

2026 Bench & Bar® Conference Agenda (Revised 3/16/26)

Wednesday, June 17 – Saturday, June 20, 2026
The Boca Raton | Boca Raton, FL

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Mock Argument Reception (Invite Only)**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

12:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET **Bench & Bar® Conference Registration**

Mock Argument **(Open to Mock Argument Participants Only)**

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM ET **Mock Argument Check-in**

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM ET **Mock Argument First Round**

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM ET **Mock Argument Break**

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM ET **Mock Argument Second Round**

3:20 PM – 3:30 PM ET **Mock Argument Closing Remarks**

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM ET **Advocate Photos**

Welcome Reception

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Plenary

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM **General Attendee Breakfast**

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM **Court Advisory Council Breakfast (Invite Only)**

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM **Welcoming Remarks**

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Plenary

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM

State of the Court

Remarks from the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Plenary

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Federal Circuit Perspectives – In keeping with long-standing Bench and Bar® tradition, the incoming President of the Federal Circuit Bar Association® will moderate a panel discussion of active Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Topics will include best practices in a variety of relevant areas, and other significant procedural and practical views from the Bench. This is the bar’s opportunity to hear from the Judges about their views, likes, and dislikes, outside of the context of particular cases.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Networking Break

Parallel Tracks

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Roles of Court and Jury: EcoFactor & Beyond – Examining evolving boundaries between judges and juries in patent cases, including damages, infringement, and validity determinations, with discussion of *EcoFactor v. Google*, *Willis Electric v. Polygroup*, *Optis v. Apple*, *Duke v. Sandoz*, *Seagen v. Daiichi*, and *Range of Motion Products, v. Armaid*.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Litigation Funding: Courts, Counsel, and Capital – Exploring litigation funding across technology and pharmaceutical sectors, including transparency, ethics, judicial scrutiny, and impacts on innovation.

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Networking Break

Plenary

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

High Profile Cases and How to Manage Them (Ethics) – Featuring perspectives from the Bench and Bar, this panel will address topics such as dealing with the media and publicity, and safety and security issues, particularly in high-profile and politicized legal scenarios (e.g. Supreme Court cases, tariff disputes, government shutdowns).

Plenary

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Fireside Chat with USPTO Director John Squires

Moderator:

- Corey Salsberg, President, Federal Circuit Bar Association®
| Vice President, Global Head IP Affairs, Novartis

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Federal Circuit Bar Association® Annual Meeting

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6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Reception

7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Dinner | Keynote Speaker: TBA

Friday, June 19, 2026

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM

FCBA 2026 Annual 5K Fund Run/Walk Classic

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

General Attendee Breakfast

7:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Bench & Bar® Conference Registration

Plenary

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

U.S. Supreme Court Review – This panel of experienced Supreme Court advocates will discuss recent highlights and trends in Supreme Court jurisprudence in areas of relevance to the Federal Circuit community.

Parallel Tracks

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Developments in Alternative Dispute Resolution – Exploring the latest developments in ways to resolve complex, commercial disputes outside of litigation.

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Legislation & Policy: Separating Signal from Noise – Examining current IP legislation and policy initiatives, addressing trends and narratives, and evaluating impacts on innovation, stakeholders, and the IP system.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Networking Break

Parallel Tracks

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Emergency Tariffs and Executive Power & ITC Section 337 Practice – This panel offers insights on (1) managing refunds, the pivot to other tariff tools, risk controls after the Supreme Court’s review of International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), and (2) Section 337 developments, focusing on domestic industry post *Lashify*.

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Higher Education, Innovation, and the Law – Addressing the current legal environment around higher education and government contracts, including grant termination disputes, Bayh–Dole issues, executive orders affecting royalty sharing, and implications for innovation ecosystems.

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11:45AM – 11:55 AM	Networking Break
11:55 AM – 12:55 AM	<u>PTAB: Where Are We Now?</u> – Addressing changes in AIA trial procedures and proceedings before the PTAB, and resulting trends and impact on litigation strategy, including before the USPTO, district courts and appeals.
11:55 AM – 12:55 PM	<u>Hot Topics in Administrative Law and Agency Review</u> – Covering key issues in Administrative Law, including APA and agency review, developments in agency appointment and employment cases, procedural challenges, best practices for advocates, and veterans-related topics.
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Friday Night Poolside (Families Welcome)
Saturday, June 20, 2026	
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	General Attendee Breakfast
<u>Plenary</u>	
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	<u>Reviewed Adjudicators</u> – Within our Federal Circuit community, there are many judges that serve on the front lines of the administration of justice. Their thoughtful resolutions of disputes within specific subject areas reviewed by the Federal Circuit give rise to the law that we use to advise our clients and litigate cases. We invite you to join this distinguished panel as they provide their perspectives on the challenges they face, the issues that they see arise lately within their jurisdiction, and best practices for use in appearing before them.
9:30 AM – 10:30 PM	<u>Sports, Brands, and Intellectual Property</u> – Addressing trademarks, licensing, enforcement, and global disputes involving sports leagues, teams, and brands.
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Networking Break
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	<u>Florida IP Litigation & Regional Innovation</u> – Examining IP activity in Florida, including trademark practice in the Southern District of Florida, patent litigation trends, and university technology transfer.
11:45AM – 12:45 PM	<u>AI Ethics/Special CLE Credit Panel</u> – This panel will explore the challenges with the use of AI.
12:45 PM – 12:50 PM	<u>Closing Remarks</u>