

Northwestern State University
College of Business & Technology
Continuing Legal Education Seminar, May 9, 2025
Session Descriptions

Session 1: A 2025 Ethics Update – Balancing the Highest Standards of Ethics and Professionalism While Vigorously Advocating for a Client (Crichton/Cole)

Session Info: This session will provide attorneys with a comprehensive update of the Rules of Professional Responsibility and Louisiana Supreme Court Rules bearing on Ethics as well as recent lawyer disciplinary cases rendered by the State’s high court. A particular focus will be placed on balancing the highest standards of integrity and professionalism while zealously advocating (and hopefully winning) your client’s case.

Session 2: Mastering Appellate Court Practice and Procedure in Louisiana (Pickett/Kyzar)

Session Info: Navigating the appellate process can be daunting, even for seasoned trial attorneys. Whether you’ve avoided appeals, handled them yourself, or relied on appellate specialists, a solid grasp of appellate procedure is essential. This working session provides a practical overview of Louisiana’s appellate process from a district court of appeal perspective, offering insights into key procedural rules, common pitfalls, and strategic considerations. Special emphasis will be placed on writ practice, including best practices for seeking supervisory writs and understanding writ denials. Attendees will gain actionable knowledge to enhance their appellate advocacy and avoid costly missteps.

Session 3: Mastering Motion for Summary Judgement: Best Practices and Pitfalls (Sylvester/Ruppert)

This session will explore the key do’s and don’ts of Motion for Summary Judgment practice, offering insights into effective strategies and common missteps. With a focus on best practices from the bench’s perspective, participants will gain a deeper understanding of what makes a persuasive motion, how to avoid procedural pitfalls, and the critical elements judges consider when ruling. Practical guidance will help attorneys refine their approach to better serve their clients and navigate the summary judgment process with confidence.

Session 4: Best Practices Before the Louisiana Supreme Court: Insights From Within (Crichton/Watson-Smith)

Former Associate Justice Scott Crichton and former Louisiana Supreme Court law clerk Mary Watson Smith will provide an informative presentation on the written (and unwritten) practices and procedures that govern the Supreme Court’s consideration of writ applications—from writ application filing, to assignment to a justice’s office, to preparation of a “writ report,” to consideration in conference, to consideration in conference (again), to docketing, to opinion assignment, to oral arguments, to opinion conference, to released opinion...and everything in between! Understanding the Court’s process for reviewing writ applications is key to making a lawyer’s application (or opposition) stand out. By presenting issues clearly and efficiently, you will

increase the chances of a favorable ruling. This discussion is a must for anyone who aspires to practice before our state's highest Court!

Session 5: Employability of Immigrants in Today's Environment (Hunter)

Session Info: This session will provide legal professionals with critical insights into employment and immigration law, focusing on key industries such as hospitality, food service, and agribusiness. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of employer compliance requirements, work visa categories, and recent policy changes impacting immigrant labor. Additionally, the session will address challenges faced by immigrant workers, legal protections, and best practices for advising businesses on hiring and retaining immigrant employees. Whether you represent businesses, advocate for policy change, or defend immigrant workers in employment-related cases, this session will equip you with the knowledge to navigate the evolving legal landscape effectively.

Session 6: Louisiana Criminal Law: Procedure, Practice & Pitfalls (Gentry/Kendrick/Townsend)

Session Info: Louisiana's criminal procedure is deeply rooted in its unique legal heritage, blending civil and common law traditions. This CLE session, led by two experienced attorneys and a judge, will provide a comprehensive overview of the state's criminal justice process—from pretrial proceedings through post-conviction remedies. Attendees will gain insights into key procedural rules, common challenges, and practical strategies for effective advocacy. Topics will include pretrial motions, trial tactics, sentencing considerations, and appellate/post-conviction relief. This session is essential for criminal law practitioners looking to sharpen their skills and stay up to date on Louisiana's criminal procedure.

Session 7: Professionalism in the Age of Technology (Genovese)

Session Info: Professionalism in the Age of Technology will encompass the metamorphosis of old-age professionalism and how it has morphed into the new technological age of professionalism with an emphasis on making the profession better.