

Out of State Travel/Training Request Presented to Oversight Committee for Approval

Requesting Supervisor/Manager:	Justin M. Nickels
Names of Employees Attending:	Eric G. Nycz
Department:	
Other	

Name of Training	Dates of Training	Location of Training
International Municipal Lawyers Association- 2025 Mid-Year Seminar	April 25-April 28, 2025	Washington, D.C.

Estimated cost of training	\$ 575.00
Estimated cost of travel	\$ 450.00
Estimated cost of meals	\$ 150.00
Estimated cost of accommodations	\$ 893.97
Estimated cost of misc. expenses	\$
Estimated cost of overtime	\$

Estimated total: \$ 2,068.97

If applicable, what are the misc. expenses for?

Requesting Supervisor/Manager Comments:

What are the objectives for the training?

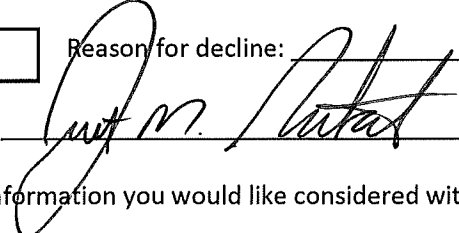
The most important courses are in PFAS litigation and Section 1983 claims, as well as case law updates. Generally, IMLA is an invaluable organization for municipal attorneys, and I will not be attending the annual conference this year - this will be my first mid-year conference and it will help me to understand the differences between them moving forward.

How will this training be shared/implemented upon return? How will this training benefit the City?

The more I know, the more I can do for the City. PFAS litigation will be with us for decades. At the last conference, I may have discovered an avenue for insurance recovery for PFAS, which I'm working on. This conference will help with individual RPs (responsible parties). Finally, I receive required Continuing Legal Education credits for attending - credits I have to receive somewhere.

Supervisor Approval/Decline

Approved ☒ Declined ☐ Reason for decline: _____

Supervisor/Manager Signature:  Dated: 1/27/25

*Please attach any additional information you would like considered with this request



IMLA 2025 Mid-Year Seminar

Washington, D.C.
April 25 – April 28, 2025

Friday – April 25, 2025

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
9:00 AM – 4:45 PM	IMLA Registration & Exhibitors Registration will close from 12:00 PM-12:45 PM.	
8:30 AM – to 12:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting	
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Welcome to IMLA Coffee Break Join IMLA President and Executive Director for welcoming remarks and helpful tips for new and long-time attendees alike.	Amanda Karras & Jeff Dana
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Seminar Session TBD	Jack Ryan
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Section 1983 Session TBD	
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch Independently	
12:55 PM – 1:55 PM	Seminar Session TBD	
12:55 PM – 1:55 PM	How to Mitigate Damages in Big Damages Cases	Kelly Pierce
2:05 PM – 3:05 PM	Navigating PFAS Litigation: Securing Municipal Remediation Funds This session will provide an in-depth look at the legal strategies and current overview of PFAS litigation, focusing on how municipal lawyers can protect clients and secure funds for PFAS remediation. As environmental concerns and regulations intensify, municipal attorneys must understand statute of limitations issues, emerging regulations, and the current status of nationwide PFAS litigation, including the importance of timely action. Mike Stag is a court appointed member of the Plaintiff's Executive Committee for the AFFF MDL, the national PFAS litigation resulting in settlements currently valued at more than \$12.5 billion. He will share critical insights into the current settlements, future settlements, MDL status, significant deadlines, and the role of municipal attorneys in protecting public health by securing financial resources for their communities.	Mike Stag & Ashley Liuzza
2:05 PM – 3:05 PM	Press Coverage of Section 1983 Police Cases: The Kinda Good, the Bad, the Ugly This presentation will address the media's coverage of Federal Civil Rights lawsuits against police officers. Actual press articles involving lawsuits against New York City police officers will be used to identify problems/challenges posed to defendants. The discussion will then address possible solutions and strategies.	Patricia Miller
3:05 PM – 3:20 PM	Coffee Break – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade available to registrants.	
3:20 PM – 4:50 PM	Supreme Court Update The Supreme Court continues to issue significant decisions for local governments and this term is no exception. The Court will decide cases related to Fourth Amendment liability in deadly force situations, so-called "majority discrimination" under Title VII, ghost guns, ambiguity in Clean Water Act permits among others. Hear from Supreme Court experts about these cases and how they will impact local governments.	Paul Clement & Amy Howe Moderator: Amanda Karras

4:50 PM – 5:20 PM	<p>Amicus Awards / Scholarship Announcement</p> <p>Help us celebrate the pro bono authors that help make IMLA's Amicus Program such a success! IMLA will also announce the winner of the IMLA Charles W. Thompson, Jr. Scholarship.</p>	
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	<p>Welcome Reception</p> <p>Kick off the Seminar with the Welcome Reception taking place at the Omni Shoreham. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, drinks and networking! A badge is required for entry and the dress is business casual. We hope to see you there! Badge is required for entry! Guest tickets are available for purchase.</p>	

Saturday – April 26, 2025

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:30 AM – 4:45 PM	<p>IMLA Registration & Exhibitors</p> <p>Registration will close from 12:30 PM-2:00 PM.</p>	
7:45 AM – 8:45 AM	<p>State/Provincial Breakfast</p> <p>The State/Provincial Breakfast will give attendees an opportunity to sit down with fellow attendees from their area. Advance registration is required. If you would like to add the breakfast to your registration, please email info@imla.org.</p>	
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Disaster Relief TBA	Morgain Patterson, Victoria Takayesu Hamilton & Mimi Desjardins
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<p>The Public Liability Risks of Domestic Violence Response</p> <p>Responding to domestic violence calls is a routine occurrence for every police department in every jurisdiction. In addition to the human toll, the adequacy of law enforcement response can give rise to Section 1983 liability in a myriad of ways – including false arrest claims, gender discrimination claims, and the rare “state created danger” claim. This presentation breaks down domestic violence response scenarios and examines how these claims manifest and how to defend your City against each.</p>	Tony Fioretti
10:10 AM – 11:10 AM	<p>First Amendment Audits</p> <p>First Amendment audits are happening in local governments across the country, where “auditors” seek to film municipal facilities, operations and interactions with municipal officers and employees. More often than not, the content recorded is posted by the auditor on social media platforms. The first half will review the First Amendment principles and federal case law associated with the use of recording equipment on municipal property and address considerations for creating reasonable time, place and manner rules regarding the use of recording equipment on public property. This course will also address employee safety and best practices for interacting with individuals who are conducting First Amendment audits.</p> <p>The second half of the presentation will provide insight into best practices for local governments to navigate complex First Amendment issues, such as ‘First Amendment Audits’ in municipal forums, especially libraries. It will also provide an overview on recent landmark cases clarifying government speech. Lastly, it will offer considerations and suggestions for municipalities to preserve First Amendment rights while simultaneously mitigating exposure to constitutional litigation.</p>	<p>Katie Hodgdon & Jaclyn Munson</p> <p>Moderator: Susan Weise</p>
10:10 AM – 11:10 AM	Police use of Deadly Force TBA	Jonathan Cooper & Andrew Pomager
11:10 AM – 11:25 AM	Coffee Break – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade available to registrants.	
11:25 AM – 12:25 PM	DEI TBA	
11:25 AM – 12:25 PM	<p>These are the Experts You are Looking For: Thoughts on Retaining, Using, and Combating Use of Force Experts</p> <p>Use of Force experts are commonplace in excessive force lawsuits against the police. But do you always need one? If so, when, and how can those experts help you? What do you look for in retaining an expert, and how do you manage the relationship after</p>	David Matheus

	retention? How can you counter the other side's expert? This presentation addresses these and other similar questions, with a focus on practical advice.	
12:25 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch Independently	
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	<p>Elections Have Consequences</p> <p>What should local governments expect for federal communications legislation and policies now that Republicans are in charge of the executive and legislative branches, and Brendan Carr has been named to be Chair of the Federal Communications Commission? This session will provide insights into the new Administration's priorities and what that may mean for pending regulatory issues and funding related to cable, broadband, wireless and other communications topics of interest to local governments. The session will also address recent court developments, including changes in court review of federal agency decisions.</p>	<p>Gail Karish, Bennett Givens & Cheryl Leanza</p> <p>Moderator: Tillman Lay</p>
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	<p>Catching and Correcting Wrongful Convictions in The Normal Course of The Appellate Process</p> <p>This presentation offers an in-depth examination of the actual innocence legal standard and its role in identifying and addressing wrongful convictions. Using case examples, this CLE session highlights red flags like false confessions, prosecutorial misconduct, and tunnel vision, while discussing current legislative efforts and the critical role of judicial ethics in advocacy. Attendees will gain practical knowledge to recognize flawed evidence and explore essential reforms needed to uphold justice within the appellate framework.</p>	Jeffrey Deskovic & Adam Johnson
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Coffee Break – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade available to registrants.	
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	Seminar Session TBD	
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	Section 1983 Motion Practice TBA	Robert Higgason
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	State League Meeting	

Sunday – April 27, 2025

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:00 AM – 4:45 PM	IMLA Registration & Exhibitors	
7:45 AM – 8:45 AM	<p>WONK Breakfast</p> <p>For the WONK breakfast you will sign up for a table based on subject matter and sit down with the subject matter expert to enjoy a meal and discuss areas of interest. Advance registration is required. If you would like to add the breakfast to your registration, please email info@imla.org.</p>	
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Fair Housing TBA	Elizabeth Hull & Isaac Rosen
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Section 1983 Session TBD	
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade available to registrants.	
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Seminar Session TBD	
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Section 1983 Case Law Update	Pierre Grosdidier
11:55 AM – 12:55 AM	Seminar Session TBD	
11:55 AM – 12:55 AM	<p>Structured Settlement Process in Section 1983 Cases</p> <p>Section 1983 litigation can be expensive and lengthy. This is especially true in cases involving complex claims involving allegations of widespread and systemic civil rights violations against the municipality over a long period. However, even in a case with narrow, specific allegation of a single instance of a constitutional violation by one plaintiff against one individual defendant, courts in most jurisdictions actively encourage settlement as a means of resolving litigation. This presentation will explain the benefits</p>	Beth Hoffman

	and procedures for participating in a structured settlement process such as mediation or settlement conferences with a magistrate, often referred to as alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in a Section 1983 action, as well as issues specific to settling cases on behalf of a municipality, such as dealing with agency, mayoral or legislative approval and working with other non-municipal parties for settlement. Finally, we will discuss general negotiation skills and strategies.	
1:30 PM	Bike Tour Through DC Join your fellow attendees for a biking tour around DC. Attendees will rent public bikes and take a ride starting at the Omni and going onto the National Mall.	
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Smithsonian Zoo Trip A trip to the Zoo (right up the street from the Omni) with fellow attendees!	
TBD	Washington Nationals Game Join the IMLA block at the Nationals game versus the New York Mets. Attendees will purchase their own tickets in IMLA's ticket block. That link will be sent to attendees, please email Caroline if you need it to purchase tickets.	

Monday – April 28, 2025

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	IMLA Registration & Exhibitors	
8:10 AM – 8:35 AM	Coffee Break / Passport Drawing Participating exhibitors will provide prizes as attendees visit all exhibitor booths to be eligible for the prize drawing.	
8:35 AM – 9:35 AM	Seminar Session TBD	Irma Esparza Diggs & Mark Ritacco Moderator: Gerry Lederer
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Case Law Update This is a fast-paced presentation that will provide summaries of cases touching on all aspects of local government law from all the circuits.	Douglas Haney
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Coffee Break – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade available to registrants.	
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Ethics TBD	Alan Bojorquez

Please note the agenda is tentative and subject to change.

Last Updated: 01/24/25