



The Barristers Annual Meeting Committee Presents

Barristers Annual Leadership and Skills Summit

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | MCLE Registration

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | MCLE: 1 Hour

Panel I: Barrister to Partner

Navigating Bias and Building Your Path

Speakers

Mark Punzalan, Chan + Punzalan
Tiseme Zegeye, Lieff Cabraser
Grace Yang, Conrad Metlitsky Kane

Moderator

Annie Wanless, Lieff Cabraser

This panel brings together diverse partners from across the legal profession to discuss the realities of rising through the ranks at a law firm, from associate to partnership, and the barriers that still stand in the way for many attorneys.

Topics:

- How to transition from lawyer to partner and build a book of business
- What it takes to secure more senior roles, beyond just practicing law
- The differences between equity and non-equity partnership and what each role demands
- How gender and racial bias continue to affect underrepresented attorneys on the path to partnership
- Practical advice for associates and junior partners aspiring to rise through the ranks

1:00 - 2:15 p.m. | MCLE: 1 Hour

Panel II: Barristers to Founder

Opening Your Own Firm and the Technology Behind It

Speakers

Amber Bissell, The Law Offices of Amber Lee Bissell
James Owens, Owens Defense
Jacqueline Simonovich, Benedicto & Simonovich

Moderator

Evan Ettinghoff, Minnis & Smallets

This panel brings together barristers who have made the leap to opening their own firms, and will share what that transition actually looked like, including the decisions, the risks and the technology that made it possible to run a practice.

Topics:

- Making the leap: Why and when each panelist decided to leave and start their own firm, and how technology changed the calculus of what's possible to run solo
- The tech stack: client intake and payment processing, practice management and CRM, marketing and client communication, AI applications and billing/accounting/time tracking and how to evaluate against practice needs
- Technology and client development: how to use tools to build a client base and generate referrals, and what's transferable versus firm-specific
- Lessons learned in hindsight and what panelists would do differently

Committee Chair

Evan Ettinghoff, Minnis & Smallets

Register at www.sfbar.org/calendar

September 16, 2026

MCLE Registration 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

In-Person Program 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In-Person Reception 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

MCLE: 2 Hours

To receive MCLE credit, you must sign in during the designated MCLE registration period. This activity is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California. BASF is a certified provider. Provider #103

Cost

FREE BASF Law Student
\$10 Barristers Club Members
\$50 BASF Member
\$100 All Others

All prices increase \$10 on the day of the program.

Pre-registration is required.



Virtual

Register online for the Zoom links to the individual sessions

Thank You to Our Sponsor



Event Code: B267320