



Trial Lawyers & Torts, Insurance
& Compensation Law Sections

Journey to Cuba

A Delegation in Support
of the Cuban People

November 7 - 11, 2024
The Grand Aston La Habana Hotel
Havana, Cuba

6.5 MCLE Credits | Areas of Professional Practice

**Registration is open to all members of the
New York State Bar Association and their Guests.**

At a Glance: Cuba

Included

- The Grand Aston La Habana
Note: US Citizens are authorized to stay at this hotel
- All ground transportation
- Full time private tour escort and local specialized guides
- Daily breakfast in Cuba and meals as listed in it inery (including tips)
- Custom Lecture Series enjoyed by attorneys and non-atorney companions
- Entrance fees (if applicable)
- Gratuities for restaurants at all group meals
- Compliance with US Treasury Department
- Cuban Visa/Tourist Card

Not Included

- Round trip airfare to/from Cuba and associated fees
- Airline baggage fees
- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Additional meals not listed in itinerary
- Incidentals/Individual hotel expenses
- Trip cancellation insurance



The New York State Bar Association's Trial Lawyers and Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Sections invite you and your guest(s) to join our delegation for an eye-opening journey at this pivotal moment in U.S.-Cuba relations.

Our specially designed program will explore Cuba's rich and varied cultural heritage and go beyond tourist corridors by engaging with local scholars, attorneys, entrepreneurs, musicians and artists who will offer in-depth commentary on the Cuban legal and political system, economics, art, history, architecture and religion.

Don't miss out on this incredible chance to explore the richness of Cuba while earning MCLE credit! Registration is open to all New York State Bar Association members and their guests. If you are not a current member of the Trial Lawyers or the TICL Section, registering for this program will include a complimentary one-year membership with both Sections.

DAY 1

Thursday, November 7

HAVANA



DAY 2

Friday, November 8

HAVANA VIEJA



DAY 3

Saturday, November 9

COJIMAR & PLAYAS DEL ESTE



DAY 4

Sunday, November 10

HAVANA & MIRAMAR



DAY 5

Monday, November 11

DEPARTURE DAY - Veterans Day (U.S.)



DAY 1 | Thursday, November 7

Morning

Upon arrival at Havana International Airport (HAV): Clear immigration, customs and baggage. You will be greeted and escorted to your ground transportation. Welcome lunch at La Forest a in the upscale neighborhood of Siboney

Afternoon

Check in to the Grand Aston La Habana, ideally situated in bustling Vedado, the Capitals central business district.

Evening

Private musical performance at a rooftop bar in Vedado. The band leader is Professor Alberto Faya who has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world since 1973, winning national awards in music and musicology. He will be joined by several young musicians for a historical journey of Cuban music.

Welcome dinner at the famous La Guarida restaurant. One of the best restaurants in Havana and famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film Strawberry and Chocolate. It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambience of the 1920's.

DAY 2 | Friday, November 8

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Introduction to the Cuban Judicial System and Principals

This presentation offers a historical overview of the Cuban legal system, tracing its roots back to colonial times and examining key reforms to the Cuban Constitution spanning from 1940 to the present day. We'll delve into the intricacies of the Cuban Civil Codes, Judiciary, Migration Law, and Foreign Investment Acts, shedding light on unique legal aspects and phenomena.

Presenter: Ilena Sarria, Esq.

1.5 MCLE Credit Areas of Professional Practice

Time To Be Announced

Depart for a walking tour of Havana Vieja. *Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes!*

We start at Plaza De Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.

We continue to Plaza de la Catedral before visiting Plaza Vieja. Learn about the massive historic preservation program which began in this Plaza under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal.

Time To Be Announced

Group lunch at the trendy 5 Sentidos in Old Havana.

After lunch, we take a leisurely stroll back towards Central Park via Obispo Street in Havana Vieja, before returning to Vedado.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cuba in Transition: The Rule of Law as Part of Cuban Reforms

This lecture is being presented by Rafael M. Hernandez, a distinguished historian, author, and editor of *Temas*, a Cuban quarterly focusing on social sciences and humanities. *Temas* is considered the leading intellectual publication in Cuba and an important source of independent thought. Rafael has taught as a visiting professor at Harvard, Columbia, the University of Texas, the University of Puerto Rico; CIDE and ITAM in Mexico, and served as visiting scholar at the Wilson Center (Washington, DC) and other US and Latin American academic institutions. Rafael has published widely on Cuban and U.S. policies, inter-American relations, international security, human rights, migration, as well on Cuban culture and civil society.

Presenter: Rafael Hernández, Chief Editor, *Temas*

1.0 MCLE Credit Areas of Professional Practice

Time To Be Announced

After our lecture, private performance with "Flamenco Spell!"

Time To Be Announced

Depart Casas for our group dinner at El Cocinero.

After dinner, suggested visit next-door to the Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC). Once an old cooking oil factory, this repurposed complex is without doubt the hippest place in Havana. Part Miami Art Basel, part Williamsburg warehouse party, the FAC is taking the Cuban arts scene by storm hosting viewings, performances and exhibitions of cinema, theatre, dance, music, literature, fashion, architecture, graphic design, photography, and the visual arts.

DAY 3 | Saturday, November 9

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Gender & Sex Relations in Cuba: Legal Perspectives

This presentation by Alberto Roque, MD will cover gender and sexual rights in Cuba with an emphasis on the heavily debated amendments to the Cuban Constitution, civil and family codes which have opened the door for same-sex marriage in Cuba.

Presenter: Alberto Roque, MD, Doctor of Internal Medicine, University of Medical Sciences of Havana

1.0 MCLE Credit Areas of Professional Practice

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

US-Cuba Relations: Legal and Diplomatic Perspectives

Presentation by former diplomat and University of Havana professor, Camilo Garcia Lopez Trigo. In addition to his experience at the Ministry of Foreign Relations (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, or MINREX) and foreign diplomatic missions, Camilo has served leadership roles at the Cuban Writers and Artists Union (Union de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba, or UNEAC) and other prominent institutions. Camilo will address the most current status of U.S. -Cuba relations. Tough questions are encouraged for a free and open dialogue.

Presenter: Profesor Camilo Garcia Lopez Trigo

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice

After today's lectures, our group divides into Two (2) Tracks (pre-selected by participants)

Option/TRACK 1: ERNEST HEMINGWAY TOUR

10:30 a.m. - We travel to the picturesque fishing village of Cojimar. Ernest Hemingway loved this little seaside town. He kept his boat, El Pilar, in the harbor of Cojimar, and he used this village setting for his story *The Old Man and the Sea*, which won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

After enjoying a quick cocktail in Cojimar, we continue to Lunch at Paladar Il Divino.

After lunch, we travel to **Finca Vigia**, Ernest Hemingway's home in **San Francisco de Paula**. The home contains original furniture, artwork, personal memorabilia & other objects collected by the author. Of special importance is the author's library containing thousands of irreplaceable letters & telegrams, photographs, scrapbooks, manuscripts, & galley proofs.

Return to Havana. **Remainder of afternoon/evening free.**

Option/TRACK 2: FARM VISIT / LAS TERRAZAS

We depart for **Finca Villa Hortensia**, a farm in the Artemisa province (APPROX. 50-minute drive) to learn about sustainable agriculture in Cuba.

After our farm visit, we travel to the pioneering eco-community of **Las Terrazas in Sierra del Rosario**. This biosphere came under UNESCO protection in 1984 due to the success of the reforestation project. It is now home to 117 bird species, including 12 that are endemic. During our visit to Las Terrazas, we see the ruins of a **French Coffee Plantation** built in 1801 by the French who escaped Haiti after the 1791 Haitian revolution.

Lunch at **Cafetal Buenavista** or **El Campesino** at Las Terrazas.

After lunch, we continue for a guided tour of the Village of Las Terrazas including a visit the famous **Cafe Maria** for delightfully rich Cuban coffee. Here you may also have the opportunity to purchase locally grown/roasted Cuban coffee.

Return to Havana. **Remainder of afternoon/evening free.**

Evening

Dinner on your own. Optional evening entertainment: **Tropicana Night Club** or **Havana Queens Show**.

DAY 4 | Sunday, November 10

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorist Financing: The Cuban Regulatory Framework

Join us for an insightful program led by Cuban attorney Antonio Villverde Arces, delving into the critical topic of Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorist Financing within the Cuban regulatory framework. Throughout the session, we will explore various pertinent issues. Firstly, we'll provide an overview of global money laundering practices, including the placement of illicit funds, the lawyer's role in distancing these funds from their illegal origins, and the establishment of legitimate paper trails. Next, we'll analyze Cuba's unique risks and legal challenges, touching on issues such as corruption, human trafficking, drug trafficking, tourism, remittances, and the intricacies of the banking systems. We'll then delve into international anti-money laundering conventions and their incorporation into Cuban domestic law, covering key agreements such as the Vienna Convention, Palermo Convention, Merida Convention, FATF Standards, and UN Conventions. The program will also offer a comprehensive examination of Cuba's regulatory framework, including relevant decree laws, resolutions, and penalties outlined in Cuban law. Finally, we'll discuss due diligence measures and best practices in Anti-Money Laundering to ensure compliance and efficacy in combating financial crimes.

Presenter: Antonio Villverde Arces, Esq., Certified Anti-Money Laundering specialist (CAMLs), Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The New Cuban Economy, Private Sector Regulation and Socio-Economic Reform

Presentation by Juan Triana, Professor at the University of Havana. During his talk, Mr. Triana will delve into Cuba's recent economic transformations, encompassing the progression of private property rights and the easing of state intervention.

Presenter: Juan Triana, Professor, University of Havana

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice

After today's lectures, our group divides into two (2) tracks (pre-selected by participants)

Option/Track 1: Cuban Art & Art Studio Tour

Visit the Museum of Cuban Art with art historian. The museum is dedicated exclusively to Cuban Art from the earliest days of colonialism to the latest generation of Cuban artists.

Lunch at the nearby Al Carbon by Chefs Ivan & Justo.

Following our lunch, we continue our Art tour with one additional curated visit to private art studio(s).

Remainder of afternoon free.

Option/Track 2: 'Under the Hood' Tour of Cuba's Classic Cars

Visit the workshop of a family owned and operated business dedicated to the restoration of 1950's American luxury automobiles.

See the workshop, meet the mechanics, check out the vehicles and depart for the next destination in one of these beauties.

Lunch at Costa Vino in the upscale Havana suburb of Miramar.

After lunch, remainder of afternoon/evening free.

Time To Be Announced

Farewell Dinner and entertainment at Oscar's.

DAY 5 | Monday, November 11 (US Veterans Day)

Airport transfers for departure.



GRAND ASTON LA HABANA



Program attendees will be staying at the Grand Aston La Habana Hotel, located at:

Calle 1ay D, Vedado
10400 Habana, Cuba
astonhotelsinternational.com

You can select one of two options for your accommodations:

Option 1: Standard/Deluxe Room (city view)
Double Room: \$3800 | Single Room \$4200

Option 2: Ocean View Club Room Upgrade (sea view/high floor)
Double Room: \$500 | Single Room: \$250

The Grand Aston La Habana Hotel is a haven of chic and contemporary sophistication, and boasts a privileged location on Primera and D streets, right in front of Havana's Malecón. Its elegant and modern design, emulating the new Caribbean urban lifestyle, perfectly incorporates the green space of its lush gardens in an urban resort.

The sophisticated and modern lifestyle at the highest level of the **Hotel Grand Aston La Habana** reveals a unique design architecture, with 600 elegant and bright rooms and suites that pay homage to the rich history of El Vedado, and an eclectic dining offering where the crown jewel is the Havana 92, located on the 25th floor, where one can enjoy beautiful sunsets. Its inspiring event spaces, dubbed Java, Sumatra, and Bali, as well as an infinity pool overlooking the shimmering waters of iconic Havana Bay. If rejuvenation and relaxation is what you seek, then there is the Ubud Spa, the first Bali-style salon in Cuba.

Staying at the **Hotel Grand Aston La Habana** is waking up to a privileged sunrise with views of one of the most spectacular and famous bays in the world. This urban oasis is ideally located in the commercial area of Vedado, the capital's central business district, close to offices, shops, restaurants and entertainment.



**Space is limited!
Register now to
reserve your spot!**



TOUR COST & CONDITIONS

GRAND ASTON LA HABANA HOTEL (4-5 Star) Standard room
Double occupancy Deluxe (City view) **\$3,800** per person
Single occupancy Deluxe (City view) **\$4,200**

UPGRADE TO OCEAN VIEW CLUB ROOMS:
Total supplement per person for 4 nights: **\$250**
(Higher floor rooms with Sea view)

INCLUDED

- 4-night accommodations as selected
- Daily breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as listed in itinerary (including tips)
- Ground transportation throughout the trip equipped with bottled water at all times
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Cuba Cultural Travel Escort and local Cuban tour guide
- Compliance with U.S. Treasury Department
- Cuban Tourist Card

NOT INCLUDED

- Roundtrip airfare to/from Cuba and associated fees
- Meals other than listed on itinerary or described as on your own
- Gratuities for guide and driver (recommended amount is \$7-\$10 per person per day for guide, and \$5-\$7 per person per day for driver)
- Individualized expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc)
- Trip cancellation insurance

PAYMENT DUE DATES

\$1000 PER PERSON DEPOSIT DUE AT REGISTRATION

FINAL PAYMENT DUE BY: SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

You may contact Catalina Sykes via email at Catalina@CubaCulturalTravel.com or by phone at (760) 271-0371 Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm PST with any questions concerning payment or registration.

REGISTRATION: Registration is on a first come, first served basis with limited enrollment. Confirm your participation by completing and returning this form along with your deposit to the address noted below. **Your passport must be valid for 6 months after the dates of travel. If you need to renew your passport, please do so immediately.**

PROGRAM QUESTIONS: Please note, the proposed itinerary is subject to change. There may be some changes, additions and/or subtractions to the final itinerary. Be assured any changes made will be done to enhance the total program and promote a smooth operation of the tour. If you have any questions or requests regarding the proposed itinerary or CLE programming, please contact Daniel Perez at Daniel@CubaCulturalTravel.com.

REGULATIONS: Cuba Cultural Travel is a licensed California Seller of Travel. Under the Seller of Travel Act, 100% of customer funds are deposited into a business client trust account and can only be used to pay for your services. In the event legal travel to Cuba should be suspended due to new rules and regulations, your payments will be returned.

FLIGHTS: Please **do not book your flights prior to receiving confirmation** and additional information regarding the trip. CCT will send flight recommendations.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION: Upon registration, you will receive confirmation along with recommendations for travel insurance, forms to be completed, and our comprehensive travel tips. Approximately two weeks prior to travel you will receive your travel documents, including your Cuban Tourist Card/Visa

***Cuban born travelers, please contact Cuba Cultural Travel prior to mailing your check and registration form. Fees associated with special visas for Cuban born travelers are not included.*

A note from Cuba Cultural Travel: Trips to Cuba require quite a bit of walking on uneven cobblestone streets along with stairs where an elevator is not always available. Participants must be able to walk unassisted. Please keep these physical requirements in mind when making your reservation. If you require mobility assistance, please contact us directly, prior to completing your reservation form, as Cuba is not adequately able to accommodate physically handicapped persons.

Learn more about NYSBA's Trial Lawyers Section!

GET INVOLVED!

There are many ways to get involved with the Trial Lawyers Section, and we welcome fresh ideas!

- Serve on a committee or task force dedicated to specific areas of interest within trial law, such as civil procedure, evidence, or trial advocacy.
- Volunteer for leadership positions within the section, such as serving as a committee chair or vice-chair.
- Contribute an article to the Trial Lawyers Digest. *Learn more below!*
- Organize Section meetings, seminars, and conferences to network with colleagues, exchange ideas, and stay informed about current issues and developments in trial law.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Annual destination meetings with CLE opportunities and networking events.
- Regional networking receptions and programs held throughout the year to recognize distinguished members of the bench and bar.
- CLE Events providing insights from experienced professionals.
- Social events and gatherings to foster camaraderie and strengthen relationships within the legal community.

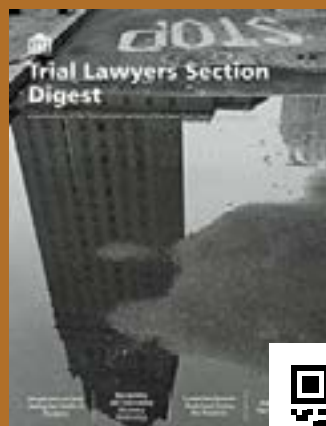
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION:

- Continuing legal education opportunities covering a wide range of topics relevant to trial practice, including litigation strategies, courtroom technology, and ethics.
- Access to online discussion forums and communities where members can exchange ideas, seek advice, and share experiences with peers.
- Discounts on professional development programs, conferences, and publications offered by the section and affiliated organizations.
- Networking opportunities with judges, expert witnesses, and other key stakeholders in the legal community.



The *Trial Lawyers Section Digest* features peer-written substantive articles and case summaries relating to the practice of trial law. Edited by CaraMia Hart, Esq., with the help of William S. Friedlander, Esq., the Trial Lawyers Section Digest is published by the Trial Lawyers Section and distributed to Section Members free of charge.

The Digest is published as a benefit for members of the Trial Lawyers Section and is copyrighted by the New York State Bar Association.



**VIEW THE
LATEST ISSUE:**



Learn more about NYSBA's Torts Insurance and Compensation Law Section!

Joining the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law (TICL) Section of the New York State Bar Association offers a plethora of benefits for legal professionals. Membership grants access to a wealth of resources including our journals, comprehensive MCLE programs, and exclusive networking events with prominent members of the bench and bar. With over 15 committees covering various substantive areas of law and two Divisions, TICL provides ample opportunities for members to engage in specialized discussions and contribute to the advancement of legal knowledge. What's more, joining these committees and divisions is free and entails no mandatory time commitments, fostering an environment where active participation is encouraged but flexible. Embrace the chance to expand your professional horizons and make meaningful connections by becoming a part of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section today.

More Reasons to Join the TICL Section

- **Networking Events and Receptions**
- **Annual Destination Meeting and NYSBA Annual Meeting**
- **Publications**
- **Live Events and CLE Programming**
- **Awards**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Career Development**
- **Advocacy and Influence**



The *Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section (TICL) Journal* features peer-written substantive articles relating to the practice of torts, insurance and compensation law on various topics including workers' compensation, medical malpractice, products liability, depositions and trial preparation. Edited by David A. Glazer, Esq., the TICL Journal is published by the Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section and distributed to Section Members free of charge. The TICL Journal is published as a benefit for members of the Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section and is copyrighted by the New York State Bar Association.

The Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section (TICL) Journal encourages article submissions on topics of interest to members of the Section. Writing an article for a NYSBA Section publication is a great way to get your name out in the legal community and advertise your knowledge. Our authors are respected state-wide for their legal expertise in such areas as workers' compensation, medical malpractice, products liability, depositions, and trial preparation.



VIEW THE LATEST ISSUE:



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
TORTS, INSURANCE & COMPENSATION LAW SECTION
TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION

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