

*NYBSA Partnership Conference 2026: Strength and Resilience:
Advancing Justice in Challenging Times*

Sponsored by the New York State Bar Association's

Committee on Legal Aid

Albany, New York

September 23 – 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MCLE Programming

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 5, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted, **no exceptions.**

Proposals will be submitted via an online form.

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The New York State Bar Association's Partnership Conference is the premier training and networking event for legal services practitioners and pro bono professionals throughout New York State.

The conference strives to offer stimulating, integrated sessions that cover specific areas of the law (e.g., ACA/Medicaid; DAP, Foreclosure & Housing; DV/Family, Program Improvement; Benefits, Pro Bono/Pro Se, Diversity, Consumer) as well as how the law impacts specific client populations (e.g., immigrants, older adults, nonprofits, people with mental illness, survivors of domestic violence or persons who are homeless).

There are 11 core Partnership Conference Tracks for the program.

- Benefits
- Consumer Bankruptcy & Foreclosure
- Disability Advocacy Programs
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Domestic Violence & Family
- Education
- Immigration
- Health
- Housing
- Pro Bono
- Wage & Employment

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS & SELECTION

The 2026 Conference seeks to include MCLE credit bearing workshops that cover best practices, new strategies and new issues in the delivery of high quality legal services to our clients; community organizing; cultural competency and diversity in the workplace; integrating pro bono attorneys and law students into litigation or transactional work; technology; nonprofit management; and other areas of interest to the legal services community such as community organizing, and professional development for legal and management staff.

Sessions that cover substantive subject matters and updates, such as housing, DAP, consumer, and family law, will be developed by task forces in a separate selection process –therefore, this RFP is seeking workshops that cover **program innovation or program improvement**.

Proposals must identify the Workshop Leader and, to the extent possible, should identify the other panelists. The conference planners seek to create a conference that reflects the racial, gender, ethnic, sexual orientation, geographic and other diversity of our community. A balanced mix of upstate and downstate panelists, drawn from multiple organizations, is highly desired.

WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS & MATERIALS

If a workshop is chosen for the Partnership Conference, the Workshop Leader assumes responsibility for all materials, speakers and deadlines associated with that workshop. The Workshop Leader will receive further instructions on the development of appropriate materials and a Conference Steering Committee member will be assigned to work with each Workshop Leader to ensure proper development and timely submission of these materials as well as satisfaction of the MCLE requirements, as appropriate.

If appropriate workshop materials are not developed in a timely manner, the Conference Steering Committee reserves its right to withdraw its invitation to the Workshop Leader to present at the Partnership Conference.

NYSBA cannot reimburse workshop presenters for the cost of travel or any other conference costs. Speakers will be provided breakfast and/or lunch on the day they present.

PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE MCLE WORKSHOPS

The Partnership Conference Steering Committee, through this RFP, invites proposals to fill up to seven sessions for MCLE credit. These workshops should be 1 hour and 15 minutes in length for a total of 1.5 MCLE credit hours and have no more than 6 presenters. Workshop leaders are responsible for ensuring that their workshop meets MCLE certification requirements. For more information, see the [NYSBA's Speakers Guide](#).

For reference, the following are some of the MCLE Workshops from the 2024 Partnership Conference that were submitted via the RFP process:

- Leveraging Law School Students to Combat Veteran Homelessness
- Racial Disparities in Low Level Traffic Stops – New Approaches to an old problem
- Public Benefits Training for Housing Attorneys

Below are examples of topics that we are actively seeking, but will consider proposals for other topics as well:

- Language Access
- Utilizing Technology in Access to Justice Initiatives
- Legal Services and Cyber Ethics
- Emerging Areas
- Partnering with non-attorneys, social workers, and businesses within the community
- Public Interest Loan repayment and Student Debt
- Access to Justice and the practice of Law in Rural Areas

DEADLINES

January 5, 2026

January 26, 2026

February 9, 2026

March 9, 2026

April 3, 2026

May 15, 2026

Proposals Due.

Proposals selected and invitations to Workshop Leaders extended.

Invitations accepted or declined by Workshop Leaders.

Workshop descriptions, agendas, and speaker names due.

Feedback on materials will be submitted to Workshop Leaders.

Revised materials due.

Submit your proposal via an online form [Here](#).

For questions regarding this RFP, please contact Eunice Bencke at ebencke@nysba.org .