

NALS Conference Schedule



Proud Member of
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
LEGAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

Thursday, September 15 (3 CLE available)

2:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Pre-Conference Leadership Development Program (requires additional ticket) (3 CLE)

Finding the Leader in You

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, PLS, has served the city of Greenville, South Carolina, since 1995, as Legal Office Coordinator for the City Attorney's Office, Clerk of Court of Municipal Court, and since 2007 as City Clerk



Do you consider yourself to be a leader? It is difficult to feel like a leader when you are behind the scenes serving in a supporting role. During this session, you will learn about leadership concepts that are relevant to your profession through influential stories that have developed everyday people into significant leaders and mentors.

Leadership and Marketing

Carl Solomon, JD, Solomon Law Firm. At the Solomon Law Group, "Protecting the Injured, Serving the Community" is more than a tagline – it is a guiding force for what is important to the firm.



This session will cover key marketing topics such as segmenting your audience, creating member personas, enhancing your website.

Many Paths to Where You Want To Go

Elaine Marshall, North Carolina Secretary of State. In 1996, Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall became the first woman ever elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina. Secretary Marshall was a member of the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office.



Ms. Marshall's road to leadership took many turns. She will share inspirational stories of her journey that will motivate participants to explore their own paths to success.

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception (appetizers, cash bar)



Friday, September 16 (6 CLE available)

7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Registration and Information Desk Open

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast & Warm Welcome to First Time Attendees

Start your day off right! Join your colleagues and valued NALS Sponsors for a light continental breakfast and networking time before we kick off the programming for this year's conference.

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

General Session (1 CLE)

**Don't Let Stress Destroy
Organization Performance**

Tim Connor, CSP is the President of Connor Resource Group. He has been a full-time professional speaker, trainer, coach, consultant and bestselling author for over 35 years.



During this session, Tim shares the causes and contributors and the consequences of failing to manage life's stressors and techniques and approaches on how to better control your inside-out reactions or responses to life's stressors whether positive or negative.

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

**Behind the Scenes Look at State
Government**

Michael Johnson is a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and the University of South Carolina School of Law with a Juris Doctor. He is the founding partner of Michael Johnson, P.C. & Associates, a law firm with offices in Fort Mill, Columbia and Indian Land which practice in commercial and residential real estate law.



As a South Carolina State Senator representing District 16, Michael can give an inside look at how the legislative bodies work together to pass laws and how they decide which bills to vote on.

**The Importance and Methods of
Pre-Suit Investigation**

William (Bill) Starr practices in the litigation fields of aviation, premises liability, toxic torts, and product liability. He handles litigation matters for international and domestic air carriers.



This presentation will cover the key information related to obtaining witness statements, identifying relevant documents, working with state investigative bodies, and preservation of evidence. Understanding some of these tactics will assist the company in minimizing and managing risk.



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11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

Health and Welfare Benefits Compliance Update 2022

Michael Schenk, Esq., CEBS, is a Senior Compliance Consultant for USI Insurance Services, serving the Midsouth US region.



Is labor and employment law your expertise? Are you interested in employee benefits compliance? ERISA compliance? This seminar will update you on health and welfare compliance, ERISA, and upcoming developments in benefits compliance.

Dram Shop Liability

Pamela R. Mullis is a past president of the Southern Trial Lawyers Association and has been practicing personal injury law for over 22 years at the Mullis Law Firm in Columbia, South Carolina.



This CLE course will familiarize counsel with the panoply of dram shop liability issues. These issues include the substantive bases of liability under dram shop acts, the procedural steps required under those statutes, statutory interpretation issues, and insurance coverage factors.

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch & Tradeshow

Enjoy lunch & networking with your fellow NALS attendees and valued vendors.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

State Paid Sick Leave Laws and how they affect the Employer and YOU

Ben Dudek is an employment attorney in the Columbia office of Fisher Phillips who uses his legal and legislative experience to assist clients with their workplace matters. He is very active in defending employers against administrative charges.



Attendees will gain a basic understanding of the ins and outs of paid sick leave laws and the ways employers can approach complying with the laws. As an employee, you will also gain some knowledge on these laws.

Business Immigration Helping Clients meet the demands of a global economy

Henry "Buzz" Burwell, is a senior partner of the corporate/securities/tax division and co-leader of the international practice group and the defense industry practice group. He is part of the nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP.



This presentation will discuss ways to apply for appropriate U.S. immigration visas for non-US personnel; relocate U.S. personnel to other countries for multinational green field start-up enterprises; and interaction with government enforcement officials who review visa classifications or border admissions for non-US personnel.



3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

Pre-Retirement: What you need to know about Social Security, Medicare, HSAs, etc. as you plan for Retirement

Lisa Wallace is the Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration in Charlotte, NC. Lisa began her career with the Social Security Administration over 24 years ago. She is a graduate of Western Carolina University and Charlotte NC native, one of the few.



This presentation will speak on the various intricacies with Social Security, Medicare, health insurance, HSAs and how to transition successfully to Retirement

So...you are changing firms. Let's talk about ethical considerations, risk management, and tips for a successful transition. (1 Ethics CLE)

Jill Rothstein is a member of her Firm's General Counsel Office. She serves the firm by providing effective, practical, and thoughtful legal and risk management advice. Jill counsels attorneys on ethics issues related to their specific practices, provides ethics training, and advises on risk management and best practices.



Whether you are changing firms on your own, or sticking with an attorney who is changing firms, there are many issues to plan for. This presentation will educate attendees on the ethical considerations, risk management, and other concerns regarding transition from and moving to another law firm.

4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

How Far We've Come

General Session (1 CLE)

Bakari Sellers from Strom Law Firm made history in 2006 when, at just 22 years old, he defeated a 26-year incumbent State Representative to become the youngest member of the South Carolina state legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the nation. In 2014 he was the Democratic Nominee for Lt. Governor in the state of South Carolina.



Bakari Sellers is widely considered to be a rising star within the Democratic Party and leading voice for his generation. That coupled with his uncommon ability to reach across the aisle and get things done has led to numerous accolades including being named to TIME Magazine's 40 Under 40 in 2010 as well as 2014 and 2015 "The Root 100" list of the nation's most influential African-Americans. Analyzing legal precedence in the context of where we are today can help us understand how far we've come...and how far we still need to go.

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

NALS Foundation Fundraiser Event (requires additional ticket)

Enjoy an evening of dining, socializing, and racing. The final stage of NALSCAR will take place at the event, with the winner announced at the end of the evening.

Saturday, September 17 (6 CLE available)

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration and Information Desk Open



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7:30 - 8:15 a.m.

Breakfast

Join NALS Conference attendees for Continental breakfast and conversation.

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

Minding Your Mind During a Difficult Time

Matt Schmidt is a partner at Schmidt, Sethi & Akmajian and graduated from the James E Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona in 2010. Matt's primary interest in law focuses on serious personal injury, insurance bad faith, and government liability.



This presentation will focus on mindfulness strategies to manage stress and increase happiness.

The Science Behind Litigating Water Disputes (Floods and Droughts)

Jeffrey A. Bolin, M.S. is the Vice President of Technical Operations and Senior Environmental Scientist at Dragun Corporation.



Putting aside the political causation arguments of global cooling, global warming, climate change, or climate disruption, too much water or not enough water has consequences and can and does lead to litigation. The obvious cause is not always the actual cause (or the only cause). This talk will look at these various dynamics and will also include a case study.

Dr. Fatemeh Vakili, P.Geo. is a hydrogeologist at Dragun. Dr. Vakili joined Dragun in 2017 and has a Master's of Science and Doctorate in Earth and Environmental Sciences.



9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

The Power of Teamwork

Melinda Davis Lux serves as an Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for United Community Bank. Melinda serves as a key member of the leadership team and oversees the legal, compliance, and community development departments.



We are want to be part of a great team, and great people seek out other great people with whom to work. What are the characteristics of great teams? What behaviors should we have in mind to make ourselves great team embers and to contribute to the team?



9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Social Media: Discovery, Ethics,
Evidence & Sanctions** (1 Ethics CLE)

Christina Baldauf is an Account Executive for Veritext Legal Solutions in North Carolina. Christina has 20+ years of varied experience serving the Carolinas' Legal Community as a Legal Assistant for a solo firm, and as an Account Executive for legal document services and court reporting organizations. Christina brings experience working with law firms and corporate legal departments of all sizes.



Discover how to protect your firm and clients when posting on Social Media. This seminar will focus on the following: what is social media; public pitfalls and poor judgment; ethical considerations of social media posts; online tools and resources; evidence and social media; social media policies; and jurors, social media, judges and mistrials.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

**Lessons Bad Movies Can Teach
Us About Public Speaking**

Sarah J.M. Cox, A long-time resident of Columbia, South Carolina, Sarah Cox focuses her practice on employment law, personal injury, civil rights law and litigation. She also helps clients navigate the legalities involved in name and gender changes and will represent clients in grandparents' rights cases.



Tips and tricks for public speaking using examples from famously terrible movies.

**Mediation and Conflict
Resolution**

Kabrina Bass is a Nonprofit Executive Director, professional mediator, facilitator, trainer and organizational manager. She is an exceptional, experienced trainer in conflict management, negotiation, mediation, leadership development, and general communication theories and methods.



Participants explore the dynamic changes in the practice of mediation due to COVID and technological advancement. Individuals will examine the impacts of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and the implementation of new ethical processes.

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Awards & Recognition Luncheon

This luncheon will feature recognition of national volunteers, Foundation supporters, and award recipients.



1:45-2:45 p.m

Breakout Sessions (1 CLE)

Decriminalizing Mental Illness

An attorney since 1975, *Hank Ehli* has a national presence in the litigation and lobbying efforts on behalf of the mentally ill. Twice in two years, by invitation of the parties plaintiffs, he has filed briefs in cases pending before the Supreme Court of the United States that involve the mentally ill and law enforcement.



Advocating for the mentally ill, the speaker will bring to light the inordinate number of individuals with mental illness incarcerated in our nation's prisons and the high rate of recidivism that occurs among them. He established a national non-profit organization, Council on Law Enforcement and the Mentally Ill (CLEMI), which works to enact just and effective legislation and protocols to protect and serve individuals with mental illness, their caregivers, the law enforcement community, and the public.

Digital Forensics for Legal Practitioners

Chris Foreman is an experienced operations leader with 10+ years of expertise in operations strategy and customer growth at Barefoot Professional Investigations.



A high level overview of the ins and outs of Digital Forensics, including both computer and mobile device extraction, and the value it can bring to your firm's cases.

Micah Sturgis is an accomplished Forensic Examiner who began his career in law enforcement. After 14 years of serving the citizens of Cleveland County, Micah took a position as a Digital Forensic Examiner for a private firm in the Charlotte area where he worked with law firms across the country, examining digital evidence involved in their cases.





3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Fortune Favors the Brave:
Fighting for our Heroes and
their benefits for our free-
dom**

Cristy Bradley, PP, is a seasoned Paralegal with more than 34 years of litigation experience. She is the primary paralegal for Michael H. Montgomery at Montgomery Willard Law Firm in Columbia, SC, and had significant experience in trial preparation and litigation.



A VA disability rating is a percentage assigned to a service-connected disability based on the severity of the condition. Disability ratings are meant to compensate veterans for the average impairment in earning capacity caused by their service-connected condition(s). This presentation will help you share how to successfully navigate the VA's disability rating certification process. Learn how to apply for and manage the VA disability benefits you or your loved one have earned.

4:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Closing General Session (1 CLE)

**The Practice of Presence
Creating a Space for Growth**

Laurie G. Hillstock, Ph.D. has over 20 years of experience in learning and development, primarily in online learning. She is an accomplished, innovative leader with a background in higher education, healthcare, and non-profits. She has expertise in leadership development, strategic planning, building virtual communities, e-learning, and administering various digital learning environments



As leaders, so many things impact our time, focus, and efforts daily. Recognizing and enhancing our own state of being increases our capacity to reduce distractions, balance our thinking, and lead effectively. In this session, we will explore key leadership skills as related to effective communication, prioritization/time management, self-reflection, and concepts associated with a growth mindset. This is intended to be an interactive session, providing attendees with practical skills and techniques for use in daily practice.