

15th Annual OBI Conference
Embassy Suites Centennial Olympic Park
Atlanta, Georgia
October 3-5, 2018

Tuesday, October 2, 2018:

4:00-5:00 Board Meeting: Open to the Public, Location

4:00-5:00 (Optional pre-registration)

5:30-6:30 Meet & Greet Welcome Reception

Wednesday, October 3, 2018:

6:00-8:30 Embassy Suites Complimentary Breakfast

7:30-8:30 Registration

8:30-9:00 Welcome Statements

- OBI President: Michelle Burton
- Chief Bar Counsel – State Bar of Georgia: Paula Fredrick
- Georgia Supreme Court Justice: Harold Melton
- CEO, State Bar of Georgia: Jeff Davis
- Attendee introductions

9:00-10:15 UPL Strategies and Case Study(ies)

- Steve Kaczowski, Director, State Bar of Georgia Unauthorized Practice of Law section, will discuss UPL investigations, Georgia's UPL statute, elements of proof and associated criminal charges which may result from UPL cases.

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Immigration Fraud

- Detective Nermin Cultravik, an immigrant from the Socialistic Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, who serves with the Gwinnett County Police Department, will discuss his investigative experiences involving immigration fraud committed by non-attorneys under the guises of serving as churches or schools. Detective Cultravik will also address the unique challenges involved when investigating cases where the applicants/victims are fearful of cooperating due to their status and/or threats made against them.

11:30-1:00 Lunch, OBI Hosted

- Keynote Speaker, Jim Grogan, Deputy Administrator, Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, “Developments in Attorney Discipline”

1:00 -2:30 Receiverships

- Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel and Matthew Montahan will discuss appointments in receiverships and potential related problems.

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-4:30 Perils and Risks of Representing Controversial Clients

- Attorney Mark Shelnett will discuss the temptations and dangers of representing controversial clients with access to drugs, money, women, etc., and how an attorney’s reputation could be questioned or affected by those representations.

5:30-7:00 Embassy Complimentary Evening Reception

7:00-9:00 State Bar of Georgia Sponsored Social Event

Thursday, October 4, 2018:

6:00-8:00 Embassy Complimentary Breakfast Buffet

8:00-9:00 Money Laundering

- Paula Fredrick, General Counsel, State Bar of Georgia will discuss how money laundering is on the rise. The Panama and Paradise Papers and recent criminal prosecutions show us that lawyers can be used, innocently or otherwise, to facilitate their client’s criminal activity. Lawyer disciplinary authorities are facing pressure from Congress and international groups to do more to prevent this conduct. What do money laundering cases look like, and how should Bar investigators handle them? This program will highlight investigative techniques for cases in which a lawyer’s failure to conduct client due diligence resulted in client money laundering. Ms. Fredrick will also discuss current developments and anti-money laundering initiatives domestically and globally, and address possible approaches to further limit the risk to lawyers when clients seek to use their services for nefarious purposes.

9:00-9:15 Break

9:15-10:00 Trust Accounting Auditing and Financial Analysis (Panel Discussion)

- Kelly Dillon (MO), Marni Sowell (MT) and Angelique Mundt (IL) will offer methods of trust account auditing and discuss “misappropriation” vs. an accidental “oops,” interesting and sneaky tricks they have seen and testifying in conversion cases.

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:45 Trust Accounting Auditing and Financial Analysis (Panel Discussion, Continued)

11:45-1:00 Lunch, OBI Hosted

1:00-3:00 Attorney Wellness

- Brian Cuban, Texas attorney, author & addiction recovery advocate and the younger brother of Mavericks’ owner, Mark Cuban, has been in long term recovery from alcohol, cocaine and bulimia since 2007. Mr. Cuban will share his personal story of how addiction affected his ability to practice law and his recovery. Brian will also share his insight on how the attorney disciplinary system may better serve those legal professionals who struggle with mental health and/or addiction issues.

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-4:00 Attorney Wellness, Continued

- Wolanda Shelton, Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Georgia, will present, “Lawyer Well-Being: It Takes A Village.” The legal profession is increasingly competitive and stressful. Studies show that substance use, addiction and mental disorders - including depression and thoughts of suicide - often unrecognized, are occurring at shockingly high rates. Lawyer well-being must be prioritized in order to build a more sustainable profession. Bar investigators, like all sectors of the legal community, can contribute to improving attorney wellness with knowledge of the following topics:
 - Current trends among lawyers related to substance use, addiction and mental health issues;
 - Self-referrals and lawyer discipline;
 - Disciplinary actions: the role of substance abuse, addictions and mental disorders;
 - Licensure Reinstatements: surviving disciplinary action; and
 - Work culture and the commitment to well-being issues.

4:00-5:00 Character and Fitness

- Leigh Burgess, Assistant Grievance Counsel, State Bar of Georgia, having worked as a lawyer with Georgia's Office of Bar Admissions prior to joining the Office of General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia, will discuss the character and fitness investigation that is required of all law school graduates seeking to become licensed as attorneys. She will focus on the components of the investigation, tools used by investigators, and the manner in which information is shared with other jurisdictions. Additionally, she will address the specific issues in an application that may trigger a more in-depth investigation, the avenues the investigation can take when a concern is discovered, and the potential outcomes for an applicant in problematic cases. Also addressed will be the route back to bar membership for those who have been disbarred or who surrendered their license in the past.

5:30-7:00 Embassy Complimentary Evening Reception

7:00-9:00 Banquet Dinner

Friday, October 5, 2018:

6:00-8:30 Embassy Complimentary Breakfast

8:30-9:30 National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)

- Carl Bocchicchio, Special Agent, NICB, will discuss tracking individuals and using the Insurance Services Office (ISO) data base.

9:30-9:45 Break

9:45-11:00 Open Forum Among Conference Attendees

- OBI members/conference attendees will have an opportunity to discuss cases and investigative scenarios. This will also be an opportunity to discuss issues unique to disciplinary investigators and obtain feedback about any topic that is important to OBI members.

11:00-11:15 Reflection and Closing Remarks