

2026 FDLA THURSDAY & FRIDAY | APRIL 23-24, 2026 LAW FIRM LEADERS' SUMMIT

GRAND HYATT TAMPA BAY

2900 Bayport Drive, Tampa, FL 33607
Room Rate | \$285 + \$15 Destination Fee



Join the Florida Defense Lawyers Association's 2026 Law Firm Leaders' Summit at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. Designed for managing partners, firm administrators, general counsel, and emerging leaders, this two-day program delivers practical strategies to run smarter, more profitable firms and strengthen team and client relationships. Sessions cover recruiting, AI and cyber risk, culture, client expectations, marketing, and hybrid leadership, plus dedicated General Counsel and Emerging Leaders breakout tracks that offer practical solutions to day-to-day challenges.

PROGRAM FEATURES
BREAKOUTS TAILORED FOR
GENERAL COUNSEL AND
EMERGING LEADERS

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY

On-Site Mobile Helpline Phone Bank
April 24 | 8AM - 3PM

- Answer a call
- Provide legal advice
- Empower a client
- Change a life

REGISTRATION

FDLA MEMBERS | **\$349**
CLAIMS PROFESSIONALS | **\$150**
NON-MEMBERS* | **\$399**

**Includes 2026 FDLA membership
for those who qualify*

CLE APPROVED FOR:

13 Gen CLE Credits
2.5 Mental Health and Wellness
2.5 Ethics
2.5 Technology

REGISTER TODAY AT FDLA.ORG!

For more information contact:

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786-447-8469



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, April 23, 2026

1:00 PM **Pro Bono as Strategy: Turning Community Impact into Firm Growth**

Danielle Harris | Chief Program Officer, Community Legal Services
Jerica Johnson | Deputy Director of Pro Bono Initiatives, Gulfcoast Legal Services
Andrea Nieto | Of Counsel, Greengerg Traurig, P.A.
Andrea D. Ortiz | Director of Pro Bono Services, Community Legal Services

Partnering with legal-aid organizations can advance both access to justice and firm performance. Learn how structured pro bono programs provide attorney training, mentorship, marketing visibility, and a powerful recruitment and retention advantage.

2:00 PM **The Importance of Philanthropy**

Misty Carson | CEO & Chief Performance Coach, Playbook Consulting Group
Maggie Potter | Shareholder, Segal McCambridge

Purpose and impact increasingly drive today's lawyers, making philanthropy and community engagement essential—not optional. This session explores how firms can authentically integrate service into legal practice to enhance recruiting, retention, culture, reputation, and client relationships while creating more fulfilling and sustainable careers.

3:00 PM **Networking Break - *Sponsored by J.S. Held***

3:30 PM **Client Expectations in 2026 - Beyond the Billable Hour**

Benjamin Brenner | Litigation Case Manager, Tower Hill Insurance Group
Nicole Fluet | Director, Galloway

This course will analyze client expectations in the ever-changing legal landscape in Florida from a client's perspective, including how law firm leaders should rethink how they deliver value to clients, communicate, manage litigation, and utilize technology.

4:30 PM **Judicial Panel - Professionalism and Preparing Associates for Court**

As courts return to in-person proceedings, lingering COVID-era changes continue to shape litigation. In this candid panel, judges discuss managing backlogs, hybrid hearings, and evolving courtroom expectations. Attendees will gain practical insight on effective advocacy, navigating modern procedures, and guiding young lawyers in today's post-COVID courtroom.

5:30 PM **Cocktail Hour - *Sponsored by Injury Billing Consultants***

6:30 PM **Dinner - *Sponsored by YA Group***

FRIDAY, April 24, 2026

8:00 AM **Breakfast - *Sponsored by Lorenz Mediation***

8:00 AM **Pro Bono Phone Bank Open**
- 3:00 PM

9:00 AM **AI and Cyber Concerns for Lawyers**

Cristina Cambo | Partner, Cambo Ferry, PLLC

Artificial intelligence is reshaping legal practice through greater efficiency, research power, and client service opportunities. This session examines how firm leaders can integrate AI responsibly while addressing ethics and risk. Topics include confidentiality, accuracy, supervision, and the growing duty of technological competence.

10:00 AM **Networking Break - *Sponsored by CED Technologies***

10:15 AM **Firm Culture Shift: Reconciling Work-Life Balance and Mentorship with the Business of Law**

Chandra Miller | Partner, Thompson Miller

Law firm leaders must balance profitability with rising demands for flexibility, well-being, and mentorship. As younger lawyers redefine success, firms must adapt. This session explores practical strategies to strengthen culture, attract and retain talent, and sustain strong performance in an evolving legal landscape.

GC Breakout:
Issues Facing Captive Counsel

Dan Dresch | Attorney, McGuinness & Cicero

This session examines the unique ethical and practical complexities faced by captive counsel in Florida. Attendees will gain insight into maintaining independence, ensuring effective communications, and navigating the tripartite relationship as a captive counsel.

11:15 AM **Marketing and Client Development in a Post-COVID Era**

Frank Ramos | Partner, Goldberg Segalla

In today's hybrid environment, lawyers must balance traditional networking with a strong digital presence. This session explores practical strategies to market legal services, deepen client relationships, and build a compelling personal brand—especially through platforms like LinkedIn—to drive meaningful business development.

GC Breakout:
Utilizing Claims Professionals and Outside Counsel in Litigated Claims - Controlling Legal Costs and Other Considerations

Lincoln LeVarge | Asst. Vice President of Legal, Tower Hill Insurance Group

This session explores strategic collaboration between claims professionals and outside counsel to control costs, strengthen early case strategy, and promote ethical claims handling. Attendees will gain practical tools for budgeting, case evaluation, early resolution, and building efficient partnerships that deliver value throughout the claim lifecycle.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, April 24, 2026 (Cont'd.)

12:15 PM **Lunch - *Sponsored by OraClaim***

1:00 PM **Recruiting in 2026: How to Recruit and Retain Top Legal Talent**

Chase Meacham | Co-Founder, Legal Staffing Associates
Jeremy Smith | Associate, Ullman Bursa Law

The legal talent market has transformed as lawyers reevaluate career priorities, flexibility, culture, and growth opportunities. Firms face heightened competition to recruit and retain attorneys. In this session, a legal recruiter and an associate share real-world insights on why lawyers are making moves, what they prioritize in today's market, and how firms can strategically adapt.

Emerging Leaders Breakout:
How to Stand Out: Building Credibility and Reliability within Your Firm

Robert White | Stockholder, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.

Technical skills alone do not set emerging lawyers apart. Credibility, reliability, and trust drive advancement. This session highlights the habits and strategic choices that distinguish high-performing associates, offering practical guidance to build internal relationships, demonstrate value to firm leadership, and position for long-term success and partnership.

2:00 PM **Developing Your Future Leaders: How to Cultivate and Encourage Young Talent for the Future of Your Firm**

Kathryn Oughton | Shareholder, Boyd & Jenerette

A firm's future depends on developing and retaining emerging leaders. In today's hybrid environment, mentorship, training, flexibility, and business development matter more than ever. This session explores how leaders can identify high-potential attorneys, cultivate leadership skills, and build a culture that supports growth, retention, and effective succession planning.

Emerging Leaders Breakout: Designing Your Legal Career: Personal and Professional Goal-Setting for Litigators

Yasir Billoo | Managing Partner, International Law Partners

In today's evolving legal landscape, litigators must take an active role in shaping their professional path while balancing personal priorities. This session focuses on how emerging leaders can define success on their own terms and create a strategic roadmap to achieve it. Attendees will learn how to set meaningful goals, align daily work with long-term objectives, and make intentional decisions that support both career growth and personal fulfillment.

3:00 PM **Networking Break - *Sponsored by Endeavor Mediation***

3:30 PM **Small Firm Considerations: Unique Considerations, Technology Usage, and Solutions**

Joe Longfellow | Shareholder, Andrews, Crabtree, Knox & Longfellow, LLP
Amber Inman | Managing Partner, Kampf, Inman & Associates, P.A.

Small and boutique firms face distinct post-COVID challenges. This session delivers practical, scalable strategies to manage costs, strengthen culture, develop future leaders, and drive growth. Designed for firms doing more with less, attendees will gain actionable solutions that preserve flexibility, quality, and long-term competitiveness.

Emerging Leaders Breakout:
Learning to Lead: Transitioning from Associate to Partner

Jamie Combee Novaes | Partner, Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig
Dericka Burke | Sr. Associate, Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig

The move from associate to partner demands a shift in mindset, leadership, and business responsibility. Many new partners receive little formal training. This session offers practical guidance to build leadership skills, strengthen decision-making confidence, manage client relationships, and grow into a trusted advisor within the firm.

4:30 PM **Leading in the Hybrid Era: Managing Performance, Connection, and Accountability**

Bill Peterfriend | Managing Partner, Luks, Santaniello, Petrillo, Cohen & Peterfriend

Hybrid work has reshaped law firm leadership, requiring new approaches to performance management, communication, and accountability. This session offers practical strategies to balance flexibility with productivity, strengthen team connection, foster engagement across dispersed teams, and deliver consistent results without sacrificing morale or collaboration.

Emerging Leaders Breakout:
It's a Marathon Not a Sprint: How to Stay Organized and Prevent Burnout

Catherine Arpen | Director, Galloway
Edward Krakauer | Director, Galloway

The demands of modern legal practice—heightened by post-COVID expectations, hybrid work, and constant connectivity—have made burnout a growing concern for lawyers and legal professionals. This session explores practical strategies for staying organized, managing competing priorities, and maintaining long-term productivity without sacrificing well-being.

5:30 PM **Cocktail Hour/Dine Arouds**