

2021 Mid-Year Seminar

Washington, DC | April 23-26, 2021



Please note the program is tentative and subject to change

Friday, April 23rd, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
9:00AM to 5:30PM		Registration		
8:00AM to 5:00PM		Speaker Ready Room		
9:00AM to 12:00PM		BOD Meeting		
12:30PM to 1:00PM		Welcome to IMLA Coffee Break / Opening Ceremonies	Join IMLA President and Executive Director for welcoming remarks and helpful tips for new and long-time attendees alike	
1:00PM to 2:00PM		Section 1983: Ethical Considerations in Representing the Police	This presentation will discuss why lawyers represent police officers in civil rights actions; what is the value of defending them, and what the personal and professional challenges are.	Patricia Miller
1:00PM to 2:00PM		Public Sector Contracting: How to set up, arm and prepare a successful contracting legal team in the public sector		Chandra Houston & Camille Small-Simon
2:05PM to 3:05PM		Section 1983: Qualified Immunity Update		Elizabeth Tisher & Chris Balch
2:05PM to 3:05PM		Hot Topics in Employment Law: Vaccination Do's and Don'ts		Joanie Winters
3:05PM to 3:20PM		Coffee Break		
3:20PM to 4:50PM		Supreme Court Update	The 2020 Supreme Court term is shaping up to be a blockbuster with many cases that are relevant to local governments. Hear from prominent Supreme Court practitioners about the impact of these cases and others for local governments.	Paul Clement, Amy Howe & Neal Katyal Moderator: Lisa Soronen
4:50PM to 5:20PM		Amicus Awards		
5:30PM to 7:30PM		Welcome Reception		

Saturday, April 24th, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
7:30AM to 5:00PM		Registration		
7:45AM to 8:45PM		State Breakfast		
8:00AM to 5:00PM		Speaker Ready Room		
9:00AM to 10:00AM		Update on the Aftermath of <i>Reed v. Town of Gilbert</i>		Patricia Link & Erika Lopez
9:00AM to 10:00AM		Section 1983: Failure To Train Theory: What you Should Know in Sec. 1983 Cases		Staci Miller & Joshua Foster
10:05AM to 11:05AM		Affordable Housing		Mary Ellen Bench & Galen Gatten Moderator: Patricia Link
10:05AM to 11:05AM		Getting Younger: A Guide To Abstention, Rooker-Feldman And Other Defenses To Federal Civil Rights Actions That We All Learned In Law School, But May Have Forgotten		Ted Xanders & Nadia Sarkis
11:05AM to 11:20AM		Coffee Break		
11:20AM to 12:50PM		Telecommunications Update: Out With The Old and In With the New: Impact of Biden Election on Federal Communications Policy Affecting Local Government Authority	This presentation will share insights on what local governments can expect from the FCC and other federal initiatives under the Biden administration. It will also provide updates on litigation over major actions taken by the Trump-era FCC that preempted local government authority and jeopardized local revenue streams, including the Small Cell Order and the Cable In-Kind Order, among other hot topics.	
11:20AM to 12:50PM		Section 1983: TBA		
12:50PM to 2:30PM		Lunch (on your own)		
2:30PM to 3:30PM		Appellate Advocacy Practice Tips	The presentation will provide tips for municipal appeals, from opening brief to oral argument. They will focus on unique considerations in practice before the appellate courts, using examples from their own cases and the (sometimes unfortunate) experiences of other appellate advocates.	Justin Houppert & Danielle Goldstein
2:30PM to 3:30PM		Lawyer Well Being During the Age of the Coronavirus		
3:30PM to 3:45PM		Coffee Break		

TIME	LOCATION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
3:45PM to 4:45PM		Section 1983: Preparing a Police Officer for Deposition Testimony	Many police officers are familiar with testifying in a Courtroom setting, usually as a witness for the prosecution. However, being deposed as a defendant (or even a witness) in a Federal Section 1983 action is a very different experience with which most police officers are not familiar. This requires that municipal counsel not only to prepare their officer for the substance of their testimony, but also to correct behaviors an officers may have from previous experiencing testifying. This presentation will go through the proper way to prepare police witnesses for this type of testimony, by discussion and through re-enactment of different preparation tips scenarios. Topics that will be covered include: gaining the trust of your own reluctant, or even hostile, police defendant or witness; explaining to police witnesses the differences between civil and criminal testimony; how the FRCP and FRE control what happens in the deposition; the role of counsel in a federal deposition; and preparing witnesses for the tricks and techniques of the questioner.	Beth Hoffman & Ian Williams
3:45PM to 4:45PM		State League Meeting		
3:45PM to 4:45PM		International Committee Meeting		

Sunday, April 25th, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
7:30AM to 1:00PM		Registration		
7:45AM to 8:45PM		WONK Breakfast		
8:00AM to 12:50PM		Speaker Ready Room		
9:00AM to 10:30AM		Homelessness		
9:00AM to 10:30AM		Section 1983 Jury Trials During COVID		
10:30AM to 10:45AM		Coffee Break		
10:45AM to 11:45AM		Section 1983: Trial Practice Techniques in Police Misconduct Cases	This presentation will go over discussion on trial techniques from preparing witnesses, to giving openings through close with everything in between, such as witness exams, in limine and JMOL motions. It will provide the perspective of both the defense and plaintiff's attorney.	Nieve Anjomi & Anna Benvenuti Moderator: Alan Zimmet
10:45AM to 11:45AM		Small / Rural Communities Presentation		
11:50AM to 12:50PM		Music Licensing Update		Erich Eiselt
11:50AM to 12:50PM		Section 1983: Corraling Monell Discovery		

Monday, April 26th, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
8:00AM to 12:00PM		Registration		
8:00AM to 1:00PM		Speaker Ready Room		
8:10AM to 8:40AM		Coffee Break / Passport Drawing		
8:40AM to 9:40AM		Section 1983 Protest Cases	This presentation will discuss the nuts and bolts of litigating protest cases. Specifically, the presenters will focus on the beginning and resolution of these types of cases. Topics to be addressed include litigating on the offense even before a lawsuit is filed; successfully raising a qualified immunity defense on dispositive motions; resolving a case via settlement; skillfully using social media to impeach a plaintiff; and how to successfully present a protest case at trial to a jury and obtain a defense verdict.	Brachah Goykadosh & Dara Weiss Moderator: Thomas Powers
9:45AM to 10:45AM		Case Law Update		Douglas Haney
10:45AM to 11:00AM		Coffee Break		
11:00AM to 12:00AM		Ethical Issues for Municipal Lawyers in Evolving Organizations	Local governments are innovating and changing at a rapid pace, even more so now during COVID than ever before. Agile project management, adaptive leadership, and other new management styles ask municipal lawyers to integrate more fully into the executive team. This presentation will explore how municipal attorneys can become more adaptive, flexible, collaborative, or entrepreneurial in spirit while fulfilling their ethical obligations under the ABA Model Rules.	Lisa Glover