



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 12TH & JUNE 13TH
RI Convention Center, Providence



Welcome



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Pictured (L to R)

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Dana M. Horton - *Treasurer*
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2025 Annual Meeting



Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq.
President

Dear Colleagues,

I look forward to seeing you at the Bar Association's 2025 Annual Meeting on Thursday and Friday, June 12th and 13th, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. This year's hard-working Annual Meeting Planning Committee, led by chairperson Cassandra L. Feeney, produced a diverse and enriching program for us. Supporting this effort, many Bar members and the Bar staff have worked with the Committee to ensure a seamless presentation of workshops and social events. As a result, our Annual Meeting provides attendees with an outstanding opportunity to learn, improve your practice, socialize with your colleagues, and fulfill your annual CLE requirements.

We have a wide range of seminars scheduled over the two days of the Annual Meeting, providing guidance in family, probate, criminal, trial, and commercial law; a variety of ethics-related topics; the always popular State and Federal Court updates; and more. These seminars are enhanced by the participation of many distinguished and accomplished presenters, including many of our colleagues. Please also visit our sponsors and exhibitors, offering a range of practice-related products and services.

This year, we are pleased to welcome Professor Bryan A. Garner as our Thursday morning plenary speaker. A renowned lawyer, lexicographer, and expert in legal writing, Professor Garner has dedicated his career to enhancing clarity and effectiveness in legal communication. Professor Gardner will explain the most important but least obvious rules of motion practice and brief-writing. For the closing session, we are honored to host Hon. Lara E. Montecalvo, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Discover the view from the other side of the bench as Judge Montecalvo shares the top tips she's learned about advocating for clients that she wishes she had known as a practicing attorney.

On Thursday afternoon, in the midst of a lively reception, we will honor our Annual Bar Award winners (please see page 15 and 21 for a complete listing and description of this year's awards) for outstanding achievements. During our Annual Meeting Luncheon on Friday, we will honor our colleagues for their 50 years of service in the profession, following an address by our incoming Bar Association President, Patrick Guida. Additionally, we will have the pleasure of traditional remarks by Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell on the State of the Rhode Island Judiciary.

The 2025 Annual Meeting Planning Committee's attention to our diverse membership's interests and needs resulted in an excellent program, and I urge you to take advantage of the Annual Meeting's early registration fee savings by completing your registration before **May 23rd**. Don't forget to download the Annual Meeting App before the event for easy access to schedules, materials, and event updates.

I thank you in advance for the honor and pleasure of serving you throughout the past year, and I look forward to seeing you on June 12th and 13th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher S. Gontarz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq.
President, Rhode Island Bar Association

What's New This Year?

In addition to our longstanding annual events, such as the Awards Reception and Annual Meeting Luncheon, we're excited to introduce three new opportunities for networking and socializing with colleagues. Plus, we've added innovative ways to interact with our sponsors and enhance your Annual Meeting experience. See below to learn more!



Sponsor Showcase Challenge

Pick up your game card at the check-in desk and join this fun, interactive activity by visiting participating sponsor booths to collect initials. Once your card is complete, submit it for a chance to win exciting prizes, including free attendance at the 2026 Annual Meeting! Only completed cards will be entered into the drawing, and duplicate entries will not be accepted. Drawings will take place after the meeting, and winners will be contacted directly.



New Member Coffee Mixer

Kick off your Friday with a specialty coffee bar and assorted breakfast sandwiches while connecting with fellow new members, Bar leadership, and Leadership Academy graduates. Pre-registration is preferred but not required, and this event is designed for members practicing 10 years or less. When registering for the Annual Meeting, you will have the option to sign up for this event.



Headshot Event

Take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to refresh your professional image with a complimentary headshot session during the Annual Meeting! Each participant will receive two free digital images, which will be uploaded to a shared gallery accessible to everyone who attends the headshot event. Limited space is available, and advance registration is required. When registering for the Annual Meeting, you will have the option to sign up for this event.



Closing Mixer

Wrap up the Annual Meeting with us at the Closing Mixer! Immediately following the Closing Plenary, join us to celebrate the conclusion of another successful meeting. This is a great opportunity to reflect on the event, continue conversations, and connect with colleagues in a relaxed setting. Don't miss this final chance to network before heading home!

**Early Bird Pricing
Ends May 23rd!**

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

8:00 am	Exhibitor Booths Open	Registration Begins & Exhibits Open <i>Convention Center, Ballroom Foyer, 5th floor</i>					
8:45 – 9:20 am		Welcome by Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq., Bar President <i>Convention Center, Ballroom A, 5th floor</i>					
9:20 – 10:20 am		Opening Plenary – The Pillars of Effective Legal Writing Professor Bryan A. Garner 1.0 CREDIT					
10:20 – 10:45 am		Morning Break					
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibitor Booths Open	RI Family Law Update — 0.5 CREDIT + 1.0 ETHICS	Mastering Mediation — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	RI & CT, So Close Yet So Far Apart — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Guardian ad Litem in Probate Court — 1.5 CREDITS	Forensic Mental Health in Criminal Cases — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Updated RI Real Estate Title Standards — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS
12:00 – 1:30 pm		Members Luncheon <i>Ticketed Event – Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th Floor</i>					
12:00 – 1:30 pm		Rhode Island Bar Foundation Annual Meeting <i>Invitation Only – Convention Center, 1st Floor, West Lobby</i>					
1:30 – 2:45 pm		Commercial Law Update 2025: Part 1 — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Crimmigration: When Two Worlds Collide — 0.5 CREDIT + 1.0 ETHICS	100 Yankee Jurists in Judge Johnson's Alabama Court — 0.5 CREDIT + 1.0 ETHICS	Intro to Administrative Law — 1.5 CREDITS	RI Legal Practice and the Rise of AI — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Succession & Tax Planning for Closely Held Businesses — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Exhibitor Booths Open	Afternoon Break					
3:15 – 4:30 pm		Commercial Law Update 2025: Part 2 — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Litigation Academy: Direct & Cross-Examination — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Shareholder & Other Equity Owner Agreements — 1.5 CREDITS	Integrating AI into Your Practice — 1.5 CREDITS	Let's Be Civil: The Zealously Polite Advocate — 1.5 ETHICS	Builder's Risk Insurance — 1.5 CREDITS
4:30 pm	Awards Reception <i>FREE! Open to All Members – Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th floor</i>						

The RIBA assumes no responsibility for opinions, statements, and facts in any Continuing Legal Education/Annual Meeting program. Neither the opinions expressed in any program, nor its content represent the official view of the Rhode Island Bar Association or the views of its members.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

8:00 am	Registration Begins & Exhibits Open <i>Convention Center, Ballroom Foyer, 5th floor</i>					
8:00 – 9:00 am	New Member Coffee Mixer <i>Registration Requested – Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th floor</i>					
8:45 – 9:00 am	Welcome by Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq., Bar President <i>Convention Center, Ballroom A, 5th floor</i>					
9:00 – 10:15 am	Civil Case Law Update — 1.5 CREDITS	Inside Regulation F — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Chemical Test Refusals — 1.5 CREDITS	The Modern American Family — 0.5 CREDIT + 1.0 ETHICS	Mental Health in the Legal Field — 1.0 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Procedures from the Bench-Probate Court — 1.5 CREDITS
10:15 – 10:45 am	Morning Break					
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Criminal Case Law Update — 1.5 CREDITS	Intro to Federal Civil Practice — 1.5 CREDITS	Third Party Liens in Workers' Comp Cases — 1.5 CREDITS	Anti-Money Laundering Regulations — 0.5 CREDIT + 1.0 ETHICS	The Psychology of Transitions — 1.5 ETHICS	Ethically Communicating with LGBTQ+ Clients & Colleagues — 0.5 CREDIT + 1.0 ETHICS
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Annual Awards Luncheon <i>Ticketed Event – Convention Center, Ballroom B/C, 5th Floor</i>					
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Headshot Event <i>Pre-Registration Required – Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th floor</i>					
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Protecting Your Client's Interests in a Receivership — 1.0 CREDIT	Obtaining Attorney's Fee Awards — 1.0 CREDIT	Bankruptcy Basics — 1.0 CREDIT	Tales from the Dark Web-Cybersecurity — 0.5 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	Neurodiversity in Legal Education and Practice — 0.5 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS	
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Afternoon Break					
3:15 – 4:15 pm	Closing Plenary – What Judging Taught Me About Advocating for Clients Hon. Lara E. Montecalvo 0.5 CREDIT + 0.5 ETHICS					
4:15 pm	Closing Mixer <i>Free! Open to All – Convention Center, Ballroom A Foyer, 5th floor</i>					

Exhibitor Booths Open

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Exhibitor Booths Open

Make the most of your Annual Meeting experience with our official meeting app! Access the full schedule, speaker bios, session materials, sponsor details, and more—all in one place. Download "Engagefully" and search for "RI Bar"

8:00 am | **Registration Begins and Exhibits Open**
Convention Center, Ballroom Foyer, 5th Floor

8:45 - 9:20 am | **Welcome & Business Meeting**

Welcome: Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq., *President*

In Memoriam: Holly Rao, Esq., *Secretary*

Nominating Committee Report: David N. Bazar, Esq., *Chairperson*

Treasurer's Report: Dana M. Horton, Esq., *Treasurer*

Opening Plenary - The Pillars of Effective Legal Writing

9:20 - 10:20 am | **1.0 credit** | **Level: All**

Speaker: Professor Bryan A. Garner

Bryan A. Garner, the author of many classics on effective legal writing—as well as the long-time chief editor of *Black's Law Dictionary*—will explain the most important but least obvious rules of motion practice and brief-writing. You might be stunned by what unfolds in this session.



Professor Bryan A. Garner

Professor Bryan A. Garner is the award-winning author of more than 25 books. He writes on jurisprudence, lexicography, grammar, advocacy, and legal drafting. His magnum opus is the fifth edition of *Garner's Modern English Usage*, published by *Oxford University Press*. This thousand-page book uses big data to assess English words and phrases. In the legal world, he is best known as the editor-in-chief of the past six editions of *Black's Law Dictionary*, the most widely cited lawbook in the world.

He holds the title of Distinguished Research Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law, where he has taught since 1990. He also teaches at the University of Texas School of Law.

In *D Magazine*, the noted writer Paul Kix called Professor Garner the “foremost lexicographer of our time.” Writing in *Harper's* magazine, the late novelist and essayist David Foster Wallace called Professor Garner “a genius, though of a rather particular kind. He's both a lawyer and a lexicographer, which seems a bit like being both a narcotics dealer and a DEA agent.”

Please note: Recording of the plenary session is not permitted, as the content may be protected by copyright.

10:20 - 10:45 am | **Morning Break**

Enjoy a range of refreshments and conversation while connecting with our sponsors and exhibitors who offer valuable law practice and business management services. Once again, we will be joined by many of our local affinity groups, located across from the registration area. Please plan to stop by to learn more about their organizations!

Rhode Island Family Law Update 0.5 credit + 1.0 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: Jane F. Howlett, Esq., *Howlett Law Offices*
Meredith F. Howlett, Esq., *M. F. Howlett Law*
Alex B. Terry, Esq., *Office of the Court Appointed Special Advocate*

This program provides an in-depth update on family law and case law developments, including the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA) with a focus on de facto parent interpretation and abusive litigation. It covers recent rulings, legislative updates, and key issues impacting family court practice.

Mastering Mediation: Strategies to Settle Your Case 1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Beginner

Moderator: Stephen J. MacGillivray, Esq., *Pierce Atwood LLP*
Speakers: Hon. Richard A. Licht, *RI Superior Court*
Laura J. Bottaro, Esq., *Law Offices of Laura Bottaro*
Robert J. Durant, Esq., *Little Mendelson, PC*
Walter C. Hunter, Esq., *Walter C. Hunter LLC*
Kristen S. Maccini, Esq., *Key Mediation LLC*

Join experienced mediators for a Q&A on achieving success in modern mediation. Explore key topics like when to mediate, managing power imbalances, breaking impasse, and enforcing agreements. Gain insights on securing the best outcomes for clients while navigating ethical challenges.

Rhode Island & Connecticut—So Close, Yet So Far Apart 1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Beginner/Intermediate

Speakers: Jason B. Burdick, Esq., *Messier, Massad, Burdick & Assoc. LLC*
Adam D. Ferrare, Esq., *Messier, Massad, Burdick & Assoc. LLC*
Gregory P. Massad, Esq., *Messier, Massad, Burdick & Assoc. LLC*
Alexa Massad Powers, Esq., *Messier, Massad, Burdick & Assoc. LLC*
Alan R. Messier, Esq., *Messier, Massad, Burdick & Assoc. LLC*

Rhode Island and Connecticut are so close, yet so far away when it comes to their laws and procedures. These differences can create a minefield for unwary practitioners. The goal of this session is to provide an overview of the many significant differences in law and procedure between Rhode Island and Connecticut and provide a primer on cross-border practice, including key ethical considerations for attorneys working across jurisdictions.

The Three R's of a Guardian ad Litem in Probate Court:

Role, Responsibilities & Report

1.5 credits | Beginner/Intermediate

Moderator: Christine J. Engustian, Esq., *Law Offices of Christine J. Engustian, Esq.*

Speaker: Clare T. Jabour, Esq., *Law Offices of Clare T. Jabour*

Who can serve as a GAL in Probate Court, and what is their role? This workshop outlines key responsibilities, essential documents to review, best practices for interviewing the Respondent, proposed guardian, and others, and the three critical parts of a GAL's report to support the court's guardianship decision.

Forensic Mental Health Issues in Criminal Cases:

Addressing Legal & Clinical Challenges Using Law & 'Best Practices'

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: Michael A. DiLauro, Esq., *The Just Criminal Justice Group, L.L.C.*

Jennifer Kim, MD, JD

James Lawless, MA, CGS, LMHC

Defending criminal cases is challenging, especially with clients facing mental illness or substance use disorders. This session offers legal, practical, and common-sense strategies for addressing these issues. Topics include common disorders and their impact, RI law, criminal responsibility defenses, competency, and risk assessments for community placements.

Updated RI Real Estate Title Standards:

What Are They, and How Do They Facilitate Real Property Conveyances?

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: John A. Comery, Esq., *Fidelity National Financial Family of Companies*

David M. Dolbashian, Esq., *Law Offices of David M. Dolbashian, Esq. PC*

Michael B. Mellion, Esq., *Fidelity National Financial Family of Companies*

Since 1974, the RI Real Estate Title Standards & Practices Committee has developed and promulgated RI Title Standards for the benefit of the Bar. This presentation covers newly enacted Standards, the "top ten" most frequently used Title Standards, and an overview of Practice Standards and Forms. It also addresses the growing fraud epidemic in real estate conveyancing and how attorneys can protect themselves.

Rhode Island Bar Association Members' Luncheon

12:00 – 1:30 pm | Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th Floor

This is a ticketed event.

Unwind over lunch with your colleagues, followed by a leisurely stroll through the exhibits. Explore the diverse offerings from our sponsors, gaining insights into the latest industry trends and innovations. Take this opportunity to recharge, network, and catch up with fellow attendees.

Rhode Island Bar Foundation Fellows Annual Meeting

12:00 – 1:30 pm | Convention Center, West Lobby, 1st Floor

Fellows and invited guests receive a separate invitation for this luncheon.



Armando E. Batastini, Esq.
Foundation President

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with the Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting. Foundation Officers and Directors will be elected, and new Foundation Fellows will be introduced. President Armando E. Batastini and the Board of Directors are pleased to welcome and thank the Foundation Fellows who, through their professional, public, and private careers, have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of the community and to the objectives of the Foundation. During the luncheon, we recognize the recipient organizations of Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) grants. This calendar year, we granted \$1.4 million to non-profit organizations for the provision of legal services and the administration of justice in Rhode Island.

Recipients of the Thomas F. Black, Jr., Memorial Law School Scholarships are introduced. Again this year, we were able to grant two \$25,000 Thomas F. Black Jr. Memorial Scholarships to two promising first-year law students who have demonstrated financial need, superior academic performance, community and public service, and demonstrated contacts with and commitment to the State of Rhode Island. Since 1989, this fund has awarded 74 scholarships, totaling many thousands of dollars to promising law students.

This year, the Foundation will introduce the recipients of two new \$25,000 scholarships, the Patrice A. Tarantino Memorial Scholarship and the Nicole J. Benjamin Scholarship. The Patrice A. Tarantino Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2022 by former Bar Foundation President John A. Tarantino, Esq., in memory of his late wife, Pat. The Scholarship is a lasting tribute to Pat's memory. The Nicole J. Benjamin Scholarship was founded in 2023, also by former Bar Foundation President John A. Tarantino, Esq., and recognizes attorney Benjamin's exemplary contributions to the legal community. It aims to support aspiring legal professionals who exhibit leadership potential and a commitment to service to the community.

Recipients of the Papitto Opportunity Connection Foundation Scholarships are also introduced. Two additional law school scholarships in the amount of \$25,000 each will be awarded to candidates who are committed to serving and uplifting underserved communities. Applicants must provide specific examples of strategies they have undertaken or plan to undertake to support these communities within the legal profession and the broader society.

The recipients of the Honorable Thomas J. Caldarone, Jr. Fellowship Award and the James A. Jackson Fellowship Award are also introduced. Roger Williams University law students are selected for these awards based on their outstanding records and interest in pursuing a career in public service. The Caldarone and Jackson Fellows receive valuable experience in assisting with providing crucial legal services to the public and persons of limited means in the State of Rhode Island.

Commercial Law Update 2025—Part 1

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate/Advanced

Moderator: Patrick A. Guida, Esq., *Duffy & Sweeney, Ltd.*

Speakers: Lisa M. Kresge, Esq., *Brennan Scugio & Kresge LLP*
Edwin E. Smith, Esq., *Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP*
Steven O. Weise, Esq., *Prosauker Rose, LLP, Los Angeles, CA*

A review of various state and federal court decisions from the past 12 months related to commercial law across the United States, with an emphasis on federal law.

Crimmigration: When Two Worlds Collide

0.5 credit + 1.0 ethics | Beginner/Intermediate

Moderator: Pamela Chin, Esq., *Lynch & Pine Attorneys at Law*

Speakers: Zachary K. Lyons, Esq., *Barton Gilman*
John E. MacDonald, Esq., *Law Offices of John E. MacDonald, Esq.*

A criminal defense attorney has a legal obligation to understand and advise their non-citizen clients about the potential immigration consequences of a criminal conviction. This program discusses how to identify important questions to ask the client to ascertain what consequences they may face, identify the types of criminal offenses and conduct that trigger immigration consequences, and provide guidance on giving legal advice to clients making these difficult decisions. As the immigration law landscape changes, it is more important than ever to keep these considerations in mind.

100 Yankee Jurists in Judge Frank M. Johnson's Alabama Court

0.5 ethics + 1.0 credit | All

Introduction: Hon. Paul A. Suttell, *RI Supreme Court*

Moderator: Hon. Melissa A. Long, *RI Supreme Court*

Speakers: Hon. Colleen Hastings, *RI District Court*
Hon. Sandra Lanni, *RI Family Court*
Hon. John J. McConnell, Jr., *U.S. District Court for the District of RI*
Hon. Patricia A. Sullivan, *U.S. District Court for the District of RI*

Reflections on an extraordinary three-day journey into America's past: what it teaches us about the present and how it informs our future. Justice Long moderates a panel discussion with four state and federal judicial officers who embarked on a self-funded judicial education trip to Alabama in October 2024 to get proximate with American history.

1:30 - 2:45 pm

Concurrent Workshops (*Continued*)

Introduction to Administrative Law

1.5 credits | Beginner

Moderator: Jenna Giguere, Esq., *Department of Environmental Management*

Speakers: Hon. Jeffrey A. Lanphear, *RI Superior Court*
Mary-Rose Pellegrino, Esq., *Department of Administration*
Catherine R. Warren, Esq., *Department of Administration*

This session provides an overview of the Rhode Island Administrative Procedures Act and associated case law. The main topics are the regulatory adoption process, administrative hearings under the APA, and judicial review of administrative appeals.

Bridging Tradition and Technology: Rhode Island Legal Practice and the Rise of AI

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate

Moderators: Hon. Erin Lynch Prata, *RI Supreme Court*
Hon. Brian P. Stern, *RI Superior Court*

Speakers: Linn F. Freedman, Esq., *Robinson & Cole, LLP*
Brian J. Lamoureux, Esq., *Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara LLC*

The RI Supreme Court recently issued Executive Order 2024-03, creating the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts to study and report back on AI's impact on legal rules and practices in Rhode Island courts. This presentation explains the AI Order's significance, outlines the Committee's work, and invites feedback on integrating AI into the RI judiciary and legal system.

Succession and Tax Planning for Closely Held Businesses

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate

Moderator: Vivian M. Karian, Esq., *Pierce Atwood LLP*

Speakers: Cory J. Bilodeau, Esq., *McLaughlinQuinn LLC*
Lawrence D. Hunt, Esq., *Pierce Atwood LLP*
Kate N. Kishfy, Esq., *Sylvia & Kishfy Law, LLC*

This program reviews the nuanced aspects of succession and legacy planning for closely held businesses, focusing on tax-efficient strategies for transferring control and interest. Panelists discuss how business owners can protect their interests during life and ensure security for their families after death. The session highlights last-minute business succession tax planning strategies to consider before the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 exemption sunsets.

2:45 - 3:15 pm | Afternoon Break

While you enjoy the break, be sure to visit participating sponsor booths and collect initials on your game card. Completed cards will be entered into a drawing for exciting prizes, including free attendance at the 2026 Annual Meeting!

Commercial Law Update 2025—Part 2

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate/Advanced

Moderator: Patrick A. Guida, Esq., *Duffy & Sweeney, Ltd.*

Speakers: Lisa M. Kresge, Esq., *Brennan Scugio & Kresge LLP*
Christopher A. Morello, Esq., *Brennan Scugio & Kresge LLP*
Edwin E. Smith, Esq., *Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP*
Steven O. Weise, Esq., *Prosauker Rose, LLP, Los Angeles, CA*

This program offers a review of various state and federal court rulings related to commercial law from around the United States, with a particular focus on written opinions issued in Rhode Island over the past 12 months.

Litigation Academy: The Art of Direct and Cross-Examination

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | All

Speakers: Hon. William E. Smith, *U.S. District Court for the District of RI*
Hon. Brian P. Stern, *RI Superior Court*
Angela Brazil, *Brown University/Trinity Repertory Theater MFA program*
Caroline Howerton, Esq., *Desisto Law, LLC*
Prof. Niki Kuckes, *Roger Williams University School of Law*
Brooks R. Magratten, Esq., *Pierce Atwood, LLP*
James Murphy, Esq., *Hanson Curran, LLP (Ret.)*
Stacey P. Nakasian, Esq., *Duffy & Sweeney*
Matthew T. Oliverio, Esq., *Oliverio & Marcaccio, LLP*
Daniel J. Procaccini, Esq., *Adler Pollock & Sheehan, PC*
Jennifer L. Wood, Esq., *Center for Justice*

This program focuses on the art of effective direct and cross-examination skills. Actual direct and cross-examinations of a fact witness will be critiqued by judges, experienced trial counsel, and a professional actor. Learn how to be a more effective trial lawyer. The panel will also address the ethics of direct and cross-examinations of fact witnesses.

Shareholder and other Equity Owner Agreements:

Legal, Tax, and Litigation Considerations

1.5 credits | Beginner/Intermediate

Speakers: Cory J. Bilodeau, Esq., *McLaughlinQuinn LLC*
Jeffrey B. Cianciolo, Esq., *McLaughlinQuinn LLC*
W. Mark Russo, Esq., *Ferrucci Russo Dorsey*

The presentation focuses on agreements among owners of closely held businesses. Panelists discuss buy-sell triggers, transfer restrictions and other customary provisions; the personal and business tax issues related to equity issuances and buyouts; and how agreements (well drafted or otherwise) can impact shareholder disputes and litigation.

Integrating AI into Your Practice

1.5 credits | Beginner

Speakers: Nicholas Matlach, Esq., *ioLiberum Law Firm PC*
Kara Peterson, *descrybe.ai*
Quinten Steenhuis, *Suffolk University Law School*

This seminar explores how the latest advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) transform modern legal practices. We'll examine AI's practical applications in boosting efficiency, improving communication, automating documents, and securely integrating AI into law firms. Topics include AI fundamentals, productivity tools like Google's Notebook LM and vLex-FastCase, and strategies for enhancing collaboration and workflow automation.

Let's Be Civil: The Zealously Polite Advocate

1.5 ethics | All

Speakers: Misty Delgado, Esq., *RI Department of Children, Youth, and Families*
Keith E. Fayan, Esq., *Fayan Law P.C.*
Maria R. Lenz, Esq., *Deputy Disciplinary Counsel, RI Supreme Court*
Katherine B. Savage, Esq., *Hinkley Allen*

More than just good manners, civility is a professional responsibility and key to improving attorney interactions and creating better client outcomes. This Ethics CLE explores the intersection of civility and zealous advocacy in four key relationships: attorney-client, attorney and opposing counsel, attorney and supervisor, and attorney and court staff. Panelists will discuss applicable Rules of Professional Conduct, real-life examples of what constitutes civil and not-so-civil behavior, and disciplinary consequences of being "uncivil."

Getting a LEG Up with Builders Risk Insurance

1.5 credits | Intermediate

Speakers: Janie Reilly Eddy, Esq., *Saxe Doernberger & Vita, PC*
Aaron Haimowitz, Esq., *NFP*
Jackson Parmenter, Esq., *Kelly, Souza, Parmenter & Resnick, PC*

This presentation explains the main features of builders risk insurance, focusing on proving "direct physical loss or damage" and understanding LEG and inherent vice exclusions. It will also explore how Owners and GCs control risk exposure by using builders risk insurance in conjunction with carefully negotiated contractual terms.

Annual Awards Reception *(Sponsored by Our Sponsors & Exhibitors)*

4:30 pm | *Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th Floor*

OPEN AND FREE TO ALL BAR MEMBERS

All Bar members are welcome to join us for our festive Annual Awards Reception, an opportunity to recognize and honor the outstanding work of members of the legal community who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the profession while enjoying complimentary libations and hors d'oeuvres.

Rhode Island Bar Journal Lauren E. Jones, Esq. Writing Award

The Rhode Island Bar Journal Lauren E. Jones, Esq. Writing Award recognizes authors of published Rhode Island Bar Journal articles on the basis of effectiveness of presentation, legal significance, accuracy, and depth of research and information provided.

WINNER TBD

2025 Pro Bono Publico Award

Since 1987, the Pro Bono Awards have recognized the outstanding efforts of those who provide equal access to justice to the poor through a Rhode Island Bar Association pro bono program. Recipients demonstrate dedication to the administration of justice, professionalism, compassion, and commitment to public service.

Volunteer Lawyer Program

Robert E. Bollengier, Esq.

Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award

The Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award recognizes members for their volunteer work benefiting non-profit organizations. The award is named in memory of Rhode Island attorney Dorothy Lohmann, who devoted her entire professional life to helping the poor.

Kimberly I. McCarthy, Esq.

Joseph T. Houlihan Lifetime Mentor Award

Named in honor of Joseph T. Houlihan, this award recognizes individuals who consistently demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to serve as role models to other lawyers; have significantly contributed to the profession and/or the community; and with their excellent counsel, have excelled as mentors and contributed to the ideals of ethics, civility, professionalism, and legal skills.

Lauren E. Jones, Esq.

8:00 am | **Registration Begins and Exhibits Open**
Convention Center, Ballroom Foyer, 5th Floor

New Member Coffee Mixer

8:00 am | *Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th Floor*

Open and Free to Members Practicing for 10 years or less

Kick off your day with a gourmet coffee bar and assorted breakfast sandwiches while connecting with fellow new members, Bar leadership, and Leadership Academy graduates. This casual morning mixer is the perfect way to expand your network, build relationships, and mingle with our Platinum and Silver Sponsors, listed below, before the day's sessions begin!

**Aon Attorneys Advantage; Messier, Massad, Burdick & Associates;
Assembly Neos; and the RI Foundation**

NEW

President's Welcome

8:45 am | **Convention Center, Ballroom A, 5th Floor**

Welcome: Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq., President

9:00 – 10:15 am | **Concurrent Workshops**

Civil Case Law Update

1.5 credits | All

Moderators: Hon. Erin Lynch Prata, *RI Supreme Court*

Hon. Francis X. Flaherty, *RI Supreme Court (ret.)*

Speakers: Hon. Sandra A. Lanni, *RI Family Court*

Hon. Sarah Taft-Carter, *RI Superior Court*

Carly Beauvais Iafrate, Esq., *Law Office of Carly Iafrate*

Lauren E. Jones, Esq., *Attorney at Law*

Christopher S. Minicucci, Esq., *RI Supreme Court Law Clerk*

Brian W. Murphy, Esq., *RI Supreme Court Law Clerk*

The distinguished panelists provide an informative and insightful overview of recent noteworthy civil cases issued by the United States Supreme Court and the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Inside Regulation F: Avoiding 'Bad Collection' Practices

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: Rhiannon S. Huffman, Esq., *Strauss Factor Laing & Lyons*

Lynda L. Laing, Esq., *Strauss Factor Laing & Lyons*

This seminar reviews federal regulations on collections under Regulation F, highlighting current Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) concerns about "bad collection" practices. It covers issues like medical debt overcharging and improper collection of old, unresolved mortgages. The panel discusses strategies to halt collection activities, including insights from a bankruptcy perspective.

Chemical Test Refusals: From Traffic Stop to Sentencing

1.5 credits | Beginner/Intermediate

Moderator: Leah J. Boisclair, Esq., *Law Office of Leah J. Boisclair, LLC*

Speakers: Hon. Allison C. Abilheira, *RI Traffic Tribunal*
Hon. Michael DiChiro, Jr., *RI Traffic Tribunal*
Hon. Mark P. Welch, *RI Traffic Tribunal*
John E. Corrigan, Esq., *Department of Attorney General*
Craig Hein, Esq., *Craig Hein Law*

This comprehensive program provides valuable perspectives from all sides of the courtroom and equips participants with the knowledge and strategies necessary to handle the nuances of chemical test refusals. Key topics include an update on the law, best practices for client intake, the process for securing conditional hardship licenses, techniques for reviewing crucial evidence including SFSTs, PBTs, and body cam footage to effectively assess the strengths and weaknesses of each case, pretrial conferences, trial preparation, and ensuring compliance with court-ordered penalties.

The Modern American Family:

A Discussion on Family Rights of LGBTQ+ Rhode Islanders

0.5 credit + 1.0 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: Christopher J. Gerlica, Esq., *Roger Williams University School of Law*
Jane F. Howlett, Esq., *Howlett Law Offices*
Kayla S. O'Connor, Esq., *ODU Law Firm, LLC*
Alex B. Terry, Esq., *Office of the Court Appointed Special Advocate*

This program explores key legal issues related to parentage and family law, including the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA) and its recent updates, marriage equality, and adoption. It also covers relevant federal law and its implications. Attendees gain a deeper understanding of evolving legal standards in these areas.

We're Not Okay—Mental Health in the Legal Field

1.0 credit + 0.5 ethics | All

Speakers: Lorraine Lalli, *Roger Williams University School of Law*
Dr. Safie Sagna, *Roger Williams University School of Law*
Etie-Lee Z. Schaub, *Senior Assistant City Solicitor, City of Providence*

This session explores the intersection of mental health, substance abuse, and ethics in the legal profession, with a focus on law students and practicing attorneys. Attendees gain insights into national, local, and RWU-specific data, ethical responsibilities, and barriers to treatment, such as stigma, workload, and limited resources. The discussion also highlights RWU Law's wellness initiatives and practical steps institutions and individuals can take to foster a supportive environment.

9:00 – 10:15 am | Concurrent Workshops (Continued)

Procedures from the Bench—Probate Court

1.5 credits | Beginner

Moderators: Daphne Hamilton, Esq., *McCarthy Law LLC*

Samantha McCarthy Jarvis, Esq., *McCarthy Law LLC*

Speakers: Hon. Anthony F. Amalfetano, Esq., *Warwick Probate Court*

Hon. Paula M. Cuculo, Esq., *North Providence Probate Court*

Hon. Richard P. D’Addario, Esq., *Tiverton, Little Compton, & New Shoreham Probate Courts*

Hon. James P. Howe, Esq., *South Kingstown Probate Court*

Hon. Cristine L. McBurney, Esq., *Pawtucket Probate Court, President of the RI Probate Judges Association*

This panel session features Rhode Island probate court judges sharing expert perspectives on the inner workings of the probate courts. Attorneys gain insights into judicial processes, procedural nuances, and best practices directly from the judges. The session includes a moderated panel discussion, initial remarks on key procedural points and trends, and an interactive Q&A.

10:15 – 10:45 am | Morning Break

Check your email, network with your fellow Bar members, and visit many of our local affinity groups, located across from the registration area. Don't forget to also check out the Annual Meeting app. You'll find seminar materials, speaker bios, and virtual booths for our sponsors.

10:45 am – 12:00 pm | Concurrent Workshops

Criminal Case Law Update

1.5 credits | All

Moderators: Hon. Erin Lynch Prata, *RI Supreme Court*

Hon. Francis X. Flaherty, *RI Supreme Court (ret.)*

Speakers: Christopher R. Bush, Esq., *RI Office of the Attorney General*

Thomas M. Dickinson, Esq., *Law Offices of Thomas M. Dickinson*

Christopher S. Minicucci, Esq., *RI Supreme Court Law Clerk*

Brian Murphy, Esq., *RI Supreme Court Law Clerk*

Angela W. Yingling, Esq., *RI Office of the Public Defender*

The distinguished panelists provide an informative and insightful overview of recent noteworthy criminal cases issued by the United States Supreme Court and the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Introduction to Federal Civil Practice

1.5 credits | Beginner

Speakers: Hon. Patricia A. Sullivan, *U.S. District Court for the District of RI*
Nicole J. Benjamin, Esq., *Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.*
Danilo A. Borgas, Esq., *Sinapi Law Associates, Ltd.*
Lucas G. Spremulli, Esq., *Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.*

This session provides a comprehensive introduction to civil practice in the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. It guides participants through the lifecycle of a civil case in federal court, covering procedural requirements, including local rules, discovery management strategies, and case resolution approaches. The session also highlights key distinctions between practice in Rhode Island Superior Court and federal court, equipping attorneys new to federal practice with practical insights into federal litigation.

Negotiating Third Party Liens in Workers' Compensation Cases

1.5 credits | Beginner/Intermediate

Speakers: Hon. Susan Pepin Fay, *RI Workers' Compensation Court*
Hon. Christopher K. Smith, *RI Superior Court*
Paul L. Keenan, Esq., *Jones Kelleher LLP*
Michael S. Schwartz, Esq., *RI Workers' Compensation Court*

Navigating the interplay between third party litigation and workers' compensation benefits can be tricky. Listen as experts in the field walk you through the best practices for handling these issues, including a look at recent case law and new legislation.

New Anti-Money Laundering Regulations for Residential Real Estate Transfers:

How Do RI Attorneys Comply?

0.5 credit + 1.0 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: John A. Comery, Esq., *Fidelity National Financial Family of Companies*
Mark F. Comstock, Esq., *Fidelity National Financial Family of Companies*

On August 28, 2024, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued a final rule titled Anti-Money Laundering Regulations for Residential Real Estate Transfers. The rule will impose reporting and recordkeeping requirements on attorneys in real estate closings. This presentation reviews the implications of this FinCEN rule upon RI attorneys, including means of compliance and penalties for failure to properly do so.

The Psychology of Transitions

1.5 ethics | All

Moderators: Cassandra Feeney, Esq., *Hamel, Waxler, Allen & Collins*
Nicholas Trott Long, Esq., *Attorney at Law*

Speaker: Candace Hoffman, *North Carolina Lawyers Assistance Program*

Transition appears in myriad forms throughout our lives and careers: marriage, divorce, having children, children leaving for college, moving to a new town, leaving a law firm, changing practice areas, retirement...the list goes on. Add to that, many of us spend our days counseling and advising clients who face major change arising from divorce, criminal charges, bankruptcy, starting a new business, selling a business, business breakups, personal injuries, and the like. This program examines the unspoken “elephants in the living room” that directly impact and influence our ability (or seeming inability) to welcome or embrace transition and change. Transition is never easy, but with increased awareness of the invisible forces within us that fight transition, it need not be so difficult.

Respectfully and Ethically Communicating with LGBTQ+ Clients and Colleagues

0.5 credit + 1.0 ethics | All

Moderator: Christopher J. Gerlica, Esq., *Roger Williams University School of Law*

Speakers: James J. Bagley, Esq., *Office of the Mental Health Advocate*
Kayla S. O'Connor, Esq., *ODU Law Firm, LLC*
Kenneth J. Sylvia, Esq., *Gidley, Sarli & Marusak, LLP*

This session updates the bar on inclusive language for addressing LGBTQ individuals and groups using various resources, glossaries, and phrasing guides. The panel examines an attorney’s ethical and professional obligations to use the names and labels that clients, prospective clients, and colleagues endorse as their own. This workshop equips attorneys of every generation to communicate in a way that fosters safety, respect, and inclusion in their offices and the courtroom.

Headshot Event

12:00 – 2:00 pm | *Convention Center, Rotunda, 5th Floor*

Limited Availability! Pre-Registration Required

Take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to refresh your professional image with a complimentary headshot session during the Annual Meeting! Registered participants will receive two free digital images, with all files uploaded to a shared link for easy access and download. While you wait, enjoy a boxed lunch and connect with our Platinum and Gold Sponsors who are listed below. Limited availability, sign up during the registration process. **Advance registration is required.**

**Aon Attorneys Advantage, LexisNexis,
Secure Future Tech Solutions, Faster Outcomes, CBIZ**

NEW

Annual Meeting Luncheon

12:00 – 2:00 pm | *Convention Center, Ballroom B/C, 5th Floor*

THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT

Address by Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell

Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell gives an address on the State of the Rhode Island Judiciary.

Patrick A. Guida, Esq. Accepts the President's Gavel

Join us for the passing of the President's Gavel from outgoing president Christopher S. Gontarz to Patrick A. Guida. Sworn in by Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, Mr. Guida's one-year term officially begins on July 1, 2025.

Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger Judicial Excellence Award

Named in honor of its first recipient, the late Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger, this award is presented to a judge of the Rhode Island state courts or Federal District Court bench for exemplifying and encouraging the highest level of competence, integrity, judicial temperament, ethical conduct, and professionalism.

John J. McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge, U.S. District Court District of RI

Holly Hitchcock Award for Non-Attorney Legal Professionals

Named for the late Holly Hitchcock, this award allows our legal community to recognize paralegals, judicial staff, legal organization support staff, law firm support staff, law school support staff, non-lawyer mediators, non-lawyer translators, private non-lawyer professionals, and community organizers for all their hard work and contributions to the legal profession.

Colleen Hanna

Karen Torti

Honorary Members

Honoring our colleagues in grateful recognition of 50 years of outstanding service to the legal profession and the Rhode Island Bar Association.

Richard B. Abilheira, Esq.
Berndt W. Anderson, Esq.
Normand G. Benoit, Esq.
Robert C. Bruns, Esq.
Thomas J. Capalbo Jr., Esq.
Hon. Frank J. Cenerini
Hon. Edward C. Clifton
Michael D. Coleman, Esq.
Gregory F. Fater, Esq.
Howard L. Feldman, Esq.
Hon. Francis X. Flaherty
Robert G. Flanders Jr., Esq.
Richard E. Fleury, Esq.
Arnold M. Friedman, Esq.
Francis A. Gaschen, Esq.

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Paul K. Sprague, Esq.
Amy R. Tabor, Esq.
Alan R. Tate, Esq.
Kenneth R. Tremblay, Esq.
Hon. Netti C. Vogel
Jill S. Votta, Esq.
Stephen J. Weiner, Esq.
Kent A. Willever, Esq.

Protecting Your Client's Interests in a Receivership

1.0 credit | Beginner/Intermediate

Moderator: Richard J. Land, Esq., *Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, LLP*

Speakers: Steven J. Boyajian, Esq., *Robinson & Cole*

Andre S. Digou, Esq., *Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, LLP*

This seminar focuses on pursuing and protecting your client's interests and/or assets after a receiver or other court-fiduciary is appointed. Speakers discuss applicable rules and practice strategies, motions, and litigating claims.

Obtaining Attorney's Fee Awards

1.0 credit | Beginner/Intermediate

Speakers: Louise A. Herman, Esq., *Herman Law Group*

Chip Muller, Esq., *Muller Law, LLC*

Matthew C. Reeber, Esq., *Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara, LLC*

Jennifer L. Sylvia, Esq., *Moses Ryan, LTD*

This program addresses how to obtain attorney's fee awards after the Rhode Island Supreme Court's decision in *Tri-Town Constr. Co. v. Commerce Park Assocs. 12, LLC*. The CLE will also address recent federal court and superior court decisions where the courts allowed significantly different fees (\$950.00/hour in Federal Court as compared to \$475/hour in Superior Court) and use those decisions to explain how and why courts may award higher fees depending on the facts and legal issues presented.

Bankruptcy Basics

1.0 credit | Beginner

Speakers: Hon. Diane Finkle, *US Bankruptcy Judge District of RI & Chief Judge US Bankruptcy Court, Appellate Panel*

Joseph Dolben, Esq., *Harmon Law Office*

Elizabeth A. Lonardo, Esq., *Lonardo Forte & Trudeau, LLP*

This seminar provides a general understanding of the bankruptcy process. Topics include general bankruptcy themes, information regarding the different types of bankruptcy filings, and major concepts.

Tales from the Dark Web:

3 RI Law Firm Horror Stories & Lessons Learned

0.5 credit + 0.5 ethics | Intermediate

Speakers: Eric M. Shorr, *President of Secure Future Tech Solutions*

Law firms often assume, “It won’t happen to me...” but hackers frequently target unsuspecting firms in Rhode Island. This session reveals real-world cyber attacks, key warning signs, and practical defense strategies. Learn how to recognize threats like business email compromise, ransomware, and social engineering—and take action before your firm becomes the next target.

Empowering Diverse Minds: Neurodiversity in Legal Education and Practice

0.5 credit + 0.5 ethics | All

Moderator: James J. Bagley, Esq., *Office of the Mental Health Advocate*

Speakers: Shawn Healy, PhD., *Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Inc.*

Tierra A. Jenkins, Esq., *Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP*

Christine Sunnerberg, Esq., *Ramirez and Sunnerberg, LLC*

In this session a clinical psychologist teaches participants about neurodiversity, including several common types of neurodivergence, and exposes attendees to new ways of thinking about different brain types. Panelists discuss their personal experiences with neurodivergency in the workplace, courtroom, and other settings. This workshop also speaks to ethical considerations for representing neurodivergent people and offers suggestions for modifying approaches to neurodivergent colleagues and clients.

2:45 – 3:15 pm | Afternoon Break

Take this last opportunity to grab refreshments, visit with our sponsors, and connect with colleagues you may have missed earlier in the day. It’s a great moment to exchange final thoughts, follow up on conversations, or simply take a breather before our final session. But don’t say goodbye just yet—be sure to stick around afterward for the Closing Mixer, where we’ll close out the Annual Meeting together!

And if you’re participating in the Sponsor Showcase Challenge, now’s the time to make those final stops—completed game cards can be submitted at the check-in desk!



Closing Plenary - What Judging Taught Me About Advocating for Clients

3:15 - 4:15 pm | 0.5 credit + 0.5 ethics | Level: All

Speaker: Hon. Lara E. Montecalvo, *United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit*

What do judges really think about advocacy? Judge Lara E. Montecalvo of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit shares the key advocacy lessons she wishes she knew as a lawyer. Drawing on her experience transitioning from advocate to judge, she offers a candid perspective on judicial decision-making and practical strategies for more effective advocacy. RI Bar President Chris Gontarz and Annual Meeting Chair Cassandra Feeney join Judge Montecalvo on stage as she shares her insights. Whether you are a new attorney or a seasoned practitioner, this discussion provides valuable takeaways to strengthen your approach in the courtroom.



Hon. Lara E. Montecalvo
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First
Circuit Judge

Judge Montecalvo was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in September 2022. She graduated from Swarthmore College in 1996 and earned her J.D., magna cum laude, from Boston College Law School in 2000.

She began her legal career as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where she litigated civil tax matters in the federal courts. Beginning in 2004, Judge Montecalvo started her public defender career as a trial attorney and litigated cases for nearly seven years in the Rhode Island trial courts. From 2010 to 2020, she served as an appellate attorney in the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office and was the Chief of the Appellate Division from 2014 to 2020.

Nominated by former Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo, Judge Montecalvo served as the Rhode Island Public Defender from 2020 to 2022.

Closing Mixer

4:15 - 5:15 pm | *Convention Center, Ballroom A Foyer, 5th Floor*

OPEN AND FREE TO ALL BAR MEMBERS

Join us in the Foyer of Ballroom A, just outside the plenary room, as we wrap up another successful Annual Meeting! Enjoy light refreshments, connect with fellow attendees, and take a few minutes to wind down before heading out. It's a chance to reflect on the past two days, revisit highlights from the sessions, and catch up with colleagues before we all return to our regular routines. We hope to see you there!

NEW

2025 Featured Product & Service Providers

Platinum Sponsor – Aon Attorneys Advantage

The Aon Attorneys Advantage program is committed to providing solutions for your professional liability insurance needs and delivering risk management resources to protect your firm.

attorneys-advantage.com

Gold Sponsors

CBIZ

Advisors discover new ways to grow with applied industry knowledge, innovative technology, and data-driven insights
cbiz.com

Faster Outcomes

Legal intelligence platform, transforming operations with secure, AI-powered solutions
fasteroutcomes.com

LexisNexis

Leading global provider of legal, regulatory, and business information and analytics
lexisnexis.com/en-us

Secure Future Tech Solutions

Network security and cyber security solutions for law firms
securefuturetech.com

Silver Sponsors

Assembly Neos

Case management with full document management and embedded AI
assemblysoftware.com

Messier, Massad, Burdick & Assoc, LLC

The Connecticut connection for RI attorneys looking for CT lawyers
mmbteam.com

RI Foundation

The largest and most comprehensive funder of nonprofit organizations in RI
rifoundation.org

Exhibitors

Chicago, Commonwealth & Fidelity National Title Insurance Companies

The nation's leading provider of title insurance & settlement services
nationalagency.nfn.com/ri

Delta Dental of Rhode Island

Dental benefits
deltadentalri.com

First American Title Insurance Co.

National title insurance company focused on providing simple and effective solutions
firstam.com

Jennifer Cosgrove O'Leary, Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert

Experienced expert witness & trained neutral in family law cases involving real estate matters
jenniferoleary.greenwichbaybrokers.com

NetCenergy

Strategic, cost-effective IT solutions
netcenergy.com

RI Judiciary

Updates on attorney portal access and electronic filing procedures
courts.ri.gov

RI Lawyers Weekly

News and marketing services for RI lawyers and law firms
rilawyersweekly.com

RI Legal Services, Inc.

Pro Bono Legal Services
riis.org

Robson Forensic

Specialist firm providing scientific investigations, reports, and testimony to resolve litigation & insurance claims
robsonforensic.com

Roger Williams University School of Law

Table to greet alumni and interact with employers
law.rwu.edu

SJ Corio Company

Auction & appraisal services
sjcorio.com

Bronze Sponsors

ABA Retirement Funds

Tailored retirement plans exclusively for the legal community
abaretirement.com

Collaborative Divorce Strategies

Divorce financial planning & mediation firm helping clients and attorneys understand all financial aspects of the marital estate
collaborativedivorcestrategies.com

InReach Continuing Education Solutions

Leading provider of bringing continuing professional education & training online
inreachce.com

Justice Assistance

Non-profit providing monitoring services for the RI District Court as well as innovative and critical services to assist our state's justice system
justiceassistance.org

RemiPBX

Delivering legal teams a smarter, faster, and cheaper way to handle calls and texts
remipbx.com

Signal Solutions

Full service IT & telecommunications consulting firm
signalri.com

USI Insurance Services LLC

Assists RI Bar members to obtain healthcare benefits for themselves and their employees
usi.com

Information and Fees

Registration

Registration for the 2025 Annual Meeting is available online until June 6, 2025. To secure your spot, please visit ribar.com and click on the "2025 Annual Meeting Registration" link on the homepage.

Early-Bird Pricing (available until May 23, 2025):

- **\$375** for two-day registration
- **\$275** for one-day registration
- **\$320** for two-day registration for members admitted after January 2020
- **\$235** for one-day registration for members admitted after January 2020

Standard Pricing Starting May 23, 2025

- **\$400** for two-day registration
- **\$300** for one-day registration
- **\$345** for two-day registration for members admitted after January 2020
- **\$260** for one-day registration for members admitted after January 2020

The daily registration fee includes admission to all CLE sessions, digital conference materials, continental breakfast, and coffee breaks. Registration is not available for individual seminars.

Walk-In Registration

Online registration is open until Friday, June 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. After this point, you must go to the [walk-in registration desk](#) at the event. We cannot guarantee seating or meals for walk in registrants. Pre-registering is strongly recommended.

Refund Policy

There are no refunds for registrants who do not attend or cancel after **June 6, 2025**. Exceptions will be made in cases of unexpected illness, subject to approval.

Annual Meeting App

The RI Bar Association has gone paperless! All event materials, including the schedule, floor plan, attendance certificate, and available workshop materials, can be accessed through the RI Bar Annual Meeting App.

How to Download the App:

1. Open your app store (Apple App Store or Google Play).
2. Search for [Engagefully](#).
3. Download and install the app.
4. Open the app and search for [RI Bar](#).
5. Select the [2025 Annual Meeting](#) to access all event information.

Check In

Attendees can check in either through the event app or at the check-in desk. To skip the line, download the app and use the QR code displayed on signage throughout the prefunction area on the 5th Floor of the Convention Center. Prefer to check in on site? The check-in desk opens at 8:00 am on both days of the event. Please note that check-in is only required once.

CLE Credit

Workshops are approved for CLE credit as noted in the brochure. Credits must be electronically reported to the MCLE Commission. The responsibility to ensure the accuracy and timely submission of credits rests solely with the reporting attorney.

Parking

Parking is available, for a fee, in the Convention Center garages. The entrances are on West Exchange Street. Parking is not included in the registration fee.

Meals

Meal tickets can be purchased during registration. The Thursday luncheon is \$35, and the Friday Awards Luncheon is \$40. If you would like to purchase only meal tickets and do not plan to attend annual meeting workshops, please call (401) 421-5740 by June 6, 2025. Be sure to specify any dietary requirements when purchasing.

Special Accommodations

Please contact the CLE Director, Madeline Benner, at mbenner@ribar.com or (401) 421-5740 by May 23, 2025, if you require special accommodations.

Health & Safety

We are committed to providing a safe environment throughout the event. Please be aware that local guidelines and recommendations will be followed.

The Rhode Island Bar Association retains all rights to Annual Meeting program content. Recording of any workshop or session is not permitted.

The RIBA assumes no responsibility for opinions, statements, and facts in any Continuing Legal Education/Annual Meeting program. Neither the opinions expressed in any program, nor its content represent the official view of the Rhode Island Bar Association or the views of its members.

By registering for the RIBA Annual Meeting, all attendees, speakers, and exhibitors acknowledge they may be photographed during the meeting. They agree that such photographs are the sole property of the RIBA, and they consent to the Bar Association's unrestricted use of their name, portrait, photograph, and other likeness in any and all commercial, promotional and advertising material without any monetary compensation.