

2025 ANNUAL

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The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Technology and
LegalFuel: The Practice Resource Center of The Florida Bar
present



President's Showcase

2025 Annual Technology Symposium Part 1: The Role of AI in the Legal Profession

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE

Course 9033

jmoore@floridabar.org



OVERVIEW

Join us for an engaging discussion on how artificial intelligence is transforming the legal profession. This program will explore the practical applications of AI in law, the judiciary's perspective on its use in the courtroom, strategies for ethical and professional implementation, and how attorneys can prepare their clients for an AI-driven future. Whether you are an early adopter or a cautious observer, this program will provide valuable insights into the evolving role of AI in legal practice.

Sessions will be as follows (order and some speakers are subject to change).





LECTURE PROGRAM

8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. **OPENING REMARKS**

Leslie A. Evans, Esq., Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Technology

8:40 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. **JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNOLOGY AND AI IN THE COURTROOM**

A panel of judges will explore how technology, including AI, is being used in chambers and courtrooms. The session will discuss how lawyers are utilizing AI in legal practice, what they are doing well with AI, and where there is room for improvement, all from the judiciary's perspective.

Presenters: Justice John D. Couriel, Hon. Walter J. Havers, Hon. Thomas N. Palermo

9:55 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. **BREAK AND TRANSITION**

Anthony J. Palermo, Esq., Standing Committee on Technology

10:05 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. **AI FOR THE RELUCTANT ONES – IT'S HERE TO STAY AND NOT GOING AWAY**

The benefits and pitfalls of AI have been touted across news platforms and journal articles. The presentation will explore more of the practical uses than the theoretically possibilities. The focus will be on how to initially implement AI ethically, professionally and cost effectively.

Presenters: Kenneth M. Hesser, Esq., Matthew J. Troy, Esq.

11:05 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. **TRANSITION**

Anthony J. Palermo, Esq., Standing Committee on Technology

11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. **NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN: THE FUTURE OF PREPARING CLIENTS FOR AN AI DRIVEN LEGAL LANDSCAPE**

The AI legal landscape is continuously evolving, making it difficult for practitioners to navigate through the unknown. As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into businesses, clients will increasingly require guidance on the legal implications of these uncharted waters. This presentation will provide an in-house perspective of legal issues and practical solutions practitioners should consider when helping clients navigate through the cutting-edge areas of AI compliance, risk management, and contract law.

Presenter: Kristen M. Chittenden, Esq.

12:10 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**

Leslie A. Evans, Esq., Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Technology

Lunch will be on your own. If you are interested in attending Part 2 of the Technology Symposium at 1:30 p.m. and haven't registered yet, please stop by the main registration desk.





SPEAKERS

Justice John D. Couriel

90th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court



John D. Couriel is the 90th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Couriel was born in Miami, Florida in 1978. He is married to Rebecca L. Toonkel, M.D. They have two children.

Justice Couriel received his A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard College in 2000 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2003. He clerked for the Honorable John D. Bates of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia before joining Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. His practice there included securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy matters, and investigations. In 2009, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. He prosecuted hundreds of federal offenses, including international money laundering, public integrity, healthcare fraud, and human trafficking crimes. In 2013, he joined Kobre & Kim LLP, where he specialized in cross-border disputes and investigations relating to financial products and services, asset recovery, and government enforcement defense, with an emphasis on clients in Latin America.

Justice Couriel is a native speaker of Spanish. His parents emigrated from Cuba in the 1960s, his father as one of approximately 14,000 unaccompanied minors welcomed to the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan.

He was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 1, 2020.

Honorable Walter J. Havers

Judge of Compensation Claims, Miami District Office



In 2003, Judge Havers began nine years of service as legal advisor to the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims and assistant to the Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims. He developed rules of procedure, policies, and production methods to improve the workflow and efficiency of the OJCC.

In addition, he represented Judges of Compensation Claims before the First District Court of Appeal in cases involving Petitions for Writs of Mandamus and Prohibition. In 2013, he began serving as a State Mediator with the OJCC until he was appointed Judge of Compensation Claims in Miami by Governor Rick Scott in 2017.



Honorable Thomas N. Palermo

Judge of Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County



Judge Thomas N. Palermo serves as a Circuit Court Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. He holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Banking and Finance Law from the University of London King's College, a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) cum laude from The Florida State University College of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from The American University.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Palermo had an extensive career as an Assistant United States Attorney in Tampa, where he served in various divisions, including Transnational Organized Crime, Economic Crimes, and Violent Crimes and Narcotics. He also held leadership roles as the District Opioid Coordinator for the Middle District of Florida and Senior Litigation Counsel for the Criminal Division, providing training for prosecutors and law enforcement.

Earlier in his career, he served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Unit, and a federal judicial law clerk.

Over the course of his legal career, Judge Palermo has tried more than sixty cases to verdict, handling complex prosecutions ranging from organized crime and health care fraud to human trafficking and violent offenses.

Kenneth M. Hesser, Esq.

Partner, Hesser & Kipke



Kenneth M. Hesser is a partner at the Gainesville law firm of Hesser & Kipke, which he co-established with his wife Jennifer, a family lawyer, in January 2020. Ken primarily represents employees in all types of workers' compensation matters. He also handles claims for wrongfully terminated individuals, in addition to representing debtors and creditors in Chapter 7, 11, and 13 bankruptcy cases.

Originally from Philadelphia, PA, Ken is a 1997 graduate of the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University and received his JD from Wake Forest School of Law in 2000. He is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Workers' Compensation since 2018. In 2023, Ken was appointed by the Florida Bar to the Workers' Compensation Certification Committee. Within the Workers' Compensation Section, he serves on the Executive Council, and as co-editor of the quarterly "News and 440 Report."

Ken is the chair of the annual Educational Conference for Florida Workers' Advocates. He is a Circuit Court Certified Mediator in Florida since 2024. A member of the E. Robert Williams Inns of Court in Jacksonville, Ken is also a travel and baseball addict (especially to see his beloved Philadelphia Phillies), and enjoys running, trivia, and writing.



Matthew J. Troy, Esq.
Partner, Conroy Simberg



Matthew J. Troy, a partner in Conroy Simberg's Orlando office, represents employers, carriers, TPAs, uninsured employers, PEOs and self-insured funds in all types of workers' compensation cases including permanent total disability, catastrophic injuries, toxic exposure, heart and lung bill presumption cases, drug test denials and PEO coverage. Board-certified by The Florida Bar in Workers' Compensation, he joined Conroy Simberg after working for a boutique firm handling cases throughout South Florida and the rest of the state.

Matt earned a juris doctor from the Florida State University College of Law. While in law school, he worked for Florida Representative Charlie Dean and the Florida Department of Transportation. Matt also holds an undergraduate degree in History from the University of Florida.

Kristen M. Chittenden, J.D., MBA
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Turnitin LLC



Kristen Chittenden is an innovative, creative, and practical leader. A teacher at heart with a business-centered focus, Kristen distills and explains complex legal concepts, guiding businesses through risk while maintaining commercial momentum.

She is the VP, Deputy General Counsel of Turnitin, a leading global SaaS education platform that provides anti-plagiarism software, AI-writing detection, and assessment solutions. She holds both a JD and an MBA and has led both legal and business development departments. She is also an adjunct professor of law at Stetson University College of Law, teaching a course called AI and the Law.



CLE CREDIT

General: 4.0 hours

Ethics: 2.5 hours

Technology: 4.0 hours



**Special thanks to the Technology Symposium subcommittee organizers
for their dedication in planning this seminar.**

Diane P. Perez, Chair, Standing Committee on Technology

Philip R. Augustine, Standing Committee on Technology

Anthony J. Palermo, Standing Committee on Technology

