



The 2026 Washington Law and Practice Refresher Course – Day 1

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATES

February 5, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented on February 5, 2026. If you attended or viewed the original presentation, please note that WSBA members may not claim credit for the same CLE sessions if repeated within their three-year reporting period.

DESCRIPTION

This special seminar, originally designed as part of the WSBA Reinstatement Course, is now offered to all interested members and other legal professionals. The content has been vetted as essential information that an attorney practicing in Washington today must know.

AGENDA

1 Introduction to Federal Indian Law

Federal Indian Law represents a complex field involving the legal relationship between the United States, Native American tribes, and individual tribal members. This presentation offers a foundational overview of the core principles, historical developments, and current issues shaping federal Indian law today. Attendees will gain insight into the origins and evolution of Indian Law and the federal-tribal relationship, including key statutes, treaties, and Supreme Court decisions. The session will explore the doctrine of tribal sovereignty and its implications for self-government, jurisdiction, and the administration of justice in Indian Country, as well as the trust responsibility of the federal government and its impact on tribal lands, resources, and economic development.

Derek Red Arrow – Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, Seattle, WA

2 Business Management Ethical Pitfalls That Get Lawyers in Trouble & How to Avoid Them

Lawyers face a range of ethical risks not just in the courtroom, but in the day-to-day management of their practices. This session explores how common business decisions—like how you bill, supervise staff, manage deadlines, or use technology—can lead to ethics violations if not handled properly. We'll walk through real-world scenarios, highlight relevant RPCs, and offer practical tools and systems to help you stay compliant while running a more efficient, client-centered practice. *(This document was edited with Microsoft Copilot's AI and reviewed for accuracy by Margeaux Green)*

Margeaux Green – Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA

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3 Estate Planning Basics and Recent Changes

Review the fundamentals of estate planning in Washington and learn how the law has recently changed. This session will include topics such as:

- Common Estate Planning Tools (e.g. wills, trusts, nonprobate transfers)
- Estate and Gift Tax Issues
- Other Legislation Affecting Estate Planning and Administration (e.g. the Trust and Estate Dispute Resolution Act or “TEDRA”)

This session will also cover recent case law and legislative updates relevant to trusts and estates and how those updates impact the considerations and decision points that practitioners should address when engaged in estate planning or dispute work for clients.

Gail E. Mautner – Ballard Spahr LLP, Seattle, WA

Zach Lundin – Ballard Spahr LLP, Seattle, WA

4 Tort Law Tool Kit: Fundamentals and Recent Updates

This seminar explores basic Washington tort principles alongside the latest developments in tort law. Practitioners will be equipped with practical insights into emerging issues, significant cases, and evolving standards in tort law.

Sydney Codd – Rush Hannula Harkins & Kyler PLLC, Tacoma, WA

5 Legal Research Resources: Part 1

In the first three sessions of the program, focus on legal research and learn about cost-effective and efficient legal research strategies.

Barbara Engstrom – King County Law Library, Seattle, WA

6 Legal Research Resources: Part 2

In part two, we'll explore how AI holds both promises and pitfalls for practicing lawyers while practicing legal research.

LeighAnne Thompson – Seattle University Law School, Seattle, WA

7 Legal Research Resources: Part 3

In part three, we'll explore how to make the most of Fastcase/vLex subscription, a benefit of WSBA bar membership.

Maya Swanes – University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA



The 2026 Washington Law and Practice Refresher Course – Day 2

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATES

February 19, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

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AGENDA

1 Trust Accounts

This session includes a review of the Rules of Professional Conduct related to trust accounts and the handling of client funds as well as instruction on maintaining required trust account records.

Ben Attanasio – Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA

2 Professional Responsibility and Client Communications

Using the Washington Rules of Professional Conduct, WSBA Ethics Advisory Opinions, and hypotheticals, WSBA's Professional Responsibility Counsel and an experienced Washington practitioner address best practices for managing client communications from initially choosing clients carefully to drafting a closing letter when representation ends.

Sherry Bosse Lueders – Beresford Booth, Edmonds, WA

Sandra Schilling – Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA

3 Current Trends in Family Law 2026

This session takes you through current trends in family law on the following topics:

- Family Law Update: Cases and Statutes
- Domestic Violence and Safety Planning
- Plain Language Forms
- E-Service and E-Filing
- Motions and Discovery
- Parenting Plans
- Child Support and Maintenance
- Attorney's Fees

Robert C. Bennett– Michael W. Bugni & Associates, Seattle, WA

The 2026 Washington Law and Practice Refresher Course – Day 2

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4 Inadvertent Disclosure of Electronic Information

Information is the lifeblood of any discovery effort, especially if it is the necessary prerequisite to filing a lawsuit. The modern litigator must be able to navigate information repositories, regardless of their forms. In this presentation learn what you need to know to competently manage electronically stored information (“ESI”) including a review of new terminology relevant to the challenges of the digital world.

Craig T. Kobayashi – Attorney at Law, Seattle, WA

James T. Yand – Miller Nash LLP, Seattle, WA

5 Rules of Evidence and Surviving Your First Trial

Refresh your knowledge on the rules of evidence in Washington and how they differ from the law in other U.S. jurisdictions. Topics include:

- Source and purpose of Washington evidence law
- Dealing with unresponsive answers and inadvertent remarks
- Special considerations in nonjury proceedings
- Relevance
- Expert testimony
- Hearsay basics
- Evidence in digital form

Alena Woolridge – Le & Kittleson, Renton, WA

6 Advancing Equity and Justice at WSBA

The Washington State Bar Association recognizes the importance of having a legal profession that reflects the rich tapestry of the communities it serves. All Washingtonians are better off when our state’s legal system and legal community are fair and welcoming to everyone. The Washington Supreme Court, under General Rule 12 has delegated the responsibility “to promote diversity and equality in the courts and the legal profession” to WSBA. This session will give you an overview of what WSBA is doing to fulfill this responsibility and some tips for what legal professionals can do to advance equity and justice in their practices and law firms.

Diana Singleton – Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA