

VADA

2026 ANNUAL MEETING



OCTOBER 21 – 23
HOTEL ROANOKE

DRAFT AGENDA
9.0 CLE HOURS (2.0 ETHICS) PENDING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

6:00 PM

President's Welcome Reception

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7:30 PM

Dine Arouds, *Various locations*

9:30-11:00 PM

Late Night,

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

6:30 AM

Wellness Committee Walk or Run

8:00 AM

Registration and Buffet Breakfast,

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REHABILITATION
SERVICES

8:00 AM

Past Presidents' Breakfast,

Please visit the buffet and join your fellow past presidents

8:55 AM

Welcome and General Session

9:00-10:00 AM

General Assembly Briefing, 1.0 HR (Sarah Jessee & Mamoun Mahayni)
Description and Speakers TBD

10:00-11:00 AM

The New Rule 3:8: Eliminating the Slow Drip of Serial Pleadings-Stage Motions, 1.0 HR (Sophie Campos & Ben Woody)

Did you miss the recent amendment to Rule 3:8? Our panelists will examine the history of the rule and what precipitated the change in the context of “serial pleading.” They will explore the practical implications of the change, including drilling down on what makes something “plea-able” for a plea-in-bar, when is something a demurrer, and what happens when there is lag time between a court’s ruling and the submission of an order disposing of a case.

Patice Holland, *Woods Rogers*
Lori Jarvis, *McAngus Goudelock & Courie*

11:00-11:15 AM

Break

11:15-12:15 PM

Frequent Flyers: Handling Recurring Expert Witnesses and Objections To IMEs, 1.0 HR (Jacob Pierce & Ben Woody)

IMEs are a critical piece of evaluating damages. So, through the example of a neuropsychological examination, our panelists will discuss best practices in pursuing IMEs. The panel will discuss prevalent strategies advanced by the plaintiff’s bar in negotiating IMEs, imposing conditions, and so forth. Specifically in the context of neuropsychology, the panel will discuss why requests to record is tantamount to denying the examination, and best practices in formulating protective orders concerning test data.

Danielle Giroux, *Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman*
Edward Peck III, Ph.D.,
Ben Woody, *McAngus Goudelock & Courie*

12:15-2:15 PM

Awards Luncheon

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2:30-4:30 PM

LITIGATION SECTION BREAKOUTS (2.0 HRS)

APPELLATE ADVOCACY and CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

2:30-3:30 PM

Beating the Standard of Review, 1.0 HR

On appeal, standards of review are just like standard of proof at trial – they determine how high the hurdle is for a litigant to clear and win. Unlike a standard of proof, however, appellate standards of review are more flexible and offer litigants an opportunity to strategically frame an issue to increase the likelihood of an affirmance or reversal. This CLE explains and analyzes the various standards of review and discusses strategies for navigating those standards on appeal.

Peter S. Askin, *ThompsonMcMullan*
Timothy A. Richard, *ThompsonMcMullan*

3:30-4:30 PM

Additional Session TBD

AUTOMOBILE & TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2:30-4:30 PM

Defending the Government and Government Employee in the Inevitable Car Accident Case: All Issues Potpourri, 2.0 HRS

With *Jeopardy!*-inspired trivia (and prizes!) sprinkled in, presenters will provide an overview of defending the municipality or county and its employee in the inevitable car accident case. The session will cover sovereign immunity issues and corresponding uninsured motorist implications, accident reconstruction and medical experts strategies, and general best practices for successful defense in such cases.

Darlene Bradberry, *City of Newport News*

Jonathan Hyslop, *Furniss Davis Rashkind*

Moderator: Melissa Hamann, *City of Chesapeake*

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

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2:30-3:30 PM

Session Title and Description TBD

Kristina Fattoum, *Mitchell, Simopoulos & Fattoum*

3:30-4:30 pm

Combating Plaintiff's Spoliation Playbook and Avoiding the Adverse Inference Instruction, 1.0 HR

When critical evidence goes missing in medical malpractice litigation, the stakes are enormous. This session equips defense counsel with practical tools to recognize and counter plaintiff's spoliation tactics, challenge adverse inference motions, implement effective litigation hold protocols, and mitigate jury instruction damage when spoliation arguments survive to trial.

Ron Herbert, *Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman*

POLICY COVERAGE

2:30-3:30 PM

The 5 W's of EUOs: Breaking Down Examinations Under Oath, 1.0 HR

This session will provide a thorough overview of the Examination Under Oath condition of an insurance policy. We will answer the who, what, when, where, and why of EUOs as they are used by insurance companies, provide best practices for coverage counsel to avoid bad faith pitfalls, and explore how EUOs might be used in litigation down the road.

Abby Dreiling, *Hancock Daniel & Johnson*

Meghan Gosline – *Hancock Daniel & Johnson*

3:30-4:30 PM

Insurance Coverage Declaratory Judgment Actions, 1.0 HR

A summary of how declaratory judgment actions can be used in insurance coverage disputes to clarify the parties' rights and obligations, including the legal standards for a declaratory judgment, who should be made parties to the action, circumstances in which a declaratory judgment can be useful, differences between state and federal court, and practical considerations for proceeding through the case.

Marc Peritz, *Flora Pettit*

PRODUCTS & TOXIC TORTS

2:30-4:30 PM

Topics and Speakers TBD

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

2:30-3:30 PM

Examining Current Legal Malpractice Trends, 1.0 HR

Session description & speaker TBD

3:30-4:30 PM

Engagement Letters & Fee Dispute Resolution, 1.0 HR Ethics

Session description & speaker TBD

4:30-6:00 PM

Break

5:00-6:00 PM

Young Lawyers Meet-Up

6:00-7:30 PM

Bench-Bar Reception, *Top of the Taubman*

*Third Floor of Taubman Museum of Art, 110 Salem Ave., SE
(Five-minute walk across the railway bridge then left on Salem Ave.)*

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7:30-9:30 PM

Dinner on Your Own

7:30-9:30 PM

Women's Section Dinner

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9:30-11:00 PM

Late Night,

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:00-8:55 AM

Breakfast Buffet Available

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8:55 AM	Morning Announcements & General Session (Community Outreach, Sponsors Raffle, Wellness Activities Raffle),
9:15-10:15 AM	Preparing for the Worst and Unexpected at Deposition and Trial Panel, 1.0 HR (Abby Dreiling & Ashley Fine) Litigation rarely goes exactly as planned. This panel will explore strategies for handling unexpected challenges during depositions and trial, including difficult witnesses, aggressive opposing counsel, jury issues, preservation of the record, and other unforeseen obstacles. Experienced litigators will share practical guidance for staying prepared when surprises arise. Rod Dillman with <i>Dillman Legal Group</i> Julie Mayer with <i>Dillman Legal Group</i> Daniel Sarrell with <i>Woods Rogers</i>
10:15-10:30 AM	Break
10:30-11:30 AM	What's it Worth? Tips for Evaluating and Discussing Case Value, 1.0 HR (Logan Bartley, Kathryn Bonorchis & Kelly MacCluen) With fewer cases going to trial, effective analysis of settlement and overall case value is more important than ever. This session will address strategies for effectively valuing claims from case inception to conclusion. Panelists will offer a refresher on the basics of valuing claims and provide specific methods for gathering the relevant information and documentation needed to value claims, as well as tips and suggestions for attorneys on best practices. There will also be an interactive component with session attendees. Kathryn Bonorchis, <i>Lewis Brisbois</i> Tate Love, <i>TimberlakeSmith</i>
11:30-12:30 PM	Pitfalls in the Appellate Courts, 1.0 HR (Elana Coole & Lindsey Brock) Despite Dante's sharp pen, he needed Virgil to guide him through the 9 circles of Hell. No matter how seasoned a quick-witted lawyer is with trial work, he may be entrapped by the perils of litigating the Court of Appeals of Virginia and the Supreme Court of Virginia and the technical missteps that could harm or doom your appeal. Throughout this CLE, we will act as your Virgil and help you prepare for your journey through the spooky appellate underworld. Sophie Arnold, <i>Woods Rogers</i> Thomas Chappell, <i>Woods Rogers</i>
12:30-12:45 PM	Box Lunches Available SPONSORED BY: 
12:45-1:45 PM	Sanctions, 1.0 HR Ethics (Sarah Knarzer & Joseph Marino) How to use and how to navigate a sanctions motion filed by opposing counsel. Speakers TBD
1:45 PM	Adjourn

