



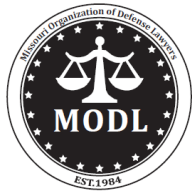
**MISSOURI ORGANIZATION
OF
DEFENSE LAWYERS**

41st Annual Meeting

JUNE 4-6, 2026

**CHATEAU
ON THE LAKE**

415 North State Highway 265 ▪ Branson, MO



MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

101 East High Street
P.O. Box 1072
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(573) 636-6100

www.modllaw.com

Dear MODL Member:

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers will be held June 4 - 6, 2026 in Branson, Missouri. MODL members and their families are invited to attend this year's conference which will be held at the Chateau on the Lake, known as the "Castle on the Hill" at Table Rock Lake. You will have the opportunity to connect with friends, colleagues, and fulfill a number of CLE credit requirements. We hope you can join us at this year's Annual Meeting.

The conference starts off on Thursday evening with the "President's Welcome Reception" hosted by MODL President, Chris Brackman.

The conferences CLE schedule kicks off with "Schaefer Friday" as we only allowed speaker presentations to be delivered by those with the last name of "Schaefer." We'd like to say it was planned, but it is pure coincidence that our speakers share the same surname. First, retired judge, the Honorable Lee Schaefer, will present on the generational differences that are encountered while practicing law and how those differences play out in a litigation setting. This will be followed by our keynote speaker, Enrico Schaefer who will instruct on the changing landscape for the practice of law given the advancements in artificial intelligence, with his CLE titled "AI or Die."

On Saturday morning wake up and have a Cup of Joe and listen to attorney Michael Goodin speak on third-party litigation funding and how it impacts your litigation with the Plaintiffs' bar. He will be followed by Randy and Brian giving their Legislative Update. This year, they will be joined by State Representative and House Majority Floor Leader, the Honorable Alex Riley. Come hear insights on how the current political climate impacts legislation important to MODL members. Finally, the always popular CLE with the blended judicial panel concludes the conference. We welcome back Missouri Supreme Court Judge, the Honorable Mary Rhodes Russell, who will moderate as we hear the judges from around the state share their views from the bench. Members who attend all of the CLE presentations will leave with a total of 7.2 hours of credit.

For entertainment pleasure during the conference, the MODL Golf Tournament will be played on Friday afternoon at Ledgestone Country Club. Friday evening, MODL will celebrate with the Cocktail Party followed by the Awards Dinner where outgoing Board members will be recognized and the prestigious Karl Blanchard, Jr. Award of Excellence and the Ben Ely, Jr. Award will be presented to MODL members as voted on by the Board. Fun and games will be provided for your kids to enjoy on Friday night from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All that we do at the Annual Meeting is made possible with the help of our sponsors! Make sure you and your family stop by and check out the sponsor tables for some fun goodies and enter their raffles.

You can register for the meeting on-line at www.modllaw.com, or by emailing the registration form to info@modllaw.com. If you prefer traditional mailings, send in the Registration Form found towards the end of this brochure to the MODL Office. To make hotel reservations, call 417-334-1161 or use the booking link:

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4395467&hotelID=11529>

The group discount rate is \$185 and expires on May 5, 2026, so do not delay. We look forward to seeing you.

Best Regards,

Josh

Joshua Engelbart, Annual Meeting Chair

AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026



5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION

.....Pre-Convention Area

7:00 p.m.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

FAMILY BUFFET BREAKFAST.....Windsor

CLE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS.....Versailles

8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

WELCOME/OPENING.....Versailles

**CHRISTOPHER A. BRACKMAN, FRANKE SCHULTZ & MULLEN, P.C.,
KANSAS CITY, MO**

8:40 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

**“LITIGATION THROUGH THE AGES: GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY IN
THE PRACTICE OF LAW”**.....Versailles

THE HONORABLE LEE B. SCHAEFER (RETIRED), BELLEVILLE, IL

This program attempts to explain the differences between generational perspectives of the practice of law. There will be a specific focus on generational differences in interactions and perceptions during litigation.

9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

BREAK/EXHIBITS.....Versailles

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

KEYNOTE:

**“AI OR DIE: LAWYERS, FOUNDERS, AND EXECUTIVES MUST
EMBRACE AI TODAY, OR BE LEFT BEHIND FOREVER”**

.....Versailles

ENRICO SCHAEFER, FOUNDER, TRAVERSE LEGAL PLC, DETROIT, MI

This presentation delves into the AI revolution reshaping the legal industry and broader business landscapes. The message is clear: adapting to AI is no longer optional but essential for those seeking long-term success in a rapidly transforming environment. Attendees will be introduced to the critical steps for embarking on their AI journey, emphasizing why AI will profoundly disrupt every aspect of the legal profession. Failing to adopt AI tools to deliver more cost-effective, efficient services will likely result in being outpaced by competitors. This shift is already happening, and understanding how rivals leverage AI will be a powerful motivator to stay ahead.

11:30 a.m.

FAMILY BUFFET LUNCH.....Windsor



12:15 p.m. **GOLF TOURNAMENT – In Memory of Paul Wickens**

LEDGESTONE[™]
COUNTRY CLUB

1600 LedgeStone Way
Branson West, MO 65737

REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY RINGLER - DENISE FREY

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **FAMILY/KIDS' TIME**

MODL'S CELEBRATION

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **COCKTAIL PARTY**.....Pre-Convention Area

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **KID'S PROGRAM**.....St. Moritz/Heidelberg
SPONSORED BY SHELTER INSURANCE COMPANIES

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AWARDS DINNER**.....Windsor

- ◆ Service and Amicus Awards
- ◆ Retiring Board Member Recognition
- ◆ Karl Blanchard, Jr. Award of Excellence
- ◆ President's Award
- ◆ Ben Ely, Jr. Award

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **FAMILY BUFFET BREAKFAST**.....Windsor

CLE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **“THIRD PARTY LITIGATION FUNDING IN MISSOURI: WHAT DEFENSE COUNSEL NEED TO KNOW”**.....Versailles
MICHAEL GOODIN, LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL T. GOODIN, ATLANTA, GA
Third-party litigation funding has become an increasingly common component of civil litigation, affecting how cases are litigated and resolved. This presentation provides an overview of consumer, commercial, medical, and portfolio litigation funding, with a focus on how these arrangements operate and are regulated in Missouri. The session examines Missouri's existing regulation of consumer legal funding and pending legislation addressing foreign and commercial litigation funding, and discusses practical strategies for identifying, discovering, and using litigation funding to advantage in defense practice.

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **“LEGISLATIVE PROCESS/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE”**.....Versailles
THE HONORABLE ALEX RILEY, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, HOUSE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER, 134TH DISTRICT, SPRINGFIELD, MO
RANDY J. SCHERR, MODL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEFFERSON CITY, MO
BRIAN BERNSKOETTER, MODL OFFICE, JEFFERSON CITY, MO
A review of legislation considered during the 2026 Legislative Session.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **BREAK/EXHIBITS**.....Versailles

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **“BLENDED JUDICIAL PANEL”**.....Versailles
MODERATOR:
THE HONORABLE MARY R. RUSSELL, SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI, JEFFERSON CITY, MO
PANEL:
THE HONORABLE REBECA NAVARRO-MCKELVEY, MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, EASTERN DISTRICT, ST. LOUIS, MO
THE HONORABLE EDWARD (TED) ARDINI, JR., MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, WESTERN DISTRICT, KANSAS CITY, MO

**THE HONORABLE BRITTNEY SMITH, 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
ST. CHARLES, MO**

**THE HONORABLE JESSICA AGNELLY, 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
INDEPENDENCE, MO**

**THE HONORABLE CRAIG E. HELLMANN, 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
UNION, MO**

12:00 p.m. – 12:10 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**.....Versailles
**CHRISTOPHER A. BRACKMAN, FRANKE SCHULTZ & MULLEN, P.C.,
KANSAS CITY, MO**

12:10 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**.....Versailles

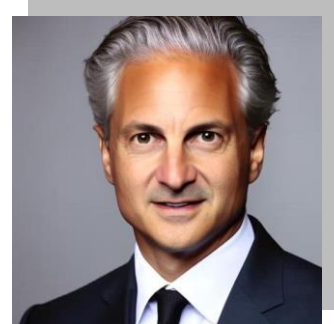
**7.2 hours Missouri CLE which includes
1.8 hours of Ethics which includes
1.8 hours Cultural Competency, Diversity, Inclusion and Implicit Bias**

ABOUT YOUR SPEAKERS



JUDGE LEE B. SCHAEFER (retired) practiced as a defense attorney in both Civil and Workers' Compensation litigation. She was named a partner in the firm of Luke & Cunliff, P.C. in 1997. In 1999, Judge Schaefer joined the Office of the Missouri Attorney General as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Labor Division, later that year she was named Chief Counsel of the Labor Division. In 2011, she was appointed as Chief Judge of the St. Louis Office of the Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation. Since her retirement in April of 2024, Judge Schaefer has conducted private mediations and spoken to numerous groups of Workers' Compensation shareholders.

ENRICO SCHAEFER is a highly accomplished individual and trailblazer in the legal industry, particularly in the realm of technology for almost 30 years. As the founder of Traverse Legal PLC, a renowned law firm dedicated to representing technology companies, Enrico has played a pivotal role in shaping the legal and technological landscape for innovative organizations and businesses. Enrico's true passion lies in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain. He has invested significant time and effort into researching and understanding these groundbreaking advancements. This expertise not only allows Enrico to stay at the forefront of technological developments but also positions him as a sought-after advisor for clients seeking guidance in these areas.





MICHAEL T. GOODIN is the Managing Attorney for Zurich's Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee Staff Legal Offices, where he leads a team of legal professionals devoted to providing the highest standard of legal representation to Zurich's clients in tort and workers' compensation claims. Michael brings to the Managing Attorney role nearly twenty years' experience as a trial attorney, where he has defended businesses in high complexity claims including medical malpractice, nursing home liability, premises liability, and automobile liability cases. Prior to his current role as Managing Attorney, Michael worked as a Senior Consultant for Zurich's Claims Judicial and Legislative Affairs group, a social inflation task force. He worked to develop and implement judicial and legislative improvements in key jurisdictions across the United States. He also advocated for changes in the law that level the playing field between tort plaintiffs and defendants, and advocated for judges and

legislators who believe businesses deserve a fair trial in a tort lawsuit. As part of his advocacy for a fairer court system, Michael frequently presents on the drivers of social inflation, with a focus on third party litigation funding. He is a member of the Defense Research Institute's TPLF Committee and the Lawyers for Civil Justice TPLF Committee.

RANDY J. SCHERR is President and founder of R. J. Scherr and Associates and a principal in the lobbying firm of Scherr, Winter LLC. He holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science. Mr. Scherr has been actively involved in the political and legislative process in Missouri on a full-time basis for 47 years and represents over 30 clients before the Missouri Legislature. Mr. Scherr is the Executive Director for the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers.



JUDGE MARY R. RUSSELL is currently the longest-serving member of the Supreme Court of Missouri and a former two-term Chief Justice. A seventh-generation Missourian, she previously served on the Court of Appeals and practiced law in Hannibal. A graduate of Truman State and Mizzou Law, she holds a leadership role with the National Conference of Bar Examiners and remains active in numerous legal and community organizations. She has received many prestigious honors, including the National Judicial College's 2025 Sandra Day O'Connor Award. Judge Russell is a dedicated mentor to young people and a passionate advocate for civics education, frequently speaking to students to help demystify the courts.

JUDGE REBECA NAVARRO-MCKELVEY was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District on December 8, 2023 by Governor Michael L. Parson. Prior to her appointment to the appellate bench, she served as Circuit Judge in St. Charles County following her election in 2020 and as Associate Circuit Judge after her election in 2016. Judge Navarro-McKelvey's extensive legal career includes serving as Chief Legal Counsel for the 11th Judicial Circuit Juvenile Office and as a career prosecutor in both the city of St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office and St. Charles County Prosecutor's Office. She began her career in private practice as an associate attorney at Armstrong Teasdale in St. Louis. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri School of Law in 2000.





JUDGE EDWARD (TED) R. ARDINI, JR. was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, in July of 2016. Raised in Massachusetts, he obtained his J.D. from the New England School of Law in Boston in 1992 and B.A. in Political Science from Merrimack College located in North Andover, Massachusetts. Following law school, he started a sixteen-year career at the Missouri Attorney General's Office where he held several positions including Chief Counsel of the Public Safety Division overseeing all of the office's criminal prosecutions and, from 2002 to 2009, served as Counsel to the Attorney General. Beginning in 2009 until his appointment to the court of appeals, Ted served as Counsel to the Governor under Governor Jay Nixon.

JUDGE BRITTNEY SMITH graduated from Boston University in 2002, with a degree in Business Management, and St. Louis University School of Law in 2005. Worked as a private criminal defense attorney for seven years with Rosenblum, Schwartz, Fry & Johnson, and then as a Public Defender for three years, before switching sides and working for the Lincoln County, and then St. Charles County, Prosecuting Attorney's Offices. Appointed Associate Circuit Judge in St. Charles County in October of 2019. Appointed to Circuit Judge in St. Charles County in January of 2024.



JUDGE JESSICA AGNELLY was appointed circuit judge of Division 16 in September 2023 by Governor Michael Parson. At the time of her appointment, she was serving as associate circuit judge of Division 25, having been appointed by Governor Parson to the bench in August 2020. Prior to her appointment as judge, she was a partner in the Wendt Law Firm. During 13 years in private practice, she handled a wide-ranging variety of legal matters including litigating personal injury, product liability and civil rights cases. Judge Agnelly started her legal career in the nation's capital as a law clerk for the Honorable Michael W. Farrell of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Upon returning to Kansas City, she clerked for the Honorable Ronald R. Holliger at the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District.

JUDGE CRAIG E. HELLMANN was born in Washington, Missouri. He is a Graduate of University of Missouri-Columbia, 1986; Washington University, St. Louis, J.D., 1989. In private practice, 1989-2017. Served as Municipal Court Judge for Washington, Missouri, April 1990-December 2017; Franklin County Municipal Judge, December 2016-December 2017. Judge Hellmann was appointed as Circuit Judge on November 28, 2017. Elected 2018. Re-elected 2024. He has presided over 40 jury trials, including a capital murder trial in January, 2026.



MODL PAST PRESIDENTS

2024-2025 – Amanda Allen Miller

2023-2024 – Matthew H. Noce

2022-2023 – James P. Maloney

2021-2022 – Brian Waller

2020-2021 – Debbie Champion

2019-2020 – Mimi Doherty

2018-2019 – Dana Frese

2017-2018 – Kurt Hentz

2016-2017 – Wm. Clayton Crawford

2015-2016 – Scott E. Bellm

2014-2015 – John J. Farmer

2013-2014 – Steven F. Coronado

2012-2013 – Robert J. Buckley

2011-2012 – Jeffrey J. Brinker

2010-2011 – Louis (Lou) J. Leonatti

2009-2010 – Dale L. Beckerman

2008-2009 – Martin J. Buckley

2007-2008 – Karl W. Blanchard, Jr.

2006-2007 – Jack T. Bangert

2005-2006 – Dean L. Franklin

2004-2005 – Susan Ford Robertson

2003-2004 – Lisa Weixelman

2002-2003 – Clark H. Cole

2001-2002 – Duane E. Schreimann

2000-2001 – Randa Rawlins

1999-2000 – Gerard T. Noce

1998-1999 – Jeffrey O. Parshall

1997-1998 – Joseph J. Roper

1996-1997 – John H. Quinn III

1995-1996 – Wendell E. Koerner, Jr.

1994-1995 – Stephen E. Scheve

1993-1994 – Robert A. Wulff

1992-1993 – Michael A. Dallmeyer

1991-1992 – W. James Foland

1990-1991 – John L. Oliver, Jr.

1989-1990 – Lawrence B. Grebel

1988-1989 – Robert A. Babcock

1987-1988 – Raymond E. Whiteaker

1986-1987 – Ben Ely, Jr.

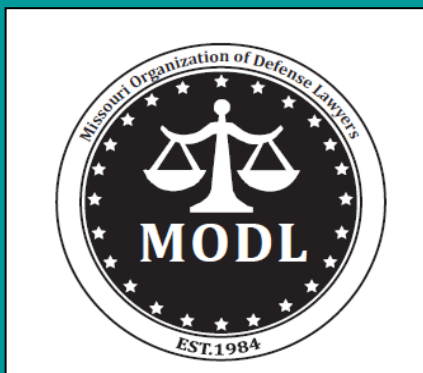
1984-1986 – Paul L. Wickens

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MODL ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 3-5, 2027

THE LODGE OF FOUR SEASONS ■ LAKE OZARK, MO



www.modllaw.com

MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

41ST ANNUAL MEETING

June 4-6, 2026

Chateau On The Lake • Branson, Missouri

REGISTRATION FORM

MODL Member/Client (Individual)	\$600.00	_____
MODL Member/Client (Spouse/Guest and Family) <i>(Includes Member, Spouse/Guest and Member's Children under the age of 18)</i>	\$750.00	_____
Additional Guest Package (Meals and all Social Functions) <i>(Married Children and Children over the age of 18 must sign up as an additional guest package)</i>	\$250.00	_____
MODL 1 st Time Attendees Discount <i>(Includes Member, Spouse/Guest and Member's Children under the age of 18)</i>	\$500.00	_____
I _____ and my spouse/guest _____ will play golf Friday/\$180.00 per person		_____

If you wish to pay by credit card you can pay on-line at www.modllaw.com or email to info@modllaw.com (a 3% service charge will apply).

Please check one: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

Charge Card No.: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____ Zip: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

YOUR NAME _____ SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

CHILD NAME(S) & AGE(S) _____

CHILD NAME(S) & AGE(S) _____

FIRM/COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Sorry, No Refunds After Noon, May 27, 2026.

Refunds will be made if MODL office is notified prior to that time.

573-636-6100

RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:

MODL • P.O. BOX 1072 • JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

**Please make your hotel reservations directly with CHATEAU ON THE LAKE
Deadline to reserve is May 5, 2026.**



415 North State Highway 265
Branson, MO

Room rate is \$185.00

Deadline to reserve is Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Call 417-334-1161 OR use this booking link to reserve your room:

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4395467&hotelID=11529>

KIDS' PROGRAM
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Sports Combo Unit

Get the party started with this 4 in 1 combo – combines which combines a large jumping area, an inflatable basketball hoop, a tall slide, and a challenging climbing area.



Tiki Bounce House w/ Slide

Kids will have great fun with this large jumping area and a slide.



Mini Turbo Obstacle Course

Exciting obstacle course that ends in a tall slide.



And more.....

Cotton Candy Machine, Popcorn, Ice Cream Treats!
GAMES, FOOD, FUN!

