectively, and seek help when you need it.

So, if you're feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or just plain crazy, this session is for you. Come laugh, cry, and learn how to keep your sanity (and your career) intact.



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| 10:30 am - 10:45 am | Break |
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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 8

| TIME | LOCATION | EVENT |
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|---------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 10:45 am - 11:45 am | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----|

Diff'rent Strokes: Legality of Employer DEI Policies (Substantive: 1 CLE)
Presenter: Attorney Bob Zaruta

Join Attorney Bob Zaruta as he navigates the tricky terrain of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies in the workplace. This session will explore the legal nuances and potential pitfalls of implementing DEI initiatives, all while keeping the humor flowing.

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| 11:45 am - 1:15 pm | Richmond/DeCeloron | CLE/CJE & Lunch |
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Silver Spoons: Reflecting On Our Biases: How Our Personal Experiences Impact Our Relationships With Others (Ethics: 1 CLE/1 CJE)
Presenter: elise michaux

Join elise michaux for a thought-provoking lunchtime session as we explore the hidden biases that may unconsciously shape our interactions with others. This session will delve into the concept of privilege, unconscious bias, and how our personal experiences can impact our perceptions and behaviors.

Through interactive discussions and real-world examples, we will examine:

- The impact of implicit bias on decision-making
- Strategies for identifying and mitigating bias
- The importance of empathy and understanding in building positive relationships

This session offers a unique opportunity for self-reflection and professional growth. Come prepared to challenge your assumptions and leave with practical tools to foster more inclusive and equitable environments.



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| 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----|

Will(s) and Grace: Wills are No Laughing Matter - How Poor Planning Leads to Swift Litigation (Substantive: 1 CLE)
Presenter: Attorney Colleen Stumpf

Join Attorney Colleen Stumpf for a comedic exploration of the serious consequences of poor estate planning. We'll dive into the world of family feuds, contested wills, and the unexpected twists and turns that can occur when loved ones are left in the dark.

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| 2:15 pm - 5:45 pm | | Break |
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| 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm | Southern Tier Brewery | Social - Sponsored by Young Lawyer's Division (all are welcome!) |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|

This off-site happy hour is the perfect opportunity to unwind, network, and let loose with fellow young legal minds. Come prepared to laugh, drink, and make some unforgettable memories. Remember, what happens at the Young Lawyers' Happy Hour stays at the Young Lawyers' Happy Hour (unless it's really, really funny). **(CASH BAR)**

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5:45 pm - 6:00 pm | Lakeview/Imperial | State of the Bench with Judge Mead |
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| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----|

The Gong Show: Rotating Round Tables with our Bench (Substantive: 1 CLE)
Presenters: Erie County Bench

Get ready for a hilarious and fast-paced legal experience! Join us for a unique opportunity to interact with our esteemed bench in a fun and informal setting. Think speed dating, but with legal questions and judicial wisdom.

Each judge will have a limited amount of time to answer your burning legal questions. If you're not quick on your feet, you might get "gonged"!

So, come prepared with your sharpest questions and your quickest wit. This is a chance to get to know our judges on a more personal level and learn valuable insights into the judicial mind.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 8

| TIME | LOCATION | EVENT |
|------|----------|-------|
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|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm | Richmond/DeCeloron | CLE/Dinner |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|

Some Like it Hot: "Hot Ones" Litigation Panelist Discussion (Substantive: 1 CLE)

Presenters: ECBA Civil Litigation Section, ECBA Worker's Comp Section and Erie County Bench

Join us for a fiery panel discussion as our esteemed panelists tackle tough legal questions while chowing down on the hottest chicken wings this side of the Mississippi. Watch as our panelists sweat, swear, and share their legal expertise, all while battling the fiery inferno in their mouths.

This is a unique opportunity to see legal minds in action under extreme pressure. So grab your fire extinguisher and join us for a sizzling good time.

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| 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm | Pre-Function Room | Entertainment with the Barristars |
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Join us for an unforgettable night of music, drinks, and good company. The Barristars, Erie's own legal rockstars, will be rocking the stage!

This is your chance to let loose, network with fellow legal professionals, and enjoy some great tunes. So grab your dancing shoes and get ready to rock the night away!

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|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 10:00 pm - ? | Columbia / Room 102 | Hospitality Suite |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|

Saturday, November 9

| TIME | LOCATION | EVENT |
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|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 8:00 am - 9:30 am | Richmond/DeCeloron | Breakfast |
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| 9:30 am - 10:30 am | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----|

Family Ties: Intersection of Bankruptcy and Divorce (Substantive: 1 CLE)

Presenters: Attorneys Rachel George and Tina Fryling

Join Attorneys Rachel George and Tina Fryling as they navigate the tangled web of bankruptcy and divorce law. This session will explore the comedic chaos that can ensue when financial troubles and marital strife collide.

Learn how to:

- *Untangle the Mess: Understand the complex interplay between bankruptcy and divorce proceedings.*
- *Avoid the Pitfalls: Identify common mistakes that can lead to costly legal battles.*
- *Laugh Through the Pain: Find humor in the absurdity of family law.*

So, if you're ready to laugh, learn, and maybe even shed a few tears, this session is for you.

| | | |
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| 10:30 am - 10:45 am | | Break |
|---------------------|--|-------|

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|---------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 10:45 am - 11:45 am | Lakeview/Imperial | CLE/CJE |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------|

Growing Pains: Emerging Technologies in the Practice of Law (Substantive: 1 CLE/CJE)

Presenters: Attorneys Julia Gromacki, Kathryn Olon & Seth Trott

Join Attorneys Julia Gromacki, Kathryn Olon, and Seth Trott as they navigate the tumultuous waters of emerging technologies. This session will explore the hilarious highs and frustrating lows of trying to keep up with the latest legal tech trends.

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| 11:45 am - 12:00 pm | Lakeview/Imperial | Raffles & Close |
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