

Legal Aid of Arkansas

Fall Statewide Legal Aid Conference Agenda

Dates: October 14-16, 2026

Location: Comfort Inn & Suites Presidential, Little Rock, Arkansas

Day 1 – Wednesday, October 14th

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Registration

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM | Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speakers: Caleb Conrad, Chief of Staff / Lee Richardson, Executive Director

Overview of conference goals, schedule, and housekeeping notes

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM | Presentation (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): How Trauma Impacts Engagement with the Legal System

Speaker: Dr. Allison B. Smith, PhD., Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM | Break *(Coffee, Water, Soda Available All Breaks)*

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM | Workshop (1.5 Hours CLE)

Topic: Innovating Justice: How AI Harms Low-Income Communities

Speakers: Kevin De Liban, President & Founder, TechTonic Justice; Ryan Davis, Arkansas Organizing Director, TechTonic Justice

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM | Break

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM | Vendor Presentation

Topic: Mutual of America Retirement Accounts

Speaker: Sunshine Bourque, Client Relationship Manager, Mutual of America

Legal Aid of Arkansas Night at Lost Forty Brewing Company Taproom

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Food, drink, prizes, and fun!

Day 2 – Thursday, October 15th

6:45 AM – 8:30 AM | Breakfast Buffett & Networking

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | Pro Bono Panel (1.5 Hours CLE)

Topic: The Current State of Pro Bono Services in Arkansas and the U.S.

Speakers: Casey Copeland, Pro Bono Director, Legal Aid of Arkansas; Aili Monahan, Director of Pro Bono, Northeast New Jersey Legal Services; Ellie Tinsley, Pro Bono Coordinator at Montana Legal Services Association; Douglas F. Carey, Director of Pro Bono Programs, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Andy Cole, Pro Bono Managing Attorney, West Tennessee Legal Services

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM | Break

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | Housing Presentation (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Neighborhood Advocacy: Legal Tools for Addressing Vacant and Abandoned Properties

Speakers: Brittany Hubbard, Senior Staff Attorney, Neighborhood Advocacy, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri; Kendall Lewellen, Fair Housing Director, Legal Aid of Arkansas

11:10 AM – 11:20 AM | Break

11:20 AM – 12:20 PM | Domestic Justice Presentation (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Wraparound Services for Domestic Violence Victims

Speakers: Barbara Mariani, Legal Counsel, Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV); Beth Sanders, Executive Director, ACADV; Angela McGraw, Chief Executive Officer, Women & Children First

12:20 PM- 1:30 PM | Lunch & Awards

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Consumer Presentation (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Attorney General Consumer Law Update

Speakers: Lydia H. Hamlet, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Arkansas Attorney General's Office; Jordan Nykaza, Assistant Attorney General, Arkansas Attorney General's Office

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM | Break

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Workgroup Overview and FAQs (1.0 CLE)

Topic: Working Smarter with Lexis Protégé: AI-Powered Legal Research and Practice

Speakers: Krista Carter, LexisNexis

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM | Workgroup Meetings

Released for the Day! Enjoy Little Rock!

Day 3 – Friday, October 16th

6:45 AM – 8:30 AM | Breakfast Buffett & Networking

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Workshop (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Legal Aid's Partnership with Arkansas Access to Justice

Speaker: Abby Brenneman, Executive Director, Arkansas Access to Justice

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM | Break

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM | Workshop (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Technology Tips and Tricks for Stress Free Legal Aiding

Speaker: Joel Tanner, Technology Director, Legal Aid of Arkansas

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Workshop (1.0 Hours CLE)

Topic: Actually, You CAN Do That! LSC Regulations and How to Stay Compliant but Not Quiet

Speaker: Chris Buerger

Released for the Weekend! Thank you for participating!