

MAINE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 135 Years

Winter Bar Conference

January 28-30, 2026

The Westin Portland Harborview

A Message from the President

On behalf of the MSBA Board of Governors and dedicated staff, I am thrilled to invite you to the Winter Bar Conference (WBC). This is a particularly exciting meeting as it's our first official opportunity to celebrate an extraordinary milestone in our Association's history. 2026 marks the 135th anniversary of the Maine State Bar Association – 135 years of community, collegiality, and shared commitment to a fair and effective system of justice. It is an honor to serve as your President during such a milestone year.

This year, we're also excited to launch a special 135th Anniversary Sustaining Member initiative. When you join or renew as an Anniversary Sustaining Member for \$135, you'll receive a limited-edition commemorative anniversary pin – a symbol of your support for our Association's mission and future. These pins will be distributed at the Winter Bar Conference so you can proudly showcase your commitment to the MSBA.

We're thrilled to offer an engaging lineup of programs this year, focused on innovative technology, practical tips, and helpful workshops designed to educate, inspire, and bring us all a little closer together. Some of these sessions include: AI in the legal sector; ethical use of LinkedIn for marketing, using real profile examples; the neuroscience of persuasion and how it influences case outcomes; a case study of Ireland, outlining how mediation ended decades of political violence; the ethics of representing multiple parties in the same lawsuit; climate-change regulation in the Trump Administration; effective and ethical advocacy for legal reform; collaborative divorce, an update from Maine Law; and more! We are closing the conference on Friday with a very special plenary session, a live podcast recording of Elawvate, where Ben Gideon and Jeff Wright will discuss their top 10 proven strategies every lawyer-entrepreneur can use to build a financially successful law firm. Some of our sessions will also be offered virtually for those who are unable to attend in person. Those sessions, which are noted below, are highlighted in the brochure and require separate registration.

In addition to the CLEs, you're invited to attend the Glassman Award reception and dinner on Wednesday night and the Maine Justice Foundation's Annual Awards Reception Thursday afternoon. Then, join us for the Maine Celtics game against the Grand Rapids Gold Thursday evening. Get your tickets here: www.gofevo.com/event/MSBA. Friday morning continues with the Maine Justice Foundation's Coffin Family Law Fellowship Appreciation Breakfast.

I hope you will join us for what promises to be an energizing, memorable, and highly connected Winter Bar Conference. I look forward to seeing you there – and celebrating 135 years of the MSBA together.

Warmly,



Rachel Okun

President, Maine State Bar Association



Virtual Sessions Include:

1. Lawyer in the Loop: AI in 2026
4. Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Online Presence
8. From Profile to Presence: (Ethically) Elevating Your Legal Practice Through LinkedIn
12. Professional Responsibility in Maine's Cannabis Era
14. The More the Merrier? Navigating the Ethics of Representing Multiple Clients in the Same Matter
15. What's Happening at Maine Law and Why It Matters to Maine Lawyers
17. Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst: Protecting Your Legacy and Practice From Disaster
20. Top 10 Proven Strategies Every Lawyer Entrepreneur Needs to Build a Financially Successful Law Firm (Live podcast recording of Elawvate: Build and Grow Your Law Firm)

MEETING INFORMATION

In-Person at The Westin Portland Harborview

REGISTRATION:

Register online at www.mainebar.org/event/WBC26, or submit your registration form via email/mail. Pre-registration is available through **Jan. 25**. 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 registration for a full refund through **Jan. 14**. Cancellations made after **Jan. 14** will be assessed a **\$75 administrative fee**. NO REFUNDS will be made after **Jan. 21**. The date of cancellation is the date received at Bar Headquarters in Augusta.

DRESS CODE:

Dress for Winter Bar Conference is business casual.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Registrants, instructors, exhibitors, and guests attending the MSBA Winter 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, Jan. 29: Up to 5.0 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics and H&D.

Friday, Jan. 30: Up to 3.0 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics.

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.

PARKING:

Parking is available in the garage next to the Westin.

Overnight Guest Parking

- **Overnight parking is available at the rate of \$33/day.**
- Simply enter the garage, the gate will lift, and the front desk will add the parking fee of \$33/day to your reservation.

Daily Parking

- **Daily parking is available at the rate of \$15/day.**
- Enter the garage and park your car. After parking, scan one of the QR codes in the garage and set up an account with your license plate information, credit card, and phone number. Then scan the validation QR code, enter their license plate, the parking validation will be applied to your vehicle. Upon exit, the gate will automatically open. You will not need to scan any tickets or barcodes at the exit.

Valet Parking

- **Overnight valet parking is \$44/day.**

DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEES:

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

Restrictions:

- Discount does not apply to meals-only tickets or to the Glassman Award dinner.
- One discount code per registration. Discount codes cannot be combined.
- Does not apply to webcasts.

How to Register for Live Webcast

Sessions that are being webcast are highlighted in **blue on pages 6-7**.

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/mail.**

Cancellations/Switching from Live Program to Webcast:

Registrants who cancel registration for the live program at The Westin Portland Harborview after **Jan. 14** and choose to register for the live webcast will be charged an administrative fee of **\$75**.

The MSBA cannot transfer your in-person registration to the live webcast. You will need to contact the MSBA to cancel your in-person registration, and then register online and pay the registration fee for the live webcast if you switch from the live program to the live webcast.

Registrants who registered for the live program but switch to the live webcast **on the date of the program will not receive a refund.**

Materials:

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

CLE Credits*:

Thursday, Jan. 29: Up to 5.0 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics and H&D.

Friday, Jan. 30: Up to 3.0 live CLE credits, with the opportunity to earn ethics.

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.

Individual Webcasts on Thursday and Friday

Individual cost: \$90 per session.

Purchase 5 topics and receive a 10% discount.

Purchase 6 topics and receive a 15% discount.

Purchase 7+ topics and receive a 20% discount.

Caroline DUBY Glassman Award

Wednesday at 5:00 PM

Note: This is a separately ticketed event held in conjunction with the Winter Bar Conference. Winter Bar Conference registration is not required to attend, but a ticket is required for all guests.

Diane began her legal career as a tax lawyer, providing tax and business consulting to businesses and, ultimately, to family law attorneys in Maine. Recognizing a need in the family law bar for attorneys with strong business and tax backgrounds, she and Susan Livingston founded Dusini and Livingston with that focus. After Susan's retirement, Diane joined MittelAsen, where she practiced exclusively in family law for 20 years. She now practices family law with MillerAsen, with an emphasis on cases involving business valuation and tax implications.

Diane was selected as Lawyer of the Year in Family Law by *Best Lawyers in America* in 2013, 2017, and 2026. She is also listed in *Super Lawyers*.

Diane has been an active leader in many organizations, including serving as President of the Maine State Bar Association, the Kennebec Girl Scout Council, and the University of Maine School of Law Alumni Association. She received the University of Maine School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013 and the Girl Scouts' Lifetime Achievement Award. She has also taught family law at Maine Law and is a frequent seminar speaker.

Along with other local runners, Diane started a running program at the Longcreek Youth Development Center, training teenagers to compete in local races ranging from 5Ks to half marathons. She later served as the assistant coach of the boys' cross-country team.

Diane's passion is her volunteer work with the National Park Service in Utah, where she serves as a backcountry interpretive volunteer ranger in Canyonlands National Park and as a Preventative Search and Rescue volunteer ranger at Bryce Canyon National Park.



WLS Caroline DUBY Glassman Award Recipients

- The Honorable Harriet P. Henry - 1994
- The Honorable Joyce A. Wheeler - 1994
- Phyllis G. Givertz - 1994
- Catherine A. Lee - 1995
- Susan R. Kominsky - 1996
- Dean Colleen A. Khoury - 1997
- Paula D. Silsby - 1998
- Kathryn Monahan Ainsworth - 1999
- The Honorable Margaret J. Kravchuk - 2000
- Jean Chalmers - 2001
- Ann M. Courtney - 2002
- Emily Bloch - 2003
- Judy Potter - 2004
- The Honorable Leigh I. Saufley - 2005
- Faye E. Luppi - 2006
- Victoria Powers - 2007
- Patricia A. Peard - 2008
- Janet T. Mills - 2009
- Lisa J. Marchese - 2010
- Louise K. Thomas - 2011
- The Honorable Beth Dobson - 2012
- Mary E. Schendel - 2013
- Virginia E. Davis - 2014
- Rebecca H. Farnum - 2015
- No award given - 2016 (WLS switched to biennial presentations)
- Rebecca A. Irving - 2017
- No award given - 2018
- No award given - 2019
- Deirdre M. Smith - 2020
- Aria Eee - 2022
- Dawn M. Pelletier - 2024

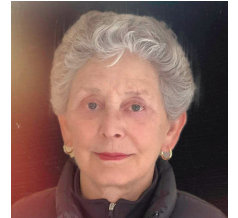
MJF Annual Awards Reception

Thursday at 4:30 PM

Join us at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29 for the Maine Justice Foundation Annual Awards Reception. This special event honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in advancing access to justice. These awards celebrate the extraordinary efforts of Maine's legal community to create a fairer and more equitable society, ensuring that justice is accessible to all Mainers, and the honorees embody the values of fairness and justice, strengthening Maine's legal landscape for all. We look forward to celebrating their achievements with you.

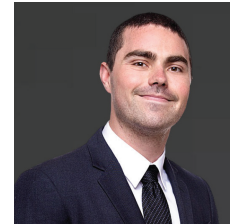
Howard H. Dana, Jr. Award

Janis Cohen is a retired attorney, formerly vice-president and managing counsel of the investment lawyers at Unum Group, where her work focused on commercial real estate. In addition to working at Unum, she was in-house counsel at a non-profit educational and social services corporation, served as compliance director for the State of Maine on a right-to-treatment consent decree case, and was in private practice. She spends part of the year in Sarasota, FL, where she had been executive director and president of the board of Pierian Spring Academy, a life-long learning program that merged with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College. She served on that board as well as on the board of CenterPlace Health. She has served on a number of boards and commissions in Maine, including the Maine Justice Foundation, ACLU of Maine, Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Commission, the Justice Action Group, the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine Milk Commission, and Spring Harbor Hospital. Currently, she serves on the board of the Maine Jewish Museum. Before going to law school, she worked as a psychologist and a police officer. She is a Patron Fellow of the Foundation.



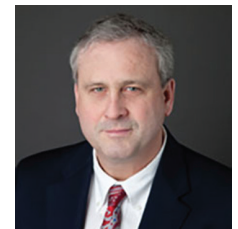
New Lawyer Award

Cameron Goodwin is an associate in Pierce Atwood's Litigation Group. He represents clients in a wide variety of litigation matters, with particular experience in class action defense, corporate governance disputes, probate litigation, and complex commercial litigation. Cameron has been successful in efficiently procuring results for his clients and ensuring that they have all the tools they need to navigate the legal system. Cameron has also provided significant pro bono legal services in a wide variety of areas including eviction defense, civil rights litigation, and welfare benefits. Before joining Pierce Atwood, Cameron studied renewable energy economics and worked jobs in the public and private sector focused on the regulation of energy projects and broadband expansion in Maine.



Downing Award

Professor Christopher Northrop has been a leading advocate for young people and marginalized communities in Maine's justice system for over three decades. His career has been defined by his belief that all individuals regardless of geography, income, or circumstance deserve equal protection under the law. After earning his law degree in 1989, Northrop began his career representing indigent and low-income clients in North Carolina. Four years later, he moved to Maine and dedicated his practice to youth defense and juvenile advocacy. In 2006, Northrop joined the University of Maine School of Law to launch what became a critically important section of the Clinics at Maine Law, the Juvenile Justice Clinic, which he directed for 16 years. Under his leadership, the clinic evolved into the Youth Justice Clinic in 2022, expanding its focus to meet the changing needs of Maine's young people. That same year, Northrop was appointed Co-Director of Clinical Programs at Maine Law, where, along with Professor Anna Welch, he helped strengthen the school's network of experiential learning opportunities, including supporting the creation of the Rural Practice Clinic. Now as the Director of the Rural Practice Clinic in Fort Kent, Northrop continues to advance access to legal services for rural Mainers. Although he retired from full-time teaching in 2024 and was conferred Emeritus status, Northrop's impact on Maine Law and the state's legal landscape remains profound. His work embodies the school's commitment to service, practical education, and justice for all.



Coffin Family Law Fellowship Appreciation Breakfast

Friday at 7:45 AM

Join us for breakfast at 7:15 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 30 to recognize the Coffin Family Fellows. The Coffin Family Law Fellowship provides legal representation in family law matters to clients who have qualified for pro bono assistance through the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Named after Frank M. Coffin, Senior Judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the Project supports attorneys based in the Portland, Maine offices of Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Coffin Fellowship attorneys work for and are based at Pine Tree Legal Assistance's Portland office for two years and cases are generally limited to Cumberland County. Stipends are competitive with public interest law salaries and a loan repayment assistance program is available for qualifying candidates. The lists of the past Fellows and current supporting firms are on the MJF website [here](#).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Highlighted courses are being offered as a live webcast.
Separate registration is required. See page 3 for details.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

- 1:00-4:00 Board of Governors Meeting**
- 3:00-5:00 Registration Open**
- 3:00-5:00 Section Business Meetings**
BIPOC Lawyers (3:00-3:45)
Alternative Dispute Resolution (3:00-4:00)
New Lawyers (3:00-5:00)
Consumer & Financial Institution Law (3:30-4:30)
Immigration Defense Law (4:00-5:00)
Women's Law (4:15-5:00)
- 5:00-8:00 Caroline DUBY Glassman Award Reception & Dinner**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

- 7:00-4:30 Registration Open**
- 7:00-8:15 Breakfast**
- 7:15-8:00 Past Presidents' Breakfast**
- 8:15-9:30 Welcome & Plenary Session (1.0 credit)**
1. Lawyer in the Loop: AI in 2026
- 9:30-10:00 Exhibitor Break**
- 10:00-11:00 Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit, unless otherwise noted)**
2. Collaborative Divorce: A Better Way to Restructure a Family (for Your Client and You)
3. The Neuroscience of Persuasion: How the Brain Decides and How Lawyers Can Respond
4. Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Online Presence (H&D)
5. Winning Real Estate Trials With the Right Experts
- 11:00-11:30 Exhibitor Break**
- 11:30-12:30 Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit, unless otherwise noted)**
6. Do Change Well: Ethically and Effectively Advocating for Changes in the Law (ethics)
7. Ending "The Troubles": How Mediation Ended Decades of Political Violence in Northern Ireland
8. From Profile to Presence: (Ethically) Elevating Your Legal Practice Through LinkedIn (ethics)
9. Increased Qualified Small Business Stock Opportunities for Small Businesses Under P.L. 119-21
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch**
MSBA Annual Business Meeting
Campaign for Justice
Judicial Branch Update with Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill
- 2:00-2:15 Transition Break**
- 2:15-3:15 Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit, unless otherwise noted)**
10. Climate Change Regulation During the Trump Administration
11. In-House Confessions: The Real Reasons Outside Counsel Are Hired and Fired
12. Professional Responsibility in Maine's Cannabis Era (ethics)
13. Routine Maintenance: For You and Your Physical, Emotional, and Mental Well-Being (ethics)
- 3:15-3:30 Transition Break**
- 3:30-4:30 Plenary Session (1.0 ethics credit)**
14. The More the Merrier? Navigating the Ethics of Representing Multiple Clients in the Same Matter
- 4:30 Maine Justice Foundation Annual Awards Reception (All Are Welcome)**
Howard H. Dana Jr. Award, New Lawyer Award, Thomas P. Downing Jr. Award

MAINE CELTICS!

Tickets for the Maine Celtics game at the Portland Expo on Jan. 29, at 7:00 p.m., have sold out.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Highlighted courses are being offered as a live webcast.
Separate registration is required. See page 3 for details.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

- 7:00-11:30** **Registration Open**
- 7:45-8:45** **Maine Justice Foundation Coffin Fellows Breakfast (All Are Welcome)**
- 8:45-9:45** **Plenary Session (1.0 credit)**
15. What's Happening at Maine Law and Why It Matters to Maine Lawyers
- 9:45-10:15** **Exhibitor Break**
- 10:15-11:15** **Concurrent Sessions (1.0 credit, unless otherwise noted)**
16. Consumer Bankruptcy Law: Updates, Cross-Practice Pollination, Pitfalls and Best Practices
17. Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst: Protecting Your Legacy and Practice From Disaster (ethics)
18. Parenting Plans With Purpose: Supporting Neurodivergent Children Through Family Law
19. Resting Easy After Death: Advising Clients on Custody and Disposition of Remains
- 11:15-11:30** **Transition Break**
- 11:30-12:30** **Plenary Session (1.0 credit)**
20. Top 10 Proven Strategies Every Lawyer Entrepreneur Needs to Build a Financially Successful Law Firm (Live podcast recording of Elawvate: Build and Grow Your Law Firm)
- 12:30** **Program Adjourns**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Highlighted courses are being offered as a live webcast.
Separate registration is required. See page 3 for details.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

8:15-9:30 | WELCOME & PLENARY SESSION (1.0 CREDIT)

#01 Lawyer in the Loop: AI in 2026

Join us for a discussion on the current state of AI technology in the legal sector and the critical importance of practicing good data hygiene as generative AI continues to proliferate.

Speakers: *Justin B. Cary, Esq., Drummond Woodsum, Portland*
Berkeley Almand-Hunter, PhD, Roux Institute at Northeastern University, Portland
Honorable Peter G. Cary, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Portland

10:00-11:00 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1.0 CREDIT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

#02 Collaborative Divorce: A Better Way to Restructure a Family (for Your Client and You)

The speakers will present and facilitate a discussion on the concept and process of collaborative divorce, highlighting the benefits it can bring both to your clients and to your own practice. Resolution is achieved through a series of structured group meetings that focus on goal setting, brainstorming, and collaborative problem-solving.

Speakers: *Matthew F. Govan, Esq., Govan Law Office PA, Portland*
Steven J. Mogul, Esq., Gross Minsky & Mogul PA, Bangor

#03 The Neuroscience of Persuasion: How the Brain Makes Decisions and How Lawyers Can Respond

This program will examine the intersection of neuroscience and advocacy, focusing on how the brain processes information, forms judgments, and responds to persuasion. Attendees will learn how attention, memory, emotion, and cognitive bias influence decision-making in jurors, judges, and clients. The session will translate these scientific insights into practical courtroom strategies while emphasizing the ethical boundaries between persuasive advocacy and manipulation. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to align legal arguments with the way people actually think and decide, along with a practical checklist of techniques that can be applied immediately in practice.

Speaker: *Meryl E. Poulin, Esq., Gideon Asen LLC, Auburn*

#04 Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Online Presence (H&D)

This practice session is designed to help attorneys ensure their websites and digital platforms are welcoming and accessible for all clients. Through a guided review of common areas for improvement, attendees will learn how to identify barriers that may prevent community members from easily understanding or navigating their online content. This session will cover clear and inclusive communication, user-friendly website design, and basic accessibility features that support visitors with different needs and abilities. Attendees will leave with straightforward tools to create a more approachable, compliant, and community-centered online presence.

Speaker: *Caitlin L. LoCascio-King, Esq., LoCascio-King Law, LLC, Scarborough*

#05 Winning Real Estate Trials With the Right Experts

Property disputes and trials rely heavily on critical testimony from carefully selected, trained, and experienced experts. Finding and guiding the right professionals — and coordinating their thoughtful, admissible evidence — is a refined art. The presenters will share their creative and innovative successes, as well as lessons learned, in presenting surveyors, title experts, appraisers, accountants, archaeologists, and more in one of Maine's most dynamic areas of civil litigation.

Speakers: *James Monteleone, Esq., Bernstein Shur, Portland*
David A. Soley, Esq., Bernstein Shur, Portland

11:30-12:30 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1.0 CREDIT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

#06 Do Change Well: Ethically and Effectively Advocating for Changes in the Law (ethics)

Lawyers must respond to a rapidly changing legal landscape—and often drive that change themselves. Advocating for changes in governing law and precedent requires care, candor, and clarity to avoid sanctions or disciplinary issues. This session examines the ethical and procedural rules that govern such advocacy, including the Rules of Professional Conduct, Civil Procedure, and statutory law. Using historical and recent examples, attendees will learn strategies for advancing reform-minded arguments ethically and effectively, while laying the groundwork for tomorrow's legal landscape without overstepping professional boundaries.

Speakers: *Kaitlin Caruso, Esq., University of Maine School of Law, Portland*
Kim D. Ringler, Esq., Ringler Law Firm, Waldwick, NJ

#07 **Ending “The Troubles”: How Mediation Ended Decades of Political Violence in Northern Ireland**

From the late 1960s to the late 1990s, the people of Northern Ireland, Great Britain, and the Republic of Ireland were caught up in the seemingly endless political and sectarian violence that became known as “The Troubles.” Yet in 1998, following thousands of deaths and thousands more injuries, most of Northern Ireland's political parties, along with the British and Irish governments, signed agreements that brought The Troubles to an end. That extraordinary achievement came about in large part because of the involvement and efforts of the United States and its Special Envoy, Sen. George Mitchell of Maine. This presentation, given by someone who served as a British Army officer in Northern Ireland during The Troubles, will provide an overview of how that period of violence arose, why it became seemingly intractable, and how the mediation of Sen. Mitchell helped bring it to a close.

Speaker: *Humphrey H.N. Johnson, Esq., Appreciated Solutions, L.L.C., PA, Peaks Island*

#08 **From Profile to Presence: (Ethically) Elevating Your Legal Practice Through LinkedIn (ethics)**

In today's digital landscape, LinkedIn is far more than an online resume: it is a space for attorneys to build credibility, strengthen professional networks and share their knowledge, capabilities, and experience while staying ethically compliant. This session will cover how to create a strong, authentic and effective profile, develop trust-building content, and use LinkedIn's tools to connect meaningfully without crossing advertising or solicitation boundaries. Attendees will also see real-time “live audits” of volunteer profiles to highlight practical improvements they can apply immediately.

Speaker: *Caitlin L. LoCascio-King, Esq., LoCascio-King Law, LLC, Scarborough*

#09 **Increased Qualified Small Business Stock Opportunities for Small Businesses Under P.L. 119-21**

The 2025 federal budget bill (P.L. 119-21, aka the One Big Beautiful Bill Act) included significant changes to the Qualified Small Business Stock provisions (IRC § 1202), making them more attractive as a tax planning tool. The new rules allow owners to shelter more gain, in less time, for larger businesses than ever before. Learn about these provisions, the applicable restrictions, and techniques for retrofitting your clients' entities to qualify for these powerful benefits, even if they are not currently C corporations.

Speaker: *Kevin R. Haley, Esq., Brann & Isaacson, Lewiston*

2:15-3:15 | PLENARY SESSION (1.0 CREDIT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

#10 **Climate Change Regulation During the Trump Administration**

The Trump administration has upended U.S. climate change law and regulation as it works to reverse or alter both newer and long-standing climate laws. At the same time, other countries, states, and private actors continue to advance projects and laws aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. These changes create uncertainty and a host of legal questions for regulated entities, state and municipal governments, and other businesses. The session will begin broadly and then narrow in focus, covering international climate change developments, key federal actions, challenges to state authority, and state responses. It will conclude with a “what's next” summary of where U.S. climate regulation is expected to head in 2026 and beyond.

Speakers: *Brook Detterman, Esq., Beveridge & Diamond, PC, Boston, MA*
Lauren M. Karam, Esq., Beveridge & Diamond, PC, Boston, MA

#11 **In-House Confessions: The Real Reasons Outside Counsel are Hired and Fired**

Being a brilliant lawyer is not enough to get or keep legal work from business clients. Neither is a holiday gift basket or tickets to the Red Sox. What will get you or your firm hired by in-house counsel looking for help? What will get you fired by in-house counsel even though you “won” the matter? What will make you the go-to outside counsel for in-house lawyers? Based on more than 25 years of in-house practice and experience working with outside counsel of every size, this session will provide the knowledge you need to get, keep, and grow your work for business clients. It offers a practical, direct approach to building a positive working relationship with in-house counsel.

Speaker: *James W. Baker, Esq., San Diego, CA*

#12 **Professional Responsibility in Maine's Cannabis Era (ethics)**

Cannabis use, cannabis businesses, and cannabis-related legal issues are now part of daily life in Maine, but attorneys have limited guidance on professional responsibility. This session will address the questions lawyers are asking about personal use, representing clients, investing or taking equity, conflicts of interest, handling cash, insurance coverage, and advertising. Using Maine Ethics Opinion #215, disciplinary cases from other states, and practical experience from cannabis-legal jurisdictions, attendees will gain clear guidance on what they can and cannot do, plus strategies to manage risk in cannabis-related activities.

Speaker: *Tammie L. Snow, Esq., Law Office of Tammie L. Snow, Portland*

#13 **Routine Maintenance: For Your Physical, Emotional, and Mental Well-Being (ethics)**

This program provides practical guidance on self-care for your physical, emotional, and mental wellness. Participants will learn evidence-based approaches to nutrition, exercise, stress reduction, and holistic wellness to optimize overall well-being. Learn strategies for creating space for self-care within a busy life and offer tips on turning acts of self-care into lasting, positive habits that can be maintained for the long term.

Speaker: *Jason Gootman, Puvema, Portland*

3:30-4:30 | PLENARY SESSION (1.0 ETHICS CREDIT)

#14 **The More the Merrier? Navigating the Ethics of Representing Multiple Clients in the Same Matter**

It's a relatively common occurrence: an attorney is asked to represent more than one client in the same matter. In many situations, doing so may be mutually beneficial for the clients. But more is not always merrier when it comes to the number of clients, and lawyers can face serious consequences if they don't consider conflicts that might arise down the road. This presentation will educate attorneys on the ethical rules that apply to multiple representation (also known as "common representation" or "joint representation"). Learn best practices for identifying potential conflicts, advising clients on the risks and benefits of mutual representation, and ensuring that informed consent is obtained from all clients.

Speakers: *Travis M. Brennan, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA, Lewiston*
Aria Eee, Esq., Board of Overseers of the Bar, Augusta
Elizabeth A. Kayatta, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA, Lewiston

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

8:45-9:45 | PLENARY SESSION (1.0 CREDIT)

#15 **What's Happening at Maine Law and Why It Matters to Maine Lawyers**

This session will provide an update on Maine's only law school and highlight opportunities for connection and collaboration with the Maine legal community.

Speakers: *Professor Courtney I. Beer, University of Maine School of Law, Portland*
Professor Marcia Levy, University of Maine School of Law, Portland
Vice Dean Jeffrey A. Maine, University of Maine School of Law, Portland
Dean Leigh I. Saufley, University of Maine School of Law, Portland

10:15-11:15 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1.0 CREDIT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

#16 **Consumer Bankruptcy Law: Updates, Cross-Practice Pollination, Pitfalls, and Best Practices**

Learn about the essentials of consumer Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 practice, reviewing current best practices from intake through issue spotting. With bankruptcy practice becoming increasingly complex, careful background research is crucial before filing, and we will highlight major updates to exemptions and local practice, common pitfalls, and strategies to avoid them. The session will also address the intersection of bankruptcy with other areas, including family law and personal injury. Presented by attorneys with over a century of combined bankruptcy experience, it will include a detailed syllabus and supporting materials such as intake forms, a sample petition, a Chapter 13 plan, and exemption updates.

Speakers: *Andrew M. Dudley, Esq., Chapter 13 Trustee, Brunswick*
Jennifer G. Hayden, Esq., Molleur Law Office LLC, Saco
Richard R. Regan, Esq., Regan Law LLC, Topsham

#17 **Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst: Protecting Your Legacy and Practice From Disaster (ethics)**

This presentation will cover disaster preparedness for solo and small firm attorneys, with a focus on practical planning and ethical obligations. Topics include file and client property retention, IOLTA reconciliation, safeguarding passwords and vendor information, and keeping personal and professional data separate. The session will also address Bar Rule 32 on Receivership, including steps to take if you're unable to practice temporarily or permanently, and how to select a suitable proxy.

Speakers: *Megan C. Hanley, Esq., Farmingdale*
Mara R. King, Esq., Board of Overseers of the Bar, Augusta

#18 **Parenting Plans With Purpose: Supporting Neurodivergent Children Through Family Law**

This program is designed to equip family law attorneys with the tools and insights necessary to create parenting plans that truly support the needs of neurodivergent children. From autism spectrum disorder and ADHD to sensory processing and executive functioning challenges, neurodivergent children often require unique parenting arrangements that go beyond standard custody templates. Attendees will learn from a mental health professional how to identify key issues impacting neurodivergent children in parental rights and divorce matters, work with professionals and caregivers, and develop parenting plans that promote stability, reduce conflict, and foster long-term well-being. The session will also address legal considerations, practical strategies, and ethical responsibilities when advocating for neurodiverse families for guardian ad litem and family lawyers. Whether you're drafting agreements, litigating parenting issues, or mediating complex cases, this presentation will help you serve your clients—and their children—with empathy, awareness, and effectiveness.

Moderator: *Catherine C. Miller, Esq., MillerAsen, PA, Portland*
Speakers: *Jason Dionne, Esq., Dionne Law, PA, Auburn*
William Roy, Psy.D., Margaret Murphy Center for Children, Auburn

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

#19 Resting Easy After Death: Advising Clients on Custody and Disposition of Remains

This session will focus on Maine laws governing the custody and control of a deceased person's remains, addressing common post-death issues such as organ donation, burial, and interment. It will also cover Maine regulations concerning cemeteries, family burying grounds, and ancient burying grounds. Practitioners will learn how to advise clients on designating a custodian for their remains and providing instructions for funeral, burial, cremation, or memorial arrangements, equipping them to competently guide clients regarding the disposition of their own or loved ones' remains.

Speakers: *Jennifer L. Kruszewski, J.D., LL.M., Epstein & O'Donovan LLP, Portland*

11:30-12:30 | PLENARY SESSION (1.0 CREDIT)

#20 Top 10 Proven Strategies Every Lawyer Entrepreneur Needs to Build a Financially Successful Law Firm (Live podcast recording of Elawvate: Build and Grow Your Law Firm)

Join us for a special live recording of the popular podcast Elawvate: Build and Grow Your Law Firm (www.elawvate.fm). This episode will highlight the top 10 strategies and lessons learned from building and growing a financially successful law firm. Audience members will have the opportunity to participate and ask questions about law firm management and growth. Law firm owners, managing partners, and aspiring legal entrepreneurs won't want to miss this unique session.

Speakers: *Benjamin R. Gideon, Esq., Gideon Asen LLC, Auburn*
Jeffrey Wright, Chief Operating Officer, Gideon Asen LLC, Auburn

Thank you to our Sponsors & Exhibitors



Annual Partners



Winter Bar Conference Registration Form 2026 (In-Person)

Attendees consent to being photographed for historical and marketing purposes.

Name of Registrant _____ ME Bar # _____ First time attendee
Organization _____
Email Address _____ Tel # _____
Names of Guests/Children _____
Food Allergies: _____

Registration Information: Pre-registration is available through **Jan. 25**. No registrations will be accepted without payment.

Cancellations for the in-person meeting at The Westin Portland Harborview: You may cancel your registration for a full refund through **Jan. 14**. Cancellations made after **Jan. 14** will be assessed a **\$75 administrative fee**. **NO REFUNDS** will be made after **Jan. 21**. 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 (Thursday & Friday)

Includes Thurs. breakfast, lunch, reception and CLE; and Fri. breakfast and CLE. Does not include Wed. dinner. Purchase tickets for Wed. dinner in Box 2.

FULL MEETING

MSBA Member: \$440 | Non-member: \$490

Please check the meals you are attending:

Thursday: Breakfast | Lunch | Reception

Friday: Breakfast

One-Day Registration (either Thursday or Friday)

THURSDAY ONLY

Includes breakfast, lunch, reception and CLE.

MSBA Member: \$330 | Non-Member: \$380

Please check the meals you are attending:

Breakfast | Lunch | Reception

FRIDAY ONLY

Includes breakfast and CLE.

MSBA Member: \$200 | Non-Member: \$250

Please check the meals you are attending:

Breakfast

2 Wednesday Dinner: Caroline Duby Glassman Award

(Add on to any registration above or as a meal only.)

Herbed Marinated Chicken Breast

\$80 x _____ (#) = \$ _____

Tuscan White Bean Rigatoni

\$80 x _____ (#) = \$ _____

3 Meals Only: Thurs. & Fri. (non-registrants & guests)

Thursday Breakfast **\$0** x _____ (#) = \$ _____

Thursday Lunch **\$38** x _____ (#) = \$ _____

Thursday Reception **\$0** x _____ (#) = \$ _____

Friday Breakfast **\$0** x _____ (#) = \$ _____

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON PROGRAM

Online: www.mainebar.org, under CLE/Education.

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

Phone: 207-622-7523, option #2 | **Fax:** 207-623-0083

Email: jaltmiller@mainebar.org

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A WEBCAST

See p. 3 for information on registering for a webcast or to see the webcast cancellation policy.

4 Please Select Your Sessions Below

Topics in blue will also be presented as live webcasts.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

8:15-9:30 | PLENARY SESSION

1. Lawyers in the Loop: AI in 2026

10:00-11:00 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2. Collaborative Divorce

3. The Neuroscience of Persuasion

4. Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Online Presence

5. Winning Real Estate Trials With the Right Experts

11:30-12:30 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

6. Do Change Well: Advocating for Changes in the Law

7. Ending "The Troubles": Mediation

8. From Profile to Presence: LinkedIn

9. Increased QSBS Opportunities Under P.L. 119-21

2:15-3:15 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10. Climate Change Regulations During the Trump Administration

11. In-House Confessions: Hiring & Firing

12. Professional Responsibility in Maine's Cannabis Era

13. Routine Maintenance: Well-Being

3:30-4:30 | PLENARY SESSION

14. The More the Merrier?: Multiple Clients

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

8:45-9:45 | PLENARY SESSION

15. What's Happening at Maine Law

10:15-11:15 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

16. Consumer Bankruptcy Law

17. Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst

18. Parenting Plans With Purpose

19. Resting Easy After Death

11:30-12:30 | PLENARY SESSION

20. Top 10 Strategies to Build a Financially Successful Law Firm

5 Payment Information: No Refunds After Jan. 21

Check Enclosed # _____ Registration Subtotal \$ _____

    Meals Subtotal \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC Code _____

Name on CC _____

Billing Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____