

CANON LAW SOCIETY OF AMERICA

• 2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION •

October 12-15 St. Louis, Missouri



THE ART OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The 88th Annual Convention of the Canon Law Society of America will offer an opportunity for learning, collaborating, and networking with colleagues and friends as we ponder the “The Art of the Administration of Justice.” This year we gather in St. Louis, Missouri, to enjoy the hospitality of the Midwest. We will be discussing the recommendations of the Constitution Revision Commission that was tasked with helping us work better as a canonical society.

The administration of justice for the faithful includes knowing and understanding the challenges of our time, including the rapid growth of artificial intelligence tools in all areas of ministerial life. The Holy Father’s recently promulgated encyclical, *Magnifica humanitas*, addresses issues related to the use of AI in our world. This year’s convention will include a keynote address to help us begin to envision what ethical impact AI may have on our own work in canonical processes for justice. A major address will look at a bishop’s need to balance his role as pastor and judge.

Seminars will explore the proper method of the relegation of church buildings to profane but not sordid use, the rights of members of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life during abuse investigations or various other processes, as well as recent trends in Rotal jurisprudence. Other seminars will examine intercultural competencies in Tribunal work as related to Deaf culture, the canonical implications of assisted suicide, and cremation and illicit funeral practices.

There will be two pre-convention workshops this year. One is designed to assist all ministers to better understand and address trauma-related issues of the faithful we serve through various church processes and with those staff members we collaborate with who can be affected by those experiences. The second will look at best practices related to working with minors and adults in vulnerable situations.

We hope to see you at this year’s convention to connect with canonists from around the country and the world.

CLSA Board of Governors
May 2026

CLSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JCL
Consultor, 2025-2028

WELCOME TO ST. LOUIS!

Welcome to the “Gateway to the West!” Founded by French trappers on February 15, 1764, this outpost included land designated for the erection of a Catholic church from the very beginning. That original structure and those that followed served the growing Catholic population that flocked to the area.

The city was part of President Thomas Jefferson’s 1803 Louisiana Purchase, which more than doubled the size of the fledgling United States of America. The following year, Lewis and Clark departed St. Louis on their amazing journey of exploration to the Pacific. Similarly, thousands of other courageous settlers started their westward migration from here to access the gold mines of California and the open territories of what are now the Western States. The Old Courthouse that hosted the Dred Scott decision, which had a profound impact on the coming Civil War, is only a short walk from our hotel, as is the famous Gateway Arch that honors Western expansion.

After its purchase in 1803, the territory came under the authority of the first Archbishop of Baltimore, John Carroll. It was formally established as a diocese on July 18, 1826, by Pope Leo XII. It is currently led by a son of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski. Its nickname is “Rome of the West” in light of an ever-growing Catholic community. While you are here, be sure to visit the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis to see the renowned mosaic collection.

This year’s convention, with the theme of “The Art of the Administration of Justice,” opens with a keynote address on AI as an evolving tool to assist with canonical administration. This includes the promises and trials of AI as well as the balancing of the care of those who collaborate with us in a variety of roles. Caring for the canonist is an important part of making sure the service we offer continues to be fruitful.

The best thing about this convention will be meeting you! As always this is a time for those of us who speak the “canonical language of art” to hear and learn from one another in this ever-changing world of service to the broader Church. Whatever your role may be in your diocese, religious institute, seminary, or university, we welcome your insights and challenges so we can broaden our perspectives and work for a solution that is just and equitable for all.

I look forward to welcoming you in October.



Dr. Diane L. Barr, JD, JCD
CLSA President

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Understanding Trauma and Supporting Trauma Survivors in Canon Lawyers and Tribunal Staff

[Stephen T. Carroll, PhD, LCPC, Director of Education & Aftercare Services, Saint Luke Institute](#)

There is growing public awareness and acceptance of the broad adversity that trauma survivors experience when addressing sexual abuse to PTSD in veterans. Likewise, trauma has become a more frequent issue that people are willing to share in formal and informal ministry settings such as canon law matters. People working in modern ministry, especially canon law, need a basic understanding of trauma and its effect on daily behavioral, emotional, and spiritual functioning.

Dr. Stephen Carroll will provide an overview of trauma and its symptoms so that people in canon law settings can recognize when the circumstances require referrals to mental health professionals. This workshop offers basic models for understanding different types of trauma and reviews active listening skills and de-escalation techniques to attend to a trauma survivors' emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs. The workshop provides tools to differentiate between a person dealing with grief and a person experiencing trauma symptoms like flashbacks or dissociation. Current research will also be reviewed on burnout in ministry settings due to vicarious trauma which explains the benefits of self-care practices like mindful breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, and peer support groups. Finally, Dr. Carroll presents wellness practices for canon lawyers and tribunal staff to decrease their own burnout when ministering to traumatized individuals or communities.

The Role of Canon Law and the Canonist in Building a Culture of Safeguarding and Care

[Dr. Heather T. Banis, PhD, Dr. Teresa Kettelkamp, and Rev. Gregory T. Luyet, JCL](#)

Pope Leo XIV remarked, "...the protection of minors and persons in vulnerable situations is not an isolated area of ecclesial life, but a dimension that permeates pastoral care, formation, governance and discipline." (Pope Leo XIV, address to the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors Plenary Assembly, March 16, 2026).

The workshop heeds the call of Pope Leo XIV that safeguarding must permeate every aspect of ecclesial life. It will be a practical workshop grounded in canon law, principles of safeguarding and trauma-informed theology. This interactive program will provide context (best principles) and strategies (best practices) essential to preventing, responding, and enhancing safeguarding efforts to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all.

The presenters, drawing upon their unique backgrounds in safeguarding, policy, canon law, law enforcement, victims' assistance, trauma-informed theology, best principles and practices apply their experience and expertise as they relate to the specific constructs of responsibility, accountability, transparency, and compliance.

Scenarios representative of real events, as experienced from various perspectives, will be discussed in table-top exercises allowing for deeper analysis, understanding and local applicability by participants related to the respective key topics.

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Sunday, October 12 - Monday, October 13

The Pre-Convention Workshops are optional and require a separate registration fee. Continental breakfasts, breaks, and a reception are included in the pre-convention registration fee. Room accommodations are not included.

Pre-Convention Workshop Schedule

Saturday, October 10	5-6:30 p.m.	Pre-Convention Workshop Attendee Check-in
Sunday, October 11	7:30 a.m.	Mass
	8:00 a.m.	Pre-Convention Workshop Attendee Check-in Continental Breakfast for Workshop Attendees (badges required)
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
	5:00 p.m.	Workshop ends for the day
	5:30 p.m.	Reception for Pre-Convention Workshop Attendees (badges required)
Monday, October 12	7:30 a.m.	Mass
	8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast for Pre-Convention Attendees (badges required)
	9:00 a.m.	Workshop begins
	12:00 p.m.	Workshop concludes

Pre-Convention Workshop Frequent Questions

Can I switch back and forth between the two workshops?

No. Each workshop is a standalone event with separate registrations.

Is the Pre-Convention Workshop part of my convention registration?

No. The Pre-Convention Workshop is a separate registration fee.

How much does it cost to attend the Pre-Convention Workshop?

If you register and pay by August 30, you can take the early-bird discount and pay just \$350. The regular fee (through September 30) is \$475. Beginning in October, the fee is \$575.

Can I attend the Pre-Convention Workshop if I'm not staying for the whole convention?

Of course! Simply register online and click the WORKSHOP ONLY option.

If my diocese wants to register multiple people for a workshop, is there a group discount?

We do not offer group discounts.

I am not attending the Pre-Convention Workshop; can I attend the reception on Sunday?

The Pre-Convention Workshop Reception is reserved for those who registered for the workshop. Guest badges are not available for the Pre-Convention Workshop Reception or the Opening Reception.



CLSA 2026 Convention has gone mobile!

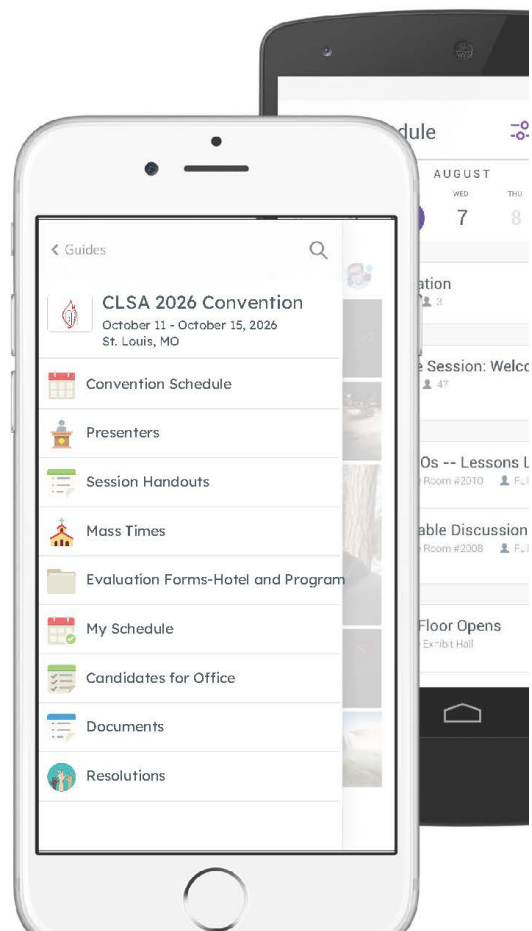
Download the free app now

<https://builder.guidebook.com/g/clsa2026/>

Tap "Download the app" to access the guide on your iOS or Android device.

To access the guide, use the
passphrase: **2026arch**

Prefer the web version? Some content
and networking tools may be available
to you online.



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Monday, October 12, 2026

7:30 a.m. Mass

1-4 p.m. Convention Attendee Check-in Begins
Exhibits Open

4 p.m. Evening Prayer and Welcome

4:30 p.m. Keynote Address

Intelligence, Technology, and Hope: Faithfully Considering AI
Dr. John P. Slattery, PhD

How should we think about AI? What does AI have to do with questions of faith? How does AI operate like a traditional technology, and how is it something new? This talk will explore the broader questions of technology that will help us understand the groundswell of generative AI, in order to effectively encounter AI from a position of faith. It will delve into Pope Leo's many discussions of AI, as well as the wider landscape of ethical approaches to AI, and will offer challenges to think critically about AI usage in the context of intelligence discussions and the Catholic tradition.

6 p.m. Opening Reception for Convention Attendees (*badge required*)

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

7:30 a.m. Mass for the Deceased Members of the CLSA

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast for Convention Attendees (*badge required*)
Candidate Meet & Greet
View candidate videos linked on the [2026 Convention web page](#).

9:00 a.m. Constitution Revision Commission Presentation

Very Rev. Luke Millette, Chair

Two years ago, at our Annual Business Meeting in Albuquerque, the membership voted to revise the CLSA Constitution. In response to that mandate, the Constitution Revision Commission has spent the past two years preparing a revised draft. Throughout this process, the commission has received valuable feedback from both the CLSA membership and leadership through a variety of channels, and that input has greatly informed the revision.

During this session, the commission will present the proposed Constitution and explain the more significant changes. Members will then have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. The commission will use this input to make any necessary revisions before the proposed Constitution is presented for a vote at the Business Meeting on Wednesday.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. SEMINARS

A1 Assigning 'Unassignable Priests': Some Case Studies

Rev. Sean Bransfield, Chair, CLSA Clergy Committee

There is much confusion surrounding the "unassignable priest." Every Diocesan Bishop experiences the difficulty of finding an assignment for priests after they have exhibited non-delictual, yet problematic, conduct. This seminar, presented by the CLSA Clergy Committee, will discuss the competing goods which must be considered during these difficult deliberations by examining four case studies. The cases will highlight the varied and nuanced fact patterns that can occur while providing helpful ways to analyze and navigate these common and difficult situations.

A2 Strategies for Maintaining Spiritual and Vocational Identity in Administrative and Leadership Roles

Rev. Patrick J. McDevitt, CM, PhD

Canon lawyers today deal with a range of stressful issues from annulments to dioceses or religious orders in bankruptcy. The seminar will provide an overview of strategies for clergy, religious, and lay staff members to sustain a pastoral presence when conducting administrative functions like tribunal work. Canon lawyers are often asked to serve simultaneously as a legal advisor and pastoral companion. Tribunals face constant pressure to provide verdicts on cases, which can lead to professional and spiritual burnout. Attendees will learn practical skills for canon lawyers and tribunal staff to use to balance their daily responsibilities with a pastoral presence.

A3 Ascription and Recordkeeping

Rev. Paul Luniw, JCOD

Issues of immigration and migration are not just for political discussion; they also pose a challenge to our Eastern and Latin Catholic Churches. Invasions, war, and genocide permeate our modern world, with cultures, traditions, and genetic heritages threatened with extinction. As a Church, should we be concerned, and should consider, how can we preserve identities and create communities in foreign lands.

A4 Prove It! Methods of Proof for the Most Common Grounds of Marriage Nullity in Recent Rotal Sentences (Session repeats at B4)

Rev. Eric Culler, JCL

While the proof sets for the grounds of marriage nullity are well established, the Auditors of the Roman Rota continue to provide unique insights and emphases to help Tribunal personnel apply the law in current situations. This presentation aims to help judges and all ministers of justice evaluate proofs for the most common grounds of marriage nullity by highlighting new insights from recently published Decisions of the Roman Rota. Citations and samples will be provided to help refresh the Law sections of sentences, vota, and animadversions.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:30 p.m. SEMINARS

B1 Civil Legal Issues in the Use of AI: Privacy and Attorney Client Privilege

Prof. Tiffany C. Li, JD, MSt

This session examines the privacy and confidentiality risks that arise when sensitive information is processed through AI platforms, with particular attention to privilege waiver, fiduciary obligations, and the impact of AI use on the trust relationships central to legal representation. Drawing on emerging civil law frameworks and professional responsibility standards, the presentation will consider the extent to which current legal doctrine adequately addresses these risks and will offer a practical framework for identifying risk and adopting AI tools in a manner consistent with attorneys' duties to their clients and their communities.

B2 Justice, Rights, and Obedience in Apostolic Religious Institutes

Deborah Cerullo, SSND, JD, JCL

The 1983 Code specifies some rights specifically for members of religious institutes, along with obligations that belong to their state of life. How do these rights and obligations interact with the ideals of justice and fairness, especially regarding those in authority in the Institute? Are there ways to vindicate rights when they are perceived to be violated? Lastly, how do all of these questions interface with the vow of obedience? This seminar will assist those advising both members and leadership when facing conflict regarding members' rights.

B3 What's on Your Checklist? An Overview of the Canonical Processes of the Modification of Parishes and the Relegation and Alienation of Churches

Rev. Christopher R. Seibt, PhL, STL, JCL

The administrative canonical processes of parish modifications (e.g., mergers) and church relegations and alienations are complex. Various canons in the Code as well as other canonical sources pertain to them. It is easy to get lost in these processes, which can have significant consequences. This presentation will provide basic checklists for all three processes (modification, relegation, alienation). It will also provide some of the juridical principles underlying them along with concrete examples of them. Accordingly, it is both for new and seasoned canonists involved (or about to be involved) in this area of the law.

B4 Prove It! Methods of Proof for the Most Common Grounds of Marriage Nullity in Recent Rotal Sentences (Session repeats at A4)

Rev. Eric Culler, JCL

See A4 session for information.

4:00 p.m. Break

4:30 p.m. Budget Report and Open Hearing on Resolutions

6:00 p.m. Alumni Receptions

7:00 p.m. Presidential Dinner (*by invitation*)

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

7:00 a.m. Friends of Bill Meeting

7:30 a.m. Past Presidents Breakfast (*by invitation*)

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast for Convention Attendees (*badge required*)

9:00 a.m. SEMINARS

C1 How Tribunals Can Best Assist their Deaf & Hard of Hearing Communities

Very Rev. Robert Herbst, OFM Conv., JCD

While infrequent, Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals needing the services of the Diocesan Tribunal or Canonical Services face significant linguistic and cultural problems, from initial contact to resolution of their needs. This presentation will touch on the issues of 'communication' and not 'language', 'culture' as it impacts modes of communication, and most importantly, how Tribunals and Canonical Services departments can assist those who use Sign Language(s) as their primary mode of communication.

C2 OCIA and Marriage: Smooth Sailing or Stormy Seas?

Linda Budney, JCD

Most adults exploring baptism or reception into full communion in the Catholic Church participate in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). Some of these participants have prior marriages which may delay or prevent their faith journey to the Catholic faith. This presentation addresses what OCIA—and the USCCB National Statutes—have to say about those with previous marriages, what factors must be considered in early discussions with participants, what information must be provided by participants when a case is submitted, and suggests strategies for educating pastors and parochial staff to ensure that cases are submitted in a timely manner.

LETTERS OF SUITABILITY

All priests and deacons who intend public ministry, including concelebration at the 2026 CLSA Convention, must submit a letter of suitability.

MAIL: Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski. Mark the envelope to the attention of Mr. Eric Gabrielson, Metropolitan Tribunal, Archdiocese of Saint Louis, 20 Archbishop May Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63119.

EMAIL: Send PDF from the order or Archdiocese/Diocese to Tribunal@archstl.org.

Do not send your forms to CLSA.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

C3 Sending Material to the Nunciature and/or Rome

Br. Joseph J. Britt, CFX

"Apostolic Nunciature" carries with it a shroud of mystery, including the everyday practicalities. In a seminar addressed to all in a chancery office (not only canon lawyers) who would send material through the apostolic nunciature for transmission to the Holy See, Br. Joseph J. Britt, CFX, who served as archivist from 2010-2026, will present such topics as: what is a diplomatic pouch, the role of the Treaty of Vienna, and general guidelines to help ensure that a dossier or other documentation makes its way to the proper dicastery or tribunal of the Holy See, including cover letters, protocol numbers, package size limitations, and more.

C4 Canonical Implications of Assisted Suicide

Rev. Luke Beckett, OSB

Assisted suicide is already a reality in many jurisdictions, and proposals to permit the practice are advanced in other places. Following a legislative proposal in England and Wales, Fr. Beckett will reflect on how we might suggest responses as canonists, both regarding the person who chooses to kill themselves and those who assist them. In regard to the latter, the implications for clerics are of particular importance.

10:30 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. 88th Annual Business Meeting

12:30 p.m. Networking Lunch

1:30 p.m. Second Instance Judicial Vicars' Meeting
Chancellors' Meeting

2:30 a.m. SEMINARS

D1 Controversy and Communion

Rev. Michael Joyce, CM, JCD

This presentation addresses situations in which diocesan leadership and the leadership of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life find themselves in different positions and yet strive to maintain communion. It will use both canon law and forms of governance in proposing how to proceed at such times in the administration of justice.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

D2 *Safeguarding Justice and Efficiency: The Tribunal's Response to Dilatory Appeals*

Dr. David Castronovo, JD, JCD

This seminar examines the canonical provision permitting a collegiate tribunal to confirm the sentence of the prior instance by decree when an appeal clearly appears merely dilatory. Situated within the framework of matrimonial appellate procedure, the norm seeks to promote procedural economy while safeguarding the right of defense. Explore the juridical foundations and limits of this faculty, with particular attention to the discernment required of judges in identifying truly dilatory appeals. Drawing on jurisprudence of the Roman Rota, the presentation will also consider whether current praxis adequately balances efficiency with the demands of justice.

D3 *Ad resurgendum cum Christo at 10 and its Application to Contemporary Funeral Alternatives*

Rev. Vincent Woo, JCD

Ten years have passed since the CDF issued *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* on the conservation of ashes after cremation. New funeral alternatives, such as human composting and the use of biodegradable urns, have become more popular. If a deceased Catholic chooses one of these methods, a pastor may wonder whether he should grant or deny an ecclesiastical funeral. To address this lacuna in the law, this presentation applies principles from the canonical tradition to the present day. It analyzes these funeral alternatives to help pastors and local ordinaries make informed decisions.

D4 *Ascription, Biritual Faculties, and Adaptation of Rite: An Evolving Praxis Curiae*

Rev. John D. Faris, JCOD

A 2026 letter of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches—disclosing that Apostolic See authorization is not required for the reception of baptized Protestants into an Eastern Church *sui iuris*—provides the occasion for this presentation. Read together with the Dicastery's circular letter of November 2024 and the *Osservazioni* of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts of 2012, the three documents illuminate an evolving curial practice on ascription, transfer of ascription, biritual faculties, and adaptation of rite. This presentation examines the canonical reasoning behind each document and its implications for practitioners.



LITURGY HELP NEEDED!

Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and deacons are needed at all Masses during the Convention. Laity are encouraged to volunteer as lectors; clerics are encouraged to volunteer as Eucharistic ministers. Please contact Rev. Jonathan Sorensen, at jsorensen@gidiocese.org if you can help.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

5:00 p.m. Convention Mass and Installation of Officers

Mass will be held at the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France (also known as the Old Cathedral), located at 209 Walnut Street, St. Louis, MO 63102.

Important notes:

- The Basilica is about a four-minute walk from the hotel.
- We will not offer transportation to Mass.

6:30 p.m. Convention Banquet

- Convention attendees and their paid guests are welcome to attend.
- Badges are required to attend. There will be a cash bar.
- The Role of Law presentation will take place at the conclusion of dinner.



Thursday, October 16, 2026

7:30 a.m. Mass

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast for Convention Attendees (*badge required*)

9:00 a.m. Major Address

The Diocesan Bishop: Balancing the Role of Pastor and Judge

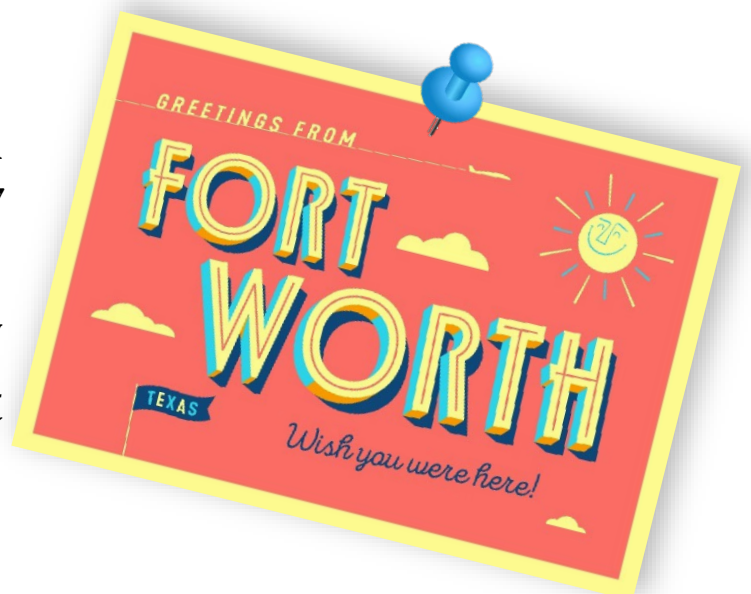
Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda, JCL, JD

10:30 a.m. Closing Remarks

SAVE THE DATE!

89th Annual Convention
October 11-14, 2027

Hyatt Regency
DFW Airport



CONVENTION INFORMATION

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hyatt Regency at the Arch
315 Chestnut Street
St. Louis, MO 63102
Room rate: \$174 + tax

Online room reservations:

[Click this link.](#)

You must reserve a hotel room; your convention fee does not include hotel accommodations.

Phone reservations:

Call 314-655-1234
Reference group code: **G-CLS6**

Cut-off date: September 18, 2026

Parking: Registered hotel guests attending the convention receive a 20% discount on parking.

TRANSPORTATION

The hotel is 15 miles from St. Louis Lambert Airport (STL). For a complete list of transportation options, please [click here](#).

Shuttle Service

CLSA convention attendees can get a discount through Super Shuttle for transportation to/from the hotel with discount code **CLSA26**. Reserve online at SuperShuttle.com or call 800-258-3826.

CONVENTION FEES

Your convention registration fee includes:

- ✓ Access to convention materials and presentations
- ✓ Welcome Reception on Monday
- ✓ Continental Breakfast Tuesday-Thursday
- ✓ Networking Lunch on Wednesday
- ✓ Annual Banquet on Wednesday
- ✗ The Pre-Convention Workshop is not included in the convention registration.

The Convention Booklet will be available online. Printed copies may be pre-ordered at the time of registration for an additional fee and picked up onsite.

Badges are required to attend the Business Meeting, all presentations, receptions, and food functions.

CANCELLATIONS

Make your cancellation request in writing to membershipcoordinator@clsa.org.

Request by August 31

- 100% refund of registration

Request between September 1-30

- 50% refund of registration

Request after September 30

- No refund

SAVE!
Register by
Aug. 31!

REGISTRATION FEES & DEADLINES

	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION Thru Aug. 31	REGULAR REGISTRATION Sept. 1-30	LATE REGISTRATION After Sept. 30
Pre-Convention Workshop	\$350	\$475	\$575
Convention Registration			
Active/Associate Member	\$525	\$700	\$850
Student Member	\$375	\$450	\$500
Non-CLSA Member	\$850	\$850	\$850
Guest Banquet Fee	\$125/guest		

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Office of the Vice President/President-Elect



Very Rev. Jamin Scott David

Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia
Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Ordained

Priest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, 2008

Education

- JCL, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 2011
- MDiv, Notre Dame Seminary & Graduate School of Theology, New Orleans, LA, 2008
- BA, St. Joseph Seminary College, Covington, LA, 2004

Positions Held

- Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia (2021-Present)
- College of Consultors (2019-Present)
- Judge, Diocese of Baton Rouge (2011-Present)

Service to the Society

- Member since 2009
- Treasurer (2022-2025)
- Senior Consultor (2025-Present)
- Resolutions Committee Member (2013-2016); Chair (2015-2016)
- Convention Planning Committee Chair (2016-2019)
- Sacramental Law Committee Chair (2020-2022)
- Professional Responsibility Committee Chair (2025-Present)
- Tribunal Audit Team Chair (2016, 2017, 2022, 2023, 2025)
- Major Address Panelist: "An Overview of *Mitis Iudex*, Two Years On," (Indianapolis, 2017)
- Workshop Presenter (San Diego, 2021)

Other Relevant Experience

- Conference of Chancery and Tribunal Officials (Vice President 2013; President 2014; Secretary-Treasurer 2015-Present)
- Episcopal Vicar for Strategic Planning (2019-2021)
- Secretary for Administration (2019-Present)
- College of Consultors (2019-Present)
- Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate (2014-2021)
- Trustee - FRAU, Baton Rouge (2018-Present)



Dr. Christina Hip-Flores

Canonist

Vocation

Consecrated in the Ordo Virginum of Santiago de Cuba, 2012

Education

- Princeton, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (BA, 1999)
- Harvard, Kennedy School of Government (MPP, 2004)
- Catholic University of America (JCL, 2010)
- University of Navarra (JCD, 2015)
- Catholic University of America (JD, 2021)

Ministerial Experience

Non-Canonical

- Spanish Catholic Center of the Archdiocese of Washington, Director of Social Programs (2004-2005)
- Lay Leadership Institute of the Archdiocese of Washington, Director (2005-2010)
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, Staff Attorney (2022-2024)

Canonical

- Practicing canon law since 2011. I began my canonical career as tribunal director in the Second Instance Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Santiago in Cuba.
- Defender of the Bond, Promotor of Justice, Collegial Judge, and Consultant for various tribunals in the United States, Cuba, and Mexico (2012-present)

Teaching

- Catholic International University (Marriage Law, Temporal Goods)
- St. John Seminary, Los Angeles (Introduction to Canon Law)

Service to the Society

- Member since 2012
- Committee on Consecrated Life (2015-2017, 2024-present)
- Presenter, Pre-Convention Workshop (2015)
- Consultor, Board of Governors (2017-2020)
- Presenter, Convention (2020)
- Contributor, New Commentary of the Code of Canon Law (*forthcoming*)

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Office of the Vice President/President-Elect



Dr. Benedict Nguyen

Executive Vice President,
Christendom College

Education

- D.Min-ABD, Nashotah House Seminary
- Ed.D, University of St. Thomas, Houston
- JD, Hamline University School of Law
- JCL, The Catholic University of America
- MTS, University of Dallas
- BA-Musicology, University of Kansas

Ministerial Experience

- Adjunct Professor of Canon Law (St. Mary Seminary, Houston, 2024-2026)
- Canonical Counsel, Promoter of Justice (Diocese of Corpus Christi, 2015-2022)
- Communications Director, Director of Sacred Worship (Diocese of Venice, 2014-2015)
- Asst. Professor, Ave Maria University, 2007-2015
- Adjunct Professor, Avila Institute (2014-2025)
- Instructor, Diaconate Formation, (Archdiocese of Kansas City and Diocese of Corpus Christi)
- Chancellor, Defender of the Bond, Director of Comms. (Diocese of La Crosse, 2003-2010)

Service to the Society

- Member since 2003
- Consultor, Board of Governors (2022-2025)
- Scholarship Committee (2024-2025)
- Convention Presenter (2024)
- Member, Publications Advisory Board (2022-2024)
- Member, Professional Responsibility Committee (2019-2022); Hearing Officer (2019-2022)
- Presenter, NW Regional Canon Law Society, 2022

Other Relevant Experience

- Asst. Professor, Center for Educational Philosophy & Leadership (current)
- Asst. Vice President for Student Affairs, University of St. Thomas (2022-2026)
- Dean of Students, University of St. Thomas (2022-2026)
- Adjunct Professor, Cameron School of Business (2021-2022)

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Office of the Secretary



Very Rev. Alan M. Guanella

Vicar General/Judicial Vicar
Diocese of La Crosse, WI

Ordination

Priest of the Diocese of La Crosse, 2013

Education

- GCert, Church Management, Villanova University, 2025
- JCL, Catholic University of America, 2019
- ThDip, Spiritual Theology, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, 2013
- STB, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, 2012
- BA, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, 2009

Ministerial Experience

- Judicial Vicar since 2025
- Adjunct Judicial Vicar, 2023-2025
- Judge, 2023-present
- Defender of the Bond, 2023-2025
- Pastor, 2019-2025
- High School Chaplain, 2013-2017
- Diaconate Program Lecturer in Liturgical Practica, 2014-2016
- Diaconate Program Lecturer Canon Law, 2026-present

Service to the Society

- Student Member, 2016-2019
- Active Member since 2019

Membership

- Canadian Canon Law Society since 2020
- Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland since 2020
- Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic (Third Order) since 2016
- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem since 2016

Other Relevant Experience

- Assessor for Administrative Penal Processes
- Promotor of Justice *ad causum*
- Canonist for Missionary Sisters
- Adoremus Bulletin contributor



Dr. Sofia Markovich

Secretary for Canonical Services
and Metropolitan Judge
Archdiocese of Washington, DC

Education

- JCD, The Catholic University of America
- JCL, Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy
- STL, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile
- STB, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile
- Diploma in Contemporary Philosophy, Alberto Hurtado University, Chile
- BA, Philosophy, Alberto Hurtado University, Chile

Ministerial Experience

- Metropolitan Judge, Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC (2017–present)
- Canonical Consultant, Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC (2015–present)
- Research Assistant, School of Canon Law, The Catholic University of America (2014–2017)
- Adjunct Faculty of Canon Law, Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies (2014–2016)
- FYE Teaching Fellow, School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America (2014–2016)

Service to the Society

- Member since 2014
- Committee on Church Governance (2018-2021)
- Committee on Research and Development (2022-2024)
- Committee on Sacramental Law (2022-2023)
- Member, and now chair of the Committee on Resolutions (2024-present)

Other Relevant Experience

- Member, Consociatio internationalis studio iuris canonici promovendo
- Member, The Canon Law Society of Chile
- Member, The John Carroll Society, Washington, DC

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Office of Consultor



Very Rev. J. David Carter

Pastor and Rector of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Chattanooga, TN; Judicial Vicar and Vice Chancellor for Canonical Affairs for the Diocese of Knoxville, TN

Ordination: Priesthood, July 1, 2005

Education

- BA from Conception Seminary College 2001
- STB from the Pontifical Gregorian University 2004
- JCL from the Pontifical Gregorian University, 2010

Ministerial Experience

- Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Chattanooga, TN 2005-2008
- Parochial Vicar, All Saints, Knoxville, 2010-2013
- Chaplain, Knoxville Catholic High School, 2013
- Pastor and Rector, Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Chattanooga, 2013-present

Service to the Society

- Member since 2010
- PAB 2025-present

Other Relevant Experience

- Episcopal Delegate for Diocesan Inquiry for Servant of God Fr. Patrick Ryan
- Promotor of Justice for Diocesan Inquiry for the Five Shreveport Martyrs



Rev. James Clark

Judicial Vicar & Chancellor of the Diocese of Memphis
Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Memphis, TN

Ordination: June 4, 2011

Education

- BA, Franciscan University of Steubenville (2005)
- MA Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville (2006)
- STB, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit (2008)
- JCL, St. Paul University, Ottawa (2018)
- JCD, St. Paul University, Ottawa (2025)

Ministerial Experience

- Parochial Vicar, St. Ann Parish, Bartlett, TN (2011-2012)
- Parochial Vicar, Holy Rosary Parish, Memphis, TN (2012-2016)
- Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Savannah, TN (2016-2017)
- Judicial Vicar & Chancellor, Diocese of Memphis (2018-present)
- Parochial Administrator, St. Anne Parish, Memphis (2025)
- Pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Memphis, TN (2026-present)

Service to the Society

- Member since 2015

Other Relevant Experience

- Judge & Defender of the Bond *ad causam* for other tribunals
- Assessor & Promoter of Justice for penal cases in other dioceses
- Instructor for Dispensations from the Clerical State

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Office of Consultor



Joe Gehret
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Education

- JCL, Catholic University of America
- BA, Marian University

Ministerial Experience

- Defender of the Bond, 2024-present
- Judge: 2022-2024
- Assessor/Auditor: 2019-2022
- Advocate: 2015-2019

Service to the Society

- Member since 2016 (Associate Member 2015-2020, Active 2021-present)
- Chair, Subcommittee on Convention Liturgy, 2021-2024

Other Relevant Experience

- Lecturer, Program for Deacon Formation, St. Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, 2026
- Voted "Most Likely to Become Famous," Versailles High School Class of 2010



Dcn. Matthew Glover
Chancellor and General Counsel
Diocese of Little Rock, AR

Ordination

Deacon of the Diocese of Little Rock, 2016

Education

- JCL, Catholic University of America (2015)
- JD, Univ. of Ark. Little Rock Bowen School of Law (2008)
- STB, Pontifical Gregorian University (2004)
- BA, Loyola University New Orleans (2001)

Ministerial Experience

- Deacon, Christ the King Church, Little Rock (2016-present) and St. Theresa Church, Little Rock (2024-present)
- Chancery and Tribunal work, various capacities, Diocese of Little Rock (2012-present))

Service to CLSA

- Student Member (2012-2015); Full Member (2015-present)
- Laity Committee (2018-2021; Chair, 2020-2021)
- Ad Hoc Committee on National Penal Tribunal (2020-2021)
- Strategic Visioning Task Force (2022-2024)
- Constitution Revision Commission (2024-present)
- Presentation: Canonical Issues in the Permanent Diaconate (2019 Convention)
- Presentation: Canonical Impacts of Immigration Law (2024 Convention)
- Authored Chapter 13, "Immigration Issues," in *Clergy Procedural Handbook*, 2nd ed. (2025)

Other Relevant Experience

- Instructor of canon law, philosophy, and theology in various programs
- Associate Attorney, Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP (2010-2012)
- Law Clerk to Chief Judge of a Federal District Court (2008-2010)

FREQUENTLY ASKED CONVENTION QUESTIONS

Is the Pre-Convention Workshop part of my convention registration?

No. The pre-convention workshop is a separate registration fee.

Can I come to just one day of the convention?

Yes. Call the CLSA office at 202-238-1460 for pricing and registration information.

Am I eligible to vote at the Business Meeting on Wednesday?

CLSA Active Members with current dues may vote in elections and on resolutions. If you are eligible, there will be a voting voucher in your registration envelope. You **must** bring this voucher to the Business Meeting to receive ballots. We do not provide replacement copies if you forget/lose yours.

Can I bring a guest to the receptions or the banquet?

Guest badges are not available for the Pre-Convention Workshop Reception or the convention's Opening Reception. You may purchase a guest badge for the Annual Banquet for \$125 when you register. All attendees and guests must be properly badged to attend. We do not sell guest badges onsite.

Will a room be set aside during the convention at the hotel for the Blessed Sacrament to be present for prayer and adoration?

After study and careful discernment, we cannot make the Blessed Sacrament available in a hotel room for several important reasons, including security risks, risk of theft or desecration, and a lack of liturgical infrastructure. The Archdiocese of St. Louis has a [downloadable spreadsheet](#) of adoration locations and times. We recommend you verify the information with the particular parish.

How far is the Wednesday Mass from the hotel? Is there parking?

The Installation Mass is at the [Basilica of St. Louis, King of France](#), about a four-minute walk from the hotel. Shuttle service is not available. No general parking will be available for however; there is designated handicapped accessible parking onsite. Please see a member of the staff at the registration desk for information.

Do I have to pay for a printed convention workbook this year?

Yes. The print-on-demand option is available for pre-order again this year. You must order it when you register. We will not have copies for purchase on site. The workbook will be posted online by October 1 for those who wish to print it at home. It will also be available to view or print on Guidebook.

How does Guidebook work? Do I need a special app?

Guidebook is an online tool with complete convention information, including room assignments, handouts, resolutions, and more. To use it on your mobile device, you will need to download the free Guidebook app. There are step-by-step instructions for downloading the app on our [2026 convention webpage](#).

Many of our presenters provide electronic handouts that will be available on Guidebook for several months after the convention. Even if you didn't attend a session, you can still view/download any handouts on Guidebook.

You will need a passphrase to access Guidebook. The 2026 passphrase is **2026Arch**.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete all fields and print clearly. All fields are required.

Name: _____

Name as it will appear
on your convention badge: _____

City/State or Organization as it will
appear on your convention badge: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

CLSA Member Status Active/Honorary Associate
 Student Member Non-Member

Is this your first time attending a CLSA Convention? Yes No

Will you attend the Banquet? Yes No

Please note any dietary restrictions: Vegetarian Vegan Gluten-Free

Are you bringing a guest to the Banquet? (\$125) Yes No

If yes, guest name: _____

Guest dietary restrictions: Vegetarian Vegan Gluten-Free

Optional Pre-Convention Workshop (separate fee; see next page)

Understanding Trauma and Supporting Trauma Survivors in Canon Lawyers and Tribunal Staff

The Role of Canon Law and the Canonist in Building a Culture of Safeguarding and Care

Select the seminars you will attend.

Selecting the seminars helps us assign appropriate room sizes for each session.

Tuesday, October 13 11:30 a.m.

A1 A2 A3 A4

Wednesday, October 14 9:00 a.m.

C1 C2 C3 C4

Tuesday, October 13 2:30 p.m.

B1 B2 B3 B4

Wednesday, October 14 2:30 p.m.

D1 D2 D3 D4

Please complete the payment information on the next page.

Payment Information

All payments must be in U.S. dollars.

Cancellation policies can be found on page 13.

	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION Thru Aug. 31	REGULAR REGISTRATION Sept. 1-30	LATE REGISTRATION After Sept. 30
Pre-Convention Workshop	\$350	\$475	\$575
Convention Registration			
Active/Associate Member	\$525	\$700	\$850
CLSA Student Member	\$375	\$450	\$500
Non-CLSA Member	\$850	\$850	\$850

Printed Convention Workbook* \$13

Guest Banquet Fee \$125/guest

Pre-Convention Workshop Fee \$ _____

Convention Registration Fee \$ _____

Printed Convention Booklet* (\$13/book) ... \$ _____

**Optional: this will be available online to print at home for no cost and will be posted on Guidebook.*

Guest Banquet Fee (\$125/guest) \$ _____

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN NOW & SAVE!

Active Member Dues (\$400) \$ _____

Associate Member Dues (\$400) \$ _____

Student Member Dues (\$175) \$ _____

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Scholarship Fund Donation..... \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____



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Return your completed form with your payment to
 CLSA Convention
620 Michigan Ave. NE Gowan Hall #200
Washington, DC 20064

PRESENTERS

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Dr. Heather T. Banis, PhD, Victims Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Stephen T. Carroll, PhD, LCPC, Director of Education & Aftercare Services, Saint Luke Institute

Dr. Teresa Kettelkamp, Former Adjunct Secretary, Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

Rev. Gregory T. Luyet, JCL, Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Little Rock, AR

KEYNOTE

Dr. John P. Slattery, PhD, Executive Director, Grefenstette Center for Ethics, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

MAJOR ADDRESS

Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda, JD, JCL, Archbishop of the Diocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN

SPEAKERS

Rev. Luke Beckett, OSB, General Secretary, Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Br. Joseph Britt, CFX, Archivist, Xaverian Brothers

Dr. Linda Budney, JCD, Defender of the Bond, Archdiocese of Washington, DC

Dr. David Castronovo, JD, JCD, Advocate of the Roman Rota, Wilmington, DE

Sr. Deborah Cerullo, SSND, JD, JCL, Fairfield, CT

Rev. Eric Culler, JCL, Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Toledo, OH

Rev. John D. Faris, JCOD, Pastor of Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church, Glen Allen, VA; Professor at The Catholic University of America

Very Rev. Robert Herbst, OFM Conv., JCD, Chancellor & Judicial Vicar, Archdiocese of Las Vegas, NV

Rev. Michael Joyce, CM, JCD, Perryville, MO

Prof. Tiffany C. Li, JD, MSt, Associate Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Paul Luniw, JCOD, Judicial Vicar; Pastor; Hospital Chaplain, Terryville, CT

Rev. Patrick J. McDevitt, CM, PhD, President & CEO, Saint Luke Institute

Rev. Christopher R. Seibt, PhL, STL, JCL, Pastor of the Parishes of Sacred Heart and Divine Mercy; Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Syracuse, NY

Rev. Vincent Woo, JCD, Assistant Professor at St. Patrick's Seminary and University, Menlo Park, CA; Defender of the Bond, Diocese of Oakland, CA