New York State Bar Association
2027 Annual Meeting

Presidential Summit on Civic Education
To Safeguard Democracy and the Rule of Law: What Lawyers Need to Know about Educating the Next Generation

New York Hilton Midtown
1335 6th Avenue (between 53rd & 54th Streets), New York, NY 10019

Wednesday, January 20, 2027

CLE Program | 12:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. | Grand Ballroom West, Third Floor

3.0 MCLE Credits
1.5 Credits Areas of Professional Practice; 1.5 Credits Ethics & Professionalism

This program is transitional and is suitable for all attorneys including those newly admitted.

Agenda

12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	**Introduction** Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge, State of New York and the New York Court of Appeals
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Opening Remarks** Taa R. Grays, Esq., President, New York State Bar Association
1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	**Keynote** **What the Constitution Means to Me** Ms. Schreck will showcase a piece about Elsie Parrish, a "forgotten" woman from her hometown, who paved the way for minimum wage, taking her case all the way to the US Supreme Court in *West Coast Hotel v. Parrish*. (1937) **Speaker:** Heidi Schreck, Tony Award Nominee
1:20 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	**America at 250: A Discussion on our National Civic and Constitutional Life** *The State of Civics Education — Where Are We and How Did We Get Here?*

Focus on national non-partisan themes for civics learners of all ages.

Moderator:
Christopher Riano, Esq., Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

Panelists:
Julie Silverbrook , National Constitution Center, Chief content and Learning Officer

Garima Desai, Rhodes Scholar, Inaugural Alumni Board Member at the Center for Civic Education

Nora Demleitner, Cardin Center for Civic Engagement, Executive Director

Hans Zeiger, Jack Miller Center, President/CEO

Vernee Green, Mikva Challenge, CEO

1.5 *Credits in Areas of Professional Practice*

Break

2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Civic Education for the Modern Era – What Does it Look Like?

- Can current events and history be taught in a manner which enhances student critical thinking skills as opposed to further polarizing our nation's citizens?
- How can teachers teach controversial topics and not fear the potential loss of their jobs? (ex how to teach events of January 6th?)
- What is the role of each person on the panel in assisting the goal of preserving democracy?
- What is the role of the individual lawyer? bar associations?
- How do you educate the public?
- How can studying US Supreme Court Decisions in their entirely, lead to a greater understanding of what constitutes the different positions of both the left and right in an unfiltered manner

Moderator:
Jay Worona, Esq, Jaspan Schlesinger Narendran LLP

Panelists:

Melinda Person, President, President New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy New York State

Lindsey Cormack, Assoc. Professor of Political Science Stevens Institute of Technology; Author “How to Raise a Citizen”

Shelley Mayer, NYS Senator, Chair of Senate Education Committee

Joseph Liberti, award-winning History and Civic Education Teacher Mamaroneck High School, founder of Original Civic Research and Action program (OCRA)

1.5 *Credits in Ethics and Professionalism*