

ABA TECHSHOW 2019

It Just Keeps Getting Better

By JoAnn L. Hathaway

ABA TECHSHOW 2019 is just around the corner. Now in its 33rd year, this ABA Law Practice Division event cannot be described; it must be experienced. Those who have attended in the past can attest to its unparalleled benefits. Read on to better understand why you and others in your practice should attend this tech-worthy conference.

TECHSHOW described

What exactly is ABA TECHSHOW?

It's three days of tech learning and much more, specifically designed for lawyers and legal professionals.

This event, launched in the 1980s, gets better each year. An EXPO Hall populated by more legal tech vendors than you can count (many with free giveaways), an ABA Law Practice Division bookstore with discounts, networking opportunities galore, and 16 tech topic tracks with 60 learning sessions make this an event you can't afford to miss.

Where, when, lodging

ABA TECHSHOW 2019 takes place February 27–March 2 at the Hyatt Regency Chi-

cago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601, (312) 565-1234, <https://tinyurl.com/yctxp6kmc>.

Although the window to get a special TECHSHOW room rate has passed, it's worthwhile to ask if the hotel has available rooms. Staying at the Hyatt allows easy access to the many TECHSHOW activities.

Tracks and sessions

The highlights of TECHSHOW are its 16 topic tracks and more than 60 learning sessions. Attendees never have a difficult time finding a subject of interest for their practices, with tracks such as Advanced IT, Choosing and Using, Core Technology, Cybersecurity, Future Proof, How To, Litigation, Mac, Process Management, Solo/Small Firm Trending Tech, and more.

Also included is the Academic Track, with programming developed specifically for law school faculty and staff interested in integrating technology and law-practice management into curriculums.

A relatively new entrant to TECHSHOW is the Beyond the Tech track, which helps attendees focus on a handful of important topics such as reputation management, the gig economy, and digital detox.

TECHSHOW will close its programming with the ever-popular, fast-paced tips program. This year, it's "60 in 60," combining the best of "60 Sites," "60 Tips," and "Gadgets and Gizmos" into a rollicking hour-long session featuring the latest in apps, work hacks, hot technologies, and more.

Faculty

TECHSHOW boasts a hand-selected faculty of 65 tech experts and thought leaders. Visit <https://www.techshow.com/faculty/> to view the full list and impressive bios for each faculty member.

Materials

One challenge of attending conferences is leaving with takeaway information to refer to and share with others in your practice. That's not a problem with TECHSHOW programming. Faculty members are required to submit detailed white papers pertaining to their speaking topics. These papers, often accompanied by PowerPoint presentations, are provided to attendees and are available for purchase for those who aren't able to attend TECHSHOW. These reference materials are invaluable resources for each of the 60 sessions.

Networking and social events

TECHSHOW communities

The TECHSHOW Board has made it easier than ever to identify and connect with your peers to exchange ideas, tips, tools, and resources. Legal technology experts and practicing attorneys lead discussions on various topics, and attendees can find specific community meetups and channels in the TECHSHOW app. Communities include:

- Business Law
- Canadian and International Lawyers
- Family Law
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Mac Lawyers
- Managing Partners
- Real Property
- Solo/Small Firms
- Trust and Estates
- Women Rainmakers
- Young Lawyers

Law Practice Solutions is a regular feature brought to you by the Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) of the State Bar of Michigan, featuring articles on practice management for lawyers and their staff. For more resources offered by the PMRC, visit our website at <http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/content> or call our Helpline at (800) 341-9715 to speak with JoAnn Hathaway or Diane Ebersole, Practice Management Advisors.

Startup competition

Back for the third year is the startup competition, showcasing 15 innovative legal startups. Just before Wednesday's Welcome Reception, the startups will face off in a pitch competition where TECHSHOW attendees vote for the most innovative of the group. The startups will also be featured in the EXPO Hall during regular TECHSHOW programming.

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception, located in the EXPO Hall, features great food and beverages, opportunities to meet vendors and TECHSHOW faculty, networking with fellow attendees, and an introduction to this year's TECHSHOW communities.

Taste of ABA TECHSHOW

Experience the best in Chicago dining at the Taste of ABA TECHSHOW. Sign up for dinner reservations at restaurants throughout the city; each meal centers on a specific technology topic and is hosted by an expert in that field.

Fitness challenges

Three straight days of programs can get you off kilter. Put some balance back in your life with yoga sessions, meditation, and Rocket Matter's third annual 5K run.

12-Step meetings

An open 12-Step meeting welcomes anyone attending the conference. Attendees are invited to share their experiences, strength, and hope in recovery.

Continuing legal education

The ABA directly applies for and ordinarily receives continuing legal education credit for 38 states and three U.S. territories. Some states do not approve a program for credit before it occurs.

Michigan is not a CLE state, but Michigan attorneys licensed to practice in other states may want to take advantage of these opportunities.

For more information about CLE accreditation for TECHSHOW attendance, contact

Lauren Krauth at (312) 988-5644 or lauren.krauth@americanbar.org.

Law Practice Division books

All full conference registrants will receive a \$10 voucher to use toward a book purchase from the ABA Law Practice Division. The division's booth is centrally located on the hotel's lower level in the heart of EXPO Hall. Peruse its many timely and innovative books focusing on practice management, marketing, finance, and technology.

Vendors

TECHSHOW'S EXPO Hall features legal technology service providers and product makers ranging from startups to longtime trusted brands. Enter with your TECHSHOW pass to get a first look at what's new and find real solutions that fit both your practice and your budget.

Pricing options

- Full conference (3 days)
 - Law Practice Division member \$850
 - ABA member \$950
 - Standard \$1,050
 - Paralegal \$650
 - Government/legal aid/law school faculty \$650
 - Law student \$100
- Single-day passes*
 - Thursday conference and EXPO \$395
 - Friday conference and EXPO \$395
 - Saturday conference only \$195

*Single-day registration prices may not be combined. Full registration includes access to all educational programs and the EXPO floor.

The price for continuing legal education materials is \$395. Admission to the EXPO Hall is free.

Registration is quick and easy at www.techshow.com

Early-bird registration has passed, but ABA members can join the Law Practice Division for \$50 and save \$100 on registra-

tion. To join, call (800) 285-2221, join online at www.lawpractice.org, or join when you register at www.techshow.com.

First Time Experience Guide

Once you've decided that attending TECHSHOW 2019 is a must, you might be wondering where to begin. The TECHSHOW Board has developed a *First Time Experience Guide* to help you navigate and get the most out of your experience. It's available at <https://www.techshow.com/conference/experience/>.

TECHSHOW afterglow

There's nothing like coming back to real life with what I call TECHSHOW afterglow—you're full of new ideas and creativity, and ready to make significant changes in your law practice. If you attend TECHSHOW alone, it can be difficult to share your experience with colleagues, which is why I recommend more than one person from your firm attend. Perhaps you and a key support staff member, firm administrator, or another attorney could tag-team the event. Everyone in your practice plays a different role with regard to technology, and pairing people with different roles to attend TECHSHOW can prove invaluable for your firm. Also, your TECHSHOW takeaway white papers can help bring those in the firm who did not attend up to speed on your recommendations based on your newly acquired tech knowledge.

Conclusion

For complete information on TECHSHOW 2019, visit <https://www.techshow.com/>. To discuss specific questions about TECHSHOW with a seasoned attendee, call State Bar of Michigan practice management advisor JoAnn Hathaway at (517) 346-6381. ■

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