

LITIGATION INSTITUTE

September 22-23, 2026
Augusta Civic Center & Virtual

Register Today!



MEETING INFORMATION

IN-PERSON: AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER

REGISTRATION:

Register at www.mainebar.org/event/litigation26, or submit your registration form via email or mail by **Sept. 18**. No registrations will be accepted without payment.

WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS:

All walk-in registrants will be required to pay the applicable registration fee upon registration.

CANCELLATIONS:

You may cancel your in-person registration for a full refund through **Sept. 11**. NO REFUNDS will be made after **Sept. 11**. The date of cancellation is the date received at Bar Headquarters in Augusta. To cancel your in-person registration, please contact Katie Dunn at kdunn@mainebar.org or 207-622-7554.

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 below 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Registrants, instructors, exhibitors, and guests attending a CLE event 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.

VIRTUAL: HOW TO REGISTER FOR LIVE WEBCAST

WEBCAST PRICING PER DAY:

MSBA Member: \$295
CLE Club Member: \$245
Non-Member: \$360
Support Staff/Paralegal: \$245

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:

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 program(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 Katie at 207-622-7554, or by email kdunn@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 (link above) or via phone/email/mail. To register for the in-person program after **Sept. 18**, you will need to register as a walk-in. 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 above.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Strategy, Law, and the Changing Litigation Landscape

6.0 credits, including 1.0 ethics (PRACPRO)

Live webcast available for the full day.
See page 1 for details.

8:00 REGISTRATION

8:30 KEYNOTE: THE MODERN LITIGATION LANDSCAPE

A discussion of how litigation practice is evolving.

Timothy M. Kenlan, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA (Planning Committee)

Kristin T. Murray-James, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA (Planning Committee)

9:30 BREAK

9:45 DESIGNING A CASE FROM DAY ONE: LITIGATION STRATEGY

How experienced litigators structure a case from complaint to trial, including case themes, strategic discovery planning, dispositive motions, and trial-backwards planning.

Taylor A. Asen, Esq., Gideon Asen LLC

10:45 BREAK

11:00 PROTECTING SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Are you representing a client who receives means-tested public benefits and is expecting settlement proceeds? When an individual receives means-tested public benefits, careful planning is essential to protect these invaluable resources. This session will address common settlement-related issues, including how settlement proceeds can impact a client's eligibility for SSI, MaineCare, and other means-tested benefits; what litigation attorneys should consider before distributing funds to a client; and when to involve special needs planning counsel to evaluate spend-down options, special needs trusts, or ABLE accounts.

Sarah K. Ranger, Esq., Maine Elder Law Firm

Rachel M. Trafton, Esq., Maine Elder Law Firm

12:00 LUNCH & NETWORKING

1:00 MEDIATION

A focused discussion of how mediation can support effective litigation strategy by helping parties assess risk, reduce costs, narrow disputes, and pursue resolution before trial. Participants will explore when mediation is most useful and how to prepare for a productive session.

Jerrold A. Crouter, Esq., Drummond Woodsum

2:00 BREAK

2:10 INTERSECTION OF PROBATE AND LITIGATION

This session will address key probate considerations that arise in litigation, including wrongful death matters, claims involving deceased individuals, and the process for pursuing settlements or judgments against an estate. Participants will learn how probate issues can affect case strategy, timing, recovery, and enforcement.

Faculty TBA

3:10 BREAK

3:20 AI IN LITIGATION: POWERFUL TOOL OR PROFESSIONAL TRAP? (ETHICS)

Ethical and practical considerations of AI in litigation practice, including research, drafting, discovery review, and risks of hallucinated authority.

Elizabeth A. Kayatta, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA

4:20 PROGRAM ADJOURNS

AUGUSTA HOTEL: RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

MAINE EVERGREEN HOTEL, ASCENT HOTEL COLLECTION: The MSBA has secured a 12% discount per room/night (plus any applicable taxes). Discount based on availability. You must call the hotel at (207) 622-3776 and request the MSBA rate, discount not applicable online.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Practical Litigation Skills & Attorney-Directed Voir Dire
6.0 credits, including 1.0 H&D (PRACPRO)

Live webcast available for the full day.
See page 1 for details.

8:00 REGISTRATION

8:30 JUDICIAL OBSERVATIONS AND INTRODUCTION TO ATTORNEY-DIRECTED VOIR DIRE

Trial judges will share observations on attorney-directed voir dire, including judicial concerns, practical expectations, and best practices. Topics include the purposes of voir dire, the current state of the rule, judicial reactions, and why attorneys should consider attorney-directed voir dire.

9:30 BREAK

9:45 DEVELOPING YOUR ATTORNEY-DIRECTED VOIR DIRE PLAN

Using a fictitious case, participants work in groups to develop plaintiff and defense voir dire strategies, including identifying counsel's goals and objectives.

10:45 BREAK

11:00 PRACTICE OF ATTORNEY-DIRECTED VOIR DIRE

Hands-on, attorney-directed voir dire practice in smaller groups with coaches. Participants will conduct two to three separate practice sessions.

12:00 LUNCH

1:00 PRACTICE OF ATTORNEY-DIRECTED VOIR DIRE, CONT'D.

Attorney-Directed Voir Dire faculty:

Travis M. Brennan, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA
Mark V. Franco, Esq., Drummond Woodsum
Christopher Harmon, Esq., Garmey Law
Timothy M. Kenlan, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA
Benjamin R. Gideon, Esq., Gideon Asen LLC
Judges/Justices TBA

2:00 BREAK

2:10 PROFESSIONALISM AND CIVILITY IN LITIGATION (H&D)

Handling difficult opposing counsel, discovery disputes, sanctions risks, harassment/discrimination, and bullying.
Abaigeal M. Ridge, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA
Aria Eee, Esq., Maine Board of Bar Overseers

3:10 BREAK

3:20 CLOSING PANEL: THE FUTURE OF LITIGATION PRACTICE

Discussion of emerging trends, including AI, remote proceedings, evolving jury expectations, and the next generation of trial lawyers.

Julia B. MacDonald, Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP
Abaigeal M. Ridge, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA
Shea H. Watson, Esq., Perkins Thompson

4:20 PROGRAM ADJOURNS

Thank You to Our Exhibitor & Annual Partners

Exhibitor



Annual Partners



Registration Form: Litigation Institute September 22-23, 2026

**This form is for the live program at the Augusta Civic Center.
If you want to register for the webcast, follow the instructions on page 1.**

Name _____ Bar # _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Tel # _____ Email Address _____
Dietary Restrictions/Food Allergies: ☐ Gluten-Free ☐ Vegan ☐ Other: _____

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:

Please see **page 1** for the policy on canceling from the live program at the Augusta Civic Center or switching from the live program to the webcast.

PRE-REGISTRATION:

Online registration will close on Sept. 18. Mail, fax, and phone registrations will also be accepted until that time. Registrations received after Sept. 18 will not be processed, and you will need to register at the program as a walk-in.

WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS:

Payment is required at the time of registration. We encourage you to pre-register to receive the materials link in advance of the program.

PROGRAM MATERIALS:

All registrants for the live program at the Augusta Civic Center will receive an email with a link to the program materials before the event. Printed materials will not be provided onsite, so please download or print your materials ahead of time.

Two-Day Registration Fee

MSBA Standard Member ☐ \$490
CLE Club Member..... ☐ \$390
Paralegals and Legal Support Staff ☐ \$390
Non-Member ☐ \$620
MSBA Student..... ☐ \$60

LUNCH INCLUDED

Please select the day(s) you will be attending lunch.

☐ Tues., Sept. 22 | ☐ Wed., Sept. 23

One-Day Registration Fee

Please choose one day.

☐ Tues., Sept. 22 | ☐ Wed., Sept. 23

MSBA Standard Member ☐ \$250
CLE Club Member..... ☐ \$200
Paralegals and Legal Support Staff ☐ \$200
Non-Member ☐ \$325
MSBA Student..... ☐ \$40

LUNCH INCLUDED

Please select the day(s) you will be attending lunch.

☐ Tues., Sept. 22 | ☐ Wed., Sept. 23

CLE Club: MSBA Members Only

Celebrate the MSBA's 135th anniversary with a prorated CLE Club rate.

July 1–December 31 ☐ \$67.50

Payment Information

☐ Check Enclosed # _____ Total \$ _____



Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC Code _____

Name on CC _____

Billing Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____

HOW TO REGISTER

Online: mainebar.org/event/litigation26

Mail: Attn: Katie Dunn
Maine State Bar Association,
124 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-622-7554 | **Fax:** 207-623-0083

Email: cle@mainebar.org