



College of Commercial Arbitrators®

26TH ANNUAL MEETING

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE!



OCTOBER 1-3, 2026

**THE WESTIN CHICAGO RIVER NORTH
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration Desk Open at The Westin Chicago River North
Check in to receive your badge and meeting materials.

12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch for Board Meeting Attendees (*Advance RSVP Required*)

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting of CCA Board of Directors

President *Stephen S. Strick* and President-Elect *Allison J. Snyder* will preside at the Board Meeting. All Fellows are welcome and encouraged to attend. *Advance RSVP required during registration.*

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Committee Meetings

<i>2:00 – 3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>4:00 – 5:00 p.m.</i>
Membership	Education	Social Media
Construction	Ethics	International
Technology	Professoriate	Public Policy
Recruitment	Associates	New Fellows

(**Breakout rooms may be available onsite for additional committee meetings.*)

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Welcome Reception on RiverBar Patio and Riverfront

Fellows and their registered guests will reconnect with colleagues.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dinner at The Westin Chicago River North

As Fellows and guests are seated, the New Fellows Class of 2026 will be formally introduced and welcomed. (Dress code: Business.) *Advance RSVPs are required during registration.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Fellows' Breakfast

All Fellows and their registered guests are invited to breakfast.

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Class of 2026 Fellows' Orientation Breakfast

All new Fellows are invited to attend. The CCA Executive Committee and Committee chairs will share information and answer questions about the College and its committee work. Any interested CCA Fellows are welcome and encouraged to attend.

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Break

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome & State of the College

President Stephen S. Strick will open the Annual Meeting and provide an overview of the state of CCA as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary before the handoff to President-Elect Allison Snyder.

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Plenary #1 – Gary Born Lecture: A Conversation on the Rule of Law

An introduction by President Stephen S. Strick, followed by a panel discussion, commentary and observations.

Presenter: *Gary Born*, King & Spalding International LLP, London, England

Panelists: *Michelle A. Behnke*, President of the American Bar Association, 2025-2026, Madison, WI
Hon. Timothy K. Lewis (Ret.), Pittsburgh, PA
Daniel Schimmel, New York, NY

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Plenary #2 – Ethics Practicum (1.25 hours ethics)

In its 16th year, this interactive Practicum will consider thorny ethical issues arising from a case study developed from actual cases. Materials will be distributed in advance and Fellows will be assigned to a small group. Each group should be prepared to decide how they would resolve the issues presented.

Facilitator: *Eugene I. Farber*, White Plains, NY

12:00 Noon – 12:15 p.m.

Break

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Fellows' Luncheon

Enjoy lunch and take the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet new Fellows, and relax.

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Plenary #3 – Fireside Chat with AAA-ICDR President and CEO Bridget McCormack & CCA President Stephen S. Strick

Join this session as we discuss a wide range of topics concerning the future of arbitration.

Panelists: *Hon. Bridget M. McCormack*, New York, NY
Stephen S. Strick, New York, NY

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Plenary #4 – Best Practices Debates

Moderator: *Richard L. Mattiaccio*, New York, NY

Issue 1 – Does the duty to manage an efficient arbitration oblige arbitrators:

- To push back on excessive process even when all parties agree on it?
- To provide parties the panel's preliminary assessment of the merits before the evidentiary hearing?

Debaters: *Grant Hanessian*, Brooklyn, NY
Holly Stein Sollod, Denver, CO

Issue 2 – Does the use of AI to assist in drafting facts, analysis, and conclusions sections of the award invite vacatur or non-enforcement?

Debaters: *Gary L. Benton*, Palo Alto CA
Merriann M. Panarella, South Natick MA

Issue 3 – Are arbitrators obligated to apply the contractually agreed substantive law the way a court would do it?

Debaters: *Robert B. Davidson*, New York, NY
Loretta M. Gastwirth, Mineola NY

5:00 p.m.

Sessions Adjourn

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday Night Small Group Dine-Around Dinners

We are organizing small group dinners at a variety of Chicago restaurants, each led by a member of the Board of Directors. The main idea is to connect with Fellows you don't know and reconnect with those you do over dinner. Those who sign up during registration will be sent additional information in advance of the meeting. You are also welcome to dine on your own or organize your own small group. *Advance RSVPs are required during registration.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Fellows' Breakfast

All Fellows and their registered guests are invited to breakfast.

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Diversity Breakfast

A discussion of the current state of diversity efforts in corporations and large law firms, and the path forward for CCA in supporting and advancing this important work. All Fellows are encouraged and invited to attend.

Presenter: *Melissa M. Root*, Managing Partner, Jenner & Block, Chicago, IL

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Break

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Plenary #5 – Two Vexing Issues and Practical Solutions for Arbitrators

Arbitrator liability and insurance – What are the risks? Do they differ across the globe? How does professional liability insurance protect you? How can you protect yourself? With real-life stories and a look at the role of institutions.

Moderator: *Edna R. Sussman*, Scarsdale NY

Panelists: *Maureen Beyers*, New York NY
Klaus Reichert, London, England
A. Kelly Turner, Senior Counsel, AAA-ICDR, Chicago, IL

Privilege Issues – Best practices for managing privilege disputes, including derivative privilege and privileged agent claims, the use of privilege logs, whether to engage in camera review or appoint a “privilege master,” and differing rules among relevant jurisdictions and choice-of-law considerations in domestic and international arbitrations.

Moderator: *Hon. Faith S. Hochberg*, New York, NY

Panelists: *Cedric C. Chao*, San Francisco, CA
Stephen L. Drymer, Montreal, QC, Canada
Mark A. Kantor, Washington, DC

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Plenary #6 – Case Update: How Would You Decide?

Our annual update will highlight the most significant arbitration decisions from the past year and ask: How would you have decided the case? Did the court get it right?

Presenters: *Deborah A. Coleman*, Cleveland, OH
Alfred G. Feliu, New Rochelle, NY
Michael C. Massengale, Houston, TX

12:00 Noon

Sessions Adjourn

12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Pick Your Pleasure - Afternoon Activities for All

You may decide you just want to relax, explore Chicago on your own, or chat with friends on the 320 RiverBar patio. Or you may decide to participate in one of the group activities we've arranged. *See next page for ticketed activity options and details. Availability is limited and group minimums/maximums or deadlines may apply. Register ASAP to reserve your spot!*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Closing Cocktail Reception and Dinner at The Chicago Club

Board the bus at 5:45 p.m. to The Chicago Club. The evening's celebration will honor the CCA's 25th year of service and recognize the AAA's 100th anniversary. Dress is cocktail attire. **Advance RSVPs are required during registration.**

President's Award – CCA Founding President Richard Chernick will be honored with the President's Award for Meaningful Contributions to the Field of Commercial Dispute Resolution.

Founders' Recognition – A fireside conversation moderated by David Huebner, featuring Richard Chernick and original CCA Founders Stephen Hayford and Gene Farber. All Past Presidents present will be recognized.

****Pre-Purchase a Box Lunch-To-Go***

In a hurry? Grab a quick bite before your afternoon event begins.

Cost is \$40 per person. Available for pickup beginning at 12:00 Noon. Please pre-purchase your box lunch on the registration form. *Boxed lunches cannot be purchased onsite.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Chicago's Ultimate City Bike Tour – Bobby's Bike Hike
(Optional Ticketed Event)**



This highly-rated guided bike tour covers Chicago's most popular parks, fountains, attractions and lakefront and skyline views. Over the course of a leisurely three hours and ~9 miles, you'll explore the stunning cityscape, as well as the lakefront trail, stopping at world-famous sites along the way. Tours run on bike paths and protected bike lanes for most of the ride. Tours run rain or shine. Dress is casual/comfortable with shorts and closed-toe shoes recommended. Meet in the hotel lobby at 1:15 p.m.

The fee is \$145 per person for a Cruiser Bike, and includes rental bike & helmet, a handlebar bag for your personal items, 22% guide gratuity, tour guide, and delivery/pick-up of bikes to the Westin Hotel. *Lunch is on your own.* The participant's name and height measurement are required at the time of registration. Advance registration required. (The group minimum is 20. Tickets are limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Architectural Boat Cruise on the Chicago River
(Optional Ticketed Event)**



Led by the Chicago Architecture Center's expertly trained docent volunteers, this 90-minute cruise reveals fascinating stories behind Chicago's majestic buildings in a way no other tour can. Voted the #1 best boat tour in the United States by USA Today, and Chicago's Reader's Best Tour for over ten years. An easy 10-minute walk from the Westin. Tour goes rain or shine. Meet at the Northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and E. Wacker Drive at 1:30 p.m. (30 minutes prior to tour departure.)

Cost is \$57 per person. Advance registration is required on the registration form. (The group minimum is 20. Tickets are limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Private Tour of the Art Institute of Chicago
(Optional Ticketed Event)**

Embark on a captivating 2-hour journey through the heart of creativity with a tour of the Art Institute. This iconic institution invites you to immerse yourself in a world of



artistic wonders. As you traverse the hallowed halls, you'll discover an extraordinary collection spanning centuries and cultures, from classical masterpieces to cutting-edge contemporary works. Their expert guides will illuminate the stories behind each brushstroke, sculpture, and masterpiece, providing a rich narrative that breathes life into the art. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a history buff, or simply seeking inspiration, your tour of the Art Institute promises an unforgettable experience. Unleash your imagination and let the highly trained guides help you explore the major artworks.

Meet in the Westin hotel lobby at 1:30 p.m. sharp to meet the tour guide for the 1-mile (~25 minute) walk to the Art Institute's Modern Wing entrance on Monroe Street, or catch a rideshare with your colleagues and meet the walking group at the Modern Wing entrance in time for the 2:00 p.m. start. Attendees will be divided into small tour groups of ~10 per group depending on how many sign-up. The tour will conclude by 4:00 p.m. allowing you to return to the hotel by 4:30 p.m.

Cost is \$95 per person and includes the entry fee. (The group minimum is 10. Tickets are limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis.) *Lunch is on your own so please consider pre-purchasing the separate box lunch-to-go.* Advance registration is required on the registration form.



SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM & OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 – 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Registered guests enjoy welcome reception & dinner at The Westin Chicago River North with Fellows

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 – 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Registered guests enjoy breakfast with the Fellows

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Registered guests are encouraged to join Fellows at the optional small group dinners

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Registered guests enjoy breakfast with the Fellows

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Registered guests enjoy cocktail reception & dinner with Fellows at The Chicago Club

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 CONFERENCE SPONSORS:



AMERICAN
ARBITRATION
ASSOCIATION®



GENERAL INFORMATION

Slido: Some of the plenaries will be using the Slido App for voting. Registrants will be provided a participant code prior to the event and encouraged to download the application onto their device for use during the plenary sessions. For more on Slido, visit <https://www.slido.com/>.

Hotel: For the convenience of conference registrants, a block of rooms has been reserved at The Westin Chicago River North, 320 N Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60654. Please reserve your room by calling Marriott Central Reservations at +1 (888) 627-8359 and asking for the 'College of Commercial Arbitrators' group rate or visit <https://tinyurl.com/CCA26Hotel> to book your reservation online. **To ensure availability please make your reservation as soon as possible. The reservation deadline is September 9, 2026. After that date, or when the room block is exhausted (whichever occurs first), the hotel will assign rooms on a space and rate available basis only.** The CCA group room rate is \$319 plus tax (~17.4%) for a standard king/double. A one-night deposit or guarantee by credit card is required at the time of reservation. Please note in the event of room cancellation, you must cancel by 6:00 p.m. Central 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid a one-night room and tax cancellation fee.



Airport & Transportation: Chicago is served by O'Hare International Airport (ORD) (~20 miles from the hotel) and Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW) (~12 miles away). Public transit, limousines, taxis, and rideshare services are available at both airports. Rideshares and taxis from the major airports are estimated at \$45-65 each way.

Parking: Valet parking is available for regular sized vehicles at a daily rate of \$83.00 at The Westin Chicago River North.

Activities: There is so much to see and do in Chicago. Visit <https://www.ChooseChicago.com/> for the latest up to date visitor information. For information about the newly-opened Barack Obama Presidential Center and updates on ticket availability, please visit <https://www.obama.org/visit/>.

MCLE Credit: This program has been approved for 8.25 hours of MCLE credit (1.25 hours ethics) in the State of Texas. Applications have been filed and are pending in IL, CA, and other select states. Approved credit hours may vary by state. Full MCLE information will be available at registration.

Online Registration: Visit www.CCArbitrators.org and log in to the Fellows Dashboard to register online and pay by credit or debit card.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF COMMERCIAL ARBITRATORS

Established in 2001, the College of Commercial Arbitrators is a national organization of commercial arbitrators providing a meaningful contribution to the profession, the public and the businesses and lawyers who depend on commercial arbitration as a primary means of dispute resolution.

The CCA promotes the highest standards of conduct, professionalism and ethical practice, develops “best practices,” and provides peer training and professional development.

The CCA provides interaction and communication in the profession, and offers an easy means to identify those individuals whose professional training and experience qualify them to undertake the most complex and difficult arbitration assignments.



26th Annual Meeting Chair: Stephen S. Strick, President

Planning Committee: Lawrence Schaner, Deborah Coleman, Carol Heckman, Faith Hochberg, Richard Mattiaccio, and Edna Sussman

CCA Staff Liaisons: Donna J. Passons (Executive Director),
Bill Seward (Assistant Director)

2026 Officers

President: Stephen S. Strick

President-Elect: Allison J. Snyder

Vice President: Trey Bergman

Secretary/Treasurer: David Huebner

Board of Directors

Gary L. Benton (2028)

Steven A. Certilman (2027)

Roy L. De Barbieri (2028)

Alfred G. Feliu (2028)

Jonathan W. Fitch (2026)

Angela Foster (2028)

Stephen P. Gilbert (2026)

Carol E. Heckman (2027)

Deborah B. Mastin (2027)

Klaus Reichert (2027)

Lawrence S. Schaner (2027)

Mark A. Shank (2026)

David C. Singer (2027)

Gilda R. Turitz (2027)

Richard F. Ziegler (2027)

Dana Welch (Immediate Past President)

Chicago, Illinois

As one of the most vibrant cities in the country, Chicago is a premier destination in its own right. Downtown, in particular, is home to world-class restaurants, iconic architectural tours, legendary music venues, stunning public art, and so much more. Situated right along the scenic Chicago River and steps away from the famed Magnificent Mile, The Westin Chicago River North blends urban sophistication with refreshing wellness experiences. Enjoy a reprieve from the everyday in this downtown oasis that combines luxurious accommodations and state-of-the-art meeting facilities with easy access to endless dining, shopping and entertainment possibilities, including the city's theater district.

This venue location, combined with top-notch educational programming and diverse networking opportunities, ensures that the CCA 2026 Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary Celebration will be one you don't want to miss!

College of Commercial Arbitrators 26th Annual Meeting

October 1-3, 2026 ♦ Chicago, IL

MEETING REGISTRATION

Please submit your meeting registration and payment by September 4, 2026. Please see below for the cancellation policy. Hotel reservation information can be found in the brochure under "General Information."

Register online at www.CCArbitrators.org or by sending the completed registration form & payment to:

CCA 26th Annual Meeting
P.O. Box 4646
Austin, TX 78765-4646

Phone: (512) 372-8350
Email: info@CCArbitrators.org

- ☐ **Fellows Regular Registration** (received by September 4, 2026) \$1,195.00
- ☐ **Fellows Late Registration** (received after September 4, 2026 and by September 18, 2026) \$1,375.00
- ☐ **Fellows Door Registration** (received after September 18, 2026 or at the door) \$1,575.00
- ☐ **Conference Materials:** Online access to electronic materials is included with your conference registration. You may purchase the printed binder of conference materials for an additional \$50.00 \$ _____
- ☐ **Spouse/Guest Registration*: Print Name:** _____ \$595.00
(*Includes Thursday Reception & Dinner, Saturday Reception & Dinner, and Friday and Saturday Breakfasts.)

➤ *RSVPs and Optional Events must be reserved in advance and may be subject to group minimums and/or maximums.*

---RSVPs---

- ☐ THU: CCA Board Lunch: Advance RSVP Required
- ☐ THU: CCA Board Meeting: Advance RSVP Required
- ☐ Fellow RSVP for Thursday Night Dinner
- ☐ Spouse/Guest RSVP for Thursday Night Dinner
- ☐ Fellow RSVP for Saturday Night Dinner
- ☐ Spouse/Guest RSVP for Saturday Night Dinner

Optional Events

- ☐ Fellow RSVP for Friday Night Small Group Dinners
- ☐ Spouse/Guest RSVP for Friday Night Group Dinners
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- ☐ SAT: Pre-Purchase Box Lunch \$40 x ____ = \$ _____
- ☐ *SAT: Guided Bike Tour \$145 x ____ = \$ _____
- ☐ SAT: Architectural Boat Cruise \$57 x ____ = \$ _____
- ☐ SAT: Art Institute Private Tour \$95 x ____ = \$ _____

I cannot attend the annual meeting. I would like to purchase the following:

- ☐ Written Meeting Materials. Select one: ☐ Binder ☐ Online Access \$ 50.00

*Bike Tour Name: _____
*Height (Feet/Inches): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Company/Firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please List Any Special Needs/Dietary Requests: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION: Please make your check payable to College of Commercial Arbitrators

Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Security Code _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Address (Street+C/S/Z) _____

Refunds less a \$50 processing fee will be granted to registrants who cancel on or before 30 days prior to the first day of the meeting. If notice is received after that time and before 7 days prior to the first day of the meeting, refunds will be granted less a \$150 processing fee. No refunds will be granted thereafter.