THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Business Law Section presents

The Business Law Section Symposium – 2026

POSTPONED as of 11/02/2026 to TBD



This year's upcoming symposium, the Section will bring together legal professionals to examine timely developments and emerging trends in business law.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.| MCLE: 1 Hour

Panel I: Sports Betting and Prediction Markets

Sports Betting, Prediction Markets, and the Shifting Line Between Them: Navigating a New Frontier

Sports betting legalization has created a fast-moving state regulatory patchwork, while prediction markets are testing what counts as a regulated wager. This panel examines federal and state frameworks, licensing and compliance, and the commercial opportunities and risks for operators, platforms, and their counsel.

Topics

- The panel will examine the current state of sports betting legalization and the fast-moving regulatory patchwork across states
- Panelists will review federal and state regulatory frameworks, including licensing and ongoing compliance obligations for operators and platforms
- The discussion will explore how prediction markets such as Kalshi and Polymarket are testing the line between regulated event contracts and gambling
- Panelists will consider the jurisdictional tension between federal and state regulators and what it means for market participants.

Speakers

Dennis M.P. Ehling, Blank Rome
Michael McGinnis, United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee

Moderator

Wilson Hall, Momentum Legal

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. | MCLE: 1 Hour

Panel II: M&A Playbook: Dealmaking Across Industries

A Practitioner-Level Assessment of Current M&A Trends, Deal Structures, and Negotiation Strategies

This panel walks through the full deal lifecycle, from LOI through post-closing integration, with a focus on issues arising in today's market. Panelists will also address considerations unique to transactions involving sports franchises and related assets.

Topics

- The panel will cover the full deal lifecycle, from LOI through post-closing integration
- Panelists will discuss key negotiation points at each stage, including diligence, deal structure, and definitive agreement terms
- The discussion will focus on issues arising in today's market and how they affect deal timing, valuation, and risk allocation
- Panelists will share practical lessons on closing mechanics and on avoiding common post-closing disputes.
- The panel will also address considerations specific to deals involving sports franchises and related assets, such as league approvals, ownership rules, and media and venue rights
- New revenue models and streaming rights

Speakers

Keenan McCullough, MP Law
Ethan Floyd, Deputy General Counsel, Blockstream

Moderator

Ellisha Blechynden, Venture Point Legal

Section Chair

Ellisha Blechynden, Venture Point Legal

Date

Wednesday
November 4, 2026

Schedule

MCLE Registration: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
In-Person Program: 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Reception Immediately to Follow: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

MCLE

3 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

Section Member	Free
BASF Member	$100
All Others	$325

*All prices increase $10 on the day of the program

Location

BASF Offices
50 Fremont Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA

Viewing Options

This is an In-Person only event, register at www.sfbar.org

Special Requests:
People with disabilities should contact BASF regarding reasonable accommodations at events@sfbar.org.

All are welcome, varying rates apply based on membership status.

Register at www.sfbar.org/calendar

Event Code: G260105

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4:30 - 5:30 p.m.| MCLE: 1 Hour

Panel III: The Evolving Arena of Collegiate and Professional Sports Law

Hear from Legal Leaders Shaping the Future of Sports Law, from the Pac-12 to the Pro Leagues.

This panel will provide critical, actionable insights directly from the legal leaders navigating today's most complex sports law challenges. As both professional franchises and collegiate conferences face a shifting landscape of legal challenges, understanding the evolving dispute resolution and regulatory compliance models is essential for practitioners in an increasingly diverse range of areas. This session will provide a comprehensive look at the high-stakes legalities governing the operational and strategic shifts required to effectively counsel high-profile sports organizations through unprecedented industry transformation.

Topics

- Emerging challenges facing in house legal counsel of pro teams and college conference
- Evolving dispute resolution mechanisms
- Changing landscape of antitrust and labor standards
- Stadium infrastructure and local governance management
- Global brand expansion and regulatory compliance
- Data privacy and emerging technologies
- New revenue models and streaming rights

Speakers

Amy Tovar, Chief Legal Officer, SF Giants
Scott Petersmeyer, Chief Legal Officer, Pac-12 Conference
Rhean Fajardo, Deputy General Counsel, Athletics and San Jose Earthquakes

Moderator

Eva Schueller, Illovsky Gates & Calia

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Reception Immediately to Follow

Section Chair

Ellisha Blechynden, Venture Point Legal

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