

## **New Attendees' Guide to the NCBJ Annual Conference**

Attending NCBJ for the first time? There are multiple educational sessions, social events, fitness activities, tours, dinners, and other activities. It can be overwhelming, particularly your first time attending. We hope this guide provides you with the information you need to make the most out of your first (or third), NCBJ Annual Conference.

Here's what you need to know for Seattle 2024:

### **When is the Annual Conference?**

Tuesday, September 17 – Friday, September 20, 2024. Affiliate and added events start on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the NCBJ Conference officially kicking off on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Where is the Annual Conference?**

Hyatt Regency Downtown, Seattle, WA

### **How do I register for the Annual Conference?**

Go to <https://ncbj.org/annual-meeting/>. Please direct any questions about registration to ADG Team, at [team@ncbj.org](mailto:team@ncbj.org).

### **How do I book my hotel?**

Attendees will receive a link to make reservations at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Seattle with NCBJ's group rate in their confirmation email after they register for the conference.

### **When should I get there?**

We encourage you to arrive by either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, so you are there in time to attend the many other programs that begin midday Wednesday or the opening reception Wednesday night. The education programs kick into high gear on Thursday morning with the first plenary at 8:45 a.m.

### **When should I plan on staying until?**

The conference officially ends at noon on Friday, with an optional boat cruise that evening. There is some great educational programming on Friday morning (including a plenary Ethics session), and you don't want to miss the closing Plenary luncheon featuring award winning author Dahlia Lithwick.

### **Which educational programs should I attend?**

That's up to you! There are educational programs are all based upon a theme this year and include the ABLJ's Symposium on "The Role of Bankruptcy Law in the Legal System." The education committee is putting the final touches on the entire program, but there is always something for those involved in all types of cases.

Your registration for the NCBJ conference entitles you to attend and apply for CLE or CPT credit for all sessions sponsored by the NCBJ, ABI, AIRA, FBA and CLLA. You are also welcome to attend sessions sponsored by the ABA, but you will not be entitled to ABA's materials or to CLE credit unless you separately register and pay for the ABA programs when you register for the conference.

The American College of Bankruptcy (ACB) and International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) also provide educational programming. The IWIRC and ACB programs are separate and require separate registration and fees. In addition, this year there is a combined international program offered on Tuesday afternoon (separate registration required: <https://ncbj.org/civicrm/event/register/?cid=0&reset=1&id=13>).

There are also some "invitation-only" NCBJ programs, including the Appellate Program, the Next Generation Program, and the Blackshear Program. If invited to participate, you will receive separate communications about those programs.

### **Which social events should I attend?**

- **Emerging Young Professionals' Reception.** *Wednesday, September 18, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.* Participants from Appellate Skills, Next Gen, Blackshear, Just the Beginning, and first or second time NCBJ attendees, are invited to a "pre-Opening Reception" for emerging young professionals. This reception is intended to provide a smaller setting for young professionals to meet others, before the start of the big Welcome Reception.
- **NCBJ Welcome Reception.** *Wednesday, September 18, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.* This is the official opening cocktail reception for the NCBJ Annual Conference and held this year at the Mariners' Hit It Here Cafe, T-Mobile Park (bus transport provided). All judges, practitioners, and guests are invited and generally attend. It is a large event, but a great way to see everyone.
- **ABI Cocktail Reception.** *Thursday, September 19, 4:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.* All attendees are invited.
- **Late Night Party.** *Friday, October 13, 9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.* The Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones law firm provides an industry Late Night Party at NCBJ. Will kickoff this year right after the Judges' Dinner. Everyone is invited. Generally, it is an over-the-top affair with décor, cocktails, desserts, music, dancing, and surprises.

## How can I meet judges?

- **Judges Java and Coffee House.** *Thursday, September 19 and Friday, September 20.* Stop by at stations for coffee combined with an opportunity for judges and attendees to get to know each other.
- **Dine-Arounds:** Attendees were invited to join no-host dinners at various Seattle locations. At least one judge is assigned to each dinner. The Dine-Arounds have become popular dinners.

## How can I get to know other attendees?

Introduce yourself! Bankruptcy practitioners are generally a congenial group. That is certainly the case with attendees for this annual conference.

In addition, participants in NextGen, Blackshear, Just the Beginning, and Trial Skills will meet in smaller groups, providing an opportunity to begin introducing yourself and meeting other new attendees.

## What should I do for dinner?

Unless you attend a scheduled event, you are on your own for dinner. Many attendees like to get together with friends and acquaintances. The no-host Dine-Arounds, discussed above, are also good options.

## What should I wear?

The official dress code is “business casual.” Attendees generally dress business casual at the education programs.

## Are there any exercise opportunities?

All participants are invited to attend morning yoga, Zumba, and an annual 5K Run/walk.

- **Yoga.** *Thursday and Friday morning, at 6:30 a.m.*
- **Zumba.** *Wednesday and Thursday morning, at 6:30 a.m.*
- **Bernstein Burkley 5K Run/Walk.** *Friday morning, at 6:30 a.m.* Free annual fun run (or walk). Details will be emailed to all NCBJ registrants and will be available at the NCBJ Registration Desk.

## What off-site excursions can I sign up for?

If this packed schedule isn't enough for you, you can also sign up for any of the optional off-site tours, for an additional cost:

- **Seattle Glassblowing.** *Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (\$130.00)* Celebrate any special occasion with a one-of-a-kind experience at Seattle Glassblowing Studio! Guests will create a piece of glass art that is theirs to keep after the cooling period.
- **Pioneer Square Wine & Chocolate Tour.** *Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (\$130.00).* A charming and knowledgeable guide leads you on a tasty walking tour of Seattle's oldest neighborhood...learn about the history of Pioneer Square as you indulge in exclusive tastings and meet the makers of some of Seattle's top chocolate and wine: Browne Family Vineyards, Intrigue Chocolate Co., and Locus Wines.
- **Seattle City Highlights Tour Including Space Needle.** *Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (\$140.00).* Seattle is a cultural mecca where technology, nature, and the arts intersect to produce a rich tapestry of experiences. We've curated the quintessential Seattle experience into a three-hour intimate city tour that explores the many forces that have shaped the city from past to present. Your friendly guide keeps you entertained and informed with stories, facts, favorite places, and so much more.
- **Pike Place Market Food & Culture Tour.** *Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (\$80.00).* Join us on an intimate, guided food tour of the world-famous Pike Place Market as we explore the back alleys, narrow corridors, and tiny storefronts in search of our favorite places. Taste the best the market has to offer while a friendly local guide shares entertaining stories of the market's checkered history, its legendary characters, and one-of-a-kind small businesses with you.
- **Waterways Harbor Cruise** *Friday 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (\$100.00).* A Harbor Cruise is a unique and fun way to enjoy Seattle from the water! During this three-hour cruise, you'll see all of the beauty and history of the Emerald City. From the skyline to the shipping port, there are views and history everyone will enjoy. This cruise will include drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a gorgeous view of the iconic Mount Rainier.

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