

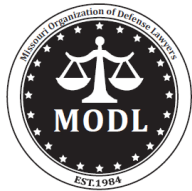
MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

40th
ANNUAL
MEETING

MAY 29-31, 2025



HILTON BRANSON CONVENTION CENTER
200 EAST MAIN STREET
BRANSON, MO



MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

101 East High Street
P.O. Box 1072
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(573) 636-6100
FAX: (573) 636-9749
www.modllaw.com

Dear MODL Member:

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers will be held May 29-31, 2025.

For four decades the civil defense bar has been meeting for fellowship and CLEs. You will enjoy the conference's return to the Hilton Branson Convention Center in the heart of Branson's historic downtown at Branson Landing. You and your family are invited to attend this year's conference where you can once again earn a generous portion of your CLE credits and catch up with old friends and have a chance to meet new ones.

The Annual Meeting kicks off Thursday evening with the "President's Welcome Reception" hosted by MODL President, Amanda Miller, at Cantino Laredo overlooking the Branson Landing's waterfront.

On Friday, the Board welcomes the Keynote Speaker, Matthew Keris, whose presentation centers around a nurse's fatal administration of medication to a patient in Nashville. Come hear the legal and ethical dilemmas a lawyer faces when the client's negligence leads to both civil claims and criminal investigations. Also, that morning, MODL members will enjoy a CLE presentation from MATA's Amy Collignon Gunn and MODL's own Debbie Champion. This CLE on litigation strategies and civility will certainly be one that you will not want to miss!

For the last day, on Saturday morning, wake up to a CLE with Randy and Brian who will provide members the legislative update on bills being considered at the Missouri State Capitol. Following the legislative update we will welcome attorney Jasmine Chen who will be speaking to attendees on "Cross Cultural Lawyering." The conference ends with judges from around the state sharing insights from the bench with Missouri Supreme Court Judge, the Honorable Kelly C. Broniec, moderating the blended judicial panel. The entire program will provide our members with 7.2 hours of CLE credit.

During the meeting, members, spouses or guests can participate in the MODL Golf Tournament, scheduled to be held on Friday afternoon at Branson Hills Golf Club. Come Friday evening, MODL will celebrate with the Cocktail Party followed by the Awards Dinner. MODL will once again have programming on Friday night from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. to entertain your children while you relax with a cocktail. All this is made possible with the help of our sponsors! During the conference you and/or your family can enjoy breaks in the meeting to explore historic Branson and all that Table Rock Lake offers.

You can register for the meeting on-line at www.modllaw.com, or by emailing the registration form to info@modllaw.com. Like traditional mailings, send in the Registration Form found towards the end of this brochure to the MODL Office. To make hotel reservations, you can use the Hilton App or call Reservations at 866-994-8287. The group discount code is 96A. The group discount expires April 25, 2025, so do not delay. We look forward to seeing you.

Best Regards,
Josh
Joshua Engelbart, Annual Meeting Chair

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025



5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
PRESIDENT’S WELCOME RECEPTION
CANTINA LAREDO
1001 BRANSON LANDING
BRANSON, MO

7:00 p.m.
DINNER ON YOUR OWN



FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **FAMILY BUFFET BREAKFAST**.....Taneycomo B

CLE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS**.....Taneycomo A

8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. **WELCOME/OPENING**.....Taneycomo A
AMANDA ALLEN MILLER, MERIDIAN LAW LLC, COLUMBIA, MO

8:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. **KEYNOTE:**
“AVOIDING THE LANDMINES OF DUAL SIMULTANEOUS LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS: THE VAUGHT CASE”.....Taneycomo A
MATTHEW P. KERIS, MARSHALL DENNEHEY, SCRANTON, PA

Increasingly, corporations are facing civil and criminal investigations surrounding an event at the same time. While one decision may benefit a civil case, at the same time, it may hurt the criminal defense. Defense counsel need to be aware of the legal and ethical dilemmas in navigating dual investigations to give advice in the best interest of their clients. Using the Radonda Vaught case involving criminal and civil negligence claims against a nurse for the death of her patient, attendees will see that legal decision making is much more complex when law enforcement and plaintiff attorneys have a defendant in their crosshairs.

10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **BREAK/EXHIBITS**.....Taneycomo A

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **“GUNNING TO WIN WHILE CHAMPIONING PROFESSIONALISM”**
.....Taneycomo A
AMY COLLIGNON GUNN, GUNN SLATER, CLAYTON, MO
DEBBIE S. CHAMPION, RYNEARSON, SUESS, SCHNURBUSCH & CHAMPION, LLC, ST. LOUIS, MO

Two of our state’s most outstanding trial attorneys, MATA Past President Amy Gunn and MODL Past President Debbie Champion join us to share litigation strategies and practices tips from their opposing perspectives with an emphasis on effective advocacy within the bounds of civility and professionalism.

11:30 a.m. **FAMILY BUFFET LUNCH**.....Taneycomo B



12:15 p.m.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Shotgun Start

*Branson Hills Golf Club
100 North Payne Stewart Drive
Branson, MO 65616*

REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY RINGLER - DENISE FREY

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

FAMILY/KIDS’ TIME

Enjoy Branson Landing and all the shops and entertainment!

MODL’S CELEBRATION

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

COCKTAIL PARTY.....Taneycomo B

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

KID’S PROGRAM.....CC Lobby A/B

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

AWARDS DINNER.....Taneycomo B

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

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

FAMILY BUFFET BREAKFAST.....Taneycomo A

CLE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

“LEGISLATIVE UPDATE”.....Taneycomo A

RANDY J. SCHERR, MODL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEFFERSON CITY, MO
BRIAN BERNSKOETTER, MODL OFFICE, JEFFERSON CITY, MO

A review of legislation considered during the 2025 Legislative Session.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

“CROSS CULTURAL LAWYERING”.....Taneycomo A

JASMINE H. CHEN, SANDBERG PHOENIX, ST. LOUIS, MO

This presentation will (1) address the need to recognize and acknowledge cultural differences, and the adverse impact of ignoring those differences in lawyer-client interactions and relationships; and (2) provide a practical methodology for fortifying a lawyer's connections with individuals from other cultures.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

BREAK/EXHIBITS.....Taneycomo A

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

“BLENDED JUDICIAL PANEL”.....Taneycomo A

MODERATOR:

**THE HONORABLE KELLY C. BRONIEC, MISSOURI SUPREME COURT,
JEFFERSON CITY, MO**

PANEL:

**THE HONORABLE MATTHEW P. HAMNER, MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS,
SOUTHERN DISTRICT, SPRINGFIELD, MO**

**THE HONORABLE CHARLES H. “CHIP” MCKENZIE, 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
KANSAS CITY, MO**

THE HONORABLE MEGAN K. SEAY, 42ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STEELVILLE, MO

THE HONORABLE JOHN R. LASATER, 21ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, ST. LOUIS, MO

12:00 p.m. – 12:10 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**.....Taneycomo A

12:10 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**.....Taneycomo A

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

MODL PAST PRESIDENTS

2023-2024 – Matthew H. Noce	2003-2004 – Lisa Weixelman
2022-2023 – James P. Maloney	2002-2003 – Clark H. Cole
2021-2022 – Brian Waller	2001-2002 – Duane E. Schreimann
2020-2021 – Debbie Champion	2000-2001 – Randa Rawlins
2019-2020 – Mimi Doherty	1999-2000 – Gerard T. Noce
2018-2019 – Dana Frese	1998-1999 – Jeffrey O. Parshall
2017-2018 – Kurt Hentz	1997-1998 – Joseph J. Roper
2016-2017 – Wm. Clayton Crawford	1996-1997 – John H. Quinn III
2015-2016 – Scott E. Bellm	1995-1996 – Wendell E. Koerner, Jr.
2014-2015 – John J. Farmer	1994-1995 – Stephen E. Scheve
2013-2014 – Steven F. Coronado	1993-1994 – Robert A. Wulff
2012-2013 – Robert J. Buckley	1992-1993 – Michael A. Dallmeyer
2011-2012 – Jeffrey J. Brinker	1991-1992 – W. James Foland
2010-2011 – Louis (Lou) J. Leonatti	1990-1991 – John L. Oliver, Jr.
2009-2010 – Dale L. Beckerman	1989-1990 – Lawrence B. Grebel
2008-2009 – Martin J. Buckley	1988-1989 – Robert A. Babcock
2007-2008 – Karl W. Blanchard, Jr.	1987-1988 – Raymond E. Whiteaker
2006-2007 – Jack T. Bangert	1986-1987 – Ben Ely, Jr.
2005-2006 – Dean L. Franklin	1984-1986 – Paul L. Wickens
2004-2005 – Susan Ford Robertson	



Hilton
HILTONS OF BRANSON

200 East Main Street ■ Branson, MO

Room rate is \$199.00

Deadline to reserve is April 25, 2025

Click on the link:

[MO ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS](#)

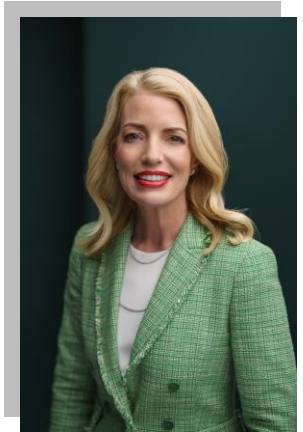
If you are using the Hilton app or you prefer to call the Hotel/Central Reservations direct call 866-994-8287, the group code is 96A.

ABOUT YOUR SPEAKERS



MATTHEW P. KERIS has defended health care providers, businesses and device manufacturers in civil litigation for more than two decades. He is a shareholder in Marshall Dennehey's Health Care Department and Chair of the Electronic Medical Record and Audit Trail Practice Group. Matt has provided legal commentary for a number of organizations and serves as an editor of the health risk management journal, Patient Safety. Matt is actively involved with American Legal Connections and previously served as President of the DRI Foundation, Pennsylvania Defense Institute (PDI) and the Pennsylvania Association for Health Care Risk Management and is a former member of the Board of Directors for DRI.

AMY COLLIGNON GUNN is a founding member of Gunn | Slater and concentrates her practice on representing clients injured by medical errors, careless and reckless drivers and manufacturers of defective products. She is a graduate of Saint Louis University School of Law, a leader in numerous state and national bar organizations and the recipient of the Lon O. Hocker Award from the Missouri Bar Foundation, the John C. Shepherd Award from the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Tom Strong Award from the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. Amy is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, where she is the chair of the Podcast Committee and a host of the podcast, *Trial Tested*. Amy is honored to be invited to speak at the MODL conference.

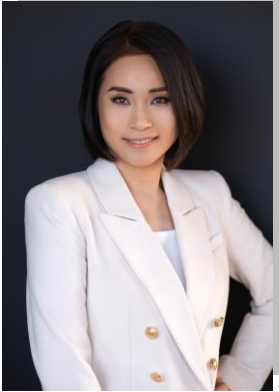


DEBBIE CHAMPION is a founding partner in the firm Rynearson, Suess, Schnurbusch and Champion, one of the largest law firms in Missouri. Ms. Champion actively practices in Missouri and Southern Illinois state and federal courts. She has argued before the Missouri Supreme Court and the Eastern, Western and Southern District Missouri Courts of Appeals, and the Illinois Court of Appeals. She has also argued in the federal court of the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri, and the Eighth Circuit and the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. She has tried over 160 trials to verdict. Ms. Champion has been named to the top 50 attorneys in St Louis and the top 100 attorneys in Missouri. She is honored by the St. Louis Small Business Magazine as a "Wonder Woman" and by the St Louis Business Journal as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Business Women in St. Louis. She was selected to the Best Business Attorneys by the Small Business Journal in 2023. She is a 100 St. Louis Titans in Business for 2022 and 2023. In 2024, Champion received the Award of Honor, the highest honor possible from the Lawyer's Association of St. Louis.

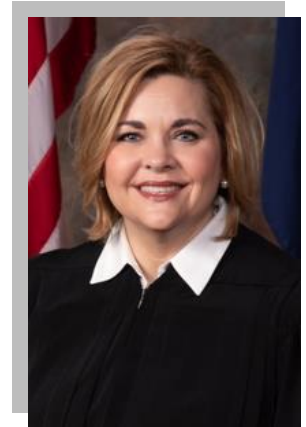
RANDY J. SCHERR is President and founder of RJ Scherr and Associates and a principal in the lobbying firm of Scherr, Winter LLC. He holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science. Mr. Scherr has been actively involved in the political and legislative process in Missouri on a full-time basis for 46 years and represents over 30 clients before the Missouri Legislature. Mr. Scherr is the Executive Director for the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers.



JASMINE CHEN is a Trust and Estate attorney. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration, and business succession planning. She is the biggest advocate for her clients and is committed to help families enhance their lives today and secure their futures tomorrow. She also works with business owners, especially closely-owned family business owners, in the development of full spectrum business succession plans to empower business developments, promote smooth business transitions and preserve the business's values and continuity. She excels in guiding her clients through the often-confusing maze of financial and legal decisions to create plans that ensure the well-being of each of her clients' families and the accomplishment of their cherished family goals and legacy. Jasmine is the honoree of 2021 Missouri Lawyers Media Diversity & Inclusion Award and a Rising Star of 2024 Super Lawyers Missouri and Kansas.



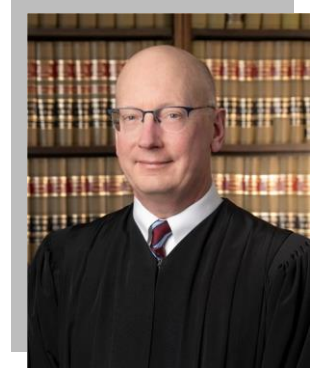
THE HONORABLE KELLY C. BRONIEC earned a B.A. in business administration from William Woods College and a J.D. from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Broniec's career experience includes working as a prosecuting attorney with Montgomery County, Missouri, an assistant prosecuting attorney with Lincoln County and Warren County, Missouri, and a private practice attorney with the Law Office of Michael S. Wright. She has been affiliated with the Montgomery City Kiwanis Club, the Montgomery City Chamber of Commerce, and the Church Council of Grace Lutheran Church.



THE HONORABLE MATTHEW P. HAMNER earned a B.A. in speech communication and a J.D. from the University of Missouri. His experience includes work as a law clerk for Missouri Supreme Court Justice William Ray Price, Jr. and service as the president of the 26th Judicial Circuit Bar Association and a board member for the Camdenton Rotary Club and the Camdenton Education Foundation.



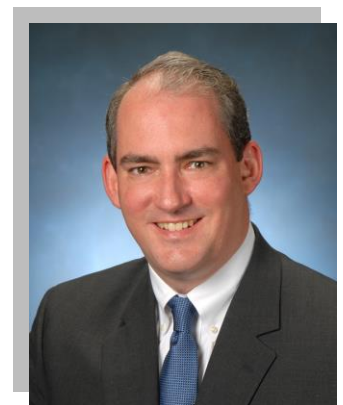
THE HONORABLE CHARLES H. “CHIP” MCKENZIE joined the bench as a circuit judge in July 2011, following his appointment by Gov. Jay Nixon under the Nonpartisan Court Plan. Judge McKenzie began his legal career as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Jackson County, where he served from 1988 to 1993. From 1991 to 1993, he led the trial team for the Sex Crimes Unit. He was a member and later the Chair of the Jackson County Sexual Abuse Task Force, and he was board member of Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, or MOCSA. In 1993, Judge McKenzie entered private practice at The Accurso Law Firm in Kansas City and later became a shareholder at the Firm. He primarily handled civil litigation but also served as a special prosecutor in criminal cases and continued his work on behalf of children as a member of the Child Protection Center Advisory Board and as an appointed member of the State’s Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board. Since joining the bench, Judge McKenzie has served in several leadership roles for the Missouri Circuit Judges’ Association, including as its president. Judge McKenzie earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Cardinal Newman College in 1985. He earned his law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1988, where he served as the President of the Student Bar Association and as an Associate Justice of the Honor Court.



THE HONORABLE MEGAN K. SEAY earned a B.S. in political science and a J.D. from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Seay’s professional experience includes working as an associate attorney at the firms of Hendren Andrae in Jefferson City, Missouri and Williams, Robinson, Rigler & Buschjost in Rolla, Missouri. Seay was elected Division I - Circuit Judge of the 42nd Judicial Circuit and took the bench in 2019.



THE HONORABLE JOHN R. LASATER was appointed circuit judge in 2023. He served as an associate circuit judge from 2017 to 2023 and has had assignments in civil, criminal and family courts. Prior to his appointment he served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for St. Louis County for 23 years. He served in judicial clerkship for the Missouri Court of Appeals from 1991 until 1993. Judge Lasater received a bachelor of science degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He received his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1991. He is a past president of the St. Louis County Bar Association and the Lawyers Association of St. Louis. Judge Lasater is also a member of the Missouri Bar and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.



MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

40TH ANNUAL MEETING

May 29-31, 2025

Hilton Branson Convention Center • 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/\$155.00 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 19, 2025.

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

KIDS' PROGRAM
FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.



Castle Combo Unit

Inside is a large jumping area and a basketball hoop. The kids climb up then slide down the slide.

Mini Turbo Obstacle Course

Exciting obstacle course that ends in a tall slide.



Sports Mania

The kids will have a blast hitting home runs, throwing a touchdown, shooting hoops, and kicking a goal on this 4 sided sports arena.

And more.....

Cotton Candy Machine, Popcorn, Ice Cream Treats!

GAMES, FOOD, FUN!

