



# 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

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# Program Schedule

Friday, June 12, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	<b>Registration and Exhibits</b>	
8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	<b>Opening Session</b>	
	Frederick V. Livingston, <i>McDonald, Baas &amp; Livingston PLLC</i> MDTC President	
	Shawn J. Lewis, <i>Hewson &amp; Van Hellemont PC</i> Sponsor Representative	
9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<b>AI in the Courtroom: Practical Tools for Modern Trial Lawyers</b>	
	Scott R. Carvo, <i>Warner Norcross + Judd LLP</i>	
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>	
10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	<b>Breakout 1</b>	
[No Fault Law] <b>Social Media Surveillance</b>	[Employment Law] <b>Artificial Intelligence, Authentic Liability</b>	[Medical Malpractice Law] <b>Top 5 Motions in Limine</b>
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 &amp; Beach, PLLC</i>

11:20 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	<b>Breakout 2</b>	
[No Fault Law] <b>Anatomy of a Fraud Ring</b>	[Employment Law] <b>Reports of the Death of Non-Competes are Greatly Exaggerated</b>	[Property/Premises Law] <b>Property/Premises</b>
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.  Robert S. Abramson, <i>McDonald Baas and Livingston PLLC</i>	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.  Andrew A. Cascini, <i>Henn Lesperance</i>	Rick J. Patterson, <i>Vandevveer Garzia PC</i> Noah Zeidan, <i>Vandevveer Garzia PC</i>
11:50 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>	
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> <b>Regional Judicial Award Recipient:</b> Hon. Brock A. Swartzle, <i>Court Of Appeals - District 4</i>	
1:20 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.	<b>Supreme Court Updates</b> Carlos A. Escurel, <i>Foley Baron Metzger &amp; Juip PLLC</i>	
1:35 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.	<b>Service of Process is Changing: Digital Service and Evasion in Modern Litigation</b>  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.	<b>Networking Break</b>	
2:30 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.	<b>View from the Bar (Practitioner Panel)</b> L. Ladd Culbertson, <i>Secura Insurance</i> John W. Whitman, <i>Garan Lucow Miller, P.C.</i> Cameron R. Getto, <i>Zausmer PC</i> <b>Moderator:</b> Laura M. Canfield, <i>Secura Insurance</i>	
3:05 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.	<b>View from the Bench (Judges' Panel)</b> Judge Susan K. DeClercq, <i>U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan</i> Judge James S. Jamo, <i>30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court</i> Judge Michael D. Warren, Jr., <i>6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court</i> <b>Moderator:</b> Judge Groner, <i>Ret.</i>	
3:55 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Frederick V. Livingston, <i>McDonald, Baas &amp; Livingston PLLC</i> MDTC President	
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	<b>Defense Network Reception</b>  Continue the conversation! Join the speakers, vendors, judges, leadership and other attendees for a reception after the event with beverages and light snacks.	

# **Sponsors**

As of 4-25-26

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**MD Panel**  
**Michigan Evaluation Group / Medlogix**  
**Sherlock Investigations**  
**Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge PC**  
**Superior X Investigations**  
**Veritext**

# Annual Meeting & Conference Registration Form

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

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Company Address

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City	State	Zip	Fax
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Email Address (must be provided to receive confirmation)

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Office Phone Number	Personal Phone Number
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Emergency Contact	Phone Number
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Is this your first time attending?	Yes	No	Do you require a Vegetarian Meal?	Yes	No
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To the extent that this attendee engages in personal injury litigation, They DO NOT, for the most part, represent plaintiffs. I have read the above and hereby make application for individual membership.      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		\$ _____
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**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		\$ _____
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5 years or more in practice.....\$435.00		\$ _____
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\* 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

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

Ask for Michigan Defense Trial Counsel group rates.  
**Room Deadline: 5-12-2026**

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.