

**2026 FDLA**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY | JANUARY 29-30, 2026**

# MEDICAL DAMAGES

**EMBASSY SUITES ORLANDO NORTH**

225 Shorecrest Drive Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

## Seminar

Room Rate | \$179

Defending medical damages has never been more complex—or more critical. This in-depth program equips practitioners with proven strategies from discovery through trial, including analyzing records, dismantling inflated life care plans, and mastering causation and valuation. Learn from experienced professionals and gain the insights needed to strengthen your defense and improve outcomes.



## REGISTRATION

FDLA MEMBERS  
**\$299**

CLAIMS PROFESSIONALS  
**\$150**

NON-MEMBERS\*  
**\$349**

*\*Includes 2026 FDLA membership  
for those who qualify*

**REGISTER TODAY  
AT [FDLA.ORG!](https://fdla.org)**



*For more information contact:*  
**Ana Ramos** | Executive Director  
[aramos@fdla.org](mailto:aramos@fdla.org)  
786-447-8469

# SCHEDULE

## **THURSDAY, January 29, 2026**

5:00 PM **Welcome Reception**

6:30 PM **Dine Arounds**

## **FRIDAY, January 30, 2026**

7:00 AM **Breakfast**

7:55 AM **Introductions**

8:00 AM **Uncovering Evidence-Analyzing Medical and Billing Records Related to Causation and Credibility**

Mary Jorgensen | Nurse Consultant, Rimkus  
Christie Alisca | Partner, Bolin Law Group  
Brandon Blake | Partner, Bolin Law Group

Learn how to analyze medical and billing records in injury cases. This one-hour session covers strategies to uncover evidence, spot fraud, and support case strategy through real-world examples in premises, workplace, and motor vehicle claims.

9:00 AM **Decoding Damages - How Medical Billing Experts Shape Jury Decisions in Post-Tort Reform Trials**

Toni Elholms | Billing and Coding Expert, AccuMed  
Laurette Balinsky | Partner, Luks Santaniello Petrillo Cohen & Peterfriend

In 2024, understanding tort reform's language and its impact on valuing medical damages was paramount. A year later, attention shifts to real-world effects—how strategies around subpoenas, motions, and discovery evolve, and how plaintiff's burden plays out in courtrooms. Join this panel for firsthand insights and practical takeaways for your cases.

10:00 AM **Networking Break**

10:15 AM **Defending Against Runaway P&S Post-reform When Past Medicals are Dropped**

Tabitha Jackson | JR. Partner, Luks Santaniello Petrillo Cohen & Peterfriend  
Nora Bailey | Sr. Partner, Luks Santaniello Petrillo Cohen & Peterfriend

This session will provide a roadmap for practitioners to combat the Plaintiffs' bar's latest strategy - dropping past medical bills to avoid the introduction of the treating physicians' bias and relationships with PI attorneys. Attendees will learn practical strategies to level the playing field and explain to jurors what goes on 'behind the scenes' to prevent plaintiffs from securing inflated verdicts.

11:15 AM **Damages in Context: Legal and Clinical Perspectives on Cancer Care**

Jacqueline Ambrose | General Counsel, Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute  
Dr. Maen Hussein | Board Certified Hematologist-Oncologist, Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute  
Chad Burgess | Senior Counsel, Hill Ward Henderson

This session will address how cancer treatment impacts damages claims across a range of litigation—not limited to medical malpractice. Attendees will gain practical insights into evaluating damages in the context of serious illness, evolving standards of care, and complex causation, with perspectives that blend clinical depth, legal strategy, and lived experience.

12:15 PM **Lunch**

1:15 PM **Navigating Life Care Planning: A Defense Attorney's Guide**

Dr. Amy Mackenzie | Head of Life Care Planning, IMS Legal Strategies  
Joe Longfellow | Partner, Andrews Crabtree Knox & Longfellow

Discover the keys to dismantling speculative and inflated life care plans. We will learn how to challenge expert qualifications, expose plan vulnerabilities, and dissect future care costs. Through real-world case studies and proven rebuttal strategies, you will gain actionable insights to strengthen your defense and elevate your litigation skills.

2:15 PM

**Novel Approaches to Evaluation of Medical & Wage Losses**

Francesca Naumann | Associate, Thompson Miller  
Cara Scheibling | VP & Principal, Avalon Health Economics  
John E. Schneider, PhD | CEO & Principal, Avalon Health Economics

This presentation tackles today's recurring life care plan issues: RFAs, PRP, stem cell treatments, tort reform, LOPs, and medical funding. Learn to adjust life expectancy for comorbid conditions, calculate lost earnings and work-life expectancy, and apply proper NPV and inflation calculations to project accurate future care costs.

3:15 PM

3:30 PM **Networking Break**

**Mastering Mediation: Effective Strategies for Defense Attorneys**

Neal Lichtblau | Partner/Mediator, Lichtblau & Goldenberg, P.A.  
William Peterfriend | Managing Partner, Luks Santaniello Petrillo Cohen & Peterfriend

The presentation outlines strategies for defense attorneys to mediate effectively through preparation, professionalism, empathy, and flexibility. It emphasizes case mastery, rapport-building, ethical negotiation, and collaboration with mediators to achieve efficient, respectful, client-centered resolutions while preserving professional relationships and fostering long-term credibility in mediation practice.