



IMLA 2026 Section 1983 Program

Virtual
July 29-30, 2026

Wednesday – July 29, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM Eastern	Welcome Lunch Spend time discussing Employment Law issues over an informal networking lunch (or breakfast) via Zoom.	
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Eastern	Section 1983 Case Law Update	Ashley Ulbricht
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Eastern	Defending High Stakes and Emotionally Charged Cases	Pat Miller
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Eastern	Section 1983 Meets Technology: Surveillance, Data, and Emerging Liability Theories Rapid advances in law enforcement and municipal technology are creating new frontiers in § 1983 litigation. This session will explore how courts are beginning to address constitutional claims arising from tools such as facial recognition, automated license plate readers, predictive policing algorithms, and mass data collection systems. It will include an analysis of emerging issues under the Fourth Amendment and due process frameworks, including questions of reasonable expectations of privacy, data retention, and algorithmic decision-making. The discussion will also cover practical considerations for municipalities adopting new technologies, including policy development, vendor relationships, and risk mitigation strategies.	Rachel Heintz & Eric Atstupenas

Thursday – July 30, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Eastern	Law Enforcement Force Recordings: Avoiding Landmines and Identifying and Pre-Neutralizing Media and Others' Misuse This webinar will examine law enforcement use of force and media recordings, including media contamination and exaggeration, rules of law enforcement force-incident recordings including Scott v. Harris (2007), human factors versus media recordings, God's Eye Fallacy, recordings and reasonableness in the moment, not 20/20 vision of hindsight, and others.	Mike Brave
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Eastern	Section 1983 and Real Property: Litigating an allegation of a Takings Clause Violation The Supreme Court's focus on property rights in the last 2 decades has created a cottage industry in seeking to further expand Takings Clause jurisprudence in favor of businesses. Understanding how to review, attack, and defend such a case is an absolute must for local government lawyers. This session will examine a hypothetical	Chris Balch

	complaint, develop a litigation strategy, and provide a framework of defense in depth to the claims. We will explore procedural, substantive, and factual defenses and discuss strategies for when to make what argument(s), what to leave for discovery and summary judgment, and how to develop your record so that you have the facts and evidence you need to convince a jury that not only is there no fire in the Plaintiff's allegations, but the smoke they rely upon is illusory and reflective.	
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Eastern	First Amendment Auditors	Nancy Rodgers & Jenna Roth

Last Updated: 06/15/26. Please note the agenda is tentative and subject to change.