



STATE BAR
OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7158, Madison, WI 53707-7158

35th Annual Institute of Trial Practice

CREDIT HOURS:

10 CLE credits

IN-PERSON SEMINAR:

Thursday, November 13, 2025 –
Pewaukee

LIVE WEBCAST:

Thursday, November 13, 2025

WEBCAST REPLAYS:

Friday, November 21, 2025
Thursday, November 27, 2025
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Monday, December 8, 2025
Saturday, December 13, 2025
Friday, December 19, 2025
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Monday, December 29, 2025
Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Monday, January 5, 2026
Thursday, January 11, 2026
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
Monday, January 26, 2026
Friday, January 30, 2026
Tuesday, February 3, 2026



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
PINNACLE

35th Annual Institute of Trial Practice



10 CLE

Program dates start November 13.
Register today!

35th Annual Institute of Trial Practice

Co-produced with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)



All rise for action

Nothing compares to the lessons of a live trial, but with fewer cases making it to court, opportunities to observe are rare. That's why the **35th Annual Institutes of Trial Practice (ABOTA)** brings the courtroom to you. Some of Wisconsin's top trial lawyers will present a full case before **Hon. Marc A. Hammer**, the Wisconsin ABOTA Chapter's Trial Judge of the Year. From opening statements through closing arguments, every move is explained by the lawyers as it happens. You'll also hear the reasoning behind the judge's decisions and peek inside the jury room for a rare look at how deliberations unfold and a verdict is reached.

Register now!

HOW YOU'LL BENEFIT

- Watch some of Wisconsin's leading trial lawyers demonstrate real-time courtroom advocacy techniques
- Learn strategies behind persuasive opening statements, effective witness examinations, and impactful closing arguments
- Hear insider judicial commentary as the judge explains his reasoning behind key rulings
- Go inside the decision-making process with an exclusive look at jury deliberations
- Come away with practical trial methods and insights you can apply directly to your practice
- Earn **10 CLE credits** in just one day!

FACULTY

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Amy M. Risseuw, Peterson, Berk & Cross, S.C., Appleton
Edward J. Vopal, Habush Habush & Rottier, S.C., Green Bay

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Michael P. Crooks, von Briesen & Roper, S.C., Madison

PRESIDING JUDGE

Hon. Marc A. Hammer, Brown County Circuit Court, Green Bay

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Craig A. Christensen, Habush Habush & Rottier, S.C., Appleton
Edward E. Robinson, Cannon & Dunphy, S.C., Brookfield
Frederick J. Strampe, Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen, S.C., Milwaukee
William R. Wick, Nash, Spindler, Grimstad & McCracken LLP, Waukesha

FOR THE PLAINTIFF

Christine Bremer Muggli, Bremer & Trollop, S.C., Wausau
Robert D. Crivello, Cannon & Dunphy, S.C., Brookfield
Christine Esser, Habush Habush & Rottier, S.C., Sheboygan
Robert J. Gingras (Captain), Gingras Thomsen & Wachs LLP, Madison
Patrick C. O'Neill, Pitman, Kalkoff, Sicola & Dentice, S.C., Milwaukee
Amy M. Risseuw, Peterson, Berk & Cross, S.C., Appleton

FOR THE DEFENDANT

Ann C. Emmerich (Alternate), Bell Moore & Richter, S.C., Madison
Sean M. Gaynor, Leib Knott Gaynor LLC, Milwaukee
Andrea P. Goode, Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen, S.C., Milwaukee
Timothy Michael Johnson, Great American Insurance Company, Eau Claire
Samuel J. Leib, Leib Knott Gaynor LLC, Milwaukee
Michael S. Murray, Kasdorf, Lewis & Swietlik, S.C., Milwaukee
Jeffrey T. Nichols (Captain), Crivello Nichols & Hall, S.C., Milwaukee

CREDITS

CREDIT HOURS: 10 CLE credits*

*This program will be submitted to the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners for 10 CLE credits. It does not qualify for EPR credit.

SCHEDULE

7:30 AM Registration

8:00 AM Introductory Remarks by ABOTA President
Laurence J. Fehring

8:05 AM Seat Jury/Remarks from Judge
Hon. Marc A. Hammer

8:10 AM Opening Statements
Plaintiff: Robert D. Crivello
Defense: Timothy Michael Johnson

8:50 AM Plaintiff Examination — Patrick Buckner (Plaintiff)
Direct Exam: Christine Esser
Cross Exam: Jeffrey T. Nichols

9:30 AM Plaintiff Examination — Brooks Pratt (Trucking Expert)
Direct Exam: Patrick C. O'Neill
Cross Exam: Samuel J. Leib

9:55 AM Panel Discussion
Edward E. Robinson, William R. Wick

10:10 AM Break

10:25 AM Plaintiff Examination — Bob (Robert) McKee (Accident Reconstruction Engineer)
Direct Exam: Christine Bremer Muggli
Cross Exam: Andrea P. Goode

11:00 AM Plaintiff Examination of Witness — Raymond Higgins (Peterson Transport Employee)
Direct Exam: Amy M. Risseuw
Cross Exam: Samuel J. Leib

11:35 AM Panel Discussion
Edward E. Robinson, William R. Wick

11:50 AM Lunch (on your own)

12:50 PM Defense Examination — Aaron Wright (Crash Expert)
Direct Exam: Michael S. Murray
Cross Exam: Amy M. Risseuw

1:20 PM Defense Examination – Chas (Charles) Baldwin (Crash Witness)
Direct Exam: Jeffrey T. Nichols
Cross Exam: Patrick C. O'Neill

1:50 PM Break

2:05 PM Defense Examination — Robb (Robert) Ibold (Reynolds Building Solutions Employee)
Direct Exam: Michael S. Murray
Cross Exam: Christine Esser

2:45 PM Defense Examination — Dave (David) Green (Reconstruction Engineer)
Direct Exam: Andrea P. Goode
Cross Exam: Christine Bremer Muggli

3:25 PM Panel Discussion
Craig A. Christensen, Frederick J. Strampe

3:35 PM Break

3:50 PM Instruct Jury

4:00 PM Closing Arguments
Plaintiff: Robert J. Gingras
Defense: Sean M. Gaynor

4:40 PM Panel Discussion
Craig A. Christensen, Frederick J. Strampe

4:55 PM Jury Deliberation

5:45 PM Verdict/Panel Discussion/Questions to Jury

6:05 PM Program Concludes

Following start time, schedule will vary slightly from above. All times are Central Time Zone.

CASE SYNOPSIS

This year's case involves a rollover trucking collision in which the plaintiff truck driver lost an arm. The crash occurred on a cloverleaf roadway known for rollover incidents. It is undisputed that the truck driver was traveling 10-12 miles per hour over the advisory speed at the time of the collision. The plaintiff contends the rollover was caused by a load shift resulting from improper loading. The defendant trucking company maintains that it followed the same loading procedures it has been using without incident for 50 years and that the truck driver was at fault for the rollover accident.

DATES & LOCATION

IN-PERSON SEMINAR — PEWAUKEE

Thursday, November 13, 2025
The Ingleside Hotel
 2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI
 (262) 547-0201

LIVE WEBCAST

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WEBCAST REPLAYS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR WORK IN SUPPORT OF THIS SEMINAR:



TUITION

	IN-PERSON	WEBCAST
State Bar Member	\$319	\$349
Nonmember	\$419	\$449
Ultimate Pass Gold/Silver	\$0	\$0
Ultimate Pass Bronze	\$319	\$0
Passbook Certificate	1 Certificate	1 Certificate

REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFO

ONLINE: wisbar.org/seminars

PHONE: (800) 728-7788

MAIL/FAX: Visit wisbar.org/regform for registration form



PINNACLE PASSBOOK REGISTRATIONS: PINNACLE Passbook certificates must be received by the State Bar at least one business day prior to the event. For in-person seminars, walk-in registrations using Passbook certificates are also welcome.

COURSE MATERIALS: Course materials are provided to seminar attendees in PDF format and are downloadable from *myStateBar* on wisbar.org up to two days prior to and 90 days after your seminar.

CANCELLATIONS: Please visit wisbar.org/cancellations for information on PINNACLE registration cancellation policies.

ACCOMMODATIONS: If you need special accommodations, please contact us at (800) 728-7788, ext. 6142 at least three weeks prior to the program date so we can make appropriate arrangements.

NOTICE: By attending this State Bar event, you understand and agree that you may be photographed and/or electronically recorded during the event and you hereby grant to the State Bar the right to use and distribute your name and likeness for promotional or educational purposes without monetary compensation. The State Bar assumes no liability for such use.

Event Code: CA3814 Priority Code: S4656B

ABOUT ABOTA

The Wisconsin ABOTA Chapter is sanctioned by the American Board of Trial Advocates, a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to protecting the right to a civil jury trial established by the U.S. Constitution. To qualify as a member, attorneys must be nominated by another member, achieve at least six years of active experience as a trial lawyer, and have tried at least ten jury trials to conclusion over the course of their careers.

Volunteer members of the Wisconsin ABOTA Chapter present and co-produce this seminar. Their commitment of time, talent, and energy in service to the bar is deeply appreciated.



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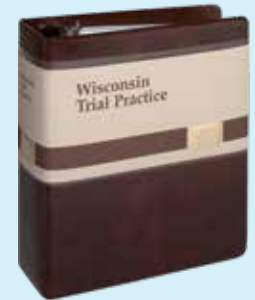
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Wisconsin Trial Practice

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ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Pretrial Techniques 2025

What persuades a judge before trial? Watch motion arguments play out in a mock courtroom and hear veteran litigators explain their strategies, complete with real-time rulings and candid judicial feedback. You'll leave with actionable tips to improve your motion practice.

CREDITS: 4 CLE | **WEBCAST REPLAYS:** Nov. 11, 2025 | Nov. 21, 2025 | Nov. 26, 2025
Dec. 4, 2025 | Dec. 10, 2025 | Dec. 19, 2025



The Wisconsin Rules of Evidence: A Courtroom Handbook

Quickly locate relevant case law, applicable rules of evidence, and helpful commentary on topics including judicial notice, privileges, relevancy, witness testimony, and authentication. Find the information you need in seconds with the *Handbook's* table of cases, topical heading tabs, and multiple cross-referencing features.

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