Forum 2020 FAQs

Virtual Meeting Registration and Experience

How does registration work?

You will receive a brochure electronically or you will find it on the Forum website, which will contain a link that will allow you to register for the Annual Meeting. There will not be any paper brochure this year, so please do not wait for that to arrive.

What will the virtual Annual Meeting be like?

On the meeting days, you will be able to access workshops, plenaries, and meetings offered each day via a streaming video link. After the meeting, for a period of approximately six months, you will be able to access the same workshops and plenaries on-demand. This is a real value-add as this year you will be able to access all 24 workshops. Normally in a live meeting, you can attend six or so workshops maximum due to scheduling and have to choose between great competing offerings. This year you get it all—at no additional cost—and don’t have to choose! You can attend live or listen later at your own speed.

We will also have small group meetings and networking events so you can still see old friends and make new contacts. More on those events will be released in the coming weeks.

Why does the schedule look different?

We spread the programing out over four days, October 27 through 30, instead of three days to accommodate the fact that you will likely be viewing these programs from your home or office, and may need to focus on additional items – family and business – on these days because you will not be at our meeting site. We wanted to provide more flexibility in watching and offering the programs this year to also recognize the fact that you may not want to sit in front of a computer for seven to eight hours straight.

What will I have access to as a registrant for the Annual Meeting?

You will have access to the program materials—the papers and PowerPoints—before the Annual Meeting. You will also have access to all virtual programming for two plenaries, 24 workshops, and certain special meetings. If you want to attend one of our intensive programs virtually, you can do so for an additional charge (like every year).

How do I access the virtual Annual Meeting?

You will be able to access the 2020 virtual Annual Meeting via your internet connection using your computer, phone, or tablet. You will receive browser requirements, instructions, and relevant links for access closer to the meeting dates.
What is the cost of attending the virtual Annual Meeting?

Main Program Virtual Forum Registration Fees (On/Before August 31, 2020)

- Non ABA Member: $995
- ABA Member: $795
- Forum on Franchising Member: $695
- Government/Academic: $400
- Paralegal, Legal Assistant, etc.: $400
- ABA Young Lawyer (35 Years or Younger): $350
- 1st/2nd Time Attendee of the Forum: $350
- Law Student: $100
- Speakers, Forum Governing Committee or Past Chair/Non-speaker, and Press*: $0
  *Press must gain approval from ABA Media Relations Department

Main Program Virtual Forum Registration Fees (On/After September 1, 2020)

- Non ABA Member: $1095
- ABA Member: $895
- Forum on Franchising Member: $795
- Government/Academic: $500
- Paralegal, Legal Assistant, etc.: $500
- ABA Young Lawyer (35 Years or Younger): $450
- 1st/2nd Time Attendee of the Forum: $450
- Law Student: $150
- Speakers, Forum Governing Committee or Past Chair/Non-speaker, and Press*: $0
  *Press must gain approval from ABA Media Relations Department

Intensive Program Registration Fees - $445 per intensive

How do I get a refund if I change my mind on attending?

Registrants who are unable to attend the conference will receive a refund less a $50 administrative fee if written cancellation is received by September 25, 2020. Cancellations may be e-mailed to mhenderson@dci-kansascity.com. No refunds will be granted after September 25, 2020. Substitutions are acceptable, or links to conference materials will be sent in lieu of a refund after the program. The Forum reserves the right to cancel any programs and assumes no responsibility for personal expenses.

How can I ask questions of the speakers during the programs?

The virtual platform will have a function that will allow the audience to submit questions to the speakers during the live presentation of the workshops.

What if I have technical problems while viewing a program?

We will have a help desk staffed during the Annual Meeting to address any technical issues you experience.
**CLE Credit**

Can I obtain CLE credit for the meeting?

Yes, though jurisdictions may treat virtual courses differently. The ABA will seek up to 26 hours of CLE credit including 1.25 hours of ethics credit for this program in 60-minute states, and 31.2 hours of CLE credit including 1.5 hours of ethics credit for this program in 50-minute states. Credit hours are estimated and are subject to each state’s approval and credit rounding rules. We will provide further information about CLE as it develops.

Do I need to stay for the entire program to receive CLE credit?

Yes, this is very important. To obtain CLE credit, you may not go in and out of workshops or other sessions. You must stay in the program for the entire time and respond to any notifications from the computer program that seek to confirm your ongoing presence, similar to what you see when you view ABA webinars for CLE credit. Additionally, you cannot obtain any CLE credit if you are not a registered attendee.

**General Questions**

Can I access the programs after the virtual Annual Meeting?

Yes! Included in your registration is the ability to access the 24 Workshops and two plenaries for a period of approximately six months after the virtual Annual Meeting.

Will next year’s Annual Meeting be all virtual too?

We are planning for a live meeting for the 2021 Annual Meeting, but will of course stay apprised of the state of the world with Covid-19, which could affect the format of the meeting.

Can I show the programing to friends, colleagues, and clients?

No, the links you will receive to access the programming are for the individual registrant only and contain confidential information. By registering, you agree to not show the program materials—either videos, the papers, or the power points—to non-registrants until they are released to the public (which is usually shortly before the next Annual Meeting). Please do not share the materials with others. A lot of work goes into putting these materials together, by the speakers, the Program Co-Chairs, the Planning Committee, and the entire Governing Committee. There is great value in these materials and they are confidential to registrants.

Note, each registrant will also need to log on to each program individually in order to obtain CLE credit.
I like to visit the book table at the Annual Meeting. Will I have an opportunity to purchase Forum publications during the virtual Annual Meeting?

Yes, we intend to provide information to you on Forum publications during the virtual Annual Meeting, including special offers on some Forum publications.

**Speaker Questions**

*Are the deadlines for the paper and PowerPoints the same?*

Yes, deadlines remain the same. Deadlines are more important than ever to meet as speakers will be asked to practice their presentation virtually before the virtual Annual Meeting and will need to provide final power points before the virtual Annual Meeting so they can be integrated into the virtual platform.

*What has changed for me with the virtual Annual Meeting?*

Not much in terms of content. You will be asked to practice your presentation with your co-presenters virtually before the virtually Annual Meeting. You will present via web camera with your computer at home or the office. We will provide you with information on the hardware and software our technology provider will require you to have to make your presentation. At this time we do not expect these requirements to be significantly different than what most of you currently have in your system. We will provide some best practices tips for virtual presentations and power points in the near future.

*How will I learn how to log into the virtual platform to present my program?*

We will have a practice session for each workshop in advance of the Annual Meeting. We will also provide log-in and other information about technology requirements in advance of that practice session to make sure you are equipped and ready to go.

*How will the audience ask questions during my program?*

The virtual platform will have a function that will allow the audience to submit questions to the speakers during the live presentation of the workshops. We will provide more detail on best practices for viewing and responding to the questions in advance of the Annual Meeting.

*Will my presentation be recorded?*

Yes, when you present your program live during the Annual Meeting it will be recorded so that Annual Meeting attendees can access your presentation over the next six months and still get CLE credit in most states. This will enable your presentation to be heard by more people than at a traditional live Annual Meeting.
Will I get CLE credit as a speaker and moderator?

Yes, you will at least get the same credit as an attendee. Some states permit additional credit for speakers and moderators. In those case the ABA will report your credit according to your state’s rules.

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