



2024

CDLA Summer Conference

“A Changing World”

Thursday 8/1—Saturday 8/3

Hotel Eldorado

Santa Fe, New Mexico



Mark Your Calendar!

Please join the Colorado civil defense community in Santa Fe, New Mexico from August 1st through August 3rd as we experience a transformative journey into the intersection of artificial intelligence and the practice of law. Over the course of the conference we will delve into how AI technologies are reshaping legal workflows, enhancing efficiency, and unlocking new possibilities in the legal profession.

Our keynote speaker will be Miriam Vogel, Chair of the National AI Advisory Committee, mandated by Congress to advise the President and White House on AI policy. Ms. Vogel's presentation is entitled “Our AI Future and the Law.”

Experience and engage in dynamic discussions, immersive workshops and insightful presentations on the future of civil defense with a host of incredible speakers assembled by our leadership team, including Billy-George Hertzke, SGR, LLC, and Meredith McDonald, O'Hagan Meyer, PLLC. We are also proud to feature presentations from a number of esteemed Colorado judges, including the *Honorable Susan Blanco*, the *Honorable LaQunya Baker*, the *Honorable Andrew Luxen*, the *Honorable Jon Olafson*, the *Honorable Sarah Wallace*, and the *Honorable Sueanna Johnson*.

Other can't-miss presentations include Michael Melito, counsel in the Colorado Donald Trump trial, who will present “The Trump Trial—Defending Racketeering Cases in a Civil Environment” and Daniel Pietragallo, Senior Assistant Attorney General for the State of Colorado, who will present “A Brief History of AI.”

Melissa Ogburn, Montgomery Amatuzio, and Adam Royval, Messner Reeves, will provide our annual legislative update as well as a presentation on changes to legislation affecting our construction industry, and the Honorable Christopher Cross will present from his book, “Beat the Drum for Justice” which focuses on how the 19th Century Supreme Court shaped racial issues in the 21st century.

We are also honored to present Zonnie Gorman as a second keynote speaker. Ms. Gorman is a recognized historian on the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II and is the daughter of Dr. Carl Gorman, artist, teacher, and one of the original twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers. Ms. Gorman's presentation is a touching and riveting story about how the Navajo Code Talkers created the initial Navajo code and how their efforts ultimately helped secure America's freedom in the Pacific theater.

Connect with fellow legal practitioners, exchange ideas, and collaborate on innovative approaches to leverage AI in your legal practice. This conference offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding and stay ahead in an evolving landscape.

And, as always, you will have ample opportunity to mingle with your fellow practitioners, with fabulous food, drink, and optional entertainment including a golf tournament at the spectacular Black Mesa Golf Club, a guided bike trail ride through Santa Fe, cooking classes at the Santa Fe School of Cooking, a Santa Fe Plaza art and architecture tour and a Canyon Road Arts District tour.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenna Donegan at (303) 946-6659 or glenna@codla.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Robert B. Hinckley, Jr., *Buchalter*, 2024 Conference Chair and

Meredith McDonald, *O'Hagan Meyer, PLLC* & Billy-George Hertzke, *SGR, LLC*, 2024 Conference Co-Chairs



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Accommodations

The 2024 Conference will be hosted at the Eldorado Hotel and Spa.

For more than 25 years the AAA Four-Diamond rated Eldorado Hotel & Spa has provided Santa Fe with well-appointed accommodations, exceptional service, flawless weddings, customized special events and superior guest amenities. Located just steps from the historic Santa Fe Plaza, the Eldorado Hotel & Spa is walking distance from a host of local treasures, including the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Canyon Road art galleries, and much more in a city rich in history. Enjoy fabulous cuisine at The Old House and unwind in our new Agave Lounge. Spend your days being pampered at the lavish Nidah Spa or bask in the desert sun by our small rooftop pool. Eldorado is also a green hotel. Perfect for relaxing getaways, shopping, and dining excursions, or exploring art galleries and museums, Eldorado is a cherished destination among Santa Fe spa hotel.

Room rates starting at \$279++ per night. Please make your reservations before June 30, 2024, to be eligible for the group rate. **To make reservations either call the hotel at 1-800-955-4455, use booking code 2407CODLAW or [click here](#) OR go to the codla.org website and click on the banner.**

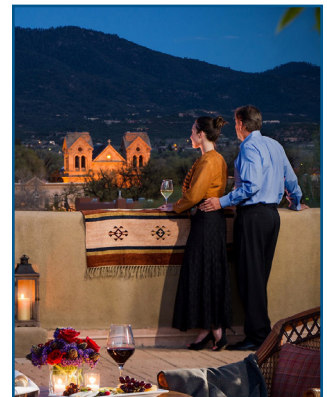


HOTEL
ST. FRANCIS



Additional rooms are available at **Hotel St. Francis** or **Hotel Chimayo** until July 10.

Click & use code 2407COLORA or call (505) 836-6700.





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Attendees

Once again, each paid attendee will receive two wristbands, one for you and one for your guest, to attend evening events. Kids are always welcome at all evening events. Breakfast, lunch, and breaks are limited to paid attendees only.

Name badges and wristbands will be distributed upon arrival on Thursday at New Mexico History Museum, and Friday at the entrance to the Santa Fe Convention Center. You must have a name badge and wristband to attend all events.



Agenda & Schedule – Events & Activities At-A-Glance

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1	FRIDAY, AUGUST 2	SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
<p>10:00 am – 4:00 pm</p> <p>Golf Tournament at Black Mesa Golf Club</p>	<p>7:00 am – 8:00 am</p> <p>Breakfast</p>	<p>7:00 am – 8:00 am</p> <p>Breakfast</p>
<p>1:00 pm</p> <p>Guided Bike Trail Ride</p>	<p>8:00 am</p> <p>Conference Kick-Off</p>	<p>8:00 am</p> <p>Conference Kick-Off</p>
<p>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm</p> <p>New Lawyer Meet-Up Cava Bar – Eldorado Hotel</p>	<p>8:30 am – 4:15 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Sessions *Keynote* • Substantive Law Breakouts • Lunch and Learn 	<p>8:30 am – 3:40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Sessions *Keynote* • Substantive Law Breakouts • Lunch and Learn
<p>6:00pm – 9:00 pm</p> <p>Opening Reception New Mexico History Museum / Palace Of The Governors</p>	<p>6:00 pm – 9:00 pm</p> <p>Friday Evening Gala Santa Fe Convention Center</p>	<p>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm</p> <p>Farewell Reception Cava Bar, Eldorado Hotel</p>



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Agenda & Schedule—Sessions

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2		
7:00–8:00 am	Breakfast	Conference Center
8:00–8:30 am	Welcome and Announcements	Conference Ballroom
8:30–9:30 am	Our AI Future and the Law: Jonathan Brill, <i>Business Futurist</i>	Conference Ballroom
9:30–10:20 am	Insurance Bad Faith Update: Katherine Kust, <i>Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani</i> ; Rebecca Wagner, <i>Campbell, Wagner and Frazier</i> ; Sandy Eloranto, <i>Sutton Booker</i>	Conference Ballroom
	Please Don't Silence Your Cell Phones: Effective Trial Techniques in the Tech Age: Judge Susan Blanco, <i>8th Judicial District Chief Judge</i> ; Judge Jon Olafson, <i>2nd Judicial District Court</i> ; Kirk Whitehead, <i>Martinez, Dieterich & Zarcone</i> (Moderator)	Zia
10:20–10:30 am	Break	Conference Center
10:30–11:20 am	Presenting Your Case In A Bench Trial: Lessons from the Perspective of the Trier of Fact: Judge Sarah Wallace, <i>2nd Judicial District Court</i> ; Billy-George Hertzke, <i>SGR, LLC</i> (Moderator)	Conference Ballroom
11:30 am–12:20 pm	Best Practices for Preserving Trial Issues for Appeal: Gillian Fahlsing, <i>Senior Assistant City Attorney, City of Aurora</i> ; Eric Ziporin, <i>SGR, LLC</i>	Chapel
	Whiplash! Keeping Up with the Ever-Changing Landscape of Employment Law: Meredith McDonald, <i>O'Hagan Meyer</i> ; Melisa Panagakos, <i>Jackson Lewis</i>	DeVargas
	Is Your Court Reporter a Robot? Mike McDonner, <i>President Pike Reporting Company</i>	Zia
12:30–1:30 pm	Lunch and Learn: Case Law Update Jeff Ruebel, <i>Ruebel & Quillen</i>	Conference Ballroom
1:35–2:25 pm	Your Changing World – Transitioning from New Lawyer to Seasoned Litigator: Sarah Andrzejczak, <i>Buchalter</i> ; Matt Cecil, <i>Sutton Booker</i> ; Emily Miller, <i>Nathan Dumm & Mayer</i>	Chapel
	Penalties in Worker's Compensation: JP Moon, <i>Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City and County of Denver</i>	DeVargas
	Evaluating Personal Injuries – Considerations from Construction Codes/Standards and Human Factors Perspectives: Young Bui, <i>Nathan Mayercsik, Exponent</i> ; Ashley Larson, <i>Sutton Booker</i>	Zia
2:25–2:35 pm	Break	Conference Center
2:35–3:25 pm	A Brief History of AI: Daniel Pietragallo, <i>Colorado Department of Law</i>	Conference Ballroom
3:25–4:15 pm	Diversity in the Law: Persons with Disabilities (EDI): Judge Sueanna Johnson, <i>Colorado Court of Appeals</i>	Conference Ballroom
6:00–9:00 pm	Friday Night Soiree	Santa Fe Convention Ctr



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Agenda & Schedule—Sessions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3		
7:00–8:00 am	Breakfast	Conference Center
8:00–8:10 am	Welcome and Announcements	Conference Ballroom
8:10–9:00	Growing up with Heroes – Navajo Code Talkers: Zonnie Gorman, Navajo Historian	Conference Ballroom
9:00–9:50 am	Judges’ Panel: Judge Susan Blanco, <i>8th Judicial District Chief</i> ; Andrew Luxen, <i>2nd Judicial District Court</i> ; LaQunya Baker, <i>18th Judicial District Court</i> ; Jon Olafson, <i>2nd Judicial District Court</i> ; Sarah Wallace, <i>2nd Judicial District</i> ; Sueanna Johnson, <i>Colorado Court of Appeals</i> ; Robert B. Hinckley, Jr., <i>Buchalter</i> (Moderator)	Conference Ballroom
9:50–10:00 am	Break	Conference Center
10:00–10:50 am	The Trump Trial – Defending Racketeering Cases in a Civil Environment: Michael Melito, <i>Melito Law</i>	Conference Ballroom
11:00–11:50 am	Top 5 Appellate Tips for Civil Practitioners: Fred Yarger, <i>Wheeler Trigg O’Donnell</i> ; Judge Sueanna Johnson, <i>Colorado Court of Appeals</i>	Conference Ballroom
	Beat the Drum for Justice—How the 19th Century Supreme Court Shaped Racial Issues in the 21st Century: Hon. Christopher Cross (Ret.)	Zia
	Impacting Your Case with ESI & Cellular Investigations: Chris Mammarella, <i>ArcherHall</i>	Chapel
12:00–1:20 pm	Lunch and Learn, Legislative Update: Adam Royval, <i>Messner Reeves</i> ; Melissa Ogburn, <i>Montgomery Amatzio</i>	Conference Ballroom
1:25–2:15 pm	How Legislation is Changing the Construction Defect Practice: Adam Royval, <i>Messner Reeves</i> ; Melissa Ogburn, <i>Montgomery Amatzio</i>	Conference Ballroom
	Finding, Retaining, and Working with Expert Witnesses: Rachel Jennings, <i>Sutton Booker</i> ; Christopher Unger, <i>American Family Insurance</i>	Zia
	AI Powered Legal Tools Transforming the Practice of Law: Juliette Faraone, <i>Prompt Engineer, Filevine</i>	Chapel
2:20–2:50 pm	Vendor Raffle	Conference Ballroom
2:50–3:40 pm	War Stories (ethics)	Conference Ballroom
4:00–5:30 pm	Closing Reception	Cava Bar



Scan for the latest schedule updates and conference news.



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Golf Tournament—Who will hoist the cup this year?

CDLA will host its annual golf tournament at **Black Mesa Golf Club** before the opening reception. Put your foursome together to compete for the coveted CDLA Cup.

Nestled in Northern New Mexico's Española Valley with views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Black Mesa Golf Club's course challenges with dramatic elevation changes, seasonal weather conditions, and scenery of such extraordinary beauty it threatens to distract the most focused golfer.

Designed by Baxter Spivey, this 18-hole course ranked *Top 100* by Golf Magazine. Enjoy a majestic desert golf experience on rolling fairways extending through mountainous valleys and dramatic sandstone ridges.

Sold Out

Shotgun Start: All Tee Times at 10 am.

Price Per Individual: \$135—includes cart, range balls, box lunches and refreshment cart

Proper golf attire is strictly enforced.

PS—Remember to make your hotel reservations for a Wednesday night stay!

SPONSORS:

Box Lunches:

Beverage Cart:

Post-tournament Happy Hour:





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Fun Things for Everyone!



Bike Trail Ride

Explore Santa Fe and surrounding area with your guide Michael Watts. BYO Bike.

Date: Thurs, 8/1 | **Time:** 1:00 pm

Location: Eldorado Hotel Entrance

FREE



Santa Fe School of Cooking

Two of their most popular cooking classes are on the calendar just for us! Master the flavors of the real Southwest with a cooking class reflecting the unique cultural mix of Santa Fe.

[Click for classes on 8/2 & 8/3.](#)



Santa Fe Plaza Art + Architecture Tour

Discover the art, architecture, and history of Santa Fe's historic Plaza arts district.

Private tour for CDLA, three people minimum.

Cost: \$85 + tax

[Full description](#)



Canyon Road Arts District Tour

Visit must-see art galleries and explore Santa Fe's most famous arts district with an art insider.

Public tour: \$60 + tax

Private tour for CDLA, 3 people min: \$80 + tax

[Full description](#)



Happy Hour & Welcome Reception



Thursday New Lawyer Happy Hour

New Lawyers are invited to an exclusive happy hour to get to know other New Lawyers. Join Matt Cecil, Emily Miller, and Sarah Andrzejczak at Cava Bar complements of the CDLA New Lawyers Committee.

This is a great opportunity to meet other New Lawyers with similar experiences. Share ideas and stories, and just have fun!

CDLA Members who are new to Colorado or within five years in practice or less are encouraged to attend.

Time/Location: 4:00 – 5:30 pm | Cava Bar | FREE

Sponsored by:  | 

Thursday Welcome Reception

Join us in kicking off the 2024 CDLA Annual Conference at the New Mexico History Museum / Palace of the Governors located a 5-minute walk from the Eldorado Hotel.

Dress is casual, and kids are welcome.

Experience the flavors of Southwestern Cuisine!

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm
(Dinner served from 6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Sponsored by:

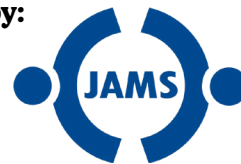


Photo credit: New Mexico History Museum Photo Archives



Gala & Closing Reception



Friday Evening Gala

This year’s Hub’s Pub Gala will be held at the Santa Fe Convention Center, just a short stroll from the Eldorado Hotel, accompanied by a mariachi band. During the event we will be raffling off items supporting CDLA’s annual contribution of bicycles to Children’s Hospital, CASA and many other philanthropic organizations.

Dress is casual, and kids are welcome.

Indulge in the rich flavors of New Mexican and Santa Fe culinary delights!

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm
(Dinner served from 6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Sponsored by:



Saturday Night Closing Reception

A 90-minute hosted event at the Eldorado Hotel and Spa where we will be featuring a happy hour with beer, wine and hors d’oeuvres. After happy hour enjoy dinner with your clients and friends out on the town in Santa Fe. Check out your dining options [here](#).

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Location: Cava Bar and Grill, Eldorado Hotel

*See you next year in
Snowmass!*

**July 31 - August 3, 2025 • Viewline Resort
Stephanie Montague, Conference Chair**



Charitable Opportunities—Hub’s Pub

Each year at the Annual Conference, the CDLA holds a “Hub’s Pub” event/raffle in honor of Daniel M. Hubbard, a former incoming president of the CDLA, who passed away after suffering a cardiac incident while riding his bicycle home from work. The funds raised at Hub’s Pub are used to fund the charitable functions of the CDLA Foundation. In memory of Dan and his passion for cycling, a portion of those proceeds are used to donate bicycles to Children’s Hospital and to children served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) throughout Adams, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties.



Since its inception, the Hub’s Pub event has donated 387 bicycles and raised over \$158,448.

Funds are also donated to various causes including, but not limited to, Food Bank of the Rockies, Project C.U.R.E., Alzheimer’s Association, Jessie’s Heart, Florence Crittenton Services, “LAW SCHOOL...Yes We Can,” Marshall Fire, Tamaya Horse Rescue, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Mountain Resource Center providing food, heat, and shelter for those in need, Craig Hospital, Pedal for Possible, the Blue Bench, supporting the end to sexual assault, Cover Colorado to help survivors break the bondage of human trafficking and Habitat for Humanity.



Fillable Registration Form

Name _____ Name as you would like it to appear on your badge

Spouse/ Guest Name _____ Guest/spouse name as it should appear on badge

Firm Name _____ Firm Address

City, State & Zip _____ Phone & E-mail

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS: Please identify the activities and/or excursions you and your guest would like to attend.

YOU GUEST

Registering for the Golf Tournament? Thursday August 1, 10:00 a.m. *Proper Golf Attire is Strictly Enforced.*
To register and pay for yourself or your foursome [CLICK HERE](#).

Bike Trail Ride: Thursday, August 1, 1:00 p.m., Eldorado Hotel Entrance. BYO Bike.

Optional, plan on your own:

Art Gallery Tours:

Plaza Art & Architecture Tour, [CLICK HERE](#)

Canyon Road Arts District Tour, [CLICK HERE](#)

Santa Fe Cooking Class [CLICK FOR CLASSES ON 8/2 & 8/3](#)

REGISTRATION FEES

	<i>Until June 30, 2024</i>	<i>July 1, 2024 and after</i>	
CDLA Members:	\$825 _____	\$875 _____	
Non-CDLA Members:	\$925 _____	\$975 _____	TOTAL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION—PLEASE FILL OUT ALL CREDIT CARD FIELDS.

A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to CDLA.)

Pay by Credit Card: Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____ (Visa, MasterCard, American Express Accepted).

Name on Card _____ CC Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CSV Code _____

Street Address of Cardholder _____ City / State / Zip _____ Signature _____

PLEASE MAIL, SCAN + EMAIL, OR FAX with payment to: CDLA: 643 Dexter Street, Denver, CO 80220, Send fax to: 925.364.2405.
For more information call 303.946.6659 or email glenna@codla.org.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY: A registrant for a CDLA event will be entitled to receive a refund in the amount of 50% of the registration fee if the request is received more than 14 days prior to the scheduled date of the event. Thereafter, no refunds will be provided, but the registrant may substitute another person to participate in the event.

WAIVER & RELEASE: Please read the PARTICIPANT WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE & IMAGE RELEASE on the next page. By signing below, you attest that you have read it and understand its terms. Failure to sign may prevent your participation in the Conference and activities.

Print Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

PARTICIPANT WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE & IMAGE RELEASE

BY SIGNING THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM, I ATTEST THAT I HAVE READ THE PARTICIPANT WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE & IMAGE RELEASE, I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, I UNDERSTAND I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

As a participant of an event at the Colorado Defense Lawyers Association (“CDLA”) Annual Conference and/or activities (the “Events”), and by signing the Conference Registration Form, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. There is a risk of injury and/or death from one or more of the activities at the Events, and as a participant I understand that there is a potential related risk to me due to my presence near the Events, including but not limited to exposure to COVID-19;
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation;
3. If I observe any unusual and/or significant hazard during my presence, I will remove myself from the area that I perceive as a hazard and shall bring such hazard to the attention of the nearest official;
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and/or next of kin, forever WAIVE, RELEASE, DISCHARGE and COVENANT NOT TO SUE, CDLA, and its officers, directors, representatives, officials, agents and/or employees, subsidiaries, and/or assigns, as well as its independent contractors, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of the premises used to conduct the Events (collectively, the “Releasees”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, and/or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE. I further agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Releasees from any loss, liability, cost, claim, or damages arising from my participation in or association with the Events organized and sponsored by CDLA or any person or organization connected with the Events;
5. My attendance as a participant at the Events organized or sponsored by CDLA is entirely voluntary;
6. I consent to administration of first aid and other medical treatment in the event of injury or illness and hereby release and indemnify Releasees from any and all liability or claims arising out of such treatment;
7. The Releasees reserve the right, in their sole determination, to postpone, cancel, or modify the Events due to weather conditions or other factors beyond the control of the Releasees that might affect the health and/or safety of the participants;
8. I consent to CDLA using any photos, other images taken of me, and any results of conference related activities that occurred during the conference for media outreach efforts, promotional campaigns, various publications/communications, or other business purposes as determined by CDLA.
9. I hereby grant permission to use my personal information for contacting me and for promotion of the Events to include but not limited to; email, mail, text, and phone.

MINORS: IF UNDER 18 — SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN (required)

The undersigned, referred to as the parent(s) and natural guardian(s) or legal guardian(s) on behalf of the minor does hereby represent that he/she (they) is (are), in fact, acting in such capacity and agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless each and all of the parties herein referred to above as Releasees from all loss, liability, damage, cost or claim whatsoever that may be imposed upon said Releasees because of any defect in or lack of such capacity to so act and release said Releasees on behalf of the undersigned.



Colorado Defense Lawyers Association