

2025 Professional Liability
ROUNDTABLE



MAY 15
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ILR SCHOOL, NYC CONFERENCE CENTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK USA

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY ROUNDTABLE

Sponsored by the IADC Professional Liability Committee, Medical Defense and Health Law Committee, and Insurance and Reinsurance Committee, the Professional Liability Roundtable (PLR) is a one-day CLE program. Through a series of interactive panel discussions, PLR creates a forum for in-house counsel, outside counsel, and insurance claims representatives to learn together and discuss new developments in the professional liability arena. Beyond the educational opportunity, PLR participants are able to network with lawyers and industry professionals from multiple jurisdictions both during the program and at a concluding reception.

Programming Content

PLR includes afternoon tracks for professional liability and medical liability, as well as morning insurance programs, making this a full-day multi-specialty roundtable. All attendees participate in the final closing panel and concluding reception.

Registration and Fees

REGISTRATION

Registration is available online only. To register for the Professional Liability Roundtable: www.iadclaw.org/events/2025-professional-liability-roundtable

FEES

Outside Counsel: \$595 (Member/Non-Member)

Insurance Executives/Corporate Counsel: Complimentary

These registration fees are the same whether you choose to attend the entire day of programming, or if you choose to only attend either the morning or afternoon sessions. If you will be attending the afternoon sessions, please select a program track when registering.

QUESTIONS?

For questions on registration, email Leeza Abramovich at labramovich@iadclaw.org (Meetings Coordinator). For other meeting questions, email Jennifer Aron at jaron@iadclaw.org (Professional Development Manager).

Schedule at a Glance

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION

INSURANCE TRACK

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

COMING UP SHORT: SETTLEMENT CHALLENGES FOR THE UNDERINSURED

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

NO, YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY POLICY PROBABLY DOESN'T COVER THAT CYBER INCIDENT

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

LUNCH BREAK

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

THE IMPACT OF LAWYER WELLNESS ON ETHICAL PRACTICE

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

REGISTRATION

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY TRACK

12:45 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

WELCOME

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

INSURANCE AND THE CATASTROPHE: EXAMINING THE INCREASING E&O RISKS PRESENTED

1:50 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

MEDICAL LIABILITY TRACK

12:45 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

WELCOME

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

DEFENDING SEXUAL CLAIMS: ALL PERSPECTIVES AND SOME YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF

1:50 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.

HIDDEN GEMS: DIGITAL EVIDENCE FOR DEFENDING MEDMAL CLAIMS

CONCLUDING AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM IADC PRESIDENT

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PERSONALIZING THE IMPERSONAL: THOUGHTS ON CONFRONTING NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS

4:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

4:40 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Insurance Track Schedule

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Donna Lamontagne, *IADC President, Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, Cranston, RI USA*

John T. Harding, *Insurance Program Chair, McAngus Goudelock & Courie, Boston, MA USA*

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Coming Up Short: Settlement Challenges for the Underinsured

Too often, insurers are confronted with a large, complex loss, sometimes involving multiple claimants, and the insured is woefully underinsured. What's an insurer to do? And what's an insured to do?

Whether the cause of being underinsured is a miscalculation of an insured's needs, an unexpected severe exposure, disagreements regarding which policies or lines of coverage must respond to a loss, or just a confluence of unfortunate circumstances, the challenges facing the insurer, the insured, defense counsel, the insured's broker, plaintiffs' counsel, the Court, and the neutral can be overwhelming disagreements regarding which policies or lines of coverage must respond to a loss.

This panel will discuss well-honed strategies and offer insights for how to resolve these puzzling and vexing situations. With their perspectives, you will develop new, creative ideas for how to overcome these settlement obstacles.

Moderator: **Jonathan Schwartz**, *Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP, Chicago, IL USA*

Speakers: **Mark J. Bunim**, *Case Closure, LLC., New York, NY USA*; **Rachel Kim, VP**, *Sompo International, New York, NY USA*; **Kevin Penhallegon**, *Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Baltimore, MD USA*

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Networking Break

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

No, Your Professional Liability Policy Probably Doesn't Cover That Cyber Incident

Did your firm suffer a data breach? A ransomware attack? How about a loss due to a fraudulent funds transfer? Your professional liability policy probably won't cover your first party expenses—the incident response, regulatory fines and penalties—or your third-party expenses related to claims made by your clients or employees whose information may have been compromised. A cyber insurance policy, whether stand alone or as an endorsement to another type of policy is what you need. This session will break down what's covered, what's not and why you need the protection and services that a cyber policy offers.

Moderator: **Monique Ferraro**, *Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance, Hartford, CT USA*

Speakers: **Benjamin Buchanan**, *Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance, Hartford, CT USA*; **Judy Selby**, *Selby Strategies, New York, NY USA*

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Lunch Break

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

The Impact of Lawyer Wellness on Ethical Practice

This CLE explores how lawyer wellness issues—such as stress, burnout, and substance abuse—can lead to malpractice claims. In this interactive discussion, attendees will learn to recognize risk factors, implement wellness strategies, and fulfill ethical obligations while protecting their practices. Additionally, participants will gain practical tools to maintain competence, uphold professional standards, and reduce liability exposure.

*Speaker: **Joyvan Malbon-Griffin**, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company, Minneapolis, MN USA*

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Registration

Professional Liability Track Schedule

12:45 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Welcome

***Scott H. Sirich**, Professional Liability Program Chair, Plunkett Cooney, Bloomfield Hills, MI USA*

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Insurance and the Catastrophe: Examining the Increasing E&O Risks Presented

The number of natural and man-made catastrophes seem to be ever-increasing, and the losses flowing from these disasters seem to grow every year. Every large fire, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophe seems to bring more extensive and costly damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure. Literally entire towns have been wiped out. And with these catastrophic losses comes the knowledge that many insureds don't have sufficient coverage, are missing coverage for certain structures, don't have sufficient limits, or don't have any coverage for personal and business issues.

What are the evolving risks presented to carriers, agents, and brokers by these events? What concerns should the industry have regarding the future? What types of professional liability claims can be expected to arise following these catastrophes? What can be done to defend against the inevitable tide of claims, and what does the future hold?

This panel will discuss the increasing risk presented to insurance agents and brokers from climate change, and the risk of both natural and man-made disasters, in the context of the evolving standard of care for insurance brokers/agents, and the public outcry for someone to be held accountable.

*Speakers: **Peter J. Biging**, Goldberg Segalla LLP, New York, NY USA; **Anthony Burrows**, Sompo International, New York, NY USA; **Alexandra Russello**, Marsh McLennan Agency, New York, NY USA; **Tim Sullivan**, Recreation Risk Retention Group, Noblesville, IN USA*

1:50 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

Networking Break

2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Aging Infrastructure

The collapse of the Surfside, Florida Champlain Towers South (“CTS”) Condominium Tower in June of 2021 killed 98 people and stunned the engineering community over the apparent lack of advance warning at what until then had been a prestigious and fully-occupied oceanside address. In the investigations that followed, evidence revealed that warning signs did appear in the months and weeks prior to the collapse and raised questions over the standard of care for design professionals providing engineering services for aging buildings and infrastructure. In this presentation, Benjamin Cornelius, partner at LERA Consulting Structural Engineers and lead investigator for a defendant in the CTS litigation, will discuss the condition assessment of aging structures, identification of unsafe conditions, and the duty to warn clients and the public when unsafe conditions are discovered. Scott Sirich will provide legal perspective. The presenters will discuss evidence from investigations of recent collapses to illustrate these topics.

Moderator: **Scott H. Sirich**, *Plunkett Cooney, Bloomfield Hills, MI USA*

Speaker: **Benjamin Cornelius, P.E., C.E., S.E., P.Eng.**, *LERA Consulting Structural Engineers, New York, NY USA*

Medical Liability Track Schedule

12:45 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Welcome

Paula A. Koczan, *Medical Liability Program Chair, Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby, LLP., Pittsburgh, PA USA*

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Defending Sexual Claims: All Perspectives and Some You Haven’t Thought Of

In the wake of the “MeToo” movement, sexual abuse claims against healthcare providers are on the rise, with more victims coming forward with claims of sexual assault during medical examinations. We saw the advent of this years ago with the conviction of Larry Nassar, the U.S. Gymnastics team physician, and Michigan State University student physician. This session will analyze the challenges of defending these claims and provide input from a panel of experts as to best practices that will include discussion of insurance coverage and claims handling, attacking the pleadings and evidence, navigating through the discovery process, working alongside criminal and Cumis counsel, and finally, handling the aftermath often involving Medical Board investigation and licensure discipline.

Speakers: **Niki Colombino, Ph.D.**, *Center for Clinical and Forensic Psychology of New Jersey, Morristown, NJ USA*; **Candace M. Deer**, *ProAssurance, Birmingham, AL USA*; **John P. Morgenstern**, *O’Hagan Meyer, Philadelphia, PA USA*

1:50 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

Networking Break

2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Hidden Gems: Digital Evidence for Defending MedMal Claims

This panel will unearth the variety of non-traditional sources of evidence available in a medical malpractice case. From data mining, wearable electronics, and medical devices — go beyond the audit trail and discover new sources to help you defend your clients.

Speakers: **Lauren R. Eichaker, Ph.D., CAISS**, *S-E-A, Ltd., Columbus, OH USA*; **Jack L. Nevins, CCE, EnCE, PI**, *S-E-A, Ltd., Liberty, MO USA*

Concluding Afternoon Schedule

3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Networking Break

3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Comments From IADC President

Donna Lamontagne, *IADC President, Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, Cranston, RI USA*

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personalizing the Impersonal: Thoughts on Confronting Negative Perceptions

The challenges posed by negative public perception are felt at all levels of the insurance industry, from the executive seeking to temper collective cynicism about their company to the trial lawyer working to overcome prejudice against their client. A veteran of political and corporate reputational campaigns at the highest levels, Mark Putnam of Putnam Partners, brings his decades of experience to this “fireside chat” about these ongoing dilemmas and strategies for managing them. After nearly a decade representing insurance companies in coverage litigation for mass tort and environmental claims, Mackie LeFevre-Snee is currently the leader of the team that handles those types of claims for RiverStone International Insurance, Inc. Discussion will be followed by a Q&A session.

Speakers: **Mackie LeFevre-Snee**, *RiverStone International Insurance, Inc, Chicago, IL USA*;
Mark Putnam, *Putnam Partners, Washington, DC USA*

4:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Scott H. Sirich, *PLR Program Chair, Plunkett Cooney, Bloomfield Hills, MI USA*

Paula A. Koczan, *MLR Program Chair, Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby, LLP., Pittsburgh, PA USA*

John T. Harding, *Insurance Program Chair, McAngus Goudelock & Courie, Boston, MA USA*

4:40 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

Cocktail Reception

General Information

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

Cornell University, ILR School, NYC Conference Center
570 Lexington Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10022

The NYC Conference Center is conveniently located in the heart of midtown Manhattan near the Lexington Avenue/51st Street station serving the E, M, and 6 trains, as well as Grand Central Station.

Please view the following link for information on directions and parking; maps, and transportation for the NYC Conference Center:

<https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/nyc-conference-center/visiting>.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require lodging while attending the conference, please plan to make reservations at your preferred hotel as soon as possible. May is very busy in New York City and accommodations do book in advance.

CLIMATE AND DRESS

When packing for your trip, please note that average temperatures in New York this time of year range from a high of 72 degrees Fahrenheit to a low of 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Business and business casual attire are appropriate for the conference.

CLE CREDITS

Approximately 6.0 hours of general CLE credit in 60-minute states and 7.2 hours of general CLE credit in 50-minute states will be requested for accreditation from all mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions where registered attendees are licensed.

CPD CREDIT (CANADA)

The IADC is a Pre-Approved Provider of CPD Credit with the Law Society of British Columbia. The Quebec CPD Committee recognizes courses approved by other Canadian bars as approved in Quebec. For those in attendance at the Professional Liability Roundtable, 6 CPD credits are available.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs during the meeting (i.e. diet or accessibility), please email Jennifer Aron at jaron@iadclaw.org (Professional Development Manager) in advance of the meeting.

DATA PRIVACY AND COLLECTION

Data is collected on attendees through registration for the purposes of executing the meeting and communicating with attendees about the meeting. Meeting sponsors have access to the registration list provided to all attendees.

If any attendee has questions on data use and privacy, please contact Mary Beth Kurzak, Executive Director and CEO, at mkurzak@iadclaw.org.

CANCELLATION POLICY

A CASH REFUND, less a \$150 processing fee, will be made if a written notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office more than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the meeting. No reason for the cancellation need be provided for a timely notice of cancellation.

NO CASH REFUND will be made if notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office thirty (30) days or less prior to the first day of the meeting. However, if special circumstances arise before the meeting which prevent attendance, a member may request a future meeting credit. The request needs to be in writing and submitted to the IADC office. It should be directed to the Finance Committee's attention and note the special circumstances which caused cancellation. The credit request can only apply to meeting registration fees (not air, hotel, activity, tour, or special event fees) and, if approved, will be valid for use toward any IADC meeting for one (1) year from the date of the meeting for which credit is requested. A \$150 processing fee will be deducted from the total future meeting credit.

All future meeting credit requests will be considered by the Finance Committee and the decision of that Committee will be final.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the members of the Professional Liability Roundtable Planning Committee, the Medical Liability Track Planning Team, and Insurance Programming Planning Team for their work to make this meeting possible.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY ROUNDTABLE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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