

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

The first-ever “Introduction to Consumer Law” one-day pre-conference intensive is intended for both new attorneys and those with more experience who are relatively new to the practice of consumer law. Join a cohort of colleagues to get off to a great start – of both the 2023 CRLC, and your career in consumer law – with sessions and case studies focused on issue spotting, case selection, working with clients, building your case, identifying partnerships and resources, and more. The lessons you learn and the relationships you make will provide a strong foundation for continued growth and success as a consumer champion!

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Both new lawyers and new-to-consumer law lawyers

FACILITATORS:

NCLC & NACA

Shennan Kavanagh, *Senior Attorney, incoming Director of Litigation at NCLC*

Andrea Bopp Stark, *Senior Attorney at NCLC*

Odette Williamson, *Senior Attorney and Director, Racial Justice
and Equal Economic Opportunity Project at NCLC*

Katie Eelman, *Marketing, Sales & eCommerce Manager at NCLC*

Ira Rheingold, *Executive Director at NACA*

Christine Hines, *Legislative Director at NACA*

Practicing Attorneys

Stacy M. Bardo, *Bardo Law, P.C.*

Loraine Martinez Bellamy, *Connecticut Fair Housing Center*

Christina L. Henry, *Henry & DeGraaff, P.S.*

John O’Neal, *O’Neal Law Office*

MAIN SESSION SUBJECTS:

1. WELCOME TO CONSUMER LAW / OVERVIEW

9:00 - 10:30 AM / 90 MINUTES

- Overview of consumer law history, principles, and significance
- The Pillars of Consumer Law: Guiding principles that cut across the field, including disclosure, conduct, process, and more.
- Disparate Impact / Racial Injustice issues and considerations
- Understanding essential resources with NACA and NCLC and how to make the best use of them in your practice

2. ORIGINATING A CONSUMER LAW CASE / CASE STUDIES

10:45 AM - 12:45 PM / 2 HOURS

Learn how to interview a client, identify issues that give rise to consumer law causes of action, and select strong cases that will achieve your client's desired outcomes through the use of consumer-focused case studies and group discussions.

3. BUILDING A CONSUMER LAW CASE / CASE STUDIES

1:45 - 3:45 PM / 2 HOURS

Learn how to identify essential documents and information needed to draft a successful complaint including what you need from your client and what research you must do to develop legal theories that will withstand dispositive motions. Discuss how to develop strategies and relationships to resource the case.

4. LEGAL PRACTICE TIPS EVERY LAWYER SHOULD KNOW

4:00-5:00 PM / 1 HOUR

You learned how to spot the issues, build a case, and secure the evidence to start litigation. What's next? In this session, a panel of experienced consumer law attorneys who practice in private firms and legal aid will share what they have learned to be successful in and outside the office. The panel will discuss important tips including how to decide what type of practice is right for you, how to connect and collaborate with more experienced attorneys, what systems are helpful for organizing your work, how to deal with difficult opposing counsel, how to take care of yourself in the process, and more. Feel free to speak up to ask questions and add comments throughout the session!

5. RECEPTION

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM