



## Spring Sections Seminar

**April 29 – May 1, 2026**

**The Virginian Hotel  
Lynchburg**

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

6:00 PM — **Welcome Reception**, *Academy Center of the Arts Patricia Harrington Gallery Building, 600 Main Street (Two blocks from the hotel)*

7:30 PM — **Dine Around Dinners**

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 30**

8:00–9:00 AM — **Breakfast & Registration**

9:00–10:00 AM — **Legislative Update** (Organized by Legislative Committee)

10:00–11:00 AM — **Study of Recent Sovereign Immunity Cases, 1.0 HR** (Organized by Local Government)

Session Description TBD

Melissa Hamann, *City of Chesapeake*

11:00–11:15 AM — **Break**

11:15–12:15 PM — **Uniwest Case** (Organized by Corporate & Commercial)

Session Description TBD

Andrew Gay, *Gentry Locke*

Clay Hester, *SpottsFain*

12:15–2:00 PM — **Lunch and Work Break**

2:00–3:00 PM — **Appellate Court Update** (Organized by Appellate Advocacy)

Session Description TBD

Thomas Chappel, *Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black*

Hon. Marla Graff Decker, *Court of Appeals of Virginia*

Hon. Lisa M. Lorish, *Court of Appeals of Virginia*

3:00–3:15 PM — **Break**

## THURSDAY, APRIL 30 (Continued)

**ATTEND EITHER THE GENERAL SESSIONS OR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**

### **GENERAL SESSIONS**

**3:15–4:15 PM — Advanced Removal Strategy: Winning the Fight Over Federal Jurisdiction, 1.0 HR** (Organized by Policy Coverage)

This session explores strategic removal and remand practice, including snap removal, fraudulent joinder, nominal parties, realignment, and abstention. Designed for civil defense counsel, it offers practical guidance on securing federal jurisdiction, anticipating remand challenges, and understanding evolving case law.

Kathryn Bonorchis, *Lewis Brisbois*

John Mumford, *Hancock Daniel*

**4:15–5:15 PM — Session Title/Speaker(s) TBD** (Organized by Products & Toxic Torts)

OR

### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE (PART 1)**

**3:15 -4:15 PM — Topic TBD**

Description TBD

Amber Bockin, *The Doctors Company*

**4:15 -5:15 PM — The Invisible Advantage: What Modern Trial Teams Are Doing Differently**

Description TBD

Matt Banks

Susan Mitchell

Omar Maldonado, *River City Trial Solutions*

**5:15–6:30 PM — Networking Reception**

**6:45–9:00 PM — Dinner on Your Own**

**6:45–9:00 PM — Optional Women’s Section Dinner**

**9:00–10:30 PM — Late Night**

## FRIDAY, MAY 1

8:00–9:00 AM — **Breakfast**

***ATTEND EITHER THE GENERAL SESSIONS OR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE***

### ***GENERAL SESSIONS***

9:00–10:00 AM — **Session Title/Speaker(s) TBD** (Organized by Auto & Transportation)

10:00–11:00 AM — **Session Title/Speaker(s) TBD** (Organized by Workers' Compensation)

OR

### ***MEDICAL MALPRACTICE (PART 2)***

9:00–10:00 AM — **Virginia Consumer Protection Act**

Description TBD

Ed Bailey, *Hancock Daniel*

10:00–11:00 AM — **How to Attack Damages**

Description TBD

Michala Black, *Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman*

Kambria Talley, *Hancock Daniel*

11:00–11:15 PM — **Break**

11:15–11:30 PM — **Wellness Minute & Raffle Winner Announced**

11:30–12:30 PM — **Session Title/Speaker(s) TBD** (Organized by Professional Liability, 1.0 HR ETHICS)

12:30 PM — **Adjourn and Box Lunches Available**