

# BAR**briefs**

Louisville Bar Association

June 2026

*June is Pride Month.  
Love is Love. Pride is Community.*



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**Louisville Bar Association Mission:**

*Promote justice, professional excellence and respect for the law; improve public access to the judicial system; provide law-related services to the community; and serve our members.*

Professional Excellence

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## The Final Stretch for CLE

June 30 marks the end of Kentucky's CLE reporting year, and for many lawyers, that means the annual realization that a few more credit hours—and especially the ethics hour—still need to be completed before the deadline arrives. The Louisville Bar Association has an outstanding lineup of June programming designed not only to help members satisfy their CLE requirements, but to do so in ways that are engaging and supportive of your diverse practice areas.

Please check out our full list of offerings on pages 11-15 or at [www.loubar.org](http://www.loubar.org). Please note, members get preferential pricing and particular benefits—if you haven't updated your membership yet, be sure and do so, so you won't miss out.

Members interested in ethics programming will find no shortage of options. Joel Oster and Sean Carter return throughout the month with creative and entertaining presentations that combine humor with serious professional responsibility topics, including "10 Ethical and Professionalism Tips from Legal Movies and TV Shows," "Half-Truths and Full Consequences: The Lawyer's Duty of Complete Candor," "The Ethics Snowball: How Little Lapses Turn into Big Trouble" and "Rude Ipsa Loquitur: How Incivility Speaks Poorly of the Profession."

For those looking for larger blocks of credit, June also features several comprehensive programs, including "Trials of the Centuries: Landmark Cases," "A Comedic De-Briefing of the Law" and "Deal to Lawsuit: A Shotgun Approach to Beginning Your Legal Journey," a two-day program geared especially toward newer attorneys.

The LBA's June calendar also highlights emerging issues shaping the future of practice. Several programs focus on artificial intelligence and legal technology, including "Engage!: Hands-On AI Training for Modern Legal Practice," "ChatOMG: The Ethical Pros and Cons of Using AI" and "Real World Applications of Generative AI in the Legal Arena." These programs provide practical guidance on the opportunities and ethical considerations surrounding rapidly evolving technology.

Additionally, members can choose from substantive programming on current legal developments, including the "2026 Annual Kentucky Legislative Update," "R.I.P. Kentucky Open Records Act?" and the 2026 Annual Estate Planning Conference. Young lawyers and those considering long-term career development may be especially interested in "Becoming a Partner: The Path from Associate to Partnership," featuring managing partners from across Louisville's legal community discussing leadership, advancement and alternative career paths.

As always, the LBA continues to support not only professional development, but the broader well-being of our members through the ongoing work of our Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Health & Wellness Committee. These efforts reflect our belief that a strong legal profession depends not only on technical competence, but also on collegiality, professionalism and community.

The legal profession continues to evolve rapidly, and continuing legal education remains one of the most important ways we stay prepared to serve our clients and community effectively. I want to especially thank Lisa Murray, the LBA's Professional Development & Leadership Director, who works very hard to organize these events. If you have feedback or requests for future events, let me or Lisa know.

Additional information and registration details for all June CLE programming are available through the Louisville Bar Association CLE catalog, <https://loubar.ce21.com/>.



*The legal profession continues to evolve rapidly, and continuing legal education remains one of the most important ways we stay prepared to serve our clients and community effectively.*

Samuel W. Wardle  
LBA President

# A Year in Review: Trial Activity and Case Filings in the Jefferson Circuit Court

Chief Circuit Judge Eric J. Haner

Each year, the Jefferson Circuit Court takes stock of its work—not simply to report numbers, but to better understand how those numbers reflect the evolving demands placed on our bench, our staff and the attorneys who practice before us. The 2025 calendar year presents a particularly meaningful opportunity for reflection. The data shows both a continued increase in filings and a notable resurgence in trial activity, underscoring what many practitioners have experienced firsthand: Jefferson Circuit Court remains a high-volume, high-demand trial court.

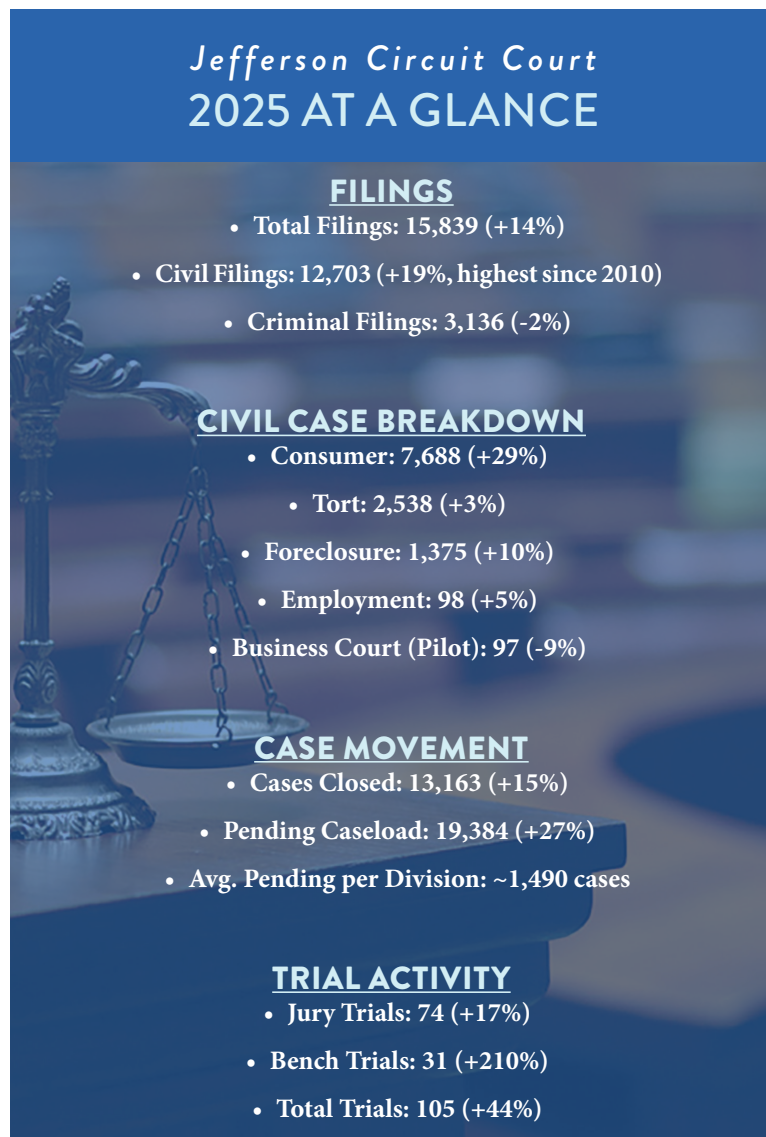
In 2025, the Court saw a significant increase in total case filings. A combined 15,839 cases were filed, including 12,703 civil filings and 3,136 criminal filings. This represents a substantial rise from 2024, when total filings were 13,849—an increase of approximately 14% year-over-year. Notably, the 2025 civil filing total represents the highest level in more than a decade, surpassing every year since 2010. The growth is not an anomaly but part of a broader upward trajectory. Since 2022, total filings have steadily climbed from 11,292 to 12,107 in 2023, 13,849 in 2024, and now 15,839 in 2025.

Civil filings, in particular, have driven much of this growth. The jump from 10,657 civil filings in 2024 to 12,703 in 2025 represents an increase of approximately 19%. A closer examination of specific case types helps illustrate where this growth is occurring.

Tort filings increased from 2,463 cases in 2024 to 2,538 in 2025, a rise of roughly 3%, continuing a steady pattern of growth in what are often among the most resource-intensive matters on our docket. Foreclosure filings also rose, from 1,249 in 2024 to 1,375 in 2025, an increase of about 10%. Employment cases saw a more modest increase, from 93 to 98 filings, or approximately 5%, but nonetheless represents a consistent and often complex area of litigation.

Perhaps most notable is the growth in consumer-related filings, which increased from 5,976 cases in 2024 to 7,688 in 2025—a rise of approximately 29%. This category alone accounts for a significant portion of the overall increase in civil filings and represents a high-volume segment of the Court’s docket. Although many of these cases are not individually complex, they frequently involve numerous filings that require court review and entry of orders, creating sustained demands on judicial time and administrative resources.

The Circuit Court continues to operate a Business Court pilot project, which handles civil



cases falling within certain case types defined in the Business Court Rules. These cases are allocated between the Court’s two designated Business Court divisions—Division One and Division Three. In 2024, the Business Court saw 107 filings, compared to 97 filings in 2025. While these cases represent a relatively small portion of overall civil filings, they are often more specialized, more complex and more time-consuming, and require a greater commitment of judicial time and resources, often involving sustained judicial attention over the life of the case. At the same time, Business Court cases tend to reach resolution more quickly than other civil matters, due in large part to the mandatory case management protocols established by the Business Court Rules.

Criminal filings, while comparatively stable, also remain a significant component of the Court’s workload, with more than 3,100 new criminal cases filed in 2025. While the number of criminal filings is lower than civil filings, criminal cases occupy a substantial portion of the Court’s weekly docket and require a significant share of judicial time on the bench.

Equally important is how the Court has responded to this influx. In 2025, the Court closed 13,163 cases, up from 11,460 in 2024—an increase of approximately 15%. While this represents a meaningful rise in dispositions, the pace of new filings continues to outstrip closures. As a result, pending caseload has grown, with 19,384 cases pending at the close of 2025, compared to 15,215 at the end of 2024—an increase of roughly 27%. Spread across the Court’s 13 divisions, that equates to an average of approximately 1,490 pending cases per division. While the exact caseload in each division fluctuates, this provides a general sense of the typical caseload carried by each circuit judge.

For practitioners, there are several takeaways from the 2025 data. The likelihood of trial, particularly in civil cases, continues to increase. While settlement remains the resolution of choice in many cases, more matters are proceeding through to adjudication. Preparation and timeliness are also more important than ever. With fuller dockets and limited flexibility, delays in motion practice, discovery or trial readiness can have ripple effects beyond a single case.

Trial activity in 2025 further illustrates the Court’s workload. After several years of fluctuation influenced by pandemic-related disruptions and subsequent recovery, trial volume has continued to rebound. In 2025, the Court conducted 105 total trials, consisting of 74 jury trials and 31 bench trials, compared to 73 total trials in 2024. Jury trials increased by approximately 17%, and bench trials increased by approximately 210%. The 74 jury trials conducted in 2025 represent the highest number since 2019, with the exception of 2022, when jury trials resumed following their suspension during the pandemic.

When viewed in a broader historical context, the 2025 trial numbers reflect continued recovery following the disruptions of 2020 and 2021. While trial volume has not returned to levels seen in earlier decades—when annual jury trials routinely exceeded 100, just as recent as 2018—the upward trend in recent years reflects a steady growth in trial activity.

The 2025 data reflects a court that is not only active but steadily growing in both volume and complexity. As filings increase and trial activity continues to rebound, the demands on the Jefferson Circuit Court—and those who practice before it—will remain significant. At the same time, it remains to be seen how recent changes in the judicial budget may impact court operations and our collective ability to manage these increasing caseloads. With that in mind, the Court remains committed to working collaboratively with the bar to ensure that, even in the face of evolving challenges, cases are handled efficiently, fairly and with the level of attention they deserve.

Judge Eric Haner presides in Division One of the Jefferson Circuit Court, and is the Chief Regional Judge. ■



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# Civil TVPRA Litigation and Emerging Risks for the Hospitality Industry

Riley Grant

Louisville's continued growth as a national destination for tourism, major sporting events, festivals and professional conferences has driven significant expansion in its hospitality sector. In 2024 alone, tourism generated approximately \$4.4 billion for the local economy, reflecting the scale and density of hospitality activity across the region. That growth was on full display last month during the 152nd Kentucky Derby, which drew hundreds of thousands of visitors and strained lodging, staffing and security resources citywide. While these developments are undeniably positive, they also heighten legal exposure for entities operating in event-driven hospitality environments. One area in particular, civil litigation under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), has undergone rapid evolution, reshaping risk considerations for hotels and their onsite partners.

## I. TVPRA Civil Liability and the Shift Toward Enterprise Litigation

Although the TVPRA was enacted primarily as a criminal enforcement framework, its civil cause of action has expanded sharply in recent years. Over the past five to six years,

filings under 18 U.S.C. § 1595 have increased substantially, with well more than 1,000 civil cases filed nationwide and a disproportionate share concentrated in recent years. What was once a niche remedy has become a recurring feature of federal civil dockets, particularly in suits targeting lawful commercial enterprises.

Most civil cases proceed not with allegations that a defendant directly trafficked the plaintiff, but under a beneficiary theory of liability. Plaintiffs commonly allege that hotels and related businesses financially benefited from trafficking ventures by renting rooms or providing services in circumstances where trafficking indicators were allegedly present. Courts have consistently rejected strict liability, emphasizing that generalized awareness of trafficking risks within the hospitality industry is insufficient. The

inquiry instead turns on whether plaintiffs plausibly allege participation in, and benefit from, a venture that advanced the specific trafficking activity at issue.

*Civil TVPRA litigation has moved well beyond its origins as an ancillary remedy to criminal prosecution and now represents sustained civil exposure for hospitality and event-driven businesses.*

As filings have increased, TVPRA litigation has taken on an increasingly enterprise level character. Plaintiffs frame trafficking not as an isolated criminal act, but as a risk intertwined with operational practices and commercial relationships. This evolution has expanded the range of defendants named in civil actions and sharpened the focus on corporate structure, delegated authority and control, reshaping how civil exposure is assessed across the hospitality ecosystem.

## II. Anatomy of a TVPRA Civil Claim Against Hospitality Defendants

Civil TVPRA claims against hospitality

defendants generally follow a familiar structure, regardless of the specific property or brand involved. Plaintiffs rarely allege that a hotel is directly engaged in trafficking. Instead, claims typically proceed under the statute's beneficiary liability provision, asserting that the defendant knowingly benefited from participation in a venture engaged in sex trafficking, most often through room rental revenue or related services.

Courts evaluating civil TVPRA claims have increasingly converged around a common pleading framework. To state a claim for beneficiary liability, a plaintiff must plausibly allege that the defendant "(1) knowingly benefited (2) from taking part in a common undertaking or enterprise involving risk and potential profit, (3) that the undertaking or enterprise violated the TVPRA as to the plaintiff, and (4) that the defendant had constructive or actual knowledge that the undertaking or enterprise violated the TVPRA as to the plaintiff." *Doe #1 v. Red Roof Inns, Inc.*, 21 F.4th 714, 719 (11th Cir. 2021); see also *G.G. v. Salesforce.com, Inc.*, 76 F.4th 544, 552-53 (7th Cir. 2023). This

(Continued on next page)



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(Continued from previous page)

formulation has provided a unifying analytical structure even as district courts continue to apply the statute across varied factual and commercial settings.

To plead participation, complaints commonly rely on allegations of repeated commercial interactions rather than isolated incidents. Plaintiffs assert that traffickers rented rooms for extended periods, made multiple stays or repeatedly returned to the same property, coupled with allegations that continued rentals, failure to intervene or lack of escalation facilitated the trafficking activity. At the pleading stage, courts often focus on whether such allegations plausibly suggest a continuous or tacit commercial relationship supporting the alleged venture.

The knowledge element is typically advanced through allegations of constructive, rather than actual, knowledge. Complaints identify purported indicators, often described as “red flags” though not defined by the statute, such as heavy foot traffic, cash payments, refusal of housekeeping services, repeated supply requests or disturbances. Although defendants regularly challenge both the accuracy and significance of these allegations, courts tend to treat the knowledge inquiry as fact intensive and often decline to resolve it on a motion to dismiss.

Courts have repeatedly emphasized that civil TVPRA liability remains a case specific, fact driven inquiry. As one court observed, “federal district courts across the country

are tackling these suits and interpreting the TVPRA on a case-by-case basis.” *J.M. v. Choice Hotels Int’l, Inc.*, 2022 WL 10626493, at \*1 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2022). As a result, early motion outcomes often vary, and liability frequently turns on granular allegations concerning a defendant’s specific conduct and operational role.

Finally, complaints commonly layer in agency or vicarious liability theories, particularly against franchisors or parent companies removed from day-to-day operations. These claims hinge on allegations of control over policies, training, staffing or operational standards and often dominate early motion practice.

### III. A Recent Expansion of TVPRA Claims to Third Parties

A recent development in TVPRA litigation is plaintiffs’ increasing effort to bring third party service providers, such as hotel security contractors, into cases traditionally focused on hospitality entities. These theories extend enterprise level liability by alleging that contractors benefitted from trafficking ventures through service contracts while failing to act on alleged indicators of trafficking.

This expansion is illustrated by *L.H. v. Red Roof Inn, Inc.*, 2025 WL 714385 (W.D. Ky. Mar. 5, 2025). There, a security company moved to dismiss a third-party indemnity claim brought by the hotel franchisor. The court denied the motion and, in the same ruling, granted the plaintiff leave to amend the complaint to assert direct TVPRA claims against the security company, accepting

at the pleading stage allegations that the contractor benefitted from participation in a joint venture with the hotel.

The court emphasized the early procedural posture and did not resolve whether the security company ultimately participated in a trafficking venture or possessed the requisite knowledge. The case was later settled before the court addressed any motion to dismiss directed at the plaintiff’s TVPRA claims against the security company. While such claims may face substantial hurdles at summary judgment, *L.H.* is significant for what it signals. The statute’s civil remedy may reach entities beyond franchisees and franchisors, expanding the pool of defendants required to litigate fact intensive TVPRA claims.

### IV. Practical Takeaways for Hospitality and Event Driven Businesses

The expansion of civil TVPRA litigation presents tangible challenges for hospitality operators and event-driven businesses, particularly in cities that host large-scale, high-density events.

- Clarify operational roles and escalation protocols. Courts assess participation and knowledge through day-to-day practices. Clear policies governing escalation and reporting, especially during peak events, matter.
- Scrutinize third party relationships. Security contractors, staffing vendors and others may face direct exposure. Contracts should define scope, authority and reporting obligations with precision.

- Emphasize training and documentation. While not dispositive, training and contemporaneous records often become critical evidence in constructive knowledge disputes.
- Plan for litigation beyond the pleading stage. Fact intensive claims frequently survive dismissal. Early case assessment and coordinated record management can meaningfully affect cost and posture.

### V. Conclusion

Civil TVPRA litigation has moved well beyond its origins as an ancillary remedy to criminal prosecution and now represents sustained civil exposure for hospitality and event-driven businesses, particularly in markets like Louisville where tourism density and large-scale events are defining features. Courts’ reluctance to resolve participation and knowledge issues at the pleading stage means that litigation risk often lies less in ultimate liability than in the cost and duration of defending these claims. As plaintiffs continue to test enterprise level and third-party theories, informed operational and contractual planning has become essential to managing how that risk unfolds once suit is filed.

Riley Grant is a Senior Associate in the Product, Tort, & Insurance Litigation Group at FBT Gibbons LLP, where his practice centers on nationwide product liability and mass tort litigation. He is also Vice-Chair of the LBA’s Litigation Section. ■



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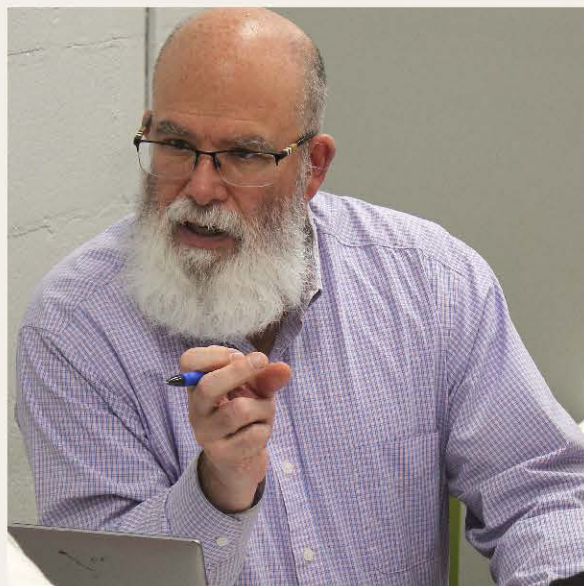
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# Celebrating 25 Years of Central High School Law Magnet Partnership

## Celebrating Success Made Possible by Pathway Creators and Sustainers

Laura Rothstein

As the nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this summer, the Louisville legal community celebrates the 25th anniversary of the partnership between the Central High School Law and Government Magnet Program and the Brandeis School of Law. This partnership began during my deanship (2001) and built on the Louisville Bar Association creation of the Summer Internship Program in 1992, through which CHS Law Magnet students would be placed with legal employers in the summer. Many of these students continued part-time work during the school year.

The LBA's leadership in recognizing the value of reaching high school students as an important way to open the pathway to active citizenship and success should be celebrated. The LBA Summer Law Institute for high school students is an additional program that recognizes the key point in development where pathways that are opened and sustained can provide access to leadership and success that might not otherwise be possible.

The LBA programs were foundational for the law school's addition of a program that initially brought CHS students to the law school for visits and attendance at events such as the Brandeis Medal dinner. In 2006, through the leadership of Joe Gutmann, who had become the Law Magnet teacher, the partnership was enhanced by adding Street Law (for sophomores) and the civil liberties "We the People" curriculum (for seniors) and a number of other enhancements. The success of this program is measured not just by the increase in the number of Central students who have become lawyers, but by those who have become leaders in other ways.

Since the partnership with Central High School began, there have been 22 Law Magnet graduates who have become lawyers – some remaining in Kentucky, others taking their Kentucky-based roots to "the world." These graduates are now working in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Tampa, St. Louis and Indianapolis in a range of private and public service positions. About a third of them remain in Louisville and Kentucky working for firms and corporations. Many Law and Government Magnet students have gone on to obtain professional degrees in business, agricultural economics, human resources and education fields. These graduates include a principal of a Dallas high school, the HR director of a Fortune 500 corporation in Austin, Texas, a graduate of the prestigious Berkeley School who has founded a program for at-risk teens in Nashville and one who was part of the 2025 opening of Good Brothers Pharmacy in West Louisville. This past May, one of the Law Magnet students graduated from West Point.



2008 photo of Central High School students with Associate Justice Steven Breyer (during the Brandeis Medal visit) and CHS teacher, Joe Gutmann. Photo courtesy of Tom Fougousse/University of Louisville.



Photo of Justice Elena Kagan during the Brandeis Medal 2016 visit, with Mashayla Hays (a graduate of CHS, now the Law and Government Magnet teacher at Central). Photo courtesy of Tom Fougousse/University of Louisville.

Together these graduates, whose pathways were created and guided by the partnership and others in the community, are elevating Kentucky's cultural and intellectual reputation. Many of the more than 300 law students who taught in the program have taken their experiences to engage in service support activities with young people, including in Washington, D.C. and Huntington, West Virginia. Many of them are members of the Louisville legal community, including at the major law firms and in public interest settings.

The Central Law Magnet students who become lawyers follow the pathways and trails that were blazed by many other Central graduates – including Alberta Jones, who graduated from Central High School in 1948 and was the first Central student to become a lawyer. This past month, a statue honoring her was dedicated near the Hall of Justice.

In October 2024, the premiere of "A Pathway Forward," a documentary about the Central High School program, was shown in Louisville. That documentary has now been shown in other settings and has inspired others (including the local school system) to start, sustain or enhance

such partnerships between the legal community, law schools and high schools. The documentary was made possible by the financial support of many, including within the local legal community – the Louisville Bar Foundation, Kentucky ABOTA and a major leadership gift from R. Harvey Johnston III.

The stars of the documentary (sophomores during the year of filming) just graduated from Central High School. A trailer to the documentary and background story can be found on the Kentucky to the World website at <https://www.kentuckytotheworld.org/blog/a-pathway-forward-one-year-later>.

The partnership has been sustained by the ongoing leadership support of Dean Melanie Jacobs and others at the law school and ongoing UofL support through the Office of Community Engagement. Key to continued success has been the ongoing support of the Louisville legal community and the Jefferson County Public School system (which showed the documentary at its fall 2025 leadership retreat).

As we celebrate our nation's Declaration of Independence this year, we can also celebrate this program, which provides pathways to those who will be the nation's leaders.

Laura Rothstein, Professor Emerita, University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, Dean (2000-2005) and founder of the partnership in 2001. ■



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## LBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee Hosts Professor Carlton Waterhouse and Honors Hon. Stephanie Pearce Burke

On Wednesday, May 20, the LBA's Diversity & Inclusion Committee welcomed a full house to the Bar Center for "What Does Law Have to Do With It? The Role of Law in Ceasing and Sustaining Group-Based Inequality," featuring nationally recognized scholar and speaker Professor Carlton Waterhouse. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our sponsor and partner, LMICK, for supporting this important program.

Professor Waterhouse delivered a thought-provoking presentation examining the role of law, policy and social structures in sustaining and dismantling racial inequality in the United States. Drawing from legal history, social dominance theory and contemporary examples, he challenged attendees to reflect on the legal profession's ongoing role in advancing equity and justice.

Following the presentation, the LBA proudly recognized Judge Stephanie Pearce Burke as the 2025 recipient of the Justice William E. McNulty Jr. Trailblazer Award. Established in 2003, the award honors leaders who advance legal and social progress and is named for Justice William E. McNulty Jr., the first African American to serve on the Kentucky Supreme Court. Judge Burke was recognized for her leadership in judicial reform and her work advocating for individuals living with addiction and serious mental illness. Since taking the bench in 2010, Judge Burke has become a leading voice for treatment-based approaches within the justice system, including helping establish Kentucky's first Assisted Outpatient Treatment program and advocating for expanded access to treatment statewide.

In her remarks, Judge Burke reflected on Justice McNulty's legacy and the responsibility of creating opportunities for others. "A trailblazer does not simply walk a path for themselves," she shared. "A trailblazer makes it easier for others to follow." She also spoke about the clients and communities that shaped her perspective throughout her career, emphasizing that justice requires patience, dignity and the ability to truly see another person's humanity. Judge Burke encouraged members of the legal profession to continue working toward a justice system that is not only fair in theory but fair and accessible in practice.

The LBA congratulates Judge Stephanie Pearce Burke on this well-deserved recognition.



## LBA SOLO AND SMALL PRACTICE SECTION SERIES

### AIO or Die: Why Traditional SEO is Obsolete in the Age of LLMs

Wednesday, June 3

The 2026 client isn't Googling "best attorney near me." They're asking ChatGPT. And if your firm isn't showing up in those answers, you might as well not exist. This program cuts through the noise on one of the most urgent shifts in legal marketing: the death of traditional Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and the rise of AI-driven search. Ashley Robinson, CEO and founder of Green Cardigan Marketing, breaks down why ranking on page one no longer matters if a Large Language Model (LLM) doesn't know your firm exists; how to transition from Search Engine Optimization to Generative Engine Optimization (GEO); and what it actually means to optimize your website for LLMs rather than human readers.

The session also tackles the ethics angle head-on: when AI scrapes your site and synthesizes its own output, how do you ensure the information it's pulling is truthful and not misleading under Rule 7.1 when you don't control what the AI says about you?

Thank you to Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of Kentucky (LMICK) for their support of the 2026 Solo and Small Practice Section CLE Series.

Speaker: **Ashley Robinson**, CEO and Founder, Green Cardigan Marketing

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$45 LBA Member | \$40.50 Sustaining Member | \$15 Paralegal and Young Lawyers Section Members | \$25 Solo/Small Practice Section Members and Government/Non-Profit Sector Members | \$125 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 CLE Hour — Pending

## DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### 10 Ethical and Professionalism Tips from Legal Movies and TV Shows

Wednesday, June 3

What does Harvey Specter get wrong about attorney-client privilege? What can Vinny Gambini *actually* teach us about competency? And what on earth does She-Hulk have to do with ABA Model Rule 8.4? Quite a lot, it turns out.

In this fast-moving two-hour program, Hollywood becomes the classroom. Joel Oster works through 10 essential ethical and professionalism lessons using some of the most recognizable lawyers in film and television—from *My Cousin Vinny* and *Suits* to *Legally Blonde*, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Harvey Birdman* and *She-Hulk*, Oster will examine how real Model Rules play out (and get mangled) on screen, and what those moments reveal about your own practice.

This isn't a passive CLE. The familiar faces are the hook; the substance is real. Topics range from learning on the job fast, managing conflicts of interest, keeping client secrets, billing ethically and communicating proactively to the professionalism of soliciting clients and what it *actually* means to treat law as a calling rather than a job.

Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

**Time:** 1 - 3 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$90 LBA Member | \$180 Non-member  
**Credits:** 2.0 CLE Ethics Hours

## MESA CLE ONE-HOUR

### Half-Truths and Full Consequences: The Lawyer's Duty of Complete Candor

Thursday, June 4

Lawyers know they cannot lie, but far fewer appreciate how often ethical problems arise from what they don't say. In practice, half-truths, omissions and carefully framed communications can be just as misleading as outright falsehoods, exposing lawyers to discipline even when every individual statement is technically accurate. This program explores the ethical duty of complete candor across the full spectrum of legal practice, from initial client disclosures and ongoing communication to representations made to courts, opposing parties and the public. By examining real-world scenarios where "technically true" became ethically problematic, participants will confront a difficult question: when does strategic communication cross the line into misconduct?

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, MESA CLE

**Time:** 1 – 2 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

### Program Guide

- LBA Section CLE
- MESA CLE with Sean Carter
- CLE Series with Joel Oster

## ETHICS CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### Eight Reasons Movie and TV Lawyers Would Be Disciplined

Friday, June 5

Hollywood's courtrooms are full of passion, chaos and dramatic objections that would never survive real scrutiny. Attorneys in film violate the ethics rules constantly — and while the public probably doesn't notice, lawyers absolutely should.

In this entertaining and eye-opening program, national speaker and CLE Performer Stuart Teicher, Esq. walks through eight ethics violations committed by lawyers in movies and television, from the sometimes obvious to the surprisingly subtle. It is a program that makes the rules memorable precisely because you have already seen them broken.

Topics include:

- What counts as conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, and why some of the most iconic courtroom moments in film would trigger Rule 8.4(d)
- How fictional lawyers routinely disrupt tribunals in ways that would draw serious sanctions in real practice (Rule 3.4(d))
- Why the other lawyers who witness these violations have their own obligation to act, and what Rule 8.3(a) requires when you see a colleague cross the line

Speaker: **Stuart Teicher**, Esq., The CLE Performer

**Time:** 11 a.m. - Noon — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$45 LBA Member | \$40.50 Sustaining Member | \$15 Paralegal Members and Young Lawyers Section Members | \$25 Solo/Small Practice Section Members and Government/Non-Profit Sector Members | \$125 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 CLE Ethics Hours

## DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### Trials of the Centuries: Landmark Cases

Friday, June 5

History's most consequential courtrooms come to life in this all-day CLE from Joel Oster of DeBriefing the Law. "Trials of the Centuries: Landmark Cases" spans more than two millennia of legal history, from the hemlock-laced verdict against Socrates to the gloves that didn't quite fit in a Los Angeles courtroom, examining the cases that didn't just make headlines but made the law itself.

This isn't a history lecture. It's a master class in trial strategy, legal ethics and the human dynamics that determine outcomes. Each case delivers enduring lessons for attorneys practicing today: how courts establish power, how a closing argument can save a client from death row, how ethics rules can make or break a case long before the jury is seated and how cultural forces can overwhelm even the strongest evidence.

Six cases. Six hours. The trial of a philosopher. A power grab that defined a nation. A perfect crime foiled by a pair of glasses. A courtroom showdown that put science on trial. The verdict that stopped the country. And a collection of real disciplinary decisions, the Darwinian Awards, proving that some attorneys never got the memo.

Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

**Time:** 9:50 a.m. - 4:50 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$270 LBA Member | \$540 Non-member  
**Credits:** 6.0 (including 2.0 ethics) CLE Hours — Pending

*Cancellations: Must be received by LBA at least 24 hours in advance for a refund (minus \$10 processing fee). Substitutes allowed (except special events). Technology issues: User error does not qualify for a refund for LIVE webinars. Recordings are NOT included with registration. Separate fees apply for accessing past recordings through the LBA On-Demand Catalog. Please note: Live and on-demand CLE programs have different KBA accreditation requirements.*

CLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Program Guide

- LBA Section CLE
- MESA CLE with Sean Carter
- CLE Series with Joel Oster

## LBA ONE-HOUR CLE

## 2026 Annual Kentucky Legislative Update

Tuesday, June 9

The Kentucky legislature has been busy, and what happened this session will affect your clients, your practice and your bottom line. Jason Reynolds, AOC Government Affairs Liaison, is back to break it all down in this annual must-attend briefing for Kentucky attorneys.

- Get up to speed on the bills that passed and what they mean for your day-to-day practice
- Understand what failed to advance this session and what may be back on the table next year
- Learn how new legislation could shift the landscape for your clients across practice areas
- Bring your questions and get straight answers on the legislation that matters most to your practice

This is the one CLE that keeps you from being the last person in the room to know what changed. Walk away with the context and clarity you need to advise clients with confidence.

Speaker: **Jason C. Reynolds**, Governmental Affairs Liaison, Administrative Office of the Courts

**Time:** Noon - 1 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$45 LBA Member | \$40.50 Sustaining Member | \$15 Paralegal Members and Young Lawyers Section Members | \$25 Solo/Small Practice Section Members and Government/Non-Profit Sector Members | \$125 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 CLE Hour — Pending

DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES  
PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

## Implicit Bias in the Law

Tuesday, June 9

You can't fix what you can't see. That's the premise and the challenge at the heart of this one-hour ethics CLE from Joel Oster.

Every attorney carries assumptions. Some are useful shortcuts. Others are something more dangerous: unconscious biases rooted in race, sex, economic status, ethnicity and body weight that shape decisions without ever announcing themselves. Implicit bias doesn't look like prejudice. It doesn't feel like discrimination. That's precisely what makes it so consequential for attorneys and for the clients who trust them.

This class starts with history. Thurgood Marshall's defense of Joseph Spell and the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision reveal how both explicit and implicit bias have shaped legal outcomes at the highest levels. From there, Oster moves into the science, drawing on the Perception Institute and the Harvard Implicit Association Test to expose our own blind spots, then closes with 10 practical strategies for interrupting bias before it affects client representation. ABA Model Rule 8.4 ties the ethical obligation directly to the work attorneys do every day.

This isn't a lecture about other people's biases. It's an honest look at your own.

Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

**Time:** 1 – 2 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$45 LBA Member | \$90 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

*Cancellations: Must be received by LBA at least 24 hours in advance for a refund (minus \$10 processing fee). Substitutes allowed (except special events). Technology issues: User error does not qualify for a refund for LIVE webinars. Recordings are NOT included with registration. Separate fees apply for accessing past recordings through the LBA On-Demand Catalog. Please note: Live and on-demand CLE programs have different KBA accreditation requirements.*

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

## The Ethics Snowball: How Little Lapses Turn into Big Trouble

Tuesday, June 9

Lawyers often assume that minor ethical lapses are just that, minor. But in practice, small acts of misconduct rarely stay small. A minor legal infraction, a missed financial obligation or a seemingly harmless ethics rule violation can trigger a chain reaction of consequences that grow far beyond the original act. This program explores how everyday decisions to cut corners can completely cut short a lawyer's career. Through real-world examples of lawyers who faced serious sanctions for seemingly trivial conduct, participants will examine how the "ethics snowball" forms, why it accelerates and most importantly, how to stop it before it rolls right over them.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, MESA CLE

**Time:** 1 – 2 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Zoom  
**Price:** \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

CO-HOSTED BY THE LBA PROBATE & ESTATE LAW  
SECTION AND THE KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF CPAS

## 2026 Annual Estate Planning Conference

Wednesday, June 10

Estate planning is never static, and 2026 is proving that more than ever. The Annual Estate Planning Conference brings together attorneys and CPAs for a full day built around what practitioners actually need: timely updates, emerging trends and practical strategies you can put to work with clients right away.

This year's program covers eight sessions across tax, ethics, accounting and specialized knowledge:

- Audits of High Net Worth Individuals
- Retirement Plan Selection for Small Businesses
- Avoiding Tax Traps in Estate and Gift Planning
- Special Needs Trusts and Planning
- Tax Update: KATR (BBB/Mid-Terms)
- Estate Planning Case Law Updates
- Trust Company Operations Panel
- Fiduciary Roles and Ethics

*Thank you to The Forge Companies for their sponsorship of this conference!*

Speakers include: **Terra D. Barley**, FBT Gibbons; **Turney P. Berry**, Bricker Graydon Wyatt; **Helen V. Cooper**, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum, **Dani Fowles**, Baird Trust; **Nick Porter**, DMLO; **Lane M. Thompson**, Bricker Graydon Wyatt; and **Peter H. Wayne, IV**, Forge Consulting.

**Time:** 8 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Hybrid (online or KY Society of CPAs Office)  
**Price:** \$374  
**Credits:** Pending

## LBA YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION ONE-HOUR CLE

## Becoming a Partner: The Path from Associate to Partnership

Wednesday, June 10

What does it take to make partner? The path from associate to partner is one of the most significant professional journeys in a legal career and one of the least talked about openly. This panel pulls back the curtain, with managing partners from across Louisville's legal community speaking candidly about the decisions behind promotions, the responsibilities that come with the title and the alternative tracks that may suit your goals. The program features moderated questions followed by an open audience Q&A.

Stay after for networking at Drake's.

*Thank you to Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of Kentucky (LMICK) for sponsoring this program.*

Panelists: **Alissa M. Domine**, Eddins Domine Law Group; **Scott Higdon**, Gray Ice Higdon; and **Aaron W. Marcus**, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum

**Time:** 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. — Program  
**Place:** Gray Ice Higdon, 3939 Shelbyville Rd., Ste. 201, 40207  
**Price:** \$45 LBA Member | \$40.50 Sustaining Member | \$15 Paralegal Members and Young Lawyers Section Members | \$25 Solo/Small Practice Section Members and Government/Non-Profit Sector Members | \$125 Non-member  
**Credits:** 1.0 CLE Hour — Pending

## DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### Deal to Lawsuit: A Shotgun Approach to Beginning Your Legal Journey

Thursday and Friday, June 11 – 12

Every client walks in the door with a goal. This two-day intensive from Joel Oster covers the complete lifecycle of legal practice in business law: how deals get made, how contracts get drafted, how negotiations succeed or fall apart, what happens when a client relationship ends up in litigation and how to handle every step with competence, ethics and confidence.

Day one moves through the full lifecycle: intake, due diligence, negotiation tactics including BATNA and interest-based bargaining, and the nuts and bolts of contract drafting with a hands-on redline activity. Day two shifts to when things go wrong: breach basics, pre-litigation strategy, document preservation and the litigation timeline from filing to appeal. Sessions on legal storytelling and deposition skills round out the practical toolkit, and the seminar closes with “Lawyers Gone Wild,” a review of real disciplinary disasters across dozens of Model Rules that is equal parts cautionary tale and very good television.

Twelve hours. Eight sessions. Everything a new lawyer needs to start strong.

Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

Time: 9:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. — Program (both days)  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$540 LBA Member | \$1,080 Non-member  
Credits: 12.0 (Including 2.0 Ethics) CLE Hours — Pending

## MESA TWO-HOUR CLE

### The 2026 Ethy Awards

Saturday, June 13

Each year, Hollywood celebrates the best performances in motion pictures at the Oscars. In this program, legal humorist Sean Carter notes the worst ethics violations in the legal profession at the Ethys. Carter hosts the festivities and announces award winners in categories including Worst Original Excuse, Best Courtroom Outburst, Most Creative Billing, Least Competent and more. In recapping some of the most egregious instances of unethical behavior, Carter demonstrates how the rest of us can avoid more common ethical violations.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 10 a.m. – Noon — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$110 LBA Member | \$100 Sustaining Member | \$50 Paralegal | \$250 Non-member  
Credits: 2.0 Ethics CLE Hours — Pending

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### Invoices That Fit the Bill: Avoiding Excessive Fees

Tuesday, June 16

Determining what constitutes a “reasonable” fee has never been more complex or more important. As technology and automation allow lawyers to work faster and more efficiently, traditional assumptions about time, value and billing are being tested in new ways. This program examines the ethical standard governing legal fees, focusing on how lawyers can charge appropriately while remaining within the bounds of professional responsibility. Through practical examples and common billing scenarios, participants will explore the factors that define reasonableness, the role of transparency and communication and the risks that arise when fees, retainers or billing practices cross the line. The program also addresses advertising claims, fee disputes and the ethical challenges of getting paid in a modern legal practice.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 1 – 2 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

## LBA ONE-HOUR CLE

### R.I.P. Kentucky Open Records Act?

Wednesday, June 17

In April 2026, a divided Kentucky Supreme Court ruled that the Open Records Act doesn't require public officials to produce texts from personal phones or emails from personal accounts. The decision has raised serious questions about the future of government transparency in Kentucky and what, if anything, can be done about it.

Is this ruling a death blow to open government? Was it legally justified, or does it contradict the very purpose of the 1976 statute? And is there a workable legislative fix? Two experienced litigators with state government backgrounds will debate these questions and examine the factual background and ramifications of the court's ruling and dissent in *Kentucky Dep't of Fish & Wildlife Resources Comm'n v. Kentucky Open Gov't Coalition, Inc.*, No. 2023-SC-0524, 2026 WL 1108344 (Ky. April 23, 2026), along with possible legislative remedies.

Speakers: **Amy D. Cubbage** and **David Tachau**, Tachau Meek PLC

Time: Noon – 1 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$45 LBA Member | \$40.50 Sustaining Member | \$15 Paralegal Members and Young Lawyers Section Members | \$25 Solo/Small Practice Section Members and Government/Non-Profit Sector Members | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 CLE Hour — Pending

## MESA TWO-HOUR CLE

### I Think, Therefore I Am ... Biased: How Implicit Biases Manifest in the Legal Profession

Thursday, June 18

The human brain is wired to recognize patterns and make generalizations, even those based on faulty or incomplete information. And contrary to popular opinion, lawyers are human and just as susceptible to forming biases and acting upon them, without any ill will or animus toward others. In fact, most often our biases are not even our own but rather those that have been taught to us. In this eye-opening presentation, Sean Carter uses video to show lawyers how easily these biases form, how they manifest in the way we treat clients, colleagues and opposing parties and most importantly, how we can reduce their effect by recognizing and compensating for them.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: Noon – 2 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$110 LBA Member | \$100 Sustaining Member | \$50 Paralegal | \$250 Non-member  
Credits: 2.0 CLE Hours — Pending

## DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### A Comedic De-Briefing of the Law

Friday, June 19

John Cleese said it best: “He who laughs most, learns best.” This class accepts that challenge and runs with it. This seminar is six hours of legal education that actually sticks, built around four sessions covering the ethics disasters attorneys really commit, the Hollywood characters who accidentally got the Model Rules right, the Supreme Court decisions reshaping the legal landscape and the true crime trials that reveal exactly what can go wrong when prosecutors overreach.

Session one, “Lawyers Gone Wild,” reviews real disciplinary cases across more than 30 ABA Model Rules, from the attorney who told a traffic officer, “I’m an AG and you’re going to regret this,” to the lawyer who thought paid actors made credible witnesses. Session two brings Elle Woods, the cast of *Landman* and more into the ethics classroom for “Bend, Snap and Ethical Traps,” covering professionalism rules through the lens of legal pop culture. After lunch, the Supreme Court Review unpacks the term’s biggest decisions: ghost guns, transgender rights, AI complaints, NVIDIA, the Cambridge Analytica fallout and a preview of the 2026-27 docket. The day closes with a True Crime Update, drawing litigation lessons from Alex Murdaugh, Karen Read, Casey Anthony and the Rose Petal Murder Trial.

It's a full day of CLE. You won't fall asleep.

Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

Time: 9:50 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$270 LBA Member/\$540 Non-member  
Credits: 6.0 (Including 3.0 Ethics) CLE Hours — Pending

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## Program Guide

- LBA Section CLE
- MESA CLE with Sean Carter
- CLE Series with Joel Oster

## DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### All-Star Cases from the U.S. Supreme Court, 2026 Edition

Tuesday, June 23

From ghost guns to the gender-affirming care debate, from Meta's privacy scandal to Mexican drug cartels, the Supreme Court's current term is anything but quiet. Joel Oster breaks down the most significant and closely watched cases of the year and what they mean for attorneys, clients and the legal landscape as a whole, covering *Garland v. VanDerStok*, *United States v. Skrmetti*, *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton*, *FDA v. Wages and White Lion Investments*, the Cambridge Analytica/Meta shareholder lawsuit, *Mexico v. U.S. Gun Companies* and *NVIDIA v. E. Ohman*. The program closes with a preview of significant cases on the horizon for the 2026-27 term.

Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

Time: 1 - 3 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$90 LBA Member | \$185.57 Non-member  
Credits: 2.0 CLE Hours — Pending

## MESA SIX-HOUR CLE

### Engage!: Hands-On AI Training for Modern Legal Practice

Tuesday, June 23

Join us for an extraordinary six-hour webinar where you'll not only learn about artificial intelligence's impact on the legal profession, but engage directly with the technologies reshaping the field. This hands-on workshop is designed for forward-thinking legal professionals ready to command the tools of tomorrow, today. The day covers client intake and case evaluation, initial pleadings and discovery, due diligence and document review, contract drafting, client correspondence and additional AI tips and tricks.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$330 LBA Member | \$300 Sustaining Member | \$150 Paralegal | \$750 Non-member  
Credits: 6.0 CLE Hours — Pending

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### Rude Ipsa Loquitur: How Incivility Speaks Poorly of the Profession

Wednesday, June 24

Civility in legal practice is not merely aspirational. It is an actual ethical obligation. Yet too often, lawyers treat professionalism as optional, assuming that insults, disparaging remarks and inflammatory language are simply part of the adversarial process. This program examines how incivility can undermine credibility, damage client interests and lead to disciplinary consequences. Through real-world examples of lawyers whose words became their worst evidence, participants will explore how and when incivility crosses the line into misconduct and why, in the practice of law, what you say often speaks louder than anything you file.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 1 - 2 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

## DEBRIEFING THE LAW CLE SERIES PRESENTED BY JOEL OSTER

### 10 Ethical and Professionalism Tips from Legal Movies and TV Shows

Wednesday, June 24

What does Harvey Specter get wrong about attorney-client privilege? What can Vinny Gambini *actually* teach us about competency? And what on earth does She-Hulk have to do with ABA Model Rule 8.4?

Quite a lot, it turns out.

In this fast-moving two-hour CLE, Hollywood becomes the classroom. Oster works through 10 essential ethical and professionalism lessons using some of the most recognizable lawyers in film and television from *My Cousin Vinny* and *Suits* to *Legally Blonde*, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Harvey Birdman* and *She-Hulk*. Oster will examine how real Model Rules play out (and get mangled) on screen, and what those moments reveal about your own practice.

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Speaker: **Joel Oster**, Esq., Comedian of Law

Time: 1 - 3 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$90 LBA Member | \$180 Non-member  
Credits: 2.0 CLE Ethics Hours

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### ChatOMG: The Ethical Pros and Cons of Using AI

Thursday, June 25

ChatGPT and other AI generative language models are changing the way lawyers do business and practice law. While AI will not replace the need for lawyers in the foreseeable future, it will drastically change how lawyers ply their craft. In this forward-looking webinar, legal humorist Sean Carter gives a practical preview of the ethical pros and cons of utilizing this game-changing technology.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 1 - 2 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

## ANNUAL ETHICS CLE WITH LMICK

### Real World Applications of Generative AI in the Legal Arena: The Practice of Law, the Business of Law, Legal Ethics and Professional Liability

Friday, June 26

How can lawyers ethically put AI to work in their practice? This lively session opens with a brief overview of what generative AI is and the ethical rules most frequently at play when lawyers use it, then moves into real-time demonstrations of the technology in action. Attendees will weigh the pros and cons of AI in legal marketing, case intake, research, writing, case analysis, transactional work, trial preparation and more, and leave better equipped to spot the ethical considerations and professional liability concerns AI presents.

*Thank you to Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of Kentucky (LMICK) for sponsoring this program.*

Speakers: **Angela Logan Edwards** and **Jared Burke**, LMICK

Time: 11 a.m. - Noon — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$45 LBA Member | \$40.50 Sustaining Member | \$15 Paralegal Members and Young Lawyers Section Members | \$25 Solo/Small Practice Section Members and Government/Non-Profit Sector Members | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — Pending

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### Legal Ethics Is No Laughing Matter: What Lawyer Jokes Say About Our Ethical Foibles

Monday, June 29

In this one-of-a-kind ethics presentation, Sean Carter explores the topic of lawyer jokes, whether they have any basis in fact and what they say about our adherence to the rules of professional conduct. He does so through video clips dramatizing these jokes and uses audience polling and attendee questions to spread the laughter while making the ethical lessons stick.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 1 – 2 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — *Pending*

## MESA TWO-HOUR CLE

### The 2026 Fantasy Supreme Court League

Monday, June 29

Step right up to participate in the Fantasy Supreme Court League. In this unique presentation, Sean Carter humorously recaps the significant cases of the most recent term. After receiving the facts of each case, you will compete with lawyers from across the country by attempting to remember or guess the outcome and “vote spread” of each case.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 3 – 5 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$110 LBA Member | \$100 Sustaining Member | \$50 Paralegal | \$250 Non-member  
Credits: 2.0 CLE Hours — *Pending*

## MESA THREE-HOUR CLE

### The 2026 Ethy Awards

Tuesday, June 30

Each year, Hollywood celebrates the best performances in motion pictures at the Oscars. In this program, legal humorist Sean Carter notes the worst ethics violations in the legal profession at the Ethys. Carter hosts the festivities and announces award winners in categories including Worst Original Excuse, Best Courtroom Outburst, Most Creative Billing, Least Competent and more. In recapping some of the most egregious instances of unethical behavior, Carter demonstrates how the rest of us can avoid more common ethical violations.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$165 LBA Member | \$150 Sustaining Member | \$75 Paralegal | \$375 Non-member  
Credits: 3.0 Ethics CLE Hours — *Pending*

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### Don't Be a Stupid Cupid: Avoiding Inappropriate Entanglements in the Practice of Law

Tuesday, June 30

To be an effective advocate, a lawyer must maintain a fair degree of dispassionate objectivity. The lawyer who becomes personally involved in the representation does the client a disservice, and that is even more true for the lawyer who becomes personally involved with the client. In this webinar, legal humorist Sean Carter explains the importance of avoiding this most basic conflict of interest and relates the tragic but sometimes fascinating tales of lawyers who learned this lesson too late.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 3 – 4 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — *Pending*

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### Ethical Jeopardy: A CLE Game Show

Tuesday, June 30

In Ethical Jeopardy, you will compete against lawyers from across the country answering legal ethics questions. Using the polling feature on the platform, participants make their selections in real time. At the end of the program, each participant receives their score along with their player ranking. It is competitive, it is engaging and you just might learn something in the process.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 5 – 6 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — *Pending*

## MESA ONE-HOUR CLE

### Who Wants to be Disbarred?: A CLE Game Show

Tuesday, June 30

During this program you will compete against lawyers from across the country answering legal ethics questions. Using the polling feature on the platform, participants make their selections in real time. At the end of the program, each participant receives their score along with their player ranking. It is competitive, it is engaging and you just might learn something in the process.

Speaker: **Sean Carter**, Comedian of Law

Time: 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. — Program  
Place: Zoom  
Price: \$55 LBA Member | \$50 Sustaining Member | \$25 Paralegal | \$125 Non-member  
Credits: 1.0 Ethics CLE Hour — *Pending*



Thursday, September 24

2026 Carl A. Warns, Jr. & Edwin R. Render Labor & Employment Law Institute co-sponsored with the UL Brandeis School of Law  
Honorable Jane B. Stranch, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit will be the keynote speaker.

Tuesday, December 1

2026 Kentucky Commercial Real Estate Conference  
co-sponsored with KY Chapter CCIM

*Cancellations: Must be received by LBA at least 24 hours in advance for a refund (minus \$10 processing fee). Substitutes allowed (except special events). Technology issues: User error does not qualify for a refund for LIVE webinars. Recordings are NOT included with registration. Separate fees apply for accessing past recordings through the LBA On-Demand Catalog. Please note: Live and on-demand CLE programs have different KBA accreditation requirements.*

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CORNER

June is one of the most observance-rich months on the diversity and inclusion calendar. From Pride Month to Juneteenth to Loving Day, this month invites the legal profession to reflect on progress, honor history and recommit to the work ahead.

ALL MONTH JUNE 2026

### LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Pride Month honors the Stonewall Riots of June 1969 as the spark of the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. For the legal profession, June is a moment to consider how far civil rights law has come — and how much work remains. Representation, inclusion in firm leadership and equitable workplace policies for LGBTQ+ attorneys and staff are not separate from our professional obligations. They are central to them.

#### JUNE 12 - LOVING DAY

##### Loving v. Virginia, 1967

On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down Virginia's Racial Integrity Act, ending state bans on interracial marriage. Brought by Mildred and Richard Loving, the case remains a cornerstone of equal protection jurisprudence. Loving Day is a reminder that some of the most consequential civil rights victories were won in court.

#### JUNE 19 - FEDERAL HOLIDAY

##### Juneteenth

June 19, 1865 marks the day enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were finally informed of the Emancipation Proclamation — more than two years after it took effect. Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021. For lawyers, the day carries particular weight: it is a reminder that legal rights, without enforcement, access and awareness, can go unrealized for years.

#### ALSO OBSERVED THIS MONTH

##### Caribbean-American Heritage Month

June celebrates the cultural contributions and histories of Caribbean Americans — a community reflected in Louisville's growing diversity and in our own membership.

##### Immigrant Heritage Month

Immigrant Heritage Month honors the contributions immigrants have made to American communities and public life and invites reflection on access-to-justice gaps that persist for immigrant clients.

### PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Small, intentional actions make a real difference. Here are six ways to bring this month's awareness focuses into your day-to-day practice.

- 1 **Audit your intake forms and client-facing documents**  
Review whether your forms offer inclusive options for gender identity and pronouns. This is a simple, low-cost change that signals to LGBTQ+ clients that your practice is a safe and welcoming space.
- 2 **Honor Juneteenth as a firm**  
If your office does not already recognize June 19 as a paid holiday, consider doing so. At a minimum, acknowledge it internally and in client communications. Performative silence on federal holidays tied to racial justice sends its own message.
- 3 **Examine language access in your practice**  
In recognition of Immigrant Heritage Month, ask whether your office has resources for non-English-speaking clients. Interpreter access, translated FAQs and multilingual intake materials can remove real barriers to representation.
- 4 **Check in with the men in your office — genuinely**  
Men's Health Month is a reminder that professional cultures often punish vulnerability. A direct, private check-in from a colleague or supervisor, not a wellness app notification, is often what makes the difference.
- 5 **Review your firm's non-discrimination policy**  
Does your written policy explicitly cover sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin? If it does not, June is a good time to change that. If it does, ask whether your actual workplace culture reflects it.
- 6 **Bring it to a team conversation**  
Share this page at a team meeting, staff huddle or firm retreat. You do not need a formal program — simply naming these observances and creating space for conversation is an act of inclusion in itself.

Awareness is a starting point, not a finish line. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee needs active members to help turn these monthly focuses into lasting change at the LBA and across the Louisville legal community. Interested? Contact Lisa M. Murray at [lmurray@loubar.org](mailto:lmurray@loubar.org).

#### LBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee co-chaired by

Michelle L. Duncan, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP and John E. Selent, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP

This monthly feature is prepared by the LBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Questions, submissions or ideas for future columns are welcome. Contact Lisa M. Murray at [lmurray@loubar.org](mailto:lmurray@loubar.org).

## Proper Jurisdiction of Courts Continues to Plague Trust Cases

*John R. Cummins and Cara Alexiou*

A recent Kentucky Court of Appeals decision once again demonstrated how difficult it can be in Kentucky to choose the proper court for filing cases involving trust disputes and the removal of trustees. While district courts exercise original jurisdiction over most trust disputes, a party can move the dispute to circuit court by filing a circuit court action related to the same trust. If a party misses the deadline to move the action to circuit court, the district court becomes the court of exclusive jurisdiction over the trust dispute. In a recent Kentucky Court of Appeals case, *Brinker v. Molloy et al.*, 71 K.L.S. 1, at 27 (opinion not final), the court clarified jurisdictional distinction under the Kentucky Uniform Trust Code (UTC).

Here, the beneficiaries of a trust filed an action in state district court seeking an accounting by the trustee for the trust administration and for the removal of the trustee. The district court ordered that the trustee provide an accounting, but he failed to do so. Two years later, the same district court entered an order directing the final distribution of the trust, following the passing of the trust's life beneficiary.

Under Kentucky Law, the circuit court has appellate review of district court decisions. So, here the beneficiaries timely appealed to the circuit court the district court's order directing the final distribution of the trust. The circuit court then remanded the case to the district court to compel the trust accounting that the beneficiaries had sought, yet expressly retained jurisdiction over the other causes of action related to the trust on the basis that they were "adversarial" in nature.

After this order was entered, the district court entered another "handwritten, perfunctory" order denying all motions and directing the final distribution of the trust to the remainder beneficiaries, including the trustee personally.

The beneficiaries then filed a motion for summary judgment with the circuit court on their various claims regarding the trustee's alleged misconduct in carrying out his official duties, including breach of fiduciary duty, negligence and fraud. The circuit court granted the beneficiaries' motion and scheduled a trial to determine the damages owed by the trustee.

At this point, the trustee sought a writ of prohibition on the grounds that the circuit court did not have jurisdiction of the case when it entered its summary judgment order against him.

The Court of Appeals sided with the trustee on this jurisdictional ground. While a party in a trust matter has the right under the UTC to move the litigation to circuit court within 20 days after receipt of notice of the district court proceeding, this was not done here. In fact, the beneficiaries themselves had originally filed the action in district court. Once the 20-day deadline had passed, the circuit court could only exercise appellate review of the district court's decisions.

The Court of Appeals noted that there was no basis for the circuit court to maintain jurisdiction over the trust claims. While a district court may lose jurisdiction in certain *probate* matters once they become "adversarial," the Court of Appeals emphasized that trust disputes are separate and distinct from probate matters. The Kentucky UTC conferred jurisdiction on trust matters, including adversarial ones, upon the district court, subject only to the removal to circuit court within 20 days after notice of the district court proceeding. According to the opinion, the Kentucky statute conferring jurisdiction on the circuit court regarding adversarial matters only applies to estates, and not to trusts. On this basis, the Court of Appeals ordered the circuit court to remand the entire matter to the district court for the proper resolution of all claims.

If you have a trust dispute in Kentucky, it's important to consider these jurisdictional issues carefully from the outset of the claim. This is not the first case where the choice of court in a trust matter has been contested and then appealed to the Kentucky appeals court for resolution, and doubtless will not be the last. The fine line between the exclusive and concurrent jurisdiction of the district and circuit Courts to settle trust disputes under the Kentucky UTC lies at the heart of the matter.

Partner John R. Cummins and Senior Managing Associate Cara Alexiou are based in Dentons' Louisville office. John is a member of the firm's Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation group, and Cara is a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation group. ■



## Is Your Print Strategy a Liability? Three Questions Every Managing Partner Should Ask in 2026

In the legal profession, the physical document is still the “source of truth.” Whether it’s a signed deposition, a real estate closing packet or a court-mandated filing, the transition from digital screen to physical paper is where many firms lose their grip on both **security** and **profitability**.

If your firm views “printing” as a utility, like electricity or water, you are likely overlooking a significant strategic lever. Managed print services (MPS) has evolved from “fixing broken copiers” into a sophisticated framework for data security and cost recovery.

As you evaluate your firm’s operational health this quarter, consider these three critical pillars of a modern legal print strategy.

### 1. Are You Capturing Every Billable Page?

For years, “disbursement recovery” was a manual headache. Attorneys or paralegals had to manually log copies to client matter numbers, leading to massive “leakage” in billable expenses.

A modern MPS environment automates this. By integrating User Authentication directly at the device, every single click is tied to a specific project code or client ID.

**The Result:** Your accounting team receives a clean, automated report at the end of the month, ensuring that your firm’s overhead isn’t subsidizing client documentation.

### 2. Is Your Paper Trail a Security Breach Waiting to Happen?

Law firms handle the most sensitive data in the private sector. Yet, the most common security breach isn’t a sophisticated hack, it’s a sensitive document left sitting in an output tray in a high-traffic hallway.

Thought leaders in legal operations are moving toward Follow-Me Printing. This technology ensures that a document is only printed when the authorized user is physically standing at the device and authenticates via a badge or PIN.

**The Prosource standard:** We help firms implement Zero-Trust Printing, ensuring that from the moment you click “print” in your office to the moment you pick up the page, the data is encrypted and secure.

### 3. Have You Right-Sized Your Fleet for the Hybrid Reality?

The 100-page-per-minute “beast” in the central copy room

might have made sense in 2019. In 2026, with associates working hybrid schedules and boutique firms opting for leaner office footprints in Louisville, one size fits all is a recipe for wasted capital.

A true managed print partner doesn’t just replace like-for-like. We perform a **document workflow audit** to see where the volume actually lives. Often, a fleet of smaller, high-security A4 devices distributed closer to partner offices is more efficient (and cheaper) than one massive, underutilized centerpiece.

### The Louisville Advantage

At Prosource, we’ve spent 40 years helping the legal community win. We don’t just deliver printers and copiers; we deliver the uptime and security that allow you to focus on the law, not the hardware.

Your print environment should be an invisible asset, not a daily frustration. If you haven’t audited your fleet in the last 24 months, you are likely overpaying for outdated security and inefficient workflows.

Contact Prosource today for a no-obligation print strategy assessment: <https://www.totalprosource.com/contact-us>. ■

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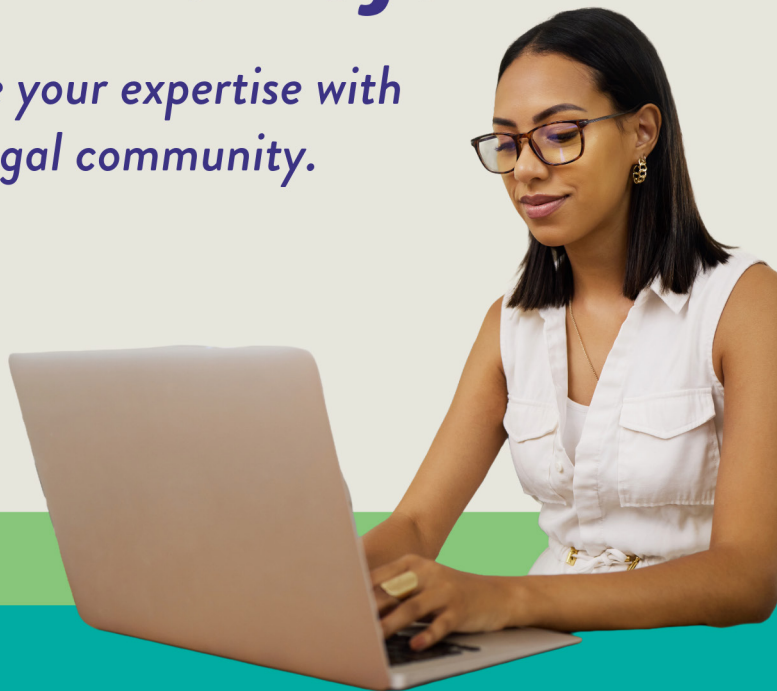
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## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LBA Committee Meetings

- CLE Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 11 | 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee: Wednesday, June 17 | 4 p.m. via Zoom
- Health & Wellness Committee: Thursday, June 18 | Noon via Zoom

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact Lisa Murray, [lmurray@loubar.org](mailto:lmurray@loubar.org). ■

### Association of Legal Administrators

The monthly chapter meeting of the Kentucky Association of Legal Administrators will be held in person on Thursday, June 11, beginning at 11:45 a.m. at FBT Gibbons LLP (400 W. Market St., Ste. 3200, Louisville, KY 40202). Please RSVP by registering online at [www.ky-ala.org](http://www.ky-ala.org). Any questions, please contact the Kentucky ALA Board at [board@ky-ala.org](mailto:board@ky-ala.org). ■

### Women Lawyers Association

The Women Lawyers Association will be presenting "What Your Support Staff Wants You to Know: A Modern Practitioner's Guide" on June 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Jefferson County Public Law Library, 514 W. Liberty St., #240. Buffet lunch from Safer will be available. Reserve your spot at [wlajeffco.com](http://wlajeffco.com). ■



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**David Jay Leibson** passed away on May 2. He was born in 1944 and married the love of his life, Phyllis Leibson, in 1968 and later had daughter Jennifer Leibson (who is now a judge in Jefferson District Court).

Leibson earned a J.D. from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, graduating first in his class. He continued his education at Harvard Law School where he earned a master's in law degree (LLM) in 1970.

Leibson then returned to Louisville and began practicing law at Leibson and Franklin. He taught part-time at the Brandeis Law School until 1972, when he was offered a full-time position, where he remained for 42 years. For 25 years he was honored with the Bernard Flexner Professorship in Law. During that time, he was also a visiting professor at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California, University of Leeds, England, and the University of Western Sydney in Australia.

Leibson won many awards for his teaching, introduced a Law and Literature class to the law school and authored two books on law. He was an active volunteer in many organizations and was president of the Jewish Community Center. He was a winner of the B'nai B'rith Man of the Year Award, primarily for being an interviewer for Steven Spielberg's Shoah project whose goal was to interview and record all living Holocaust survivors. ■

## Pride Month in the Legal Community

Every June, Pride Month encourages the legal community to reflect on how far LGBTQ+ rights have come — and the important work that still continues today. For attorneys, judges, legal educators and bar associations, it's not just a celebration — it's also a reminder of the profession's responsibility to support fairness and access to justice for everyone.

The legal profession has been deeply connected to many of the major milestones in LGBTQ+ rights across the United States. From fighting discriminatory laws to securing protections involving marriage equality, workplace rights, adoption and gender identity, lawyers and advocacy groups have helped turn legal principles into real-life protections for millions of people. Pride Month is a time to recognize those efforts and the individuals who worked tirelessly to move equality forward.

For law students and young attorneys, Pride Month can carry special meaning. Seeing LGBTQ+ professionals in leadership positions helps create a stronger sense of belonging within the profession. It also sends an important message that people do not have to hide who they are to succeed in the legal field.

At its heart, Pride Month in the legal community reflects many of the values the profession strives to uphold: fairness, respect, advocacy and equal treatment under the law. By continuing to support diversity and inclusion, the legal community helps ensure LGBTQ+ voices are heard and protected — during Pride Month and throughout the year.

### Celebrating Pride Month: Resources from the ABA and U.S. Federal Courts

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/resources/celebrating-heritage-months/celebrating\\_pride\\_month/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/resources/celebrating-heritage-months/celebrating_pride_month/)

<https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/lgbtq-pride-month#>



LOUISVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

## Health & Wellness Committee Corner

June 2026

CO-CHAIRS  
Jennifer Kleier  
Liz Mosler

### ALL MONTH

#### Men's Health Month

Male attorneys, especially solo practitioners and men of color, face elevated rates of depression and substance use in the profession. Men's Health Month is a prompt to look honestly at whether your workplace creates genuine space for men to ask for help, and to make sure they know where to find it.

**MEN'S HEALTH WEEK**  
June 15-21, 2026

### ALL MONTH

#### PTSD Awareness Month

Lawyers in criminal defense, family law and immigration regularly absorb the weight of others' trauma. Vicarious trauma is an occupational reality, not a personal failing. Recognize the signs: emotional numbness, difficulty concentrating, avoidance of certain case types or clients. If something feels off, it probably is. Support is available.

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### This month, try this

- 1 Book your annual physical. Men's Health Month is a good nudge for everyone, not just the men in your office.
- 2 Name vicarious trauma at your next team meeting. Calling it out is the first step to addressing it.
- 3 Add KYLAP to your contacts right now: 502-226-9373. You may need it. Someone you know probably will.

#### GET INVOLVED

#### JOIN THE HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE!

Active LBA members who want to help promote wellness across the legal profession are welcome.

Contact Lisa M. Murray at [lmurray@loubar.org](mailto:lmurray@loubar.org) to learn more.

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**Wednesday, June 3** | 10 Ethical and Professionalism Tips from Legal Movies and TV Shows  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | 2 ethics hours

**Friday, June 5** | Trials of the Centuries: Landmark Cases  
9:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. | 6 CLE hours

**Thu-Fri, June 11-12** | Deal to Lawsuit: A Shotgun Approach to Beginning Your Legal Journey  
9:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. | 12 CLE hours

**Friday, June 19** | A Comedic De-Briefing of the Law  
9:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. | 6 CLE hours

**Wednesday, June 24** | 10 Ethical and Professionalism Tips from Legal Movies and TV Shows  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | 2 ethics hours



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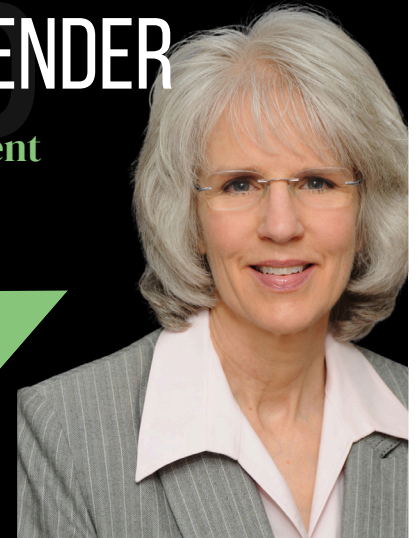
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