



2026 Ethics in Civil Litigation

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

Approved for 6.0 Ethics CLE credits

\$275 - Standard

\$245 - New Members*

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST
ONLY

DESCRIPTION

This seminar focuses on ethics issues that may arise in civil litigation. Join esteemed faculty for a lively and important refresher of ethical topics including multi-plaintiff suits, AI best practices, high profile case management, withdrawing from a case, and settlement and negotiation.

FACULTY

Elizabeth Hanley – *Schroeter Goldmark and Bender, Seattle*
Lori Hurl – *Clyde & Co US LLP, Seattle*

Melanie Nguyen – *Stritmatter Law, Seattle*

Jeff Kestle – *Clyde & Co US LLP, Seattle*

Ruby Aliment – *Oslund Udo Little PLLC, Seattle*

Alena Wooldridge – *Le & Kittleson, Renton*

SCHEDULE

8:10 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

8:25 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions

- **Jennifer Holderman** – *Washington State Bar Association, Seattle*

8:30 a.m. > Many Clients, One Defendant, Limited Dollars: The Ethics of Aggregate and Confidential Settlements in Multi-Plaintiff Cases

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

Resolving many claims against one defendant from a limited pot raises ethics duties for plaintiff and defense counsel alike, whether the case involves sexual abuse or toxic-tort exposure. This presentation covers aggregate settlements, multi-client and insurer/insured conflicts, and the tension between confidentiality and public safety.

- **Elizabeth Hanley** – *Stritmatter Law, Seattle*

9:30 a.m. > “It’s Not You, It’s Ethics:” Managing Client Communication During Attorney Departures

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

This session examines the ethics rules governing lawyer departures and transitions, joint and unilateral client notification, the protection of client choice, managing fee splits, and the proper handling of client files.

- **Ruby Aliment** – *Nguyen Aliment, Seattle*

10:30 a.m. > BREAK

10:45 a.m. > The Good, The Bad, The AI: When Using AI Becomes Unethical

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

This session examines the ethical rules governing the use of AI in litigation. From using “hallucinated cases” to accidentally divulging your client’s secrets, we will discuss how to avoid the inherent harms of AI.

- **Lori Hurl** – *Clyde & Co US LLP, Seattle*

WSBA CLE #27651 WEB

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SCHEDULE

11:45 a.m. > LUNCH on Your Own

12:45 p.m. > Ethics in High-Profile Litigation: Representing Clients in the Courtroom and the Court of Public Opinion

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

High-profile civil litigation presents unique ethical challenges that extend beyond the courtroom. This program examines attorneys' professional responsibilities when navigating media attention, social media, client communications, confidentiality, trial publicity, and public advocacy, providing practical guidance on complying with the Washington Rules of Professional Conduct while effectively representing clients in matters of significant public interest.

- **Melanie Nguyen** – *Nguyen Aliment, Seattle*

1:45 p.m. > Breaking Up is Hard to Do

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

We'll discuss your ethical duties when you make a mistake during litigation, when you and your client have a falling out, and when you choose to withdraw before trial.

- **Jeff Kestle** – *Clyde & Co US LLP, Seattle*

2:45 p.m. > BREAK

3 p.m. > Common Ethical Issues that Arise in Settlement, Negotiations, and Communication

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

Join us for a discussion on how to navigate ethical dilemmas with your moral compass intact!

- **Alena Wooldridge** – *Le & Kittleson, Renton*

4 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

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Thursday, October 15, 2026 • #27651 WEB

REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email cle@wsba.org or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

☐ Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#27651 WEB, attend via webcast, 10/15/26**

☐ \$275 - Standard

☐ \$245 - New Members*

**Active members of the Washington State Bar Association will be considered New Members through the calendar end of the tenth year following admittance to practice in the state. The store will automatically discount registration, if applicable, during checkout.*

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