

The Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers  
**63RD ANNUAL SEMINAR**



Des Moines Marriott Downtown  
**FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2025**

**Thursday, February 27**

7:30 AM | **Registration Opens**  
All sessions will be held in Des Moines Room

7:55 AM | **Welcome**  
Des Moines Room  
Des Moines Marriott Downtown  
700 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309

8:00 AM | **Challenges Facing District Court and Best Practices for Pre-Trial Motions, Voir Dire, Openings, Direct and Cross Examinations, and Closings | PANEL**  
Chief Judge Lars G. Anderson | Judicial District Six  
Chief Judge Craig M. Dreismeier | Judicial District Four  
Chief Judge Myron Gookin | Judicial District Eight  
Chief Judge Michael Huppert | Judicial District Five  
Chief Judge Adria A. Kester | Judicial District Two  
Chief Judge Henry Latham | Judicial District Seven  
Chief Judge Kellyann Lekar | Judicial District One  
Chief Judge Patrick H. Tott | Judicial District Three

9:00 AM | **Using Jury Consultants and Mock Trials to Evaluate cases & Prepare For Trial**  
Jeff Goodman, Esq. | Des Moines  
John A. Jarvey, Esq. | Des Moines

9:45 AM | **Using AI to Manage, Evaluate and Prepare for Trial**  
Tim Semelroth, Esq. | Cedar Rapids

10:15 AM | **BREAK**

10:30 AM | **Preparing and Representing Witnesses at Deposition and Trial**  
John C. Gray, Esq. | Sioux City

11:00 AM | **Update from the Iowa Court of Appeals, Including the New Appellate Rules**  
Chief Judge Mary Tabor | Iowa Court of Appeals

11:30 AM | **Iowa Supreme Court Update**  
Chief Justice Susan Christensen | Iowa Supreme Court

12:00 PM | **Adjourn for Lunch**

**Thursday, February 27**

1:00 PM | **Appellate Case Review**  
Dana W. Hempy, Esq. | Des Moines

1:30 PM | **Brief Writing and Oral Argument**  
Justice Tom Waterman | Iowa Supreme Court

2:15 PM | **Current Criminal Law Issues for Trial from the Prosecutor's Perspective**  
Nan Horvat, Esq. | Polk County Attorney  
Laura Roan, Esq. | Asst US Attorney, Senior Litigator, Southern District of Iowa  
Olu Salami, Esq. | Assistant Polk County Attorney  
Lisa C. Williams, Esq. | U.S. Attorney's Office - Northern District of Iowa

3:00 PM | **BREAK**

3:15 PM | **Current Criminal Law Issues for Trial from the Defense Perspective**  
Guy R. Cook, Esq. | Des Moines  
Melanie Keiper, Esq. | Federal Public Defender Office, Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa  
Leon F. Spies, Esq. | Iowa City  
Mark E. Weinhardt, Esq. | Des Moines

4:00 PM | **Legal Ethics in 2025**  
Tre Critelli, Esq. | Office of Professional Regulation  
Tara Van Brederode | Office of Professional Regulation

5:00 PM | **Legislative Update**  
James W. Carney, Esq. | Des Moines

6:00 PM | **Cocktail Hour**  
3rd Floor Foyer

7:00 PM | **Banquet**  
Hall of Cities

**12.5 Hours of CLE applied for, including:**  
1 Ethics Hour  
1 Wellness Hour

**Friday, February 28**

8:00 AM | **Damages — Evaluate for Settlement and Presentation at Trial | PANEL**  
Joseph L. Fitzgibbons, Esq. | Estherville  
Nicole Graziano, Esq. | Des Moines  
Karen Lorenzen, Esq. | Iowa City  
Jennifer Rinden, Esq. | Cedar Rapids  
Eashaan Vajpeyi, Esq. | Waterloo

8:45 AM | **Opening Statements and Closing Arguments in Civil Jury Trials**  
Amanda Richards, Esq. | Davenport  
Brian Galligan, Esq. | Clive

9:15 AM | **Depositions of and Examining Experts at Trial**  
Erik Bergeland Esq. | Des Moines  
Adam Zenor, Esq. | Des Moines

9:45 AM | **Employment Law Issues**  
Nathan Borland, Esq. | Des Moines  
Kevin Visser, Esq. | Cedar Rapids

10:15 AM | **BREAK**

10:30 AM | **Update from the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa**  
Chief Judge Stephanie M. Rose | U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa  
Chief Judge C.J. Williams | U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa

11:15 AM | **Eighth Circuit Civil Case Law Update, and Hot Topics for Internal Investigations and Grand Jury Subpoenas**  
David C. Waterman, Esq. | Davenport

11:45 AM | **Attorney Wellness: PANEL**  
Hugh Grady | Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program  
Luke D. Guthrie, Esq. | Waterloo  
Dan Moore, Esq. | Sioux City  
Mike Reilly, Esq. | Council Bluffs

12:45 PM | **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOWA ACADEMY MEMBERSHIP**