

MARCH **CLE** MADNESS

MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES

MARCH 18, 2026

2:00 - 3:30 PM Registration Location: Expo Room 101

3:30 - 3:45 PM Welcome by **Peter Hecht, Magna Legal Services, Partner & Executive Vice President Sales**

3:45 - 4:00 PM Workshop – Jury Selection Tactics: Use of Social Media Tools

The workshop will address how attorneys and jury consultants are leveraging social media during voir dire and trial. This discussion will also demonstrate rules and best practices each lawyer should know to render social media research a valuable and powerful tool.

MODERATED BY: **Daniel Rhyhart, Esq., Partner, Blank Rome**
Rachel York Colangelo, Ph.D., National Managing Director of Jury Consulting
David Barnard, Ph.D., Director of Jury Consulting, Magna Legal Services

4:00 - 4:15 PM Description of Micro Panel Exercise and Case Video

JuryScout Social Media Searches – Jury Consultant Consultations

A unique and interactive role play production exploring the art and science of jury selection.

4:15 - 5:15 PM Traditional Panel Discussion: Jury Selection Strategies

The panel discussion will cover effective voir dire and jury selection strategies. Panelists will discuss the most productive development and deployment of voir dire questions, designed to ferret out the likely worst prospective jurors for your case for purposes of (de-)selection. The presentation will also provide strategies for approaching voir dire as well as practical tips for exercising cause challenges and peremptory strikes during the (de-)selection process.

MODERATED BY: **Ronnie Flack, Esq., Partner, Wright Close Barger & Guzman LLP**
Andrew Nelson, Esq., Partner, Wright Close Barger & Guzman LLP

PANELISTS:

Aileen Schwartz, Altmedarb, General Counsel
Christopher Carucci, Gallagher Bassett, Senior Vice President Construction Claims
Jeff Davis, Lincoln Financial, AVP & Senior Counsel Legal Department
Michael Cortese, Westfield Specialty, Senior Vice President, Head of Casualty Claims

5:30 - 5:50 PM The Jury Game: First Mock Jury Selection Role Play

FEATURING: **Joseph Goldberg, Esq., Partner, Cole, Scott & Kissane**

MICRO PANELISTS:

Ian Rapaport, MagMutual, Chief Defense Strategy Officer
Ozie Lewis, Old Republic Insurance Group, Claims AVP
Jody Hobbs, Pekin Insurance, P&C Claim Litigation Specialist
Brandon Ehrie, SPRISKA (Specialty Risk of America), In-House Legal Counsel
Mitchell Dane-Henry, Sprouts, Director, Risk Management
Stephanie Morris, The Kroger Co., Paralegal - Insured Litigation
Lloyd Brown, Wawa Inc., Claims Manager - Risk Management and Safety

5:50 - 6:10 PM The Jury Game: Second Mock Jury Selection Role Play

FEATURING: **Charles Meyer, Esq., Partner, Burger, Meyer & D'Angelo, LLP**

MICRO PANELISTS:

Elana Gilaad, ABM Industries, Assistant General Counsel
Carl St. Amand, Chubb, Claims Director, Excess

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Matthew Spector, Chubb, Senior Vice President - Primary and Excess Casualty Claims Leader
Josh Morris, Circle K – Global Capabilities Network, Senior Manager, North American Claims
Paige Toth, Hospital Sisters Health System, Vice President, Associate General Counsel
Annette Rowinski, Trinity Health, Senior Area Claims Manager, RN, CPHRM
Jill White, Trinity Health, Area Claims Manager

6:15 - 6:30 PM **Jury Reveal**

6:30 - 6:45 PM **Wrap Up with Joseph Goldberg, Esq., Charles Meyer, Esq., Jurors, and Faculty**

MODERATED BY: **Richard G. Duplantier, Jr., Esq., Director, Galloway**

7:00 - 9:00 PM **Welcome Reception and Dinner****Location: HaSalon**
(at the Venetian)

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MARCH 19, 2026

9:00 - 10:00 AM Continental Breakfast.....Location: Expo Room 101
Sponsored by MC Consultants, Inc.

10:00 - 10:15 AM Welcome by *Peter Hecht, Magna Legal Services, Partner & Executive Vice President Sales*

10:15 - 10:45 AM Workshop – Jury Selection Tactics: Balancing Competing Interests

Two senior Magna jury consultants, joined by a seasoned trial attorney, will discuss the competing interests at play during voir dire and how trial attorneys can best balance those interests to maximize the effectiveness of identifying and striking dangerous jurors while also introducing key case themes and building a rapport with jurors.

MODERATED BY: *Daniel Rhyhart, Esq., Partner, Blank Rome*
Rachel York Colangelo, Ph.D., National Managing Director of Jury Consulting
David Barnard, Ph.D., Director of Jury Consulting, Magna Legal Services

10:45 - 11:45 AM Traditional Panel Discussion: My Heart, Not My Head

A discussion from the perspective of litigators, in-house counsel, and insurance industry claims executives about themes that work during trial. Exploration of the difference between theme and story and the interrelation of the two. Statistics regarding the impact of emotion on jury verdicts and the interrelation of emotion and theme.

MODERATED BY: *Rich Lenkov, Esq., Capital Member, Downey & Lenkov LLC*

PANELISTS:

Matthew Morrison, AMFam Group, Vice President - Litigation
Mitzi McLean, DaVita Inc., Director, Assistant General Counsel
Lauren Bellamy, Grady, Senior Associate General Counsel

11:45 - 12:05 PM The Jury Game: Third Mock Jury Selection Role Play

FEATURING: *Tera Edwards, Esq., Cleveland Deputy Managing Partner, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP*

MICRO PANELISTS:

Patrick Carroll, AON, Director, USA Casualty Claims Consulting
Ken Bunn, Builders Mutual Insurance Company, Vice President, Claims
Andrew Chestnut, Clear Blue Insurance Group, Senior Vice President, Head of Claims
Bakari Watkins, Clear Blue Insurance Group, Senior Vice President, Head of TPA Management
Gordon Pennington, Global Guardian Services, CEO
Barbara Laskaris-Lorigan, Golden State Claims Adjusters, Senior Vice President – Head of Claims
Barbara Murillo, Greyhound/Flixbus, Manager Legal Counsel

Afternoon Break

2:00 - 3:00 PM Networking Bar.....Location: Expo Room 101
March Madness Games Streaming

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3:00 - 4:00 PM

Traditional Panel Discussion: Getting to.....Maybe

This program breaks down the strategy behind successful negotiations: timing, preparation, team dynamics, authority, and managing multi-session talks. Hear from in-house counsel and claims professionals on what actually moves the needle. Walk away with a clearer framework for planning and executing smarter settlements.

MODERATED BY: **G. Jeffrey Vernis, Esq., Managing Partner, Vernis & Bowling**

PANELISTS:

James Minniti, Allied World Insurance Company, Vice President

Arturo Antezana, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance, Assistant Vice President - Excess Casualty Claims

Derrick Mullen, Seneca Insurance Company, Vice President, Litigation Manager and Director of Casualty Claims, H.O. Claims

Diane Carman, Taconic Biosciences, Vice President & General Counsel

4:00 - 4:20 PM

The Jury Game: Fourth Mock Jury Selection Role Play

FEATURING: **Jeremy Harris, Esq., Partner, Burger, Meyer & D'Angelo, LLP**

MICRO PANELISTS:

Mike Merlo, AON, Chief Claims Officer

Christopher Butler, Bowhead Specialty Underwriters, Inc., Head of Claims

Michael Gonzales, Global Guardian Services, Vice President Claims

Kim Dwyer, Interstate Cleaning Corporation, Senior Vice President – Risk Management

Philip Itkov, NIP Group, Commercial Casualty Claims Director

David Stark, Stark Creative Industries, Executive Legal Advisor

Jonathan Wilson, United Healthcare, Deputy General Counsel

4:20 - 4:35 PM

Jury Reveal

4:35 - 4:50 PM

Wrap Up with Tera Edwards, Esq., Jeremy Harris, Esq., Jurors, and Faculty

MODERATED BY: **Richard G. Duplantier, Jr., Esq., Director, Galloway**

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Closing Reception, Q&A with NBA Legends Tim Hardaway, Sr. & Kiki VanDeWeghe, and Pop-a-Shot..... Location: Expo Room 101

Sponsored by Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.

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