
WE ARE ONE
UNITED IN PURPOSE
39th Annual NBA-CLS Corporate Counsel Conference | Dana Point, CA
FEBRUARY 19 - 21, 2026
Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort and Club
Dana Point, CA
Est. 1925
NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
THE COMMERCIAL LAW SECTION
Connecting People, Ideas and Opportunities
www.nbacls.com



WELCOME
from the NBA-CLS Chair
Rashida MacMurray-Abdullah

Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome to Monarch Beach! We are delighted to host you at the 39th Annual NBA-CLS Corporate Counsel Conference. While many conferences exist in the legal profession, this event has always set itself apart.

For thirty-nine years, the NBA-CLS Corporate Counsel Conference has served as a forum where people, ideas, and opportunities come together with intention. It is where relationships are built, careers are shaped, and legal excellence is not only celebrated but strengthened. It is a place where relationships are forged; careers are shaped, and legal prowess, is not only celebrated but also fortified. Rooted in both excellence and community, it is an honor to welcome you into this legacy.

As we gather here in Monarch Beach, we are inspired by the Monarch Butterfly, whose multi-generational, 3,000-mile journey of migration and metamorphosis reminds us that transformation is not achieved alone, but through collective movement, resilience, and vision. Much like that journey, Similarly, the work we do together shapes what comes next for our profession.

This year's theme, **We Are One: United in Purpose**, is rooted in a simple, but powerful belief: that progress happens when we gather across practice areas, institutions, and generations. Over the coming days, I encourage you to fully engage. Expand your thinking. Share your insights. Build new relationships. Reignite old ones. Whether you are here to deepen your legal acumen, grow your network, or be inspired by the career journeys of your peers, know that this conference was designed with intention, and with you in mind. From unique business generation opportunities to curated conversations to moments of celebration, this conference has been designed to remind us that excellence thrives where people feel seen, supported, and connected. When we move together with purpose, we move our profession forward.

We are thrilled to have the enthusiastic support of our phenomenal Honorary Co-Chairs: **Colette Honorable,** Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Compliance and Corporate Secretary, Exelon; **Shaka Johnson**, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, Sony Electronics; **Kimberly Banks MacKay**, Director, CTS Corporation and former Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, West Pharmaceuticals; and **Ama Romaine**, Senior Managing Director, Head of Government Relations and Public Policy, Pretium. Together, they represent diverse geographies, industries, and expertise. In keeping with legacy of NBA-CLS Founders, we are excited to launch our inaugural Executive Leader Pre-Conference Bootcamp, alongside a dynamic slate of CLEs, wellness experiences, and transformative experiences offered in the Connections Lounge and Headshot Lounge. You won't want to miss all that this conference has to offer.

We also proudly celebrate this year's honorees: the Cora T. Walker Awardee, the John Lewis Jr. Corporation of the Year, and the Jean-Marie Sylla, Jr. Legacy Award recipient. Their impact reminds us of what is possible when purpose and passion align.

My deepest thanks to Microsoft and all our sponsors, partners, and supporters - and to the NBA-CLS Executive Committee, whose dedication and vision make this gathering possible. It is an honor to serve alongside such phenomenal leaders.

As we embark on this conference together, let us remember: **Together, We Are One.**

Rashida

Rashida MacMurray- Abullah
Chair, National Bar Association Commercial Law Section



CONFERENCE AGENDA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Room: Pacific Rotunda

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Room: Pacific Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
WELCOME & HONORARY GENERAL COUNSEL ROUNDTABLE
Room: Pacific Ballroom

DESCRIPTION:
A lively discussion featuring our Honorary Co-Chairs discussing a plethora of topics related to their career paths, retaining outside counsel, diversity, and other issues defining the role of General Counsel.

PANELISTS:
Honorable Colette D. Honorable
Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Exelon Corporation

Shaka Johnson
SVP, General Counsel, Sony Electronics

Kimberly Banks MacKay
Director, CTS Corporation

Ama Romaine
Senior Managing Director, Head of Government Relations & Public Policy, Pretium

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM
BREAK
Room: Pacific Promenade

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
CLE #1 - EMERGING TRENDS IN LITIGATION
Room: Avalon

DESCRIPTION:
Explore the latest developments shaping litigation across sectors, including procedural shifts, landmark rulings, and evolving risk areas for corporate and public entities.

MODERATOR:
Carita Walker
Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel, Head of Legal, Shell Recharge Solutions

PANELISTS:
Brittany Armour
Senior Associate, Hogan Lovells US LLP

Anitra Clement
Partner, Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP

Monty Cooper
Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP

Precious Jacobs-Perry
Partner, Jenner & Block

Hon. Clifton Newman
Mediator & Arbitrator, JAMS

Signature Panel & Luncheon

THE SUPREME COURT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Thursday, February 19, 2026

MODERATOR



Tona Boyd
Civil Rights Lawyer
former Associate Director-Counsel,
Legal Defense Fund

PANELIST



Hon. Jerry Blackwell
Judge
U.S. District Court for the
District of Minnesota

PANELIST



Professor Stacy Hawkins
Award-Winning Scholar
Rutgers Law School

PANELIST



Dariely Rodridguez
Acting Co-Chief Counsel
Lawyers' Committee for Civil
Rights Under Law

PANELIST



Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr. (Ret.)
Partner
Arnold & Porter

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

CLE #2 - REGULATION, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS: EVOLVING CHALLENGES IN DATA PRIVACY AND PROTECTION

Room: Monarch 3

DESCRIPTION:

This panel brings together experts to discuss emerging enforcement priorities and trends along with litigation risks specific to data privacy and protection. Panelists will explore the latest developments in data privacy, related consumer protection concerns, and compliance obligations, with a focus on current and anticipated enforcement priorities and litigation trends. Attendees will gain insights into enforcement and compliance trends, mitigating risk, and anticipating the next wave of regulatory scrutiny and specific litigation trends relating to data privacy, security and protection.

MODERATOR:

Da'Morus Cohen
Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

PANELISTS:

Tambry Lynette Bradford
Partner, Troutman Pepper Locke

Tracee E. Davis
Partner, Seyfarth

Donald DePass
Counsel, Hogan Lovells US LLP

Leslie Hood
Senior Corporate Counsel, Microsoft Corporation

11:45 AM - 1:45 PM

SIGNATURE PANEL & LUNCHEON
THE SUPREME COURT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Room: Pacific Ballroom

DESCRIPTION:

This event promises to be an enlightening experience as our Signature Panelists delve into the most recent Supreme Court terms that have featured blockbuster cases reshaping the landscape of American jurisprudence. During this session, our esteemed panel of legal experts will review some of the Court's recent rulings on executive power, civil rights, and the shadow docket. They will explore the trends that can be gleaned from these decisions and discuss their potential impact on both the public and private sectors. By the end of the session, attendees will gain a thorough understanding of the Supreme Court's pivotal role in addressing contemporary legal challenges. This is an excellent opportunity to stay informed about significant legal developments and their broader implications.

MODERATOR:

Tona Boyd
Civil Rights Lawyer, Former Associate Director-Counsel, Legal Defense Fund

PANELISTS:

Hon. Jerry Blackwell
United States District Court Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota

Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr. (Ret.)
Partner, Arnold & Porter

Professor Stacy Hawkins
Award-Winning Professor and Scholar, Rutgers Law School

Dariely Rodriguez
Acting Co-Chief Counsel, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM

BREAK

Room: Pacific Promenade

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

CLE #3 - THE LATEST WITH AI: WHAT'S NEXT?

Room: Avalon

DESCRIPTION:

Dive into the intersection of artificial intelligence and its impact on our firms and clients. From transactions to litigation, AI continues to challenge us all. These distinguished panelists will touch on many of AI's emerging legal challenges, including IP rights, US and European governance and regulatory responses, and the balancing act of responsible innovation shaping the future of technology. Discover how AI tools are benefiting (and creating conflict) in the practice of law, from contract drafting to billing, and including the limitations and potential risks associated with the use of AI in our legal workplace.

MODERATOR:

Joe Drayton
Partner, Proskauer

PANELISTS:

Shelita Stewart
Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP

Monique Watson
Partner, Vinson & Elkins LLP

Andrew Alleyne
Partner, Fasken

Benjamin Okeke
Senior Manager, Senior Corporate Counsel, Amazon

Nkechi Ekwunife
Senior Corporate Counsel, Microsoft Corporation

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

CLE #4 - CIVIL RIGHTS AND IMPACT LITIGATION - PRO BONO IN ACTION

Room: Monarch 3

DESCRIPTION:

This panel examines how pro bono legal work advances civil rights through strategic impact litigation, judicial advocacy, and community-centered initiatives. Panelists will discuss emerging challenges—including shifting federal priorities, evolving law firm pro bono commitments, constrained nonprofit resources, and innovative financing models—and explore how strategic collaborations among nonprofits, private attorneys, and funders can expand access to justice and drive systemic reform. The session offers practitioners a forward-looking discussion on the current landscape and future of pro bono civil rights advocacy and impact litigation in an era of legal and political uncertainty.

MODERATOR:

Warrington Parker
Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP

PANELISTS:

Elise Roby Yanders
Senior Vice President, Merrill - Bank of America

Roy Prather
Principal, Beveridge & Diamond PC

Lukman Azeez
Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

Olivia S. Singelmann
Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MERRILL LYNCH CONSULTING SESSIONS

Room: Aegean

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

COFFEE BREAK

Room: Pacific Promenade (Upstairs Area)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

CLE #5 - GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND PROJECT RISK MANAGEMENT

Room: Avalon

DESCRIPTION:

So you want to do business with federal, state or local governments? This panel will explore legal and policy developments in government contracting at all levels, including a focus on project finance, risk mitigation, IP protection, representing domestic and foreign clients and practical strategies for pivoting when funded projects face cancellation or other challenges.

MODERATOR:

Debra Gatison Hatter
Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

PANELISTS:

Randi Adkins-Warren
Corporate Counsel/Government Representatives, Aflac

Sean Holloway
Attorney, City of Atlanta

Alex Ifill
Senior Counsel, Apple

Nneka Obiokoye
Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

CLE #6 - BUILDING GENERATIONAL WEALTH - SELECTED AVENUES

Room: Monarch 3

DESCRIPTION:

This panel will discuss legal, financial and strategic pathways to building generational wealth through various avenues, including: the growth of large scale minority owned firms, wealth and estate planning considerations for athletes and entertainers, as well as current strategies for attorneys to maximize wealth in today's economy.

MODERATOR:

Traci V. Bransford
Partner, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP

PANELISTS:

Stacee B. Crittenden
Senior Vice President and Senior Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch

Heather A. Benjamin
Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Natasha A. Robertson
Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Elvin J. Sutton, Jr.
Director, Real Estate Legal New Restaurants, Chick-fil-A

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

PRIVATE RECEPTION:

SIGNATURE, PLATINUM, GOLD, AND SILVER LAW FIRM SPONSORS AND CORPORATE (IN-HOUSE) COUNSEL ATTORNEYS ONLY

Room: Sunset Terrace South/Observation Deck

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

Room: Grand Lawn

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

CORPORATE DINE-AROUNDS & DINNER RECEPTIONS

Buses departing at 6:45 PM

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WE ARE ONE UNITED IN PURPOSE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Room: Pacific Rotunda

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Room: Pacific Ballroom 2

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
GENERAL COUNSEL & CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER BREAKFAST (INVITATION ONLY)
Room: Adriatic

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
MERRILL LYNCH CONSULTING SESSIONS
Room: Aegean

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
HEADSHOT LOUNGE
Sponsored by Levenfeld Pearlstein
Room: Mediterranean

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
LAW FIRM & CORPORATE COUNSEL CONNECTIONS LOUNGE
Room: Monarch Ballroom

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
BREAK
Room: Pacific Promenade (Upstairs Area)

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
CLE #7 - CORPORATE MISCONDUCT AND GLOBAL COMPLIANCE
Room: Avalon

DESCRIPTION:

Investigate enforcement trends and legal risks related to corporate fraud and misconduct, including FCPA compliance and cross-border regulatory coordination.

MODERATOR:

Derick Holt
Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

PANELISTS:

Monique Boyce
Associate Corporate Counsel, Google

Porpoise Evans
Office Managing Shareholder, Littler Mendelson, PC

Thomas Monheim
Executive Director, Global Compliance, Investigations and Ombudsman, GE Aerospace

Keisha Stanford
Partner, Jenner & Block

Luke Tillman
General Counsel, LONGi Solar

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
CLE #8 - THE BUSINESS OF LAW
Room: Monarch 3

DESCRIPTION:
Join a panel of Law firm leaders to explore the thorny and the new in securing the continued success of law firms in changing times. Take a journey expanding on opportunities for firms to protecting firm culture and success when faced with recent regulatory, political and market demands.

MODERATOR:
Jerry Hamilton
Managing Partner, Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel LLP

PANELISTS:
Jeanine Conley Daves
Managing Shareholder, Littler Mendelson, PC

Tiffani Lee
Deputy Managing Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

Jill B. Louis
Dallas Office Managing Partner, Perkins Coie LLP

Paul Sweeney
Partner, Arnold & Porter

Jéan Wilson
Chair - Orlando Office, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
GENERAL LUNCHEON - GRAB & GO
Room: Pacific Ballroom 2

1:00 PM - 2:45 PM
MEN'S WELLNESS SESSION & LUNCHEON
A SEAT AT THE TABLE: A MEN'S LUNCHEON
Room: Pacific Ballroom 3

DESCRIPTION:
Prioritizing mental health is essential for Black men, especially in the context of systemic racism and historical trauma. The psychological and political battles around DEI and the anxiety bred from a changing economic and environmental landscape will be explored. Research underscores the value of seeking support from family, friends, and mental health professionals to foster healing and resilience. Breaking the stigma surrounding mental health is a crucial step toward achieving holistic well-being.

This interactive session, led by Black board-certified psychiatrists, offers a unique opportunity for personal growth and wellness. Participants will engage in meaningful conversations, explore therapeutic strategies, and practice mindfulness exercises in a supportive and inclusive environment.

MODERATOR:
Michel Pratts, MD
Staff Psychiatrist, Cayuga County - Auburn, NY

PANELISTS:
Otis Anderson III, MD
Psychiatrist, Global Health Psychiatry

Napolean Higgins, MD
Psychiatrist, Global Health Psychiatry

James Lee Jr. MD
General Psychiatrist, Talkiatry

Karriem L. Salaam, MD
Medical Director of Adolescent Services Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Friends Hospital Drexel University College of Medicine

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

1:00 PM - 2:45 PM

WOMEN'S WELLNESS SESSION & LUNCHEON

TABLE OF LIFE WORKSHOP - WELLNESS, HARMONY AND THE PURSUIT OF WHOLENESS

Room: Pacific Ballroom 1

DESCRIPTION:

This interactive workshop is inspired by Tommi's acclaimed book, *The Table of Life: Nourishing the Soul with Food, Love, and Faith*, which is a deeply reflective and practical guide that invites women to examine what they are consuming emotionally, spiritually, and mentally, and how those "ingredients" shape every area of life.

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Tommi Vincent
Author, Philanthropist, & Speaker, Vincent Country

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

BREAK

Room: Pacific Promenade

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

CLE #9 - WORKFORCE EVOLUTION AND IMMIGRATION INSIGHTS

Room: Avalon

DESCRIPTION:

A look at employment law trends, with a focus on business immigration to the US, remote and back to work policies, and regulatory changes impacting workforce management and compliance.

MODERATOR:

Kerri-Ann Griggs
Partner, Alston & Bird LLP

PANELISTS:

Kimberly Houston Drummond
Senior Corporate Counsel, Liberty Mutual Group

Christian Elloie
Deputy General Counsel, AMD (Advanced Micro Devices Inc)

Lillian S. Hardy
Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP

Natasha Wilson
Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

CLE #10 - ETHICS AND THE RULE OF LAW - ADAPTING WITH INTEGRITY

Room: Monarch 3

DESCRIPTION:

Explore how lawyers can ethically adapt to evolving regulatory and geopolitical landscapes. With shifting enforcement priorities—such as potential changes in FCPA focus—how can counsel continue to serve clients effectively across jurisdictions, now and in the future?

MODERATORS:

Tiffany Mallory Moore
Associate General Counsel, Mercedes-Benz USA

Mitch Robinson
Senior Counsel, Seyfarth

PANELISTS:

Ron Machen
Partner, WilmerHale

Shomari Wade
Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

4:15 PM - 4:30 PM
BREAK
Room:

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM
CLE #11 - EMERGING PRACTICES: A NEW LOOK AT SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND MEDIA IN COMMERCIAL LAW
Room: Avalon

DESCRIPTION:
Join leading legal professionals for an engaging panel discussion exploring the evolving landscape of commercial law as it intersects with sports, entertainment, and media. This session will provide fresh insights into the innovative legal practices shaping these dynamic industries, focusing on recent trends, regulatory challenges, and the transformative impact of technology.

Our distinguished panelists will address key topics such as the rise of digital platforms and streaming, athlete and artist endorsements, intellectual property rights in the era of social media, and the complexities of cross-border transactions.

Whether you advise sports organizations, entertainment companies, media outlets, or individual talent, this panel will offer practical strategies and forward-looking perspectives to help you stay ahead in today's changing commercial law environment.

MODERATOR:
Angela Smedley
Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

PANELISTS:
Synda Mark
Advisor, U.S. Federal Trade Commission's Office of Policy Planning

Endi Piper
General Counsel, Offscript Worldwide/Revolt

Thomas Russell
Corporate Counsel, Amazon Prime Video Sports

Tamika Tremaglio
Managing Partner, Secretariat

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM
CLE #12 - M&A AND ANTITRUST - DEAL DYNAMICS IN FOCUS
Room: Monarch 3

DESCRIPTION:
Review current trends in M&A and technology transactions, including FTC scrutiny and sector-specific developments in areas such as life sciences, with insights into regulatory and transactional strategy.

MODERATOR:
Alonzo Llorens
Partner, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP

PANELISTS:
Calvina Bostick
Partner, K&L Gates LLP

Alexandra Daniels
Partner, Baker McKenzie

Ashlee Sawyer Gilson
Senior Counsel, Corporate Development, GE Aerospace

Guillaume Saliah
Partner, Fasken

Kristin Sanford
Partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM
TEQUILA TASTING
(Pre-registration required)
Sponsored by Legal Innovators
Room: Wine Cave



6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Pre-Awards Gala Cocktail Reception
Room: Pacific Promenade

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7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Awards Gala Dinner & Dancing

Room: Pacific Ballroom

Join us for a festive evening celebrating the phenomenal achievements of our honorees. Prepare to indulge in delicious cuisine while enjoying live entertainment that will surely add vibrancy to the night. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of our prestigious awards:

- **2026 Jean-Marie Sylla Jr. Legacy Award Winner**
- **2026 John Lewis Jr. Corporation of the Year Award**
- **2026 Cora T. Walker Legacy Award**

We will also recognize our next generation leaders, highlighting their potential and their contributions. This evening is more than just an awards ceremony; it is a night of celebration, laughter, and camaraderie. We will end the evening with a musical experience curated by ***Deejay Life*** to add a touch of cultural richness to the evening. We are excited to welcome you to this festive and inspiring event.



CONFERENCE AGENDA

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2026

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Room: Monarch Beach Golf Links

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
HEADSHOT LOUNGE
Sponsored by Levenfeld Pearlstein
Room: Mediterranean

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SPA DAY
Room: Waldorf Astoria Spa

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
GOLF CLINIC
Room: Monarch Beach Golf Links

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Explore Orange County

On Your Own



4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
FAREWELL RECEPTION
Room: Pacific Lawn