



Nationwide Changes and Alaskan Impacts

2026 AK Bar Convention Agenda

April 29 – May 1, 2026

Centennial Hall Convention Center, Juneau

All events hosted at Centennial Hall Convention Center unless noted

Wednesday, April 29

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Registration Open

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Opening Reception

Sponsored by Clio

Hangar on the Wharf

2 Marine Way, 106

Join us for the Opening Reception, where you can connect with colleagues in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Enjoy light appetizers and great conversation. A cash bar will be available.

Thursday, April 30

7:00 a.m.

Morning Activities - Start your Day with Colleagues!

Optional Coffee Stroll & Fun Run. Meet at the registration area of Centennial Hall. All activities are led by member volunteers

8:00 – 8:50 a.m.

Registration & Exhibits Open

Light Breakfast

8:50 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Address

Rebecca Patterson
President, Board of Governors
Sonosky Chambers Sachse Miller & Monkman LLP

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

U.S. Supreme Court Opinions Update

(1.5 General CLE credits)
Sponsored by Banker Law Group

A comprehensive review of recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky
University of California Berkeley Law School

Professor Laurie Levenson
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Networking Break/Exhibits Open

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

U.S. Supreme Court Opinions Update (Con't)

(1.5 General CLE credits)
Sponsored by Banker Law Group

Dean Chemerinsky and Professor Levenson

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch: AI for Attorneys

(1.5 General CLE credits)
Sponsored by Stoel Rives

Joshua Weaver
Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator
State Bar of Texas

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Alaska Appellate Law Update (1.5 General CLE credits)

Sponsored by Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

A comprehensive review of recent decisions of the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Appellate Courts.

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky
University of California Berkeley Law School

4:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Networking Break/Exhibits Open

4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **Alaska Legislative Update** (1.0 General CLE credits)
Sponsored by Faulkner Banfield

Overview of current bills before the Alaska Legislature impacting the practice of law, the court system, and the judicial branch.

Nancy Meade
General Counsel, Alaska Court System

5:15- 6:45 p.m. **Awards Reception –**
Light appetizers and cash bar while we celebrate the 2026 award winners: (9 awards)

- Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono Awards
- Judge Nora Guinn Award
- Rabinowitz Public Service Award
- Board of Governors Awards

6:45 p.m. **Social Activity – Imperial Bar** (241 Front Street)
Hosted by the Juneau Bar Association

Friday, May 1

7:00 a.m. **Morning Activities - Start your Day with Colleagues!**

Optional Coffee Stroll, Fun Run & Yoga. Meet at the registration area of Centennial Hall. All activities are led by member volunteers

8:00 – 8:50 a.m. **Registration & Exhibits Open**
Light Breakfast

8:50 – 9:00 a.m. **Welcome Address**

Rebecca Patterson
President, Board of Governors
Sonosky Chambers Sachse Miller & Monkman LLP

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. **Alaska Supreme Court Panel** (1.0 General CLE credits)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Networking Break/Exhibits Open**

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Lawyers and Civic Engagement: How Attorneys Can Educate and Engage the Public** (1.5 Ethics credits)
Sponsored by Aglietti Offret & Woofter

Jason DeSanto
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Annual Bar Update/Meeting** (1.0 General CLE credits)
Recognize

- 25, 50, 60 Year Membership Recognition
- In memoriam recognition
- Pro Bono Champions

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

1) Ethical Use of Technology in the Courtroom & Settlement (1.5 Ethics CLE Credits)
Sponsored by 49th Estate Planning

Tricia Collins
Superior Court (Retired)

Bailey J. Woolfstead
Alaska Department of Law

Rachel Bergartt
Baxter Bruce & Sullivan P.C.

Mark Choate
Choate Law Firm

2) My Story: A Lived Experience of the Criminal Justice System (1.5 Ethics Credits)

Christina Love shares her powerful personal journey through the criminal justice system as a defendant, survivor of domestic violence and sex trafficking, and

now advocate. Drawing on her lived experiences with domestic violence, trafficking, incarceration, substance use recovery, homelessness, and disability, Christina offers a deeply human perspective on the intersection of trauma, mental health, and the justice system, while highlighting pathways toward healing and meaningful systems change.

Christina Love

Alutiiq/Sugpiaq/Unanga, Egegik Tribal Member
Indigenous Storyteller, Survivor, Multi-Level Advocate
U.S Commissioner on Civil Rights
United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Networking Break/Exhibits Open

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1) Mitigating the Impact of Workplace Trauma

(1.0 Ethics credits)

Sponsored by Landye Bennett Blumstein

Trauma can deeply impact both clients and the attorneys who represent them. Clients may struggle with fear, grief, or impaired decision-making, while attorneys can experience secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout from repeated exposure to difficult cases. This session explores how trauma affects both parties and offers strategies for attorneys to support clients effectively while protecting their own well-being.

Robert VandePol

Founder, VandePol Crisis Response Services LLC

2) Federal Court Update (1.0 General CLE credits)

Sponsored by Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman LLP

A report on current issues, successes, and happenings in United State District Court, District of Alaska.

Chief Judge Sharon Gleason

USDC, District of Alaska

Michael J. Heyman
U.S. Attorney, District of Alaska

Jamie McGrady
Federal Public Defender, District of Alaska

4:15 p.m. Convention ends - [Enjoy First Friday in Juneau!](#)

The 2026 Alaska Bar Convention agenda is subject to change.

The 2026 Alaska Bar Convention provides up to a total of **13 CLE credits**. Plenary sessions offer 9.0 General CLE credits and 1.5 Ethics credits. Concurrent session offer 2.0 General CLE credits and 3.0 Ethics credits.

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