

STU BENJAMIN L. CRUMP
COLLEGE OF LAW



REGISTRATION
STARTS @ 12:00 PM

EMPOWERED ADVOCACY

ADVANCING LITIGATION EXCELLENCE

MARCH 7, 2025 - 1:00PM-7:30PM

MARCH 8 8:00AM-3:00PM

REGISTRATION & AGENDA

VIRGILHAWKINSNBA.COM



TJ REDDICK
BAR ASSOCIATION



Trial Symposium Agenda

DAY 01

March 7th, Friday

12:00PM - 5:00PM

Registration

1:00PM - 1:55PM

Shaping the Future: Judicial Reflections on Professionalism

This session will delve into the shifting landscape of the legal profession, exploring the generational gap between judges and lawyers and how it influences perceptions of professionalism in the courtroom. Judges will share their views on how different generations approach legal practice, etiquette, and courtroom behavior. Expect to gain insights into how professionalism is evolving and how to adapt to maintain a strong reputation in today's legal environment.

Session A: 2:00PM-2:55PM

Launching Your Legal Career: Navigating the Transition from Law School to Practice

The leap from law school to legal practice can be challenging. This session bridges the gap, offering practical guidance for new attorneys. Experienced practitioners will discuss common hurdles, from building client relationships to navigating firm culture. Learn how to develop critical thinking skills, manage client expectations, navigating firm dynamics, and avoid common pitfalls in your early career.

12:45PM - 1:00PM

Welcome & Introduction

Session B: 2:00PM-2:55PM

Beyond the Bar: Lawyers as Entrepreneurs and Multidimensional Leaders

Explore how lawyers can balance legal practice with entrepreneurial ventures, build additional income streams, and find fulfillment beyond traditional legal work. This session offers practical strategies and real-world examples.

Session C: 2:00PM - 2:55PM (Judges only)

Advancing Your Judicial Career: A Roadmap for Judges

This session offers guidance for judges seeking career advancement. Experienced judges share their insights and advice on navigating the path from county court to higher courts, including circuit, appellate, and the state supreme court. Learn about the career steps, challenges, and opportunities within the judicial system.



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Trial Symposium Agenda

DAY 01

March 7th, Friday

Session A:

3:00PM-3:55PM

Trial Ready: Mastering Preparation from Day One

Be trial-ready from the start. This session emphasizes the importance of pre-trial planning, covering essential elements of your case with strategically designed orders of proof, the development of resonant trial themes, and the impactful writing of closing arguments. Learn how to organize your case early for a coherent and persuasive presentation.

Session B: 3:00PM-3:55PM

Navigating the Digital Frontier: AI, Evidence, and eDiscovery

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming legal practice, particularly in evidence and discovery. This session explores the new challenges of eDiscovery, including authentication, establishing foundation, and how legal professionals can adapt to the evolving technology. Learn about the latest trends and best practices for handling AI-generated data in court.

4:00PM - 5:00PM

The Art of Jury Selection: A Mock Voir Dire Experience

This interactive session offers a hands-on mock voir dire experience. Participants will practice questioning potential jurors, learn to recognize biases, and develop strategies for selecting the best jury for their case. Gain valuable experience in a realistic trial setting.

Reception: 5:00PM – 7:30PM

Join us for a networking reception where attendees can relax, make valuable connections, and discuss the day's sessions with peers and experts. This is a perfect opportunity to unwind and build relationships in a more informal setting. Dinner and drinks will be served.



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Trial Symposium Agenda

DAY 02

March 8th, Saturday



Continental Breakfast 8:00AM-9:00AM

Enjoy a light breakfast and the opportunity to network with fellow attendees before the start of a full day of learning and professional development.

9:00AM-10:00AM

Mastering Florida's 2025 Civil Procedure Rules

Florida's Civil Procedure Rules have changed in 2025. This essential session provides a comprehensive overview of the updates, including judicial perspectives on common compliance issues, how to avoid sanctions, and key areas where practitioners need to adjust their approach. Walk away with a clear understanding of the new rules and practical strategies for implementation.

Session A: 10:00AM - 10:55AM

The Future of Law is Now: Mastering AI Tools for Legal Practice

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the legal landscape. This session explores how AI-powered tools, including Westlaw, can revolutionize your practice. Learn how to leverage these technologies for efficient legal research, motion drafting, and overall productivity gains. Gain practical skills to enhance your effectiveness and stay ahead of the curve.

Session B: 10:00AM - 10:55AM

PowerPoint for Persuasion: Captivating Audiences and Winning Your Case

PowerPoint can be a powerful tool for persuasion. This session explores how to create visually compelling presentations that captivate your audience and strengthen your arguments. Learn design techniques to enhance your storytelling and make your case more persuasive and memorable in the courtroom and beyond.

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Trial Symposium Agenda

DAY 02

March 8th, Saturday



11:00AM

The Ethical Use of Experts: A Practitioner's Guide

Explore either a session on the use of experts in criminal practice or civil practice.

Session A 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Civil Practice Session

The Role of Expert Witnesses in Civil Proceedings: Legal and Ethical Dimensions

This session examines the multifaceted role of expert witnesses in civil proceedings, addressing both the legal and ethical dimensions of their testimony. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of admissibility standards, ethical considerations, and effective as well as ethical collaboration with testifying and non-testifying experts.

Session B: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Criminal Practice Session

The Power of Experts: Maximizing Impact in Criminal Trials

Expert witnesses can be crucial in criminal trials. This session examines how to effectively utilize experts, addressing legal and ethical considerations. Learn best practices for collaboration, admissibility, and presenting expert testimony for maximum impact. The discussion will include relevant topics, such as self-defense, autopsy, ballistic, and other experts critical in a criminal practice.

Lunch Served: 12:00 PM-1:00PM

Enjoy a lunch and continue networking with fellow attendees, speakers, and panelists.

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Trial Symposium Agenda

DAY 02

March 8th, Saturday



1:00PM - 1:55PM

Cross-Examination Mastery: Turning the Tables in Trial

Cross-examination is a crucial trial skill. This session delves into effective techniques for questioning witnesses, weakening the opposing side's case, and exposing inconsistencies in testimony. Learn strategies for preparation, handling difficult witnesses, and achieving courtroom success.



2:00PM-3:00PM

A Fireside Chat

The Baby Boomer Brief: Wisdom and Direction for the Future Generations

In this engaging discussion, senior attorneys and advocates will explore how seasoned lawyers can guide and empower younger generations to become effective advocates for the communities they serve. Too often, experienced attorneys critique the advocacy efforts of younger lawyers but neglect to direct them how to make a tangible impact. This session will provide insight into how to advocate for meaningful social change, elevate the voices of marginalized communities, and build lasting connections within communities that need advocacy most. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how to champion causes with intention, purpose, and effectiveness while mentoring the next generation of community-focused advocates.

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