



CLLA WESTERN REGION

Palm Springs

CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2024



Trending Issues
in Commercial
Collections

EARN CLEs & CEUs

IN-PERSON ONLY • REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 30, 2024

WESTIN RANCHO MIRAGE GOLF RESORT & SPA
RANCHO MIRAGE, CA

WWW.CLLA.ORG

We are excited to welcome you to the CLLA 2024 Western Region Annual Conference!



Robert Tyler

Our agenda has something for everyone and will further your understanding and knowledge of the latest trends and issues in

the world of commercial collections. Don't miss out on the chance to update your professional knowledge, share valuable experiences and tips with colleagues, all while enjoying beautiful Palm Springs.

The executive council has planned not only worthwhile educational presentations, but a Rat Pack themed event of networking, reconnecting with your friends in the industry, establishing new relationships, and creating additional business opportunities. Don't forget... CLE's and CEU's are offered.

We look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs!

Robert Tyler
Chair, CLLA Western Region

CLLA Registration Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be submitted in writing to dawn.federico@cla.org. Registration fee refunds will be granted on the following schedule: Cancellation notices received by Friday, August 30 will receive their registration fee less a \$50 processing fee. Notices received between August 31-September 13 will receive a 50% refund. No refund will be provided starting Friday, September 14.

Event Location

The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

71333 Dinah Shore Dr. • Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 • (760) 328-5955

Join the Western Region in Rancho Mirage, CA!

The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa is a luxury resort located in the heart of the Palm Springs desert. It features stunning views of the surrounding mountains and offers upscale amenities such as a spa, golf courses, pools and fine dining options.

Meet with colleagues for stimulating, in-depth discussions and attend exclusive education events that will address issues that matter to you and speak to the current state of our industry. Take advantage of the chance to network and learn from others who have knowledge and experience to share. Attend to receive the high-quality education you have come to expect from CLLA in an exciting new location.

Who Should Attend

Professionals who benefit the most are those who attend structured meetings to maximize contact with colleagues from around the US, Canada and abroad. This in-person conference attracts an audience of professionals from various aspects of the commercial law arena interested in forming business connections. The conference site and schedule will allow you to do business and still take advantage of all that Rancho Mirage, California has to offer. Visit www.CLLA.org/events for more details.

Registration Fees

Registration & Hotel Reservation Deadline is **Friday, August 30, 2024.**

Registration Fee	Regular* Thru 8/30
CLLA & IACC Members	\$495
Spouse/Guest**	\$249
Non-Members	\$990

****Please note that business colleagues are not eligible to register under this category.**

***Disclaimer: CLE credit available to attendees in qualifying states who register on or before Friday, August 16. We cannot guarantee state accreditation after Friday, August 16.**

Member/Non-Member Registration Fee Includes:

- Educational Sessions
- CLE/CEU Education Credits
- Breakfast
- AM Break
- Lunch

Spouse/Guest* Registration Fee Includes:

- Breakfast
- AM Break
- Lunch

Hotel Reservations

A small room block has been reserved for this conference. Making your reservation by phone, call the Reservations Department at 877-253-0041 and request the **CLLA 2024 Conference** or **Group Code CL3571** to receive the group rate. On-line reservations can be made by clicking this link [CLLA Room Reservations](#).

Room Rate: \$209/night, single/double occupancy, plus applicable taxes (currently 13.25%). **Room cut-off is Friday, August 30, 2024.** Hotel cancellation policy is 72 hours prior to arrival or one night room and tax penalty.

The room rate does not include a reduced *daily* resort fee of \$25 (regularly \$38) per room plus taxes. This fee covers: guestroom and meeting room WiFi, daily Social Hour in Pinz & Pints from 4:30pm-5:30pm featuring house wine, beer and batch craft cocktails. Daily in room bottled water. Access to Little Links Miniature Golf Course. Access to Westin Workout Fitness Studio. Two-hour bike rental per stay for up to 2 guests. Waived overnight self-parking (regularly \$16)

Visit CLLA.org/Events web page to access our special online reservation link to the hotel.

2024 Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

6:00 p.m. Optional Group Dinner

(additional charge per person, registration required, alcohol and transportation on your own)

Michael Homes' Purple Room • 1900 E. Palm Canyon Dr. • Palm Springs, CA 92264 • (760) 322-4422

The sophistication and glamour of the Rat pack era comes alive at Michael Homes' Purple Room, the desert's premier supper club. Tucked away in the Club Trinidad Resort, The Purple Room is where Frank, Sammy, Dean and their pals cavorted on and off the stage in the swinging '60s. Step in and you'll be transported back to the elegance of the era: an intimate and inviting room, classic cocktails with a modern twist, world-class cuisine and the best in live entertainment – seven nights a week! Hobnob with celebrities, locals, and visitors alike at the iconic Purple Room!

Thursday, September 26, 2024 The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa (Rancho Mirage Room, Lobby Level)

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 – 8:50 a.m. WELCOME AND WESTERN REGION MEETING

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. VICARIOUS LIABILITY IN THE BANKRUPTCY CONTACT (BARTENWERFER) SECTION 523(A) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND OTHER FUN AREAS OF THE LAW!

The panel will discuss issues concerning vicarious liability and the expanding body of law under the Section 523(a), the "Innocent Spouse" defense, the expanding body of law imputing liability to the debtor for the action of one director or officer. Bartenwerfer, Mallinckrodt, Drivetime . . .

WE HAVE ALL THE HITS!!! **CLE** **CEU**

SPEAKERS:

Jack Rose, *Jack Rose Law*, Bronxville, NY; **David H. Leigh**, *Ray Guinney & Nebeker PC*, Salt Lake City, UT

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. NETWORKING BREAK

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. AGENCY AND LAW FIRM EXPECTATIONS

Agencies and law firms make up two-thirds of the triadic system. How these two components interact can have a direct, material impact on client satisfaction and retention. This session will feature an agency representative and an attorney identifying and discussing critical points where the relationship can be best maximized to create efficient, effective returns for clients. What can agencies do before law firms get involved to set up lawyers for success in litigation? What can law firms do to give agencies what they need to communicate effectively with creditors? What common missteps can be avoided? **CLE** **CEU**

SPEAKERS:

Timothy Grimes, *Barr Credit Services, Inc.*, Tucson, AZ; **Benjamin E. Kelly**, *Law Office of Benjamin E. Kelly, PS*, Seattle, WA

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. NETWORKING BREAK

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. WHEN COMMERCIAL AND CONSUMER COLLECTIONS COLLIDE

Join us for a practical discussion between a panel of attorneys and forwarders as we talk about the intersection of commercial and consumer collections. We will be covering the difference in handling each type of debt, some practical tips, dos and don'ts, hot topics, and some case law in the area. Bring your questions and your own experiences for a lively discussion. **CLE** **CEU**

SPEAKERS:

Amy L. Pona, *Gurstel Law Firm, PC*, Golden Valley, MN; **John S. Pucin**, *Caine & Weiner Co., Inc.*, Schaumburg, IL; **David W. Lippman**, *Lippman Recupero*, Tucson, AZ

12:30 – 1:15 p.m. GROUP LUNCH (Registration required for accurate count)

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. EXPLORE PALM SPRINGS ON YOUR OWN

5:30 p.m. NETWORKING RECEPTION AT INDIAN WELLS RESORT (Cash Bar)

76-661 HWY 111 • Indian Wells, CA 92210 Transportation on your own.

6:30 p.m. DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING KRISTI KING

Registration required for accurate count. Individual pays own.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY: \$175

Get your firm's logo placed on the CLLA Events page, conference eblasts, Program, on-site signage, NewsWire, AGENCYAction and opening slides at all sessions.

Exclusive SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Multiple Device Charging Station - \$350

In addition to the sponsorship benefits above, this exclusive opportunity will prominently display your company logo at the event charging station inside the event room.

CLLA Western Region Conference PRESENTER BIOS



Timothy Grimes is responsible for quality control and compliance for BARR Credit Services. He ensures that BARR complies with laws and regulations applicable to the commercial collection industry. Additionally, he provides expertise in the handling of legal claims and serves as a liaison between BARR Credit Services' clients and partnered legal counsel.

Prior to his time at BARR Credit, Tim worked in the retail grocery industry. Since joining BARR he has twice served as the Chair of the Executive Council of the Western Region of the Commercial Law League of America (CLLA) and presently is on the CLLA Board of Governors. As part of the BARR Legal Department for the past eighteen years, he has successfully expanded the department and excelled in his career, becoming a respected expert in the industry. He enjoys sharing his knowledge through various speaking engagements and conferences.



David H. Leigh's practice is concentrated in bankruptcy, creditors' rights, and civil/commercial litigation. Mr. Leigh represents various parties-including secured creditors, unsecured creditors, official committees of unsecured creditors, and trustees-in chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 bankruptcy cases. Mr. Leigh also represents plaintiffs and defendants in general commercial litigation matters, including out-of-bankruptcy workouts, collection litigation, debt restructuring, contract disputes, real and personal property liens and lien disputes, business torts, and professional negligence disputes. Mr. Leigh is a Past President of the Utah Bankruptcy Lawyers Forum where he continues to serve as a Board Trustee. He also serves on the CLLA Bankruptcy Section Executive Council.

Mr. Leigh has been included on the list of *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024 in Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. He has also been selected for inclusion in *Mountain States Super Lawyers* (2014-2023) in the categories of Bankruptcy: Business and Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights and as a Rising Star (2008-2012). Mr. Leigh has been voted by his peers throughout the state as one of Utah's "Legal Elite," as published in *Utah Business Magazine* (2012-2022).



David W. Lippman is Managing Partner of Lippman Recupero LLC, I lead a nationwide team of attorneys and collectors who provide exceptional collection and litigation services for consumer and commercial debt and subrogation recovery. I have over 19 years of legal experience and over 42 years of collection industry experience, with a strong expertise in creditors' rights, insurance subrogation, commercial and retail collection law, property management, product liability claims, and FDCPA defense. I hold a JD from Suffolk University Law School, a BS in Electronic Commerce from Northeastern University, and I am licensed to practice law in several states, including Arizona, Utah, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho and Texas. I am also a certified CLE instructor by the State Bar of Arizona.

My mission is to enhance the consumer/creditor or carrier relationship by treating consumers and tortfeasors with respect and professionalism. I believe in the concept of Collect With Respect, which is the foundation of our practice and our brand management strategy. We represent a wide range of clients in diverse industries, such as finance, insurance, gaming, hospitality, and real estate. We offer both collection only and collection to litigation services, using the top collection and litigation software in the industry and operating in a data security compliant environment. We strive to exceed the expectations of our clients without being asked, and provide fast response, monthly detailed status updates, eviction to collection programs, swift post judgment execution, and second placement collections.

CLLA Western Region Conference PRESENTER BIOS



Benjamin E. Kelly is an attorney with seventeen years of experience trying, arbitrating, mediating, and negotiating disputes.



Amy L. Pona is an attorney and shareholder at Gurstel Law Firm P.C., (the “Firm”) where she has practiced since 2012 almost exclusively in creditor’s rights and remedies. Amy started at the Firm in 2012, where she focused on consumer debt collection matters. Since 2016, she has been serving as the Director of the Commercial Litigation Department, focusing her practice on commercial creditor’s rights, including both civil litigation and post-judgment collection remedies. Amy is a *Cum Laude* graduate of William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is licensed in Minnesota, Arizona, and Wisconsin. She is an active member of the Commercial Law League of America and was named the 2022 Robert P. Ingold Emerging Leader in the International Association of Commercial Collectors.



John S. Pucin is a creditors’ rights attorney with over 20 years of experience managing multiple priorities as a former partner at a large law firm. This includes negotiation, management of personnel, litigation, team leadership, and marketing. He understands how to execute strategic objectives and has a strong passion for consistent deliverance of client satisfaction. A unique combination of courtroom competency and ability to manage and help grow an organization provides John the necessary experience to coordinate, assess, and lead our Legal Department and affiliated law firm.

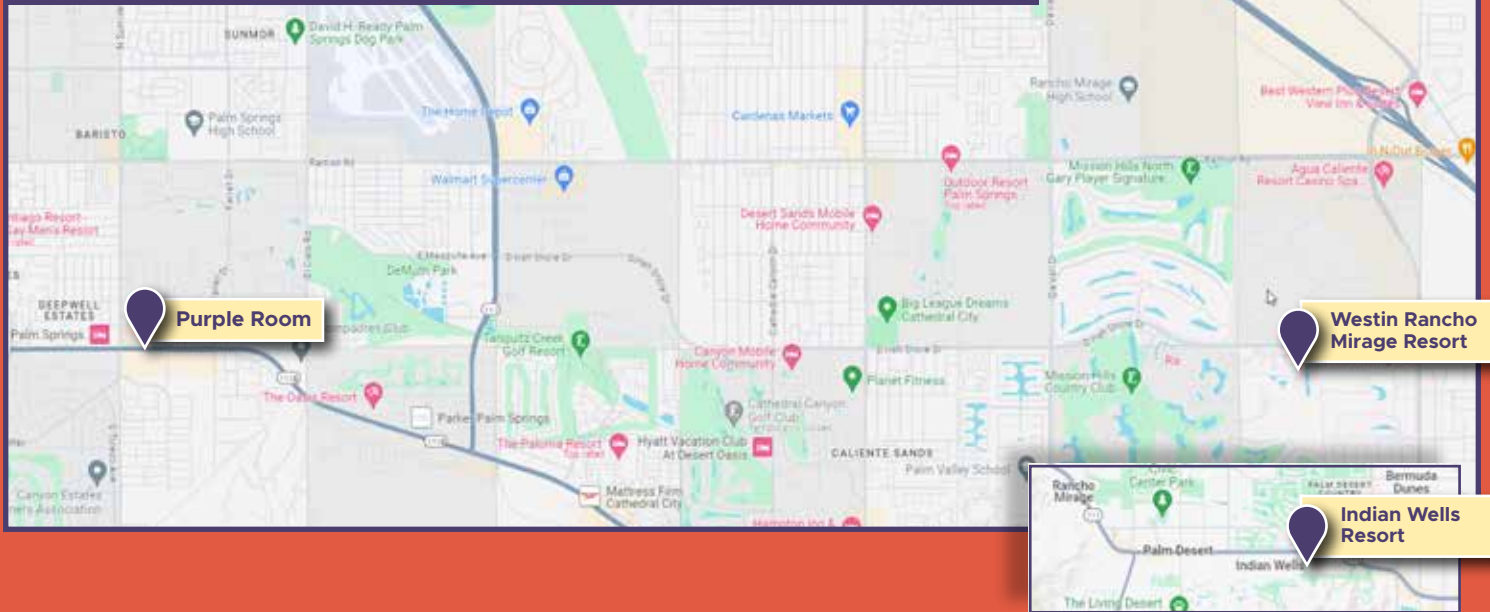
John is admitted to the State Bars in Illinois and Ohio along with the United States District Courts of Northern Illinois, Northern Ohio and Southern Ohio. He is currently an active member of the Commercial Law League of America, Illinois Creditors Bar Association, and the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals.

He graduated in 1988 from Xavier University, Cincinnati OH with a B.S.B.A./Finance and in 1992 with a Juris Doctor degree from the Capital University Law School, Columbus Ohio.



Jack Rose has 30+ years advising top-level executives on critical issues. Extensive legal knowledge combined with strong business acumen developed over a 30-year career focused on distressed and special situations at large international law firms acting as lead counsel in significant international matters. A skilled collaborator, problem solver, and negotiator who can effectively communicate complex issues in a clear and concise manner, driving towards desired goals. Exceptionally skilled in risk assessment, leading complex restructuring transactions, negotiating settlements, and managing processes efficiently within budget and timeline. A proven leader who achieves outstanding results. All matters at the firm are personally overseen by Mr. Rose subject to the firm’s standard staffing policies.

CLLA Western Region Conference Event Locations



Thank You Champions!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dawn Federico at 312-240-1400 or by email at dawn.federico@ccla.org or visit ccla.org/events.



COMMERCIAL LAW LEAGUE OF AMERICA

3005 TOLLVIEW DRIVE • ROLLING MEADOWS • ILLINOIS 60008 • 312-240-1400 • INFO@CLLA.ORG • WWW.CCLA.ORG