

Cover art by *Erinn McCusker*

2026 SUMMER BAR CONFERENCE
Samoset Resort, Rockport
June 24-26



A Message from the President

As we celebrate the Maine State Bar Association's 135th anniversary, this year's Summer Bar Conference offers an opportunity not only to learn, but to reconnect with colleagues, strengthen professional relationships, and celebrate the enduring spirit of Maine's legal community.

For the first time in many years, we return to the Samoset Resort — a setting that reflects both our history and our future. Generations of Maine lawyers have gathered there to exchange ideas, build friendships, and engage with the broader legal world. We are excited to continue that tradition this June.

This year's conference will feature timely CLE programming, recognition of award recipients and Leadership Academy graduates, a special anniversary celebration, and programming tied to the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

I hope you will join us at the Samoset as we celebrate 135 years of the MSBA and the connections that continue to strengthen our profession.

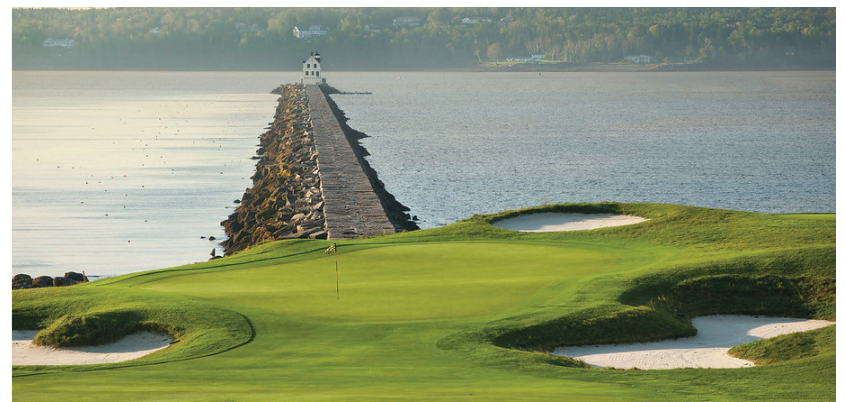
Warm Regards,



Rachel Okun
President, Maine State Bar Association



Samoset Resort, Rockport



About the Cover: As we celebrate our 135th anniversary, we're honored to revisit this cover art from the Summer Bar Conference in 2014—a visual nod to our shared history and the enduring strength of Maine's legal community. Looking back reminds us how far we've come, while inspiring the work still ahead.

IN-PERSON: SAMOSET RESORT, ROCKPORT

REGISTRATION:

Register online at www.mainebar.org/event/SBC26, or submit your registration form via email/mail. Pre-registration is available through **June 21**. No registrations will be accepted without payment.

WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS:

All walk-in registrants will be required to pay the applicable registration fee at the **non-member rate**.

CANCELLATIONS:

You may cancel your in-person registration for a full refund through **June 5**. Cancellations made from **June 6-16** will be assessed a **\$75 administrative fee**. NO REFUNDS will be made after **June 16**. The date of cancellation is the date received at Bar Headquarters in Augusta. To cancel your in-person registration, please contact Jennifer Altmiller at jaltmiller@mainebar.org or 207-622-7523.

SWITCHING FROM IN-PERSON TO WEBCAST:

Registrants who wish to switch their in-person registration to a webcast registration must contact the MSBA to cancel the in-person registration and then register online for the webcast (see pg. 4 for webcast registration instructions). The MSBA cannot transfer your in-person registration to the live webcast.

Please note: the same cancellation policy and timeline (see above) apply when switching from in-person to webcast.

DRESS CODE:

Dress is business casual.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Registrants, instructors, exhibitors, and guests attending the Summer Bar Conference agree they may be photographed during the event. Photographic materials are the sole property of the MSBA, and the MSBA reserves the right to use attendees' names and likenesses in promotional materials without providing monetary compensation.

MATERIALS:

A link to program materials will be provided by email to all registrants prior to the program.

CLE CREDITS:*

Thursday, June 25: Up to 5.5 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics.

Friday, June 26: Up to 3.5 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics and H&D.

PRACPRO: All sessions have been approved for practice and procedure credit under Maine's reciprocal admission rule.

*CLE credits will not be reported to the Board of Overseers if you have a balance due. Once we receive full payment, credits will be forwarded.

DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEES:

- Public Sector members save 10% at checkout.
- Non Profit members save 10% at checkout.
- New Lawyers Section members save 25% (must call MSBA for coupon code).

RESTRICTIONS:

- Discounts do not apply to meal only tickets.
- Discounts do not apply to virtual (webcast) registrations.
- One discount code per registration. Discount codes cannot be combined.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

A limited number of guest rooms remain available. Please contact the hotel at 1-800-341-1650 and mention the Maine State Bar Association to reserve your room. Room rates range from \$319-\$339 per night, plus applicable taxes. **Deadline to book your room is June 1**. Please note that a nightly resort fee will be added to the room rate.

Samoset Room Cancellation Reminder: Full-refund room cancellations must be made at least seven days prior to the arrival date. If you no longer need your room, please have the hotel release it to the MSBA, and we will take care of the cancellation if we no longer need the room.

Samoset Waitlist: If you would like to be added to the waitlist for a guest room at the Samoset, please contact Molly Rogers at mrogers@mainebar.org or 207-622-7523.

Additional Area Hotels:

[Rockport Harbor Hotel | Hotel Rockport, ME | Maine Lodging](#)

[Harkness Brook Inn, Rockport \(updated prices 2026\)](#)

[Hampton Inn By Hilton & Suites Rockland Rooms And Rates - Guest Reservations](#)

[Camden Riverhouse Hotel - Camden Maine Lodging](#)

VIRTUAL: HOW TO REGISTER FOR LIVE WEBCAST

Sessions being webcast on Thursday and Friday are indicated below and highlighted in blue on pages 5–6.

WEBCAST PRICING:

\$90 per session.

REGISTRATION:

Click [here](#) to register directly on InReach. You will access this CLE program through a third-party website, which requires its own username and password. Please note that your MSBA login credentials will not work on this website. **You cannot register for the webcast via email or mail.**

CANCELLATIONS:

You must contact InReach at 877-880-1335 to cancel your webcast registration. In order to receive a full refund, you must cancel your registration prior to day of the live airing of the session(s). You cannot cancel your registration once the webcast has aired. NO REFUNDS will be made after the webcast has aired. If you have any questions about this cancellation process, please contact Jennifer at 207-622-7523, option #3 or by email jaltmiller@mainebar.org.

SWITCHING FROM WEBCAST TO IN-PERSON:

Registrants who wish to switch their webcast registration to an in-person registration **must contact InReach to cancel their webcast registration (see above)** and then re-register for the in-person program either online at www.mainebar.org/event/SBC26 or via phone/email/mail. To register for the in-person program after June 21, you will need to register as a walk-in at the Samoset and pay the applicable registration fee at the non-member rate. Please note: the same cancellation policy and timeline (see above) apply when switching from webcast to in-person. Be sure to review the in-person cancellation policy and timeline on page 3 as well.

MATERIALS:

Program materials will be uploaded to your registration account when they are available.

CLE CREDITS:*

Thursday, June 25: Up to 4.5 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics.

Friday, June 26: Up to 2.0 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics and H&D.

PRACPRO: All virtual sessions have been approved for practice and procedure credit under Maine's reciprocal admission rule.

*CLE credits will not be reported to the Board of Overseers if you have a balance due. Once we receive full payment, credits will be forwarded.

Virtual Sessions Include:

1. Maine eCourts: What's Live, What's Next, & What It Means for You
2. An Employer's Guide to Managing AI Risk in the Workplace
7. Isolated Incident to System Failure: Reframing Cases to Unlock Full Case Value
10. Rule of Law (ethics)
14. Billing, Budgets & Burnout: The Financial Drivers Behind Attorney Wellness (ethics)
17. Harassment, Discrimination, & Bullying: Impacts for Lawyers & Legal Practice (H&D)

ACTIVITIES

Samoset Golf Course

The Samoset Resort offers one of New England's premier 18-hole golf courses. If you wish to golf during your stay, contact the Pro Shop at 207-594-1431 to book a tee time. Due to high demand for tee times, guests are encouraged to book early.



Morning Group Run: Thursday, June 25

6:00 a.m.

Start your day with a scenic run at the Samoset! Attendees are invited to opt in for a casual group run on Thursday morning. We'll meet in the lobby at 6:00 a.m. and head out from there. All paces welcome – come join us with Jim Haddow and Chris Harmon!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Highlighted courses are being offered as a live webcast.
Separate registration is required. See page 4 for details.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

- 2:00-4:00** Board of Governors Meeting
- 3:00-5:00** Registration Open
- 5:00-7:00** Welcome Reception
Life Member Recognition & In Memoriam

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- 7:00-3:15** Registration Open
- 7:00-8:00** Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00-9:15** Plenary Session (1.0 credit)
 1. Maine eCourts: What's Live, What's Next, & What It Means for You
- 9:15-9:45** Sponsor Break
- 9:45-10:45** Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit)
 2. An Employer's Guide to Managing AI Risk in the Workplace
 3. Helping Heroes: Transfer on Death Deeds & Estate Planning for Veterans
 4. The Magic of Opening Statements
 5. Taking Charge of You & Your Future (ethics)
- 10:45-11:15** Sponsor Break
- 11:15-12:15** Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit)
 6. ChatGPT & You: A Basic Practical Guidance on the Use of AI
 7. Isolated Incident to System Failure: Reframing Cases to Unlock Full Case Value
 8. Pro Bono & Access to Justice (ethics)
 9. Using Trademark Law to Fight Back Against AI Impersonation
- 12:15-1:45** Awards Lunch
PTLA Award for Pro Bono Service, The DeTroy Award, and MSBA John W. Ballou Award
- 1:45-3:15** Plenary Session (1.5 ethics credits)
 10. Rule of Law
- 3:15-6:00** Free Time
- 3:30-4:30** Yoga (1.0 credit)
 11. Balance at the Bar: Yoga to Build Stress Resilience
- 6:00-8:30** Dinner
Recognition of the Leadership Academy Class of 2026
- 8:30** After-Party, sponsored by Gideon Asen
(open bar, live music)

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, June 25

8:30 p.m.

After a full day of programming, unwind and enjoy an evening of connection and celebration. The After Party features an open bar and live music, with entertainment by the Don Campbell Band.

Known for their energy and versatility, the Don Campbell Band blends a wide range of musical styles—from classic rock and country to heartfelt original songs—creating a dynamic performance that engages every audience. Led by award-winning multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter Don Campbell, the group delivers a high-caliber live experience designed to perform for the audience, not at them.

Sponsored by:



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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Separate registration is required. See page 4 for details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

- 7:00-11:45 Registration Open**
- 7:00-8:30 Buffet Breakfast**
- 7:30-8:15 Past Presidents' Breakfast**
- 8:30-10:00 Plenary Session (1.5 credits)**
12. Thomas Jefferson and The Boisterous Sea of Liberty
- 10:00-10:30 Sponsor Break**
- 10:30-11:30 Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit)**
13. All You Ever Wanted to Know About Being a GAL but Were Afraid to Ask
14. Billing, Budgets & Burnout: The Financial Drivers Behind Attorney Wellness (**ethics**)
15. Negotiation in Litigation: The Psychology Behind Getting Your Client a Fair Deal
16. Paper Streets, Real Problems
- 11:30-11:45 Transition Break**
- 11:45-12:45 Plenary Session (1.0 H&D credit)**
17. Harassment, Discrimination, & Bullying: Impacts for Lawyers & Legal Practice
- 12:45 Program Adjourns**

GUEST SPEAKER: STEVE EDENBO

Steve Edenbo portrays Thomas Jefferson in keynote speeches and theatrical programs for audiences across the United States. A resident fellow at Monticello's International Center for Jefferson Studies, he has studied Jefferson's life, leadership, and ideas since 1999.

Steve stars as Jefferson in the six-episode History Channel documentary *Thomas Jefferson* (2025), appearing as the author of the Declaration of Independence from 1776 through his death in 1826.

His featured presentations bring Jefferson's presidential leadership and vision to audiences at corporate symposiums, Continuing Legal Education conferences, universities, and major civic institutions throughout the United States.

Steve's clientele includes the Smithsonian Institution, the FBI, the National Governors Association, the University of Virginia, Independence National Historical Park, the US National Archives in Washington, DC, and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello.



What Attendees Are Saying About Steve Edenbo as Jefferson:

"Thomas Jefferson was without a doubt "the" best speaker of the conference. Absolutely amazing, and I am old and usually more reserved on ratings. Talk about sizing up the obvious while comparing the times! Steve "was Thomas Jefferson."

"I had no idea what to expect from this session and it ended up being one of the most memorable presentations at any conference I have ever attended."

"This program blew me away, it was great! I did not have high expectations based on the description, but the speaker was excellent. I would love to bring something like this back to my association."

"I honestly was not sure if I would enjoy this presentation, however, I found myself captivated by his speaking/presentation. Truly a memorable CLE!"

" The Best part of the event!!!!"

Congratulations to Our 2026 Life Members

Join us at the Wednesday reception to celebrate and thank these individuals for their 50 years of service to the legal community.

C. Alan Beagle, Esq. <i>Portland</i>	Robert W. Kline, Esq. <i>Falmouth</i>	Joseph M. O'Donnell, Esq. <i>Augusta</i>	N. Laurence Willey Jr., Esq. <i>Bangor</i>
John D. Clifford IV, Esq. <i>Lisbon Falls</i>	David A. Lourie, Esq. <i>Cape Elizabeth</i>	Stephen J. O'Donnell, Esq. <i>Augusta</i>	Steven F. Wright, Esq. <i>Portland</i>
Barry A. Cohen, Esq. <i>Bangor</i>	James L. McCarthy, Esq. <i>South Portland</i>	George B. Schwabe III, Esq. <i>Oklahoma City, OK</i>	
Martin I. Eisenstein, Esq. <i>Lewiston</i>	The Hon. Andrew M. Mead <i>Bangor</i>	John C. Sheldon, Esq. <i>Portland</i>	
Gordon F. Grimes, Esq. <i>Portland</i>	Samuel H. Merrill, Esq. <i>South Portland</i>	Ira J. Waldman, Esq. <i>Playa del Rey, CA</i>	

John W. Ballou Award

Catherine Moore

Catherine Moore is a lifelong resident of Jefferson, a graduate of Lincoln Academy, and the holder of an associate degree in business administration. Over the years, she has served her community as an election clerk for the Town of Jefferson, chair of the Planning Board, public librarian, co-chair of Jefferson's Bicentennial, and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Jefferson Fire & Rescue.

Her county service began as a part-time deeds clerk and occasionally covering the afternoon shift for Register Chester Fossett in Lincoln County's Registry of Probate. In August 2006, she was hired as a full-time Probate Clerk, and in June 2014, was promoted to Deputy Register of Probate.

From September through November 2014, Ms. Moore ran a successful write-in campaign and was elected Register of Probate. She was officially sworn into office Jan. 1, 2015. Her top priority is providing exceptional service to every person who visits the Probate Office.

Since taking office, Ms. Moore has worked to make all probate records—from 1760 to the present—available online. Over the past several years, the Deputy Register of Probate has made significant progress on this effort, and the project is expected to be completed within the several years.

Ms. Moore currently serve as President of the Maine Association of Registers of Probate and has provided testimony to the Maine Legislature on bills related to probate matters. Currently she is running for re-election to continue serving as Lincoln County Register of Probate.



Pine Tree Legal Assistance Award for Pro Bono Service

Brian Cullen, Esq.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA) is pleased to honor volunteer attorney Brian Cullen with the *Pine Tree Legal Assistance Award for Pro Bono Service* for his dedicated service to PTLA clients in 2025. Attorney Cullen practiced in Boston for nearly 40 years before moving to Maine and beginning his volunteer work with PTLA. He initially joined PTLA's Wills for Heroes program to assist veterans and their spouses with estate planning. After completing his first two cases, Attorney Cullen asked how he could further assist Pine Tree clients and began participating in PTLA's Eviction Defense Project in Lewiston District Court.

He has expanded PTLA's capacity to assist tenants by taking eviction cases on a "pick-up" basis, meeting clients for the first time at court. In the process, he has honed his ability to successfully represent tenants with complex issues, including those in subsidized housing, and has negotiated creative and holistic solutions. Attorney Cullen has been a compassionate advocate for each of his clients and has emphasized how much he enjoys working with PTLA clients and staff to increase access to justice in Maine.



The DeTroy Award presented by the Campaign for Justice

The Campaign for Justice Steering Committee created The DeTroy Award in 2017 in honor of Peter J. DeTroy III, Esq., one of Maine's most esteemed lawyers. Peter DeTroy died of a heart attack May 28, 2016, while riding his bike near his home in Portland's Munjoy Hill neighborhood. He was 68. A practicing lawyer in Maine since 1972 and a founding partner of the law firm Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, he became one of the state's most accomplished lawyers over the decades. He handled both civil and criminal cases and was often sought out by other lawyers when they needed legal representation. Peter served on a number of committees devoted to ensuring that the practice of law was inclusive, without discrimination, and without unnecessary barriers to young lawyers eager to learn. He was a problem-solver, a counselor, and a zealous protector and defender of rights. He was a lawyer who harmonized empathy, passion, trust, integrity, and thoughtfulness in every case he handled in his long and impressive career. Peter also made an impact on the lives of people who didn't ask for help. He took the time to listen and assist people with matters in their personal life. Peter was a humanitarian who made Maine a better place to live for everyone. He did not seek recognition for so many acts of kindness, coaching, counseling, or just listening that changed people's lives for the better.

This award is given to:

1. An individual who has worked to remove barriers for people who are vulnerable or who has worked to advance justice in Maine, and
2. In keeping with the spirit of Peter's contributions, both public and private, which were made not for recognition, but to further someone's humanity or the good of the community, an individual who has made such contributions, including those whose contributions have been unheralded.

Thank You to Our Exhibitors & Annual Partners

Exhibitors



Annual Partners



Highlighted courses are being offered as a live webcast.
Separate registration is required. See page 4 for details.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

8:00-9:15 | PLENARY SESSION (1.0 CREDIT)

#01 Maine eCourts: What's Live, What's Next, & What It Means for You

The Maine Judicial Branch invites you to attend an upcoming session on the continued rollout of Maine eCourts, with full statewide implementation anticipated by February 2027. This program will provide valuable insights drawn from regions already live, outline the implementation timeline for the remaining regions, and highlight what stakeholders can expect as each region transitions to the new system. Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage directly with the implementation team and receive answers to their questions.

Speakers: *Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill, Maine Supreme Judicial Court*
Jenny Anderson, Esq., Director of Court Services, Administrative Office of the Courts
Amanda J. Doherty, Esq., Criminal Process Manager, Administrative Office of the Courts
Kyle Ferrill, Court Operations Manager, State of Maine Judicial Branch
Chris Oberg, Chief Information Officer, State of Maine Judicial Branch

9:45-10:45 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1.0 CREDIT)

#02 An Employer's Guide to Managing AI Risk in the Workplace

It seems that nearly every facet of society, including our workplaces, is being impacted by the advancement of AI. With new opportunities come new challenges. This session will focus on practical steps to manage AI in your firm or client's workplace, the risks associated with using AI for HR and employment decisions, the emerging claims resulting from the use of AI at work, and strategies for communicating with challenging employees who threaten to overwhelm HR with AI-generated emails.

Speakers: *Peter D. Lowe, Esq., Brann & Isaacson*
David B. Joyce, Esq., Brann & Isaacson

#03 Helping Heroes: Transfer on Death Deeds & Estate Planning for Veterans

Dozens of veterans across Maine are referred to Pine Tree Legal Assistance each year for the Wills for Heroes program, which offers estate planning to eligible veterans and their spouses or partners. Most of these referrals come through VA health care facilities, and the estate planning services are provided pro bono by volunteer attorneys. Many of these veterans own their homes. Experienced estate planning attorney Eleanor Dominguez is an active volunteer with the Wills for Heroes program and will offer training on Transfer on Death Deeds in Maine and the legal considerations involved in choosing this estate planning option for clients who own real estate, in conjunction with the preparation of simple wills. Pine Tree Legal Assistance staff will provide information at the end of the training about the Wills for Heroes program and how you can get involved.

Speakers: *Eleanor L. Dominguez, Esq., Opticliff Law LLC*
Mary Murphy, Pine Tree Legal Assistance

#04 The Magic of Opening Statements

Trials are often won based on first impressions. In many civil cases, these first impressions are the opening statements. This presentation discusses the basics of storytelling - including what to say and how to say it.

Speaker: *David A. Soley, Esq., Bernstein Shur*

#05 Taking Charge of You & Your Future (ethics)

This will be an interactive session with lecture and storytelling to help attendees learn about goal setting. We will work together to recognize what we can and cannot control within our lives to be able to develop action steps to work toward our goals and take control of our future.

Speaker: *Amanda N. Bisol, Esq., Maine Elder Law Attorneys*

11:15-12:15 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1.0 CREDIT)

#06 ChatGPT & You: A Basic Practical Guidance on the Use of AI

Learn how to use ChatGPT and other similar chatbots in your routine practice. Examine the pros as well as the potential pitfalls of using this type of tool, as well as ethical considerations. This session will include a real-time walkthrough using actual prompts to show how ChatGPT works.

Speaker: *Mitchel J. Roberge, Esq., Peters & Roberge, P.A.*

#07 Isolated Incident to System Failure: Reframing Cases to Unlock Full Case Value

Many personal injury cases are initially framed as isolated incidents: an individual mistake, a momentary lapse, or a single bad outcome. Closer examination, however, often reveals broader system failures that not only explain what occurred, but fundamentally alter the value and trajectory of the case. This seminar will explore how to identify, develop, and present system failure theories in civil litigation. Attendees will learn practical strategies for uncovering patterns of conduct, analyzing corporate policies and practices, and using discovery to shift the narrative from individual error to institutional responsibility. The program will also address effective methods for presenting these themes to judges, mediators, and juries. Drawing on recent case victories by the presenters—including cases resulting in over \$100 million in settlements and jury awards over the past three years—this session will include case examples, strategic insights, and practical techniques for building and proving system failure claims from initial case evaluation through trial.

Speakers: *Trevor D. Savage, Esq., Gideon Asen, LLC*
Meryl E. Poulin, Esq., Gideon Asen, LLC

#08 Pro Bono & Access to Justice (ethics)

At a time when access to justice is a critical issue facing the Maine Bar, this CLE session will examine how limited-scope representation can serve as a practical, ethical, and scalable tool for expanding pro bono legal services. As courts, legal aid organizations, and volunteer lawyers continue to confront overwhelming unmet civil legal needs, unbundled representation offers a flexible model for increasing access to justice while making pro bono participation more manageable for busy practitioners. The session will explore the legal and ethical framework governing limited-scope representation, common practice models in high-need areas such as family law and veterans' estate planning, and the operational considerations necessary to build strong referral, screening, and support systems. Presenters will also address risk management, client communication, and lessons learned from pro bono programs that have successfully used limited-scope models to engage more attorneys and deliver meaningful assistance to more people. This session will also review the recent pilot amendment to the Maine Bar Rules that allows up to 3 hours of CLE credit each year for attorneys who perform qualifying pro bono services. This session will be presented by members of the Justice Action Group (JAG) Pro Bono Committee.

Speakers: *Katharine N. Brimmer, Esq., Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project*
J. David Canarie, Jr., Esq., Canarie Law
Shannon Karam, Esq., Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Amanda J. LaBelle, Esq., Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project
Marcia Levy, Maine University of Maine School of Law

#09 Using Trademark Law to Fight Back Against AI Impersonation

One's right to control the commercial use of their name, image, likeness, and voice arises from an inconsistent patchwork of state "right of publicity" laws. The rise of generative artificial intelligence exposes considerable disadvantages surrounding lack of a federal right of publicity in the United States. Increasingly, celebrities are exploring trademark law as a means for opposing unauthorized AI impersonation. Will it work? We don't yet know. In this session, we will use examples from today's news to explore the legal strengths and weaknesses of this approach. The discussion will serve as a base for delivering basic copyright, trademark, and right of publicity concepts applicable to clients in all industries.

Speaker: *Elizabeth T. Russell, Esq., Law Office of Elizabeth T. Russell LLC*

1:45-3:15 | PLENARY SESSION (1.5 ETHICS CREDITS)

#10 Rule of Law

This session will focus on upholding the rule of law, one of the foundations of our 250-year-old democracy and our cherished rights to due process and equal justice. Participants will view a video of Harvard Professor Noah Feldman's dynamic speech at USM's recent Public Forum on How to Save the Rule of Law, followed by a discussion and a Q&A session led by a panel of Maine attorneys.

Speakers: *Brett D. Baber, Esq., Russell Johnson Beaupain*
Susan A. Faunce, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA
William S. Harwood, Esq., Office of Public Advocate

3:30-4:30 | YOGA (1.0 CREDIT)

#11 Balance at the Bar: Yoga to Build Stress Resilience

This class is designed to help attorneys manage the demands of legal practice through movement, breathwork, and nervous system regulation. Participants will be guided through postures that release tension, improve flexibility, and promote relaxation, along with restorative poses to reset the body's stress response. The course will highlight how chronic stress impacts focus, decision-making, and overall performance, while offering practical techniques to improve mental clarity, maintain composure, and support a more balanced, sustainable legal practice. **Please bring your own mat.**

Instructor: *Marcia E. DeGeer, Esq., Gallagher Villeneuve & DeGeer PLLC*

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

8:30-10:00 | PLENARY SESSION (1.5 CREDITS)

#12 Thomas Jefferson and The Boisterous Sea of Liberty

"The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave." — Thomas Jefferson

In this 90-minute one-man theatrical address, Jefferson reflects on what he called "the Revolution of 1800" — the first peaceful transfer of executive power between rival political parties under the Constitution, and a moment when American self-government was tested at its constitutional core. Through his relationships with Adams, Hamilton, and Burr, Jefferson examines the difference between principled disagreement and bad-faith political action, and what that distinction means for the durability of constitutional institutions. Drawing on Cicero, Montesquieu, and the failures of popular governments in Rome, Athens, and Revolutionary France, Jefferson offers reflections that resonate strongly with legal professionals — on stewardship, institutional restraint, and the role of professional communities in sustaining the rule of law across generations. The presentation concludes with an in-character Q&A in which audience members may question President Jefferson directly.

Speaker: *Steve Edenbo*

10:30-11:30 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1.0 CREDIT)

#13 All You Ever Wanted to Know About Being a GAL but Were Afraid to Ask

This is an overview and update about the guardian ad litem (GAL) regulatory system, including information regarding qualifications and registration, recruitment, a rules review — including an update on the rule revision process — and all things GAL.

Speakers: *Aria Eee, Esq., Board of Overseers of the Bar*
Mara R. King, Esq., Board of Overseers of the Bar
Kaela L. Scott, Esq., Administrative Office of the Courts

#14 Billing, Budgets & Burnout: The Financial Drivers Behind Attorney Wellness (ethics)

The attorney wellness crisis is well-documented — but the conversation rarely starts where many of the problems do: in the numbers. Unrealistic billing targets, poor cash flow planning, misaligned compensation structures, and the pressure of a firm's financial dysfunction land directly on the attorney doing the work. This session connects the CFO lens to the wellness conversation, introducing the KPI Flywheel — a whole-firm health framework — to help attendees identify the financial and operational patterns that drive burnout and build the metrics discipline to address them at the firm level.

Speaker: *Andrew Wood, MBA, MSF, Wood Consulting Group*

#15 Negotiation in Litigation: The Psychology Behind Getting Your Client a Fair Deal

Over 95 percent of cases settle before trial. In other words, even those of us who call ourselves "trial lawyers" are more professional negotiators than anything else. And yet, in our education and training, we spend little—if any—time thinking about how to effectively negotiate. This presentation will include an overview of the most important work on negotiation. Learn how it relates to the world of litigation and gain concrete tactics to use in your practice to improve outcomes for your clients.

Speaker: *Taylor A. Asen, Esq., Gideon Asen LLC*

#16 Paper Streets, Real Problems

The existence of paper streets presents thorny issues that need to be resolved when advising clients who own property abutting paper streets or within a subdivision that contains such streets. This presentation will focus on how the Paper Streets Act works to resolve who holds title to those streets and whether any public or private easement rights burden those streets and outline the practical steps that need to be taken to determine the extent of those rights.

Speaker: *Sean Turley, Esq., Murray Plumb & Murray*

11:45 - 12:45 | PLENARY SESSION (1.0 H&D CREDIT)

#17 Harassment, Discrimination, & Bullying: Impacts for Lawyers & Legal Practice

This seminar will focus on Maine's mandatory harassment and discrimination education credit requirement but will expand the scope of the discussion. We will define the rules as they apply to lawyers but also as they impact places of employment, including law practices. Topics will include: application of the rules governing harassment, bullying, and discrimination, specifically Rule 8.4; defining and understanding what constitutes unlawful conduct based on protected characteristics; best practices in preventing and responding to harassment, bullying, discrimination issues; and implementing effective policies.

Speakers: *Paige Eggleston, Esq., Bernstein Shur*
Anne-Marie L. Storey, Esq., Bernstein Shur

2026 Summer Bar Conference Registration Form

Please complete both sides of this form and return both completed pages.

Attendees of the meeting consent to being photographed for historical and marketing purposes.

Name of Registrant _____ ME Bar # _____ First time attendee

Organization _____

Email Address _____ Tel # _____

Names of Guests _____

Dietary Restrictions/Food Allergies: Gluten-Free Vegan Other: _____

Registration Information: Pre-registration is available until **June 21**. No registrations will be accepted without payment.

Cancellations: You may cancel your registration for a full refund through **June 5**. Cancellations made from **June 6–16**, will be assessed a **\$75 administrative fee**. NO REFUNDS will be made **after June 16**. The date of cancellation is the date received at Bar Headquarters in Augusta.

Walk-In Registrations: All walk-in registrants will be required to pay the applicable registration fee **at the non-member rate**.

1 Full Registration (Wednesday - Friday)

Includes: Wed. reception; Thurs. breakfast, lunch, dinner, after-party, and CLE; and Fri. breakfast and CLE.

FULL MEETING

Member: \$475 | Non-Member: \$600

Please check the meals you are attending:

- Wednesday Reception
- Thursday Breakfast
- Thursday Awards Lunch (please choose below)
 - Vegetable Stir-Fry
 - Chicken Stir-Fry
- Thursday Dinner
- Thursday After-Party
- Friday Breakfast

2 Meals only (non-registrants & guests)

	PRICE	QTY (#)	TOTAL
Wed. Reception	\$50	_____	_____
Thurs. Breakfast	\$ 0	_____	_____
Thurs. Awards Lunch			
Vegetable Stir Fry.....	\$40	_____	_____
Chicken Stir Fry.....	\$40	_____	_____
Thurs. Dinner			
Adults	\$100	_____	_____
Children 12 & under.....	\$ 25	_____	_____
Thurs. After-Party	\$ 0	_____	_____
Friday Breakfast	\$ 0	_____	_____
Total Meal Cost: \$		_____	_____

One-Day Registration (either Thurs. or Fri.)

THURSDAY ONLY

Includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, after-party, and CLE.

MSBA Member: \$425 | Non-Member: \$525

Please check the meals you are attending:

- Breakfast
- Awards Lunch (please choose below)
 - Vegetable Stir-Fry
 - Chicken Stir-Fry
- Dinner
- After-Party

FRIDAY ONLY

Includes breakfast and CLE.

MSBA Member: \$350 | Non-Member: \$450

Please check the meals you are attending:

- Breakfast

Child Care (ages 2-12)

This service is available at no cost for registered attendees during the Thursday dinner and after-party.

Pizza and beverages will be provided.

AGE	CHILD NAME
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEES:

- Public Sector members save 10% at checkout.
- Non Profit members save 10% at checkout.
- New Lawyers Section members save 25% (must call MSBA for coupon code).

RESTRICTIONS:

- Discounts do not apply to meal only tickets.
- Discounts do not apply to virtual (webcast) registrations.
- One discount code per registration. Discount codes cannot be combined.

(PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE AND SESSION CHOICE PAGE)



2026 Summer Bar Conference Registration Form

Please complete both sides of this form and return both completed pages.

Name: _____

Please indicate your session selections below. One session per time slot.

3 Please Select Your Sessions Below

Topics in blue will also be presented as live webcasts.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

8:00-9:15 | PLENARY SESSION

1. Maine eCourts: What's Live, What's Next, & What It Means for You

9:45-10:45 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2. An Employer's Guide to Managing AI Risk in the Workplace
 3. Helping Heroes: Transfer on Death Deeds & Estate Planning for Veterans
 4. The Magic of Opening Statements
 5. Taking Charge of You & Your Future (ethics)

11:15-12:15 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

6. ChatGPT & You: A Basic Practical Guidance on the Use of AI
 7. Isolated Incident to System Failure: Reframing Cases to Unlock Full Case Value
 8. Pro Bono & Access to Justice (ethics)
 9. Using Trademark Law to Fight Back Against AI Impersonation

1:45-3:15 | PLENARY SESSION

10. Rule of Law (ethics)

3:30-4:30 | YOGA

11. Balance at the Bar: Yoga to Build Stress Resilience

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

8:30-10:00 | PLENARY SESSION

12. Thomas Jefferson and The Boisterous Sea of Liberty

10:30-11:30 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

13. All You Ever Wanted to Know About Being a GAL but Were Afraid to Ask
 14. Billing, Budgets & Burnout: The Financial Drivers Behind Attorney Wellness (ethics)
 15. Negotiation in Litigation: The Psychology Behind Getting Your Client a Fair Deal
 16. Paper Streets, Real Problems

11:45-12:45 | PLENARY SESSION

17. Harassment, Discrimination, & Bullying: Impacts for Lawyers & Legal Practice (H&D)

4 Payment Information

Check Enclosed # _____ Registration Subtotal \$ _____

Additional Meals Subtotal \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC Code _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Address _____

Telephone _____ Signature _____

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON PROGRAM

Online: www.mainebar.org/event/SBC26. Sign into your account to receive correct pricing.

Mail: Attn: Jennifer Altmiller | Maine State Bar Association, 124 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-622-7523, option #3 | **Fax:** 207-623-0083

Email: jaltmiller@mainebar.org

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A WEBCAST

See p. 4 for information about registering for a webcast or to see the webcast cancellation policy.

Updated: 5/27/26

