



SOUTHERN
TRIAL LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

Annual Mardi Gras Conference

February 19-23, 2025
The Ritz-Carton New Orleans



For Plaintiff's Personal
Injury Trial Lawyers

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, February 19

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Board of Governors Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Welcome Reception Sponsored by
Collision Specialists, Inc.

Thursday, February 20

8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits
Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bar
Breakfast Sponsored by **Reedy Miller + Freeman**; Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bar Sponsored by **Arthur Funding**

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
CLE Seminar: Vincent J. Glorioso, Jr.
Trial Advocacy Track

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Welcome to New Orleans
STLA President Christopher Marlowe,
Miami Springs, FL

Wisdom in Practice: A Southern Trial
Lawyer's Perspective, Vincent J.
Glorioso, Jr., New Orleans, LA

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Opening Statements: Underestimated,
but Often Outcome-Determinative,
Quentin Brogdon, Dallas, TX

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Ethical Lessons Learned the
Murdaugh Way, Eric S. Bland and
Ronald J. Richter, Jr., Charleston, SC

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Seeing Beyond the Impact:
Addressing Vision, Hearing, and
Hidden Sequelae in Traumatic Brain
Injury Cases, Sagi Shaked, Miami, FL

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break
Refreshments Sponsored by **Mirena
and Company**

Thursday Continued

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ask a Trial Judge: A Candid
Conversation With the Bench
Featuring The Hon. William A.
McKinnon, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit,
South Carolina, and Moderated by
Robert V. Phillips, Rock Hill, SC

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Empowering Juries With One
Deposition in a Negligent Security
Case, David Barber, Louisville, KY

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Caught on Tape: Using Video of the
Event Combined With Focus Groups
and Before and After Witnesses to Win
Your Case, R. Jonathan Franco,
Ocean Springs, MS

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The Camp Lejeune Justice Act
Update, Mona Lisa Wallace,
Salisbury, NC

1:00 p.m. CLE Adjourns

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
War Horse Gala
Sponsored by **Forge Consulting,
High Impact, and Streamlined
Record Retrieval**

9:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
President's Reception
Sponsored by **Mirena and Company**

Friday, February 21

8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits
Breakfast Sponsored by **Reedy Miller
+ Freeman**; Bloody Mary and Mimosa
Bar Sponsored by **Huseby**

9:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
CLE Seminar

Friday Continued

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Finding the Smoking Gun,
Robert V. Phillips, Rock Hill, SC

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
The Ethics of Being a Broke Lawyer,
Sam McGee, Charlotte, NC

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Creating Timelines to Persuade,
Phillip Miller, Nashville, TN

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break
Refreshments Sponsored by
Physician Life Care Planning

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Bringing It All Together: Combining
Technology Tools for Trial, Mediation
and Motion Practice, Justin S. Kahn,
Charleston, SC

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Digging Deep on Non-party Discovery
in Trucking Cases, Stephen G. Lowry,
Savannah, GA

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Dark Patterns and the Hidden Threat
to our 7th Amendment Rights With
Arbitration, Charles A. Bennett, Dallas,
TX

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Future Claimants: Back to the Future,
Annesley H. DeGaris, Birmingham, AL

12:45 p.m. CLE Adjourns

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Young Lawyers Happy Hour
Sponsored by **Gain**

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Balcony Party at Galatoire's
Sponsored by **Preferred Capital
Funding**

Conference Schedule

Saturday, February 22

8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits
Breakfast and Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bar

9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
CLE Seminar

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Utilizing AI and Technology - Cost and Time Saving
Strategies, Matthew Hollingsworth, Atlanta, GA

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
How to Develop the Story Without Breaking the Bank,
Jon R. Hawk, Macon, GA

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Winning a Negligent Security Case With the First
Deposition, Michael A. Haggard, Miami, FL

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
A Step-by-Step Plan to Handle an
ERISA Healthcare Subrogation Claim, Kaci Garrabrant,
Chattanooga, TN

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Digging Outside the Discovery Box, Zachary H. Thomas,
Savannah, GA

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Three Yards and a Cloud of Dust: Aggressive Focusing
on the Defense Medical Malpractice Expert,
Gary W. Roberts, West Palm Beach, FL

12:15 p.m. Seminar Adjourns

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Closing Party: Crawfish & Shrimp
Boil at Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar & Restaurant
Sponsored by **Physician Life Care Planning**

Conference Audio Visual Sponsored by **GAVL**
Conference Wi-Fi Sponsored by **LawRank**

CLE Credit will be applied for in the 13 STLA member
states. We anticipate at least 10 hours of CLE credit,
including ethics.

Thank You

to our Sponsors and Exhibitors
for their support!

- ✦ **ACR Productions**
- ✦ **Arthur Funding**
- ✦ **Case Status**
- ✦ **Collision Specialists, Inc.**
- ✦ **Evidence Solutions, Inc.**
- ✦ **Forge Consulting**
- ✦ **Gain**
- ✦ **GAVL**
- ✦ **High Impact**
- ✦ **Huseby**
- ✦ **LawRank**
- ✦ **Medical Visions, Inc**
- ✦ **Mirena and Company**
- ✦ **Physician Life Care Planning**
- ✦ **Preferred Capital Funding**
- ✦ **Reedy Miller + Freeman**
- ✦ **Streamlined Record Retrieval**
- ✦ **Vocational Economics, Inc.**

Featured Event

War Horse Gala

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
THE RITZ-CARLTON, NEW ORLEANS**

Sponsored by Forge Consulting, High Impact, and Streamlined Record Retrieval

You are cordially invited to a special evening of celebration honoring some of the nation's most outstanding trial lawyers. Join us as we present the War Horse Award, Lighthouse Award, and Eagle Award. Tickets are \$199 each and must be purchased when you register. Black-tie event (dark suits acceptable). Mardi Gras masks may be worn for the pre-dinner reception.

War Horse Award

Donald M. Hinkle, Tallahassee, Florida

War Horse Award honorees are nominated by STLA members in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the cause of Justice. Acknowledged leaders in their communities and in active practice for more than thirty years, they have demonstrated an outstanding skill as a trial advocate and shown exceptional commitment to furthering the cause of justice.



Lighthouse Award

Justin S. Kahn, Charleston, South Carolina

The Professor W. McKinley Smiley, Jr. Lighthouse Award recognizes a lifelong devotion to the noble profession of trial law. It is presented to an outstanding lawyer and pioneer in advocacy teaching and training. The award honoree stands out as a mentor to young lawyers and professional peers. The Lighthouse Award refers to the light that shines from the lighthouse providing guidance and direction to those weathering the storm.



Eagle Award

Russ M. Herman, New Orleans, Louisiana

The Tommy Malone Great American Eagle Award recognizes an individual who has a calling to help others. This person is a powerful example of the bold pursuit of excellence and justice. Such an individual inspires others and is a living symbol of integrity, strength, bravery, justice, freedom, pride, devotion, excellence, friendship, and a hero to many.





Networking Events

Welcome Reception

Sponsored by Collision Specialists, Inc.

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Meet old friends and make some new ones as we kick off the conference with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

War Horse Gala

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Forge Consulting, High Impact, and Streamlined Record Retrieval

Join other lawyers and their families for an elegant celebration honoring some of the nation's most outstanding trial lawyers. Ticketed Event.

President's Dessert Reception

Thursday, February 20, 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Mirena and Company

Join us as we honor STLA President Christopher Marlowe with after dinner drinks and light desserts.

Young Lawyers Happy Hour

Friday, February 21, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Gain

All attendees are welcome to join the young lawyers for happy hour. The location will be announced soon!

Balcony Party at Galatoire's Restaurant

Friday, February 21, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Preferred Capital Funding

Spend the evening at one of New Orleans oldest and finest establishments on Bourbon Street. Enjoy food, an open bar, and throw Mardi Gras beads from the private balcony.

Crawfish Boil Party at Lucy's Restaurant

Saturday, February 22, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Physician Life Care Planning

Come hungry and enjoy this New Orleans feast of Crawfish and Shrimp with all the Southern Fixin's! We'll celebrate another successful STLA Mardi Gras Conference with great food and an open bar.

Want to Ride in the Krewe of Pontchartrain?

The STLA will be riding in the Krewe of Pontchartrain on Saturday, February 22. For availability and pricing to ride on the STLA float, email jhinkle@southerntriallawyers.com or call 850-926-4599.

Message from the President



The 2025 Annual Mardi Gras Conference promises to be another great STLA event. This isn't just any conference — it's where we come together to learn, share ideas, and celebrate what makes us passionate about being trial lawyers.

As is our tradition, we will meet in vibrant and culturally rich New Orleans. There's no place like the Big Easy to blend professional development, camaraderie, and celebration.

You can look forward to CLE programming designed to inform and inspire. You'll hear from top lawyers and experts on the latest legal trends and challenges and gain knowledge to sharpen your skills.

Join us as we honor exceptional trial lawyers at the War Horse Gala. Connect with fellow members and legal experts at various social gatherings, including the Balcony Party at Galatoire's on Bourbon Street and the Crawfish Boil at Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar & Restaurant.

Whether you're a longtime member or new to our community, this conference offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn from the best and deepen your connections with other attorneys. I encourage you to register and secure your spot today.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Christopher Marlowe

2024-2025 STLA President

Conference Registration

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER:

ONLINE: Go to www.southerntriallawyers.com/mardigras2025

PHONE: Call 850-926-4599

MAIL: Send form with check payable to STLA to 1700 N. Monroe St, Suite 11-178, Tallahassee, FL 32303
Credit cards will only be accepted for online registration or by phone.

NAME
FIRM NAME
GUEST'S NAME
ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE
EMAIL

Conference registration includes CLE, Welcome Reception, Continental Breakfast Thursday-Saturday, one ticket for the Balcony Party at Galatoire's (guest tickets must be purchased), and Closing Party/Crawfish Boil. War Horse Gala tickets are NOT included in registration and must be purchased separately in advance.

Enclosed is my check for the total due. To pay by credit card, register online or by phone [here](#).

STLA Member Registration.....	\$575	\$	_____
or Non-Member.....	\$875	\$	_____
War Horse Gala.....	\$199/eachx_____	= \$	_____
Galatoire's Guest (one ticket included with registration)	\$100/each.....	x_____	= \$	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			\$	_____

SEMINAR CANCELTION POLICY

Registration refund requests must be made in writing by January 20, 2025. A refund of the full registration fee, minus a \$50 administrative fee, will be given if cancelation is received by this date. No refunds will be granted after this date, but the link to CLE materials will be emailed following the conference. You may send a qualified substitution in your place.



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The Ritz-Carlton New Orleans
921 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70112

We've arranged for a block of rooms at The Ritz-Carlton for attendees at the discount rate of \$319/night. The STLA rate will only be available until January 28, 2025, or until the room block is full. You must be registered to make a hotel reservation. **After registering for this event, you will receive an email with a link for making hotel reservations.**

Register online at www.southerntriallawyers.com/mardigras2025 or by calling **850-926-4599**.