



For the Sake of Trial

Elevating the Craft of Trial Practice

2026 Annual Meeting and Conference
DoubleTree Suites Detroit Downtown – Fort Shelby
525 W. Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48226
Friday, June 12, 2026

Program Schedule

Friday, June 12, 2026 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Registration and Exhibits	
8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Breakfast	
9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Opening Session	
	Frederick V. Livingston, <i>McDonald, Baas & Livingston PLLC</i> MDTC President	
	Shawn J. Lewis, <i>Hewson & Van Hellemont PC</i> Sponsor Representative	
9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Annual Meeting	
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	AI in the Courtroom: Practical Tools for Modern Trial Lawyers	
	Scott R. Carvo, <i>Warner Norcross + Judd LLP</i>	
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Networking Break	
10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	Breakout 1	
[No Fault Law]	[Employment Law]	[Medical Malpractice Law]
Social Media Surveillance	Artificial Intelligence, Authentic Liability	Top 5 Motions in Limine
Social media isn't just for sharing updates – it's shaping the outcome of claims every day. This dynamic course uncovers the hidden influence of social platforms and shows you how to turn online insights into actionable intelligence. You'll discover just how prevalent social media really is, learn ethical and proven methods for investigating digital footprints, and see the powerful impact these findings can have on a claim. Plus, we'll share practical strategies for monitoring, preserving, and leveraging social media evidence effectively.	If you represent an employer of just about any size, their employees are using ChatGPT to do their work for them. Not all of them, but a lot of them. This presentation will discuss what employers need to know about the risks of restrictionless AI use in the workplace, what policies can be implemented to control liability risk, and what liability might result from failing to properly monitor and train employees.	Motions in limine are a vital but sometimes overlooked part of preparing for trial. They can lead to dispositive rulings on critical issues such as the scope of damages, admissibility of expert testimony, and exclusion of harmful hearsay evidence. We will explore the top 5 motions in limine to position you for success in defending the case at trial—or eliminating the need for trial altogether.
Jack Sanders, <i>Command Services</i> Mike Huntsman, <i>Command Services</i>	Andrew A. Cascini, <i>Henn Lesperance</i>	Karen E. Beach, <i>Nauts, McKinney, Dwaihy & Beach, PLLC</i>

11:20 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	Breakout 2	
[No Fault Law] Anatomy of a Fraud Ring	[Employment Law] Reports of the Death of Non-Competes are Greatly Exaggerated	[Property/Premises Law] Property/Premises
This session will discuss a year and half investigation of what it took to break open a fraud ring, the players involved, the multiple claims across numerous carriers, and how attention to detail matters.	Defense attorneys who have represented employers know that when it comes to litigation, non-compete prosecution and defense are, well – a little bit unique. This presentation will bring attendees up to date about the legal status of non-competes in Michigan, discuss some special wrinkles that practitioners need to keep in mind when litigating cases, and provide some practical advice about drafting good agreements that are (hopefully!) enforceable.	Rick J. Patterson, <i>Vandevveer Garzia PC</i> Noah Zeidan, <i>Vandevveer Garzia PC</i>
Robert S. Abramson, <i>McDonald Baas and Livingston PLLC</i>	Andrew A. Cascini, <i>Henn Lesperance</i>	
11:50 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Networking Break	
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch	
	Regional Judicial Award Recipient: Hon. Brock A. Swartzle, <i>Court Of Appeals - District 4</i>	
1:20 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.	Supreme Court Updates	
	Carlos A. Escurel, <i>Foley Baron Metzger & Juip PLLC</i>	
1:35 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.	Service of Process is Changing: Digital Service and Evasion in Modern Litigation	
	A look at how avoidance is evolving, the role of digital touchpoints, and how courts are beginning to approach alternative and digital service. We've been actively developing a Virtual Digital Service framework around this, which gives some practical context to what's coming next.	
	Dan Klimek, <i>Sherlock Investigations</i>	
2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Networking Break	
2:30 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.	View from the Bar (Practitioner Panel)	
	L. Ladd Culbertson, <i>Secura Insurance</i> John W. Whitman, <i>Garan Lucow Miller, P.C.</i> Cameron R. Getto, <i>Zausmer PC</i> Moderator: Laura M. Canfield, <i>Secura Insurance</i>	
3:05 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.	View from the Bench (Judges' Panel)	
	Judge Susan K. DeClercq, <i>U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan</i> Judge James S. Jamo, <i>30th Circuit Court</i> Judge Michael D. Warren, Jr., <i>6th Circuit Court</i> Moderator: Judge Groner, <i>Ret.</i>	
3:55 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	
	Frederick V. Livingston, <i>McDonald, Baas & Livingston PLLC</i> MDTC President	
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Defense Network Reception	
	Continue the conversation! Join the speakers, vendors, judges, leadership and other attendees for a reception after the event with beverages and light snacks.	

Sponsors

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Annual Meeting & Conference Registration Form

Full Name Badge Name

Spouse/Guest Full Name (Only if attending events) Badge Name

Company or Firm Name

Company Address

City State Zip Fax

Email Address (must be provided to receive confirmation)

Office Phone Number Personal Phone Number

Emergency Contact Phone Number

Is this your first time attending? Yes No Do you require a Vegetarian Meal? Yes No

The dress code is Business Casual.

- Group (3 or more attendees from your firm) # of persons _____ x \$210.00 \$ _____
Rate per attendee. Includes one-year membership for Non-Member attendees.
- * MDTC Member.....\$370.00 \$ _____
* Non-members who register at this rate will be invoiced the difference between a member/non-member rate
- Associate Member.....\$110.00 \$ _____
 - Paralegals/Non-Attorney Professionals
- Non-Member.....\$410.00 \$ _____

NEW MEMBER SPECIAL - cost of meeting & 1 year of membership

*If registering as a new member with attendance, you must complete and sign a membership application and return it with your registration form. Only non-members who have never taken this deal are eligible. If you are unsure whether or not you qualify, please contact us.

- Less than 5 years in practice.....\$235.00 \$ _____
- 5 years or more in practice.....\$435.00 \$ _____

* Membership applications must be completed and returned to MDTC with this Form for all **NEW** members.

Total: \$ _____

Return completed form with check made payable to:
MDTC
PO Box 66, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone: 517-627-3745

Room Reservations:
DoubleTree Suites Detroit Downtown – Fort Shelby
525 West Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 963-5600
Ask for Michigan Defense Trial Counsel group rates.
Room Deadline: 5-12-2026

If you would like to pay online, please visit – <https://www.mdtc.org/>

The registration fee includes Education Sessions and Breaks. If you have any questions, please contact MDTC at (517) 627-3745.

Payment must be received on or before the date of the event.