

Obtaining CLE Credit from your State Bar

Most State Bar Associations or Accreditation Authorities require at least the following items:

1. Certificate of Attendance
2. Timed Agenda
3. Faculty Biographies
4. Written Conference Materials

Check with your State, or ask me to check – the NCACC has existing accounts with many States already. Most States require a filing fee, and many States now require electronic filing thru a member portal. Some States charge a late fee if the application is filed more than 30 days after the event.

Note: In general, introductory remarks, keynote addresses, business meetings, breaks, reception, etc. are not accepted for credit. Many states do not accept our vendor showcases or “what’s bugging your” for CLE, but some do, so they are on the attached attendance sheet.

Meredith Montgomery (Alaska), CLE Coordinator/Wrangler

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Boney Courthouse

303 K Street

Anchorage AK 99501.



National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks
53rd Annual Meeting & Conference • August 2-6, 2026 • Austin TX

CLE ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE

Total Possible CLE Hours:

17.00 hrs @ 60 minutes (1.5 ethics)

20.40 hrs @ 50 minutes (1.8 ethics)

NAME: _____

Signature: _____

STATE: _____ Bar Number: _____

STATE: _____ Bar Number: _____

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You may return form to Meredith Montgomery to coordinate CLE credit with your State. Scan and Email, Take a picture and text or email, Snail mail to: mmontgomery@akcourts.gov; (907) 250-0130; 303 K Street, Anchorage AK 99501.

Sunday, August 2, 2026

_____	3:15pm-4:15pm	Austin to ATX: An Introduction to Texas' Coolest, Hottest (for
	1.00 hrs @ 60 min	this week at least) City
	1.20 hrs @ 50 min	Faculty: Joe Nick Patoski

Monday, August 3, 2026

_____	8:30am-10:00am	OPPERMAN SPEAKER (see note above; may not be eligible)
	1:50 hrs @ 60 min	<i>The People Priority Talk Every Leader Needs to Hear</i>
	1.80 hrs @ 50 min	Faculty: Julie Schniers

_____	10:15am-11:30AM	Ask the Experts Panel
	1.25 hrs @ 60 min	Faculty: Tim Gudas (NH); Greg Hilton (MD); Jenny Kitchings (SC)
	1:50 hrs @ 50 min	

_____	1:15pm-2:45pm	A Clerk's Conscience & the Impeachment of a Chief Justice
	1:50 hrs @ 60 min	Faculty: Joseph D. Steinfield
	1.80 hrs @ 50 min	ETHICS CREDIT

_____	3:00pm-4:30pm	U.S. Supreme Court
	1:50 hrs @ 60 min	Faculty: Scott Harris (US)
	1.80 hrs @ 50 min	

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

_____	8:30am-9:45am 1.25 hrs @ 60 min 1.50 hrs @ 50 min	Crisis Management Faculty: Mark Weaver Supreme Court
_____	9:55am-10:55am 1.00 hrs @ 60 min 1.20 hrs @ 50 min	Webpage Design Faculty: Jason Bobertz; John Yee
_____	11:30am-12:00pm 0.50 hrs @ 60 min 0.60 hrs @ 50 min	Vendor Showcase 1 1: 2: 3:
_____	1:20pm-1:50pm 0.50 hrs @ 60 min 0.60 hrs @ 50 min	Vendor Showcase 2 1: 2: 3:
_____	2:00pm-2:30pm 0.50 hrs @ 60 min 0.60 hrs @ 50 min	Vendor Showcase 3 1: 2: 3:
_____	2:45pm-4:15pm 1:50 hrs @ 60 min 1.80 hrs @ 50 min	AI & the Justice System: Shaping Tomorrow's Legal Landscape Faculty: Hon. Scott Schlegel, Louisiana Fifth Circuit

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

_____	8:30am-9:45am 1:25 hrs @ 60 min 1:50 hrs @ 50 min	Preparing for Success: Appellate Courts, Self-Represented Litigants, and the AI Transition Faculty: Katherine Alteneder Mills & Zoe Dolan
_____	10:00am-11:30am 1:50 hrs @ 60 min 1.80 hrs @ 50 min	Arizona Avatar Faculty: Alberto Rodriguez, Communications Officer, Arizona

Thursday, August 6, 2026

_____	8:30am-9:45am 1:25 hrs @ 60 min 1:50 hrs @ 50 min	Court Statistical Reporting - NCSC Faculty: Morgan Novitt
	10:00am-11:00am 1:00 hrs @ 60 min 1:20 hrs @ 50 min	What's Bugging You? Faculty: Emily Wetherell (VT)



OFFICIAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

August 1 – 6, 2026

Educational Session	Business Meeting	Vendor Show	Vendor-Supported / Sponsored	General
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting & Breakfast BUSINESS MEETING	Jasper
2:00 – 5:00 PM	Registration GENERAL	2nd Floor
2:45 – 5:00 PM	Duck Boat Tour — Optional GENERAL	Lobby

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Registration GENERAL	2nd Floor
12:30 – 1:00 PM	New Members and First-Time Attendees Orientation GENERAL	Garnet
12:30 – 1:00 PM	Family and Guest Orientation GENERAL	Jasper
1:15 – 3:00 PM	Roll Call of the States and Business Meeting (Session I) BUSINESS MEETING • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
	Break — 15 minutes	
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Austin to ATX: An Introduction to Texas' Coolest, Hottest (for This Week at Least) City — Joe Nick Patoski EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx

Break — 45 minutes		
5:00 – 6:30 PM	Reception — <i>Sponsored by File Serve Express</i> VENDOR-SUPPORTED / SPONSORED	Onyx
6:30 – 8:00 PM	Education Fund Auction & Morgan Thomas Slideshow GENERAL	Onyx
8:00 – 9:00 PM	Dessert & Bat Watching — <i>Sponsored File & ServeXpress</i> VENDOR-SUPPORTED / SPONSORED	Onyx
9:00 PM – 12:00 AM	Hospitality Room — "WEAR YOUR STATE" & GROUP KARAOKE Show your state pride by wearing something that represents your home state—a T-shirt, hat, jersey, or anything with your state's name, flag, or symbol. Then join in for Group Karaoke! No solos required—this is karaoke where everyone sings together. The more voices, the more fun!	

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast GENERAL • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
8:20 – 8:30 AM	Morning Announcements GENERAL	Onyx
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Opperman Speaker: The People Priority Talk Every Leader Needs to Hear — Learning to Lean In — <i>Julie Schniers</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
Break — 15 minutes		
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Ask the Experts — Panel — <i>Tim Gudas, Greg Hilton & Jenny Kitchings</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch on Your Own GENERAL	
1:15 – 2:45 PM	A Clerk's Conscience and the Impeachment of a Chief Justice — <i>Joe Steinfield</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION • ETHICS	Onyx
Coffee Break — 15 minutes Sponsored by the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section		
3:00 – 4:30 PM	U.S. Supreme Court — <i>Scott Harris</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
Break — 90 minutes		
6:00 – 9:00 PM	An Evening at the Bullock Texas State History Museum — <i>Sponsored by Thomson Reuters</i> <i>Buses to load at 5:40</i> VENDOR-SUPPORTED / SPONSORED	

9:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Hospitality Room - *TEXAS NIGHT: EVERYTHING'S BIGGER (AND BETTER!) IN TEXAS*

It's time to channel your inner cowboy or cowgirl! Dust off those cowboy hats, boots, big belt buckles, western shirts, or even a humorous sash (a quick online search will give you plenty of ideas). Whether you're a lifelong Texan or just Texan for the night, everyone looks good in western wear!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast GENERAL • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
7:00 – 8:50 AM	Past Presidents' Breakfast GENERAL	Travertine
8:20 – 8:30 AM	Morning Announcements GENERAL	Onyx
8:30 – 9:45 AM	Crisis Management — <i>Mark Weaver</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
Break — 10 minutes		
9:55 – 10:55 AM	Webpage Design — <i>Jason Bobertz & John Yee</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
Break — 5 minutes		
11:00 – 11:20 AM	Vendor Introductions & Opening of Vendor Show VENDOR SHOW	Onyx
Break — 10 minutes		
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Vendor Showcase VENDOR SHOW	Garnet
12:00 – 1:20 PM	Vendor Box Lunch VENDOR SHOW	Onyx
12:20 – 1:20 PM	C-Track Users Group Meeting VENDOR SHOW	Onyx 4
1:20 – 1:50 PM	Vendor Showcase VENDOR SHOW	Jasper
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Vendor Showcase VENDOR SHOW	Onyx
Break — 15 minutes		
2:45 – 4:15 PM	AI & the Justice System: Shaping Tomorrow's Legal Landscape — <i>Hon. Scott U. Schlegel, Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx

6:00 – 9:00 PM	An Evening at the Circuit of the Americas — <i>Sponsored by LexisNexis</i> <i>Buses to load at 5:40</i> VENDOR-SUPPORTED / SPONSORED	
9:00 PM – 12:00 AM	Hospitality Room - HAWAIIAN LUAU NIGHT A perennial favorite! Break out your Hawaiian shirts, shorts, leis, grass skirts, flip-flops, sandals, or your best island attire. This evening continues our tradition of honoring our beloved friend and colleague, Joe Lane (California), whose love of Hawaiian shirts made this theme especially meaningful. In tribute to Joe's legacy, we encourage everyone to embrace the aloha spirit—and why wait until evening? Wear your Hawaiian attire all day!	

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast GENERAL • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
8:20 – 8:30 AM	Morning Announcements GENERAL	Onyx
8:30 – 9:45 AM	Preparing for Success: Appellate Courts, Self-Represented Litigants, and the AI Transition — <i>Katherine Alteneder Mills & Zoe Dolan</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
<i>Break — 15 minutes</i>		
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Arizona Avatar — <i>Alberto Rodriguez</i> EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Awards Luncheon GENERAL	Onyx
1:30 – 7:00 PM	On Your Own — Free Afternoon GENERAL	
2:00 – 5:00 PM	Joseph Lane Memorial Golf Tournament GENERAL / SOCIAL	
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Tour of the Texas Capitol — <i>Optional</i> GENERAL	
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Game Night GENERAL	Onyx
9:00 PM – 12:00 AM	Hospitality Room - 250 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY Celebrate America's 250th anniversary in patriotic style! Wear your best red, white, and blue, or come dressed as the "Statute" of Liberty, a President, a Supreme Court Justice, Uncle Sam, or anything that celebrates our nation's history and democratic traditions. USA! USA! USA!	

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
6:30 – 7:30 AM	Fun Run/Walk GENERAL	Lobby
7:00 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast GENERAL • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
8:20 – 8:30 AM	Morning Announcements GENERAL	Onyx
8:30 – 9:45 AM	Court Statistical Reporting — NCSC, Morgan Novitt EDUCATIONAL SESSION	Onyx
Break — 15 minutes		
10:00 – 11:00 AM	What's Bugging You EDUCATIONAL SESSION • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Business Meeting (Session II) BUSINESS MEETING • MEMBERS ONLY	Onyx
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Critique Session BUSINESS MEETING	Onyx

Conference Funding & Ethics Notice

The NCACC annual conference is paid for with NCACC funds, most of which are derived from non-vendor sources, such as dues, registration fees, member contributions to the Education Fund, and a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI). All educational sessions are supported entirely by non-vendor funds. Some conference events, particularly social activities, are paid for, directly or indirectly, by vendors who do business with courts. Programs and events that are supported, in whole or in part, with vendor funds are clearly identified on the conference schedule.

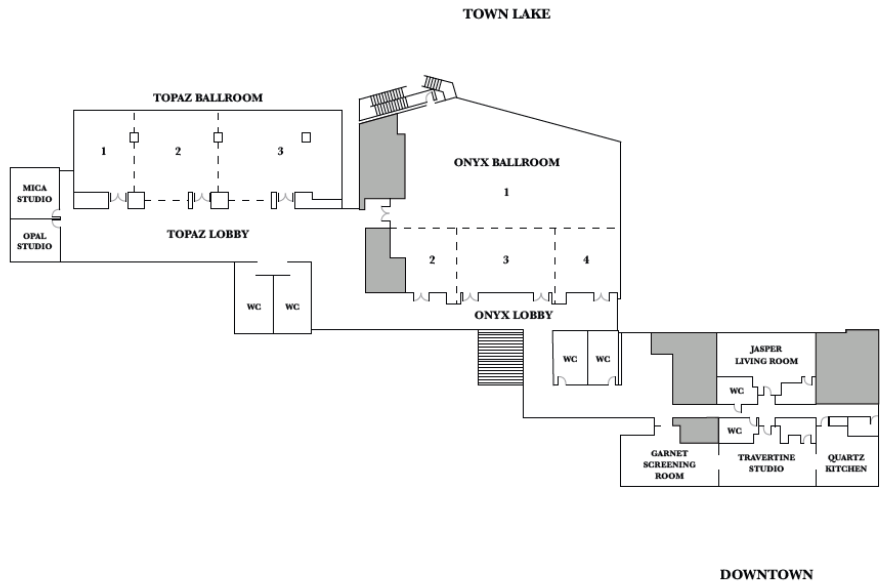
Members are urged to review the ethics rules of their jurisdictions to determine whether they may participate in events supported by vendors. An advisory opinion prepared by the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Codes of Conduct, Advisory Opinion No. 91, Solicitation and Acceptance of Funds from Persons Doing Business with the Courts, June 2009, discusses some of the issues related to the use of vendor funds for conferences involving federal court personnel.

A "buy-out" option has been implemented which may enable members who would otherwise be ethically unable to participate in a vendor-sponsored event to do so. Members have the option of paying for a vendor-supported activity themselves. Members who wish to exercise this option should contact the conference host about the cost of the event and the procedure for payment.



Education programming for the 53rd Annual NCACC Conference is provided in part with the support of a grant from the State Justice Institute.

FLOOR 2



NCACC 52nd Annual Conference and Meeting
August 2-6, 2026
Austin TX

Faculty Bios:

Jason Bobertz: Jason Bobertz serves as General Counsel for the South Carolina Judicial Branch. As General Counsel, Mr. Bobertz provides advice on a variety of legal matters affecting the Judicial Branch and the court system, including litigation matters involving Branch officials and personnel and policy matters related to the adoption and amendment of various court rules and administrative orders. Mr. Bobertz has previously served as a Senior Staff Attorney and Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court and as law clerk to the Honorable John H. Waller, Jr. From 2015 to 2024, he served as the Official Reporter of Decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. Mr. Bobertz was formerly an attorney with the Columbia law firm of Callison, Tighe, & Robinson, LLC, where he concentrated on litigation matters, including ERISA, title insurance, personal injury, and workers' compensation. Mr. Bobertz is a 1998 graduate of the University of Georgia, where he majored in criminal justice. He received a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002. In addition to his admission to the South Carolina Bar, Mr. Bobertz is also admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

Zoe Dolan: Zoe Dolan (UC Law SF, '05) is a supervising attorney for the Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants at Public Counsel in Los Angeles, where she focuses on AI programs and education for the public and lawyers alike. Previously, she was a solo lawyer with a bi-coastal trial, commercial and transactional practice ranging from federal criminal defense to startups and emerging technologies. Zoe is the author of several books, and, for her 1,000th skydive, became the first woman to jump from 41,000 feet.

Tim Gudas: Tim Gudas has served as Clerk of Court for the New Hampshire Supreme Court since January 2020, following nine years as a deputy clerk under former longtime Clerk Eileen Fox. Before joining the court, he spent fourteen years in civil and appellate litigation and began his legal career as a law clerk to Associate Justice Sherman D. Horton, Jr. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Boston College of Law, Tim has been an active NCACC member since 2013 and served as host of the 51st Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont in 2024. He currently serves as Vice President of the NCACC.

Scott Harris: Scott Harris is the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court. Prior to his appointment he served for eleven years as the Supreme Court's legal counsel, where he managed the staff that provides legal support for the Justices, on both case-related issues and on legal matters for the Court's operations. Harris earned his bachelor's degree from Yale and his law degree from the University of Virginia. He worked in both private practice and as a federal prosecutor before joining the Court.

Greg Hilton: Greg Hilton has served as Clerk of the Supreme Court of Maryland since November 2022, and prior to that served nearly fifteen years as Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk of the Appellate Court of Maryland. A trial and appellate attorney before joining the judiciary, he is also a retired commissioned officer of the United States Navy (1987-2017), having deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom and earned the Bronze Star Medal. He holds a J.D. from Catholic University of America, an M.A. in National Security Studies from the Naval War College, and a B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross. Greg served as NCACC President in 2022-2023.

Jenny Abbott Kitchings: Jenny Abbott Kitchings is the Clerk of Court for the South Carolina Court of Appeals, a position she has held since January 2012. A graduate of Converse College with a B.A. in Modern Languages, she earned her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law and an International M.B.A. from the Darla Moore School of Business. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge Daniel F. Pieper, later served as an associate in Charleston, and returned to the court system before becoming Clerk of Court. Jenny served as NCACC President in 2023-2024 and has served on and chaired numerous committees during her tenure as a NCACC member.

Katherine Alteneder Mills: Katherine Alteneder Mills is the Director Emerita of the Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN, now called the a2jnetwork), and currently a Non-Resident Senior Fellow as the Georgetown Institute for Technology Law and Policy and Principal at Access to Justice Innovation, where she provides independent consulting services on matters relating to judicial ethics, court rules, geospatial analysis, digital inclusion, and the optimization of technology. She is a well-known national leader on strategies for systemic advocacy and reform to build more equitable and inclusive justice systems for people without lawyers, and thereby improve public trust and confidence in the judicial branch. As the executive directors of SRLN for nine years, Katherine built a vibrant community of over 2,000 lawyers, judges, policy makers, technologists, researchers, and allied professionals who share a vision of transforming the

American legal system to ensure access to justice for all. Under her leadership SRLN developed and disseminated best practices, tools, and resources for court self-help services, remote service delivery, plain language communication, and user-centered design.

Morgan Novitt: Morgan Novitt is a Senior Research Analyst with the National Center for State Courts. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Lee University, and a Master's degree in Public Policy from George Mason University. Ms. Novitt compiles and studies case court caseload data to assist court systems anticipate and adapt to changing patterns and identify trends at a national level.

Joe Nick Patoski: Joe Nick Patoski writes about Texas and Texans. A former cab driver and staff writer for Texas Monthly magazine, and one-time reporter at the Austin American-Statesman, he has authored and co-authored biographies of Willie Nelson, Selena, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and the Dallas Cowboys, and collaborated with photographer Laurence Parent on books about the Texas Mountains, the Texas Coast, and Big Bend National Park. He wrote essays for the 2015 book *Homegrown: Austin Music Posters, 1968-1982* and *Conjunto* by John Dyer with Juan Tejeda. He has covered conservation in the book *Generations on the Land: A Conservation Legacy* and the state religion of Texas in the book *Texas High School Football: More Than the Game*. Patoski's byline has appeared in the New York Times, National Geographic, the Texas Observer, Oxford American, TimeOut New York, Garden and Gun, and No Depression magazine, for whom he was a contributing editor. He recorded the oral histories of B.B. King, Clarence Fountain of the Blind Boys of Alabama, Memphis musician and producer Jim Dickinson, Tejano superstar Little Joe Hernandez, and 15 other subjects for the Voice of Civil Rights oral history project sponsored by AARP and the Library of Congress, some of which appeared in the book *My Soul Looks Back in Wonder* by Juan Williams. In 2015, Patoski directed his first film, the music documentary *Sir Doug & The Genuine Texas Cosmic Groove*, which premiered at the South By Southwest Film Festival. He hosts the Texas Music Hour of Power, broadcast on KRTS FM Marfa www.marfapublicradio.org Saturdays 7 – 9 pm central, and lives near the Texas Hill Country village of Wimberley where he swims and paddles in the Blanco River.

Alberto Rodriguez: Alberto Rodriguez is the Communications Officer of the Arizona Supreme Court. Mr. Rodriguez joined the Court following eleven years of service as the State Bar of Arizona's Public Relations and Marketing Manager. During his time with the State Bar, Mr. Rodriguez provided member communications and community outreach, regularly interacting with

English and Spanish-language media outlets in TV, radio, web, and print. Mr. Rodriguez's experience includes developing strategic marketing, mass communications, and public relations. His roles included news releases, media advisories, spokesperson duties, and responding to public records requests. Mr. Rodriguez played key roles in the State Bar's access to justice programs, such as a speakers' bureau, the Lawyers on Call public service program, multiple legal advice phone banks, and Law Day Legal Aid clinics. He has co-chaired the Arizona Supreme Court's Public Information and Messaging subcommittee of the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice since 2019. Mr. Rodriguez's prior experience includes running a public relations firm and communications roles with the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Valley of the Sun United Way, and with local Spanish-language radio.

Hon. Scott U. Schlegel: Judge Schlegel currently serves on the ABA & LSBA Task Forces on the Law and Artificial Intelligence, among others. He is the immediate past Chair of the Louisiana Supreme Court Technology Commission and has served as President of the Louisiana District Judges Association. Judge Schlegel has received numerous awards including the National Center for State Courts' 26th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, one of the highest judicial honors in the country. Judge Schlegel was also featured on the cover of the American Bar Association Journal and is a nationally recognized speaker on legal tech and the modernization of the justice system. Judge Schlegel has been equally innovative in the criminal justice system. While on the trial court, Judge Schlegel established the Reentry Court and Swift & Certain Probation programs in Jefferson Parish, aimed at reducing recidivism and enhancing community safety. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Schlegel was one of the top felony prosecutors in the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office. He practiced civil law with an emphasis in products liability before becoming a prosecutor. Judge Schlegel graduated with honors from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he served as the President of the Student Bar Association. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Representative Laurie Schlegel, for 25 years and has one son in college.

Julie Schniers: Julie holds a Master's in Executive Coaching & Consulting and spent thirteen years as a nationally recognized high school speech and debate coach, shaping confident young leaders through communication, relationship-building, and goal-setting. She has since worked across nearly every industry, from hospitals to large corporations, always placing people at the heart of the mission. She believes everything you need to reach your goals is already within you, and it is her passion to help others unlock it.

Joe Steinfield: Joseph D. Steinfield is a trial lawyer, teacher, and writer. Over the span of several decades, he has represented clients in complex business disputes, First Amendment litigation, construction cases, fraud and chapter 93A cases, intellectual property disputes, wrongful death cases, section 1983 civil rights claims, and commercial disputes of all types. Joe has argued many appeals in both state and federal courts, many of which have established important precedents under both state and federal law. Joe has represented the media in libel, copyright, access, and privacy cases. He represented a well-known magazine in a landmark case in which the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court upheld a claim of First Amendment protection for parody. He represented a major Boston newspaper in a leading First Circuit case granting access rights. On behalf of a New Hampshire newspaper, he persuaded the New Hampshire Supreme Court to adopt novel procedures under the state's "Right-to-Know" law. He represented a television network in a high-profile defamation case, and he successfully represented a public television station in a case under the Connecticut shield law. He has frequently appeared in Puerto Rico federal court, including representing the Governor of Puerto Rico and the University of Puerto Rico in two high-profile First Amendment cases. With Prince Lobel partner Jeff Pyle, he tried a lengthy case on behalf of a businessman against officials of the Puerto Rico Department of Insurance. The jury returned a multi-million-dollar verdict in favor of his client, which was upheld by the First Circuit Court of Appeals. In 2000, Joe served as Special Investigator, and then as Special Prosecutor, representing the New Hampshire State Legislature in the impeachment trial of the state's chief justice. The case involved claims of ethical misconduct, and after a three-week trial the state senate voted not to convict the Chief Justice. Joe is a member of the American Arbitration Association commercial and consumer arbitration panels and is regularly appointed as an arbitrator. He has also served as a mediator in both commercial and personal injury cases. Teaching has been part of Joe's career from the year he passed the bar to the present. He originated and taught a defamation seminar at Boston College Law School, now taught by Jeff Pyle. He taught the same seminar at the University of New Hampshire School of Law. He now teaches constitutional law in the Lifelong Learners program at Keene State College. Starting in 2008, Joe has taught at several universities abroad – in Russia, Slovenia, and Iceland. In April 2024 he led an American College of Trial Lawyers trial advocacy workshop in Pretoria, South Africa. In the fall of 2026, he will teach a First Amendment course online at the Ukrainian Catholic University Law School in Lviv, Ukraine. He has published over 300 articles and book reviews in several newspapers and journals and has published two books, *Claremont Boy: My New Hampshire Roots and the Gift of Memory* (2014) and *Time for Everything: My Curious Life* (2022). Joe has been a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 1984 and founded its

Massachusetts Superior Court Mediation Program. He was the founding chair of the College's Teaching Abroad Committee, has served as the College's Massachusetts state chair, has chaired the College's Emil Gumpert Committee and the Sandra Day O'Connor Jurist Award Committee. He was the founding chair of the Law Clerks' Society of the Supreme Judicial Court and served as chair of both the Massachusetts Clients' Security Board and the Massachusetts Commission on Judicial Conduct. From 2012 to 2014, Joe was a member of the Boston Finance Commission.

Mark Weaver: A former Deputy Attorney General of Ohio, Mark Weaver managed crisis response and communications for a 1,400-employee office that faced a front-page issue nearly every week. He spent two decades as a criminal prosecutor on Ohio's most high-profile cases, including a successful death penalty prosecution against an infamous serial killer, and now teaches as UNC Chapel Hill's School of Government. He is the award-winning author of *A Wordsmith's Work*, now in its fourth edition, and as appeared on 60 Minutes, CNN, FOX News, NPR, and the BBC, among many others.

Emily Wetherell: Emily Wetherell, Esq., has worked at the Vermont Supreme Court as first a staff attorney and then the Deputy Clerk of the Court since 2006. Her current responsibilities include supervising the Court's administrative staff, overseeing facilities and administrative systems, supporting various rules committees, researching legal issues, and drafting opinions. Previously, Emily was an Associate Professor of Legal Writing at Vermont Law School, clerked for Association Justice John A. Dooley, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine. She regularly testifies before the Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules and has presented educational sessions on appellate practice and rules requirements to the bar and to judges. She as a J.D. from Vermont Law School and a B.Sc. in chemistry and biology from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

John Yee: John Yee serves as the Chief Information Officer for the Judicial Council of California, where Yee leads enterprise information technology strategy and modernization efforts for the Judicial branch of California. In this role, Yee oversees statewide technology programs that support the appellate, superior, and Supreme Courts, focusing on secure, reliable, and accessible digital services for the public and the judicial branch. With extensive experience guiding technology innovation in complex public-sector environments, Yee has played a key role in advancing court technology initiatives that strengthen operational effectiveness and improve user experience across all levels of the judiciary. His leadership has supported critical statewide

programs including case management modernization, document and records management platforms, language access technology, cybersecurity readiness, hybrid courtroom capabilities, and branchwide digital service transformation. Yee holds senior leadership experience developing enterprise architecture frameworks, overseeing statewide IT programs, and guiding cross-branch collaboration on critical technology initiatives. His commitment to public service and innovation continues to support the Judicial Council's mission of advancing the efficient, effective, and equitable administration of justice for all Californians.