



**Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law
& Trial Lawyers Sections**

The Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section & The Trial Lawyers Section 2025 Fall Meeting

**Thursday, October 9 -
Saturday, October 11, 2025**

Orlando World Center Marriott | 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, Florida

NYSBA.ORG

7.5

MCLE Credits

Section Chair, The Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section

Richard W. Kokel, Esq.
Law Office of Richard W. Kokel
New York, New York

Section Chair, The Trial Lawyers Section

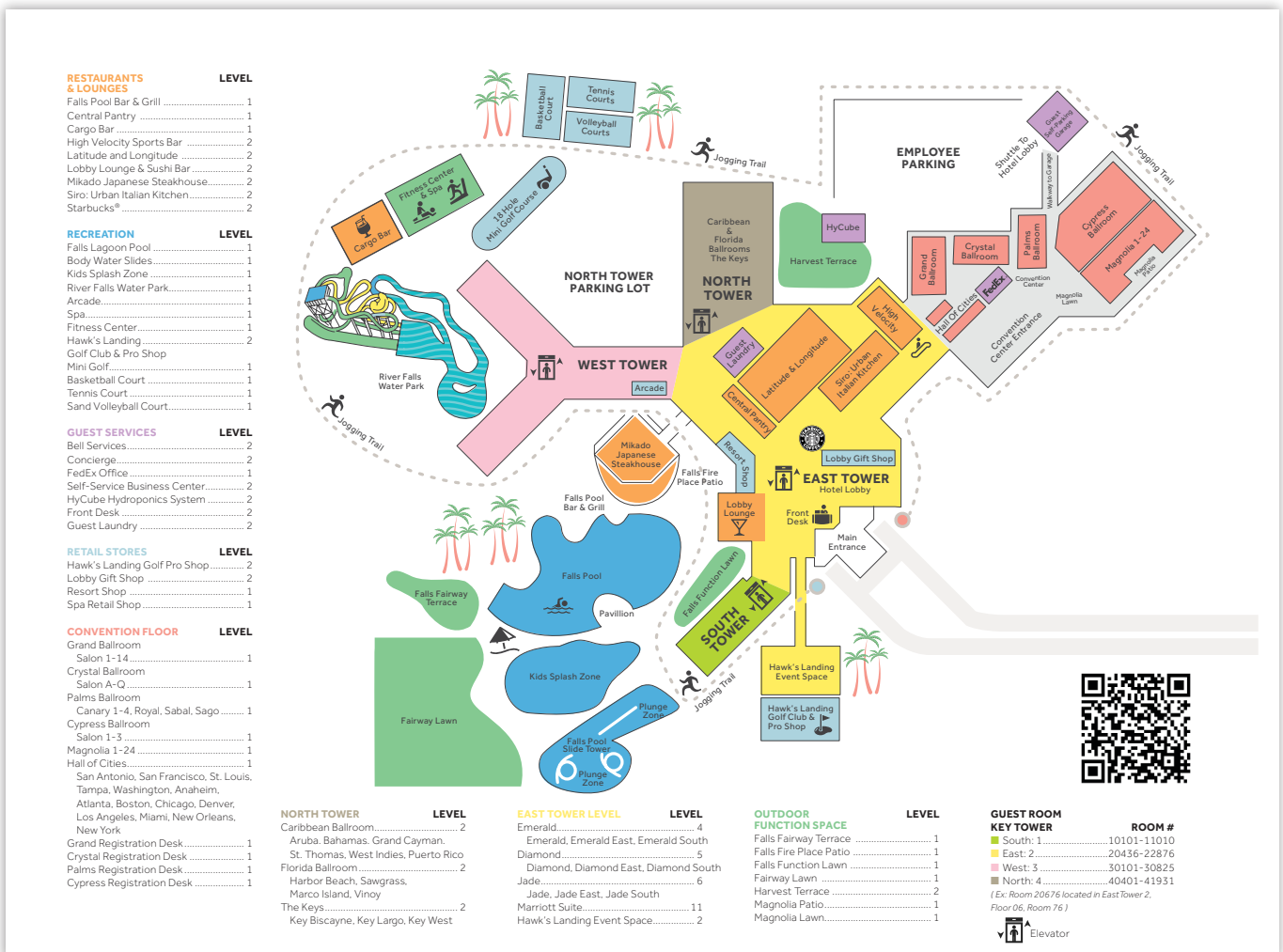
Brett D. French, Esq.
The French Firm, P.C.
Albany, New York

7.5 MCLE Credits

This program is transitional and approved for MCLE credit in New York for all attorneys, including those newly admitted.

7.5 Total Credits: 6.0 Areas of Professional Practice, 1.5 Ethics and Professionalism

The New York State Bar Association has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York. For information about the CLE Rules, visit NYCOURTS.GOV/ATTORNEYS/CLE



Note: Meeting rooms are located on the Convention Floor in the Hall of Cities

Thursday, October 9, 2025

- 12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Conference Check-in** - New York/New Orleans Foyer
Exhibitor Set Up - Miami
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Trial Lawyers Section Executive Committee Meeting** - Los Angeles
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Executive Committee Meeting** - Los Angeles
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception** - Falls Fireplace
Dress Code: Business or Cocktail Attire
Thank you to Siebold & Associates Consulting Agency, LLC for sponsoring this reception!

Friday, October 10, 2025

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Program Check-in** - New York/New Orleans Foyer
Breakfast Buffet - Miami
- 8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions** – New York/New Orleans
Brett D. French, Esq., Trial Lawyers Section Chair, The French Firm, P.C., Albany, New York
Richard W. Kokel, Esq., Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Chair, Law Office of Richard W. Kokel, New York, New York
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. **Overview of the New York State Labor Law and Recent Case Developments**
This session will provide an overview of the scope of Labor Law Sections 200, 240, and 241(6), and will analyze recent case law expanding or minimizing the protections of these provisions. This program will delve into liability under Labor Law Section 240 and its limited defenses, as well as the varying applications of the statutory language in each judicial department. Lastly, the presenters will discuss common issues encountered in dispositive motion practice.
Presenters:
Honorable Suzanne Adams, Administrative Judge, Supreme Court, Civil Term, New York County
Honorable Dana M. Catanzaro, Civil Court, New York County
Lisa Pigeon, Esq., Zaremba Brown PLLC, New York, New York
1.5 MCLE Credits in Areas of Professional Practice
- 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Refreshment Break - Miami**
Thank you to Dr. Ernest Chiodo Medical for sponsoring this refreshment break!

AGENDA

10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Matrimonial Law for the General Practitioner

This session offers a practical introduction to matrimonial law, including divorce, legal separation, child custody and support, spousal maintenance, and equitable distribution of marital assets and debts. While the subject can be complex, this overview is designed to equip judges and general practitioners with the foundational knowledge needed to navigate common issues that arise in family law cases.

Topics will include grounds for divorce, custody arrangements, statutory support formulas, property classification and valuation, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and the use of financial experts. The program will also touch on mediation and alternative dispute resolution options in matrimonial matters.

Presenter:

Honorable John J. Leo, Justice, Supreme Court Suffolk County and President of the Suffolk County Bar Association

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice

11:20 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Ethical Considerations and Implicit Bias in Mediation

This program will examine mediation from multiple perspectives, including those of plaintiffs, defendants, mediators, and the judiciary. Presenters will address key ethical considerations in the mediation process, such as neutrality, confidentiality, and professional responsibility, while also exploring the impact of implicit bias on outcomes. Using engaging hypotheticals, speakers will guide participants through realistic scenarios to illustrate ethical dilemmas and instances of bias, encouraging discussion on practical strategies for achieving fairness and balance in mediation.

Presenters:

Honorable George Silver, Silverstar Mediation and Arbitration, New York, New York

Brian J. Rayhill, Esq., Law Office of Brian Rayhill, Elmsford, New York

Honorable Adam Silvera, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, New York City Courts, New York, New York

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6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Cocktail Reception - Hawks Landing

Dress code: Business or Cocktail Attire

Thank you to E-Ring Binder for sponsoring the Cocktail Reception!

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dinner and Keynote Presentation - Hawks Landing

Keynote Presenter:

Hon. Mae D'Agostino, United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York

Special thanks to Silverstar Mediation and Arbitration, LLC for generously sponsoring tonight's dinner, keynote speaker, and table wine.

ORLANDO MARRIOTT WORLD CENTER MAP

Saturday, October 11, 2025

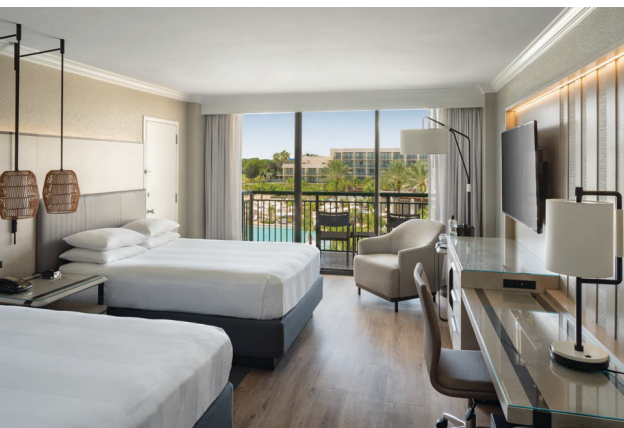
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	<p>Program Check-in - New York/New Orleans Foyer</p> <p>Breakfast Buffet - Miami</p>
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<p>Welcome and Introductions – New York/New Orleans Foyer</p> <p>Brett D. French, Esq., Trial Lawyers Section Chair, The French Firm, P.C., Albany, New York</p> <p>Richard W. Kokel, Esq., Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Chair, Law Office of Richard W. Kokel, New York, New York</p> <p>Remarks from NYSBA President-Elect, Taa R. Grays, Esq.</p>
9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	<p>Risk Transfer in Construction Accident Litigation</p> <p>This session will analyze third-party claims as they apply to construction accident cases and Labor Law claims. The presenters will discuss claims sounding in common law and contractual indemnification as well as breach of contract for failure to procure insurance. The speakers will discuss the impact of recent case law on these third-party claims.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Honorable Suzanne Adams, Administrative Judge, Supreme Court, Civil Term, New York County</p> <p>Honorable Dana M. Catanzaro, Civil Court, New York County</p> <p>Lisa Pigeon, Esq., Zaremba Brown, PLLC, New York, New York</p> <p>2.0 MCLE Credits in Areas of Professional Practice</p>
10:40 p.m. - 10:50 p.m.	<p>Refreshment Break - Miami</p> <p><i>Thank you to Sunshine Nurse for sponsoring this refreshment break!</i></p>
10:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	<p>De-Mystifying the New York Court of Claims</p> <p>This session will introduce the New York State Court of Claims and its newly created Attorney Referral Service pilot program. The Presiding Judge of the New York State Court of Claims, Hon. Richard E. Sise and Court of Claims Judge Catherine E. Leahy-Scott will provide information regarding the genesis of the Court of Claims and specific information regarding the Attorney Referral Service pilot program. The Attorney Referral Service pilot program seeks to have attorneys undertake representation of incarcerated claimants in claims filed in the Court of Claims.</p> <p>The presenters will also discuss the Court of Claims Act, types of cases heard by the Court, common motions brought in the Court, as well as some distinctions between Supreme Court and Court of Claims practice, among other matters.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Honorable Richard E. Sise, Presiding Judge, New York Court of Claims, Albany, New York</p> <p>Honorable Catherine Leahy-Scott, New York State Court of Claims and Acting Supreme Court Justice, 3rd & 4th Departments</p> <p>1.5 MCLE Credits in Areas of Professional Practice</p>
12:10 p.m.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Enjoy the rest of your time in Orlando and travel safely!</p>



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DINING

- **Siro Urban Italian Kitchen** - Classic Italian dishes with an innovation that's uniquely tempting
- **Mikado's Japanese Steakhouse** - Enjoy watching talented chefs prepare an authentic Japanese meal right in front of you on the hibachi grill, or head to the bar for a selection of wine and sake
- **Latitude & Longitude** - Southern dining at its finest, made from seasonal, locally produced and organic ingredients
- **Falls Pool Bar & Grill** - Enjoy savory bites and refreshing cocktails without leaving the pool deck
- **High Velocity** - The spot for game day cheering with staples like beer and burgers
- **The Lobby Lounge** - The ideal happy hour spot, complete with sushi, small plates and cocktails
- **Central Pantry** - Grab-and-go meals, snacks and drinks to keep you fueled
- **Starbucks** - A full-service Starbucks conveniently located in our lobby
- **À La Carte** - Convenient, in-room dining services
- **The Cargo Bar** - Sip on a refreshing beverage and enjoy light bites at River Falls Water Park





AMENITIES

- **Falls Pool Oasis** - Voted one of the “World’s Coolest Hotel Pools” by Forbes, the 400,000 gallon zero-entry lagoon-style heated pool includes waterfalls, two 200-foot winding slides, a 90-foot speed slide, a kids splash zone and four jumbo TVs to enjoy sports, dive-in movies and poolside trivia
- **River Falls Water Park** - The water park features three multi-rider inner tube water slides, a 575-foot lazy river and The Cargo Bar
- **Daily Activities & Seasonal Events** - The recreation team dials up the fun with scheduled activities to keep you busy on property. From interactive Mermaid & Glow Parties to meet & greets with Mingo the Flamingo, arts & crafts, animal encounters, mini golf and more — there’s always something exciting to experience during your stay
- **Hawk’s Landing Golf Club** - The 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Cupp, Jr. offers personalized instruction, group packages, events and more
- **The Spa** - Choose from a wide range of spa treatments including massages, facials, body scrubs, waxing and manicures/pedicures. Allow extra time to enjoy the meditation room and steam room before or after your treatment
- **Fitness Center** - The 4,000 square-foot fitness center is available 24/7 to hotel guests. The center is stocked with state-of-the-art fitness equipment and includes a 1.5 mile track for walking or running
- **Daily Shuttle** - All the fun without the parking hassle. Enjoy scheduled shuttle service to all four Disney Parks and Disney Springs included in the resort fee

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**Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law and
Trial Lawyers Section Program**

Thursday, January 15, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CLE Program)

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m (Awards Reception)

New York Hilton Midtown





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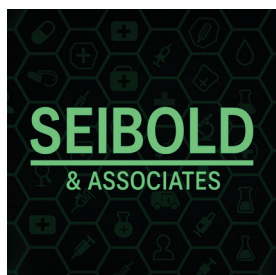


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“

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practice.

S. Friedman
Attorney, Michigan

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NOTES

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NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
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One Elk Street
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518.463.3200/800.582.2452
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