

BROCHURE

Ojai



OJAI VALLEY INN • OJAI, CA • MARCH 6–10, 2024



International Academy of Trial Lawyers
2024 Annual Meeting

President's Message

Dear Academy Family and Friends,

Steve and I look forward to welcoming you to the IATL 2024 Annual Meeting at the Ojai Valley Inn! We are in for a special experience at this beautiful sanctuary. Nestled in the heart of the Topatopa mountains, this property offers not just an escape, but an extraordinary retreat. In addition to their world-class spa, the property has a wonderful array of activities including golf, tennis, pickleball, biking, hiking, cooking classes, wine tastings, and more. You are in for an unforgettable experience. Shannon Jordan, whom some of you met at the IATL Cal-a-Vie Meeting, will be back to share sessions on wellness and mindfulness. We have a great professional program, special entertainment and music lined up for a week of fun.

The theme of our Annual Meeting, "Justice Unleashed," will focus on our commitment to harnessing the transformative power of Justice. We will hear from prominent national speakers who's achievements are historic.

We invite you to join us in bringing family and friends to this special place. It is a perfect location for a spring break getaway or other special celebrations. We hope to see you there!

Warmest regards,

Kathleen Flynn Peterson
IATL President



Photo courtesy Ojai Valley Inn



Meeting Overview

Wednesday, March 6

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Admissions Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Foundation Trustees Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	New Fellow Reception
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Opening Reception

Thursday, March 7

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
TBD	Optional Excursions
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	International Relations Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	State, Province, and Country Chairs Committee Meeting Luncheon
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Executive Committee and Foundation Trustees
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Reception and Dinner <i>Join us for this reception and dinner followed by special entertainment.</i>

Friday, March 8

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.	Welcome & Induction of New Fellows
9:35 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Charlie Weiss & Lamar Johnson
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Senator Douglas Jones
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Dean's Address presented by Jim Roy
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Dean's Reception
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Optional Excursions
Evening	Dinner on Your Own with Optional Wine Dinner <i>Featuring wines from Fellow Tom Stolpman's family winery.</i>

Saturday, March 9

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Induction of New Fellows
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Justin Brooks
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Josh Koskoff
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Philip Gregory & Roger Sullivan
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	General Assembly
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	President's Reception
12:45 p.m.	Past Presidents' Luncheon (Invite Only)
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Optional Excursions
6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Closing Night Gala

Schedule subject to change.



Featured Speakers



Justin Brooks

Justin Brooks

Justin Brooks is a Professor of Practice at the University of San Diego School of Law where he teaches criminal procedure, directs an LL.M. Program in Comparative Law in Spanish, administers a national moot court program in Mexico, and coordinates the work of 35 innocence organizations in Latin America. He was the Founding Director of the California Innocence Project from 1999-2023 and under his direction the project freed 40 innocent people from prison (including former NFL player Brian Banks). He has been recognized several times by the Los Angeles Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California, and in 2010 and 2012, California Lawyer Magazine honored him with the “Lawyer of the Year” award. He was named “International Lawyer of the Year” by the California Bar International Section in 2020 and in the same year was named “Champion of Justice” by the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. He is the author of the only legal casebook devoted to the topic of wrongful convictions and the author of “You Might Go to Prison, Even Though You’re Innocent,” a book that details the causes of wrongful convictions based on his experience of more than three decades as a criminal defense attorney and innocence organization director. He is portrayed by Academy Award nominated actor Greg Kinnear in the feature film, “Brian Banks.”



Philip Gregory

Philip Gregory

Phil works both with his firm, the Gregory Law Group; and as Of Counsel to Our Children’s Trust. Prior to starting his firm, Phil was a partner with Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP. Phil’s practice emphasizes complex business, real estate, and environmental litigation. Phil has litigated a number of landmark cases, most recently as co-counsel in *Held v. Montana*. In 1976, Phil obtained his B.A. from Bowdoin College, graduating *magna cum laude*. In three years, Phil obtained his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law and his M.B.A. from Santa Clara University Leavey School of Business, graduating in 1980. Phil was Articles Editor for the Santa Clara Law Review, served on the Moot Court Honors Board, and represented the law school at the National Trial Competition. In 2018, Santa Clara Law School named Phil its Lawyer of the Year. Phil is a former past President of the Honorable William A. Ingram American Inn of Court. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Phil has written and lectured on such topics as climate change litigation, class actions, financial fraud, antitrust, expert witnesses, corporate compliance, ethics, and mediation. For example, Phil has lectured in person at the Faculty of Law at Oxford University and at the Hebrew University. Phil loves backpacking, vacationing in Maine, making Pinot Noir wine, and enjoying time with his grandchildren, Alice, Lincoln, and John Jr.



Lamar Johnson

Lamar Johnson

Lamar Johnson is a 2023 exoneree from St. Louis, Missouri. In October of 1994, Lamar was a 20-year-old father of two who was working and attending a local community college when he was arrested and charged with the murder of Markus Boyd. Boyd was shot on the front porch of his apartment by two masked gunmen. Despite no motive or any physical evidence connecting Lamar to the crime, Lamar was tried and convicted of Boyd’s murder and sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole based largely on a single eyewitness identification and a jailhouse informant.

While incarcerated, Lamar volunteered to help sick and elderly prisoners and worked as a transcriber for the blind and the visually impaired. All the while, Lamar diligently worked on his case, which ultimately led to confessions by the men who actually committed Boyd’s murder, an admission by the eyewitness that he had falsely identified Lamar, and documentation showing both that the eyewitness and the jailhouse informant had requested and received numerous deals and benefits that were never disclosed to the defense.

Lamar’s case received extensive press coverage and was featured on CBS’ 48 Hours. A rallying cry for Lamar’s supporters was: “Innocence alone is enough to free an innocent prisoner.” After the Supreme Court of Missouri answered that question with a resounding “no,” it took an innocence organization, three law firms, the Circuit Attorney, both chambers of Missouri’s legislature, and the Governor’s signature on a new law for Lamar to regain his deserved freedom.

After 28 years, Lamar walked out of the City of St. Louis Circuit Court on February 14, 2023, as a free man. He is now applying the same diligence to putting his life back together and figuring out life in 2024 as he did in proving his innocence.

Featured Speakers



Gordon Douglas Jones

Gordon Douglas Jones

Gordon Douglas Jones is an American attorney and politician who served as a United States Senator from Alabama between 2018 and 2021. On Capitol Hill, he quickly built a reputation as a well-regarded and effective legislator, passing more than two dozen bipartisan bills into law in just three years. He also established the annual tradition of a bipartisan reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" in the Senate chamber and has been an outspoken Southern voice in support of racial justice and equity.

He is a member of the Democratic Party, Jones was previously the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama from 1997 to 2001. It was while serving in this position that Senator Jones successfully prosecuted two of the four men responsible for the 16th street church bombings, finally getting justice for the four little girls after more than 30 years. Along with taking on the Ku Klux Klan, he prosecuted terrorists like Eric Rudolph, and many others who sought to use fear, hatred, and violence to inhibit the rights of others.



Josh Koskoff

Josh Koskoff

Josh represents the third generation of Koskoffs at Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder. Known for his dedication, compassion, and creativity, Josh brings a fresh and unique perspective to all his cases. Like his father and grandfather, Josh believes strongly in the role of the lawyer as a fighter whose sole purpose is to improve his clients' lives through the legal system. He views the law as working only when it works for all people and not just the powerful. His personal concern for the welfare of each of his clients has won their trust and devotion.

Josh has won substantial, record-setting medical malpractice and other verdicts throughout Connecticut and has also taken on powerful interests in cases with national implications. He recently achieved a historic settlement for 9 families of victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in a landmark case against the Remington Arms Company: the manufacturer and marketer of the assault rifle used to carry out the attack. The settlement of \$73 million was the entire amount of insurance available from the bankrupt company, and to date is the only settlement won against a gun manufacturer for a mass shooting in American history. A major component of the settlement was the right to release internal corporate documents obtained during the lawsuit to the public.

Josh also represented Sandy Hook families against controversial "conspiracy theorist" Alex Jones for his false claims that the Sandy Hook shooting was staged and that the families were actors. Last year, Josh and partners Chris Mattei and Alinor Sterling obtained a verdict in the case totaling almost \$1.5 billion — the largest verdict in Connecticut history, and the largest defamation verdict in American history.

In 2019, Josh filed another groundbreaking lawsuit against Harvard University on behalf of the Connecticut descendant of an enslaved father and daughter who were abused as part of a "scientific study" conducted by a racist Harvard scientist in 1850. Josh won another landmark legal decision when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court recognized for the first time that institutions have a legal duty to treat descendants of enslaved and indigenous people with respect and dignity. He also currently represents 80 women against Yale University in a sprawling drug diversion case that has attracted national attention and spawned the hit podcast series "The Retrievals" by Serial.

Regardless of whether it's a case of national importance, or it involves helping one family cope with catastrophic or life changing loss, Josh feels most rewarded fighting for his clients to try to help them have better and more satisfying lives.

Featured Speakers



James Parkerson Roy

James Parkerson Roy

James “Jim” Parkerson Roy is Senior Trial Counsel with the firm of Domengeaux Wright Roy & Edwards LLC in Lafayette, Louisiana. He primarily represents plaintiffs in the areas of maritime law, general personal injury and complex litigation. He is a 1976 LSU Law graduate and also earned an LLM (in Taxation) from Georgetown University Law School. He has been a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers since 2002 and is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. A past president of the Louisiana Association for Justice, he has also served as a member and Chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors and is currently the Chairman of the LSU Law Alumni Board of Trustees. He has been honored by the LSU Law School as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Jim is the current Dean of the Academy and a trustee of the IATL Foundation. He has an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell and has been named Lawyer of the Year five times by Best Lawyers in America for the Lafayette area. He has been a frequent CLE speaker for multiple organizations and has been a guest lecturer at LSU Law School on maritime law and the use of experts at trial. He has been recognized by the National Law Journal as Litigator of the Month and has appeared on CBS’ “60 Minutes.”

Jim and his wife Ginger are active in their community, having given major support to their church, Episcopal School of Acadiana, the LSU Foundation, the Tiger Athletic Foundation, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation, the Community Foundation of Acadiana, Hospice of Acadiana, Moncus Park and 232-HELP/211 (an area non-profit charity referral center connecting people and resources). Jim served as Chairman and President of 232-HELP for six years and was on its board for over forty years. Jim and Ginger live in Lafayette, Louisiana with their three Dalmatians. Their blended family of three sons and a daughter, five grandsons and two granddaughters also live in Lafayette. Jim can be reached at 337-278-7892 (cel) or jimr@wrightroy.com.



Roger Sullivan

Roger Sullivan

Roger’s legal career has focused on two objectives: securing justice for Montana’s workers and advocating for Montanans’ constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment. Roger has litigated a number of landmark cases in both fields, most recently as co-counsel in *Held v. Montana*. He has been named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Montana Trial Lawyers Association for his trial advocacy on behalf of Montana’s workers, and Conservationist of the Year by the Montana Environmental Information Center for his environmental advocacy in numerous cases. In 2022 Roger received MTLA’s Appellate Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for his successful advocacy on behalf of Libby mine workers and residents (*BNSF Railway Company v. Asbestos Claims Court*, 2020 MT 59). His clients have twice been honored with the Citizen’s Award by MTLA: the Advisory Committee for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Profit Sharing Class Action; and Libby Asbestos Victims for their successful efforts in the courts and in defeating corporate bailout legislation at the state and federal levels. Roger’s most recent law publication is the 2022 lead article in Volume 45 of the *Public Land Law Review*, co-authored with Nathan Bellinger and entitled “A Judicial Duty: Interpreting and Enforcing Montanans’ Inalienable Right to a Clean and Healthful Environment.”

Photos courtesy Ojai Valley Inn



Featured Speakers



Charles Weiss

Charles Weiss

Charlie Weiss is a partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner in its St. Louis office and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has also served as Chair of the American College's Access to Justice Committee and has been recognized by the American College as one of its Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows. Charlie is primarily engaged in commercial litigation and has appeared in more than 30 federal district courts around the country and cases before the United States Court of Appeals in the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, and Federal Circuits and in the United States Supreme Court.

Charlie has been active in the organized Bar and has served as President of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and The Missouri Bar. He also served in the ABA's House of Delegates for 25 years and on the ABA's Board of Governors and has served on the ABA Standing Committees on Law & National Security, Federal Judiciary, Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, Professionalism and IOLTA.

Charlie also has been actively involved in representing people on a pro bono basis who have been wrongfully convicted of crimes that they did not commit. He has obtained complete exoneration in five separate innocence cases for people who have been wrongfully convicted of murder and who had been serving long prison terms. Four of these cases have been the subject of national television programs including CBS 48 Hours, and On the Case with Paula Zahn, and also the subject of a documentary entitled, "The Past is Never Dead" on Amazon Prime TV.

Charlie has received a number of awards for his work including being named Lawyer of the Year in 2020 by Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Best Lawyer in St. Louis by St. Louis Riverfront Times in 2010, the Missouri State Public Defender Director's Award, the Foundation for Improvement of Justice Award, the Missouri Pro Bono Public Award, and the Midwest Innocence Project Award. He has also served on a number of charitable and community boards, including the Board of the Jefferson National Parks Association (the Arch and Old Courthouse in St. Louis), the United Way of Greater St. Louis, the Missouri National Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, Committeeman for the Boy Scouts of America, and President of the Notre Dame St. Louis Club.

Photos courtesy Ojai Valley Inn



Accommodations

Ojai Valley Inn

905 Country Club Rd.
Ojai, CA 93023
(855) 697-8780

[Click here](#) to view the room types and book your accommodations today. Note that you must book through the direct link since it's an exclusive buyout.

We will create unforgettable memories and encourage you to bring your family and friends to join this experience. We are excited to offer a 25% friends and family discount on the room rates.

Looking for a small firm retreat? We have private meeting space and would be happy to assist in arranging space. Please reach out to info@iatl.net to learn more.



Photos courtesy Ojai Valley Inn

Air Travel & Car Transportation

Please note that there are NO rideshare companies in Ojai. We recommend booking a car service or renting a car for transfers.

Ojai's car service recommendations:

- **Executive Limousine.** Be sure to state that you are with an Ojai Corporate Group to receive a discount!
 - (805) 658-7558; info@goexeclimo.com
- **Skyline Taxi**
 - (805) 500-3066; skyline-taxi.com

Car Rentals:

- [Santa Barbara Airport](#)
- [Los Angeles International Airport](#)

The two nearest airports to Ojai Valley Inn are Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which is a two-hour drive, and Santa Barbara Airport (SBA), which is a one-hour drive to the resort.

Book Your Spa Appointment Today!

[Click here](#) to learn more about services provided and book online.



Save the Dates

2024 MID-YEAR MEETING

Stein Ericksen Lodge Deer Valley, Park City, UT: August 14–18, 2024



Post Extension: Sundance Resort, August 18–20, 2024

2024 INTERNATIONAL MEETING: JAPAN

The Peninsula, Tokyo: October 18–21, 2024

The Ritz Carlton, Nikko: October 21–24, 2024

The Ritz Carlton, Kyoto: October 24–28, 2024



Post Trip Extension: Taipei, Taiwan, October 28–31, 2024

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Four Seasons Austin, Austin, TX: March 26–30, 2025

