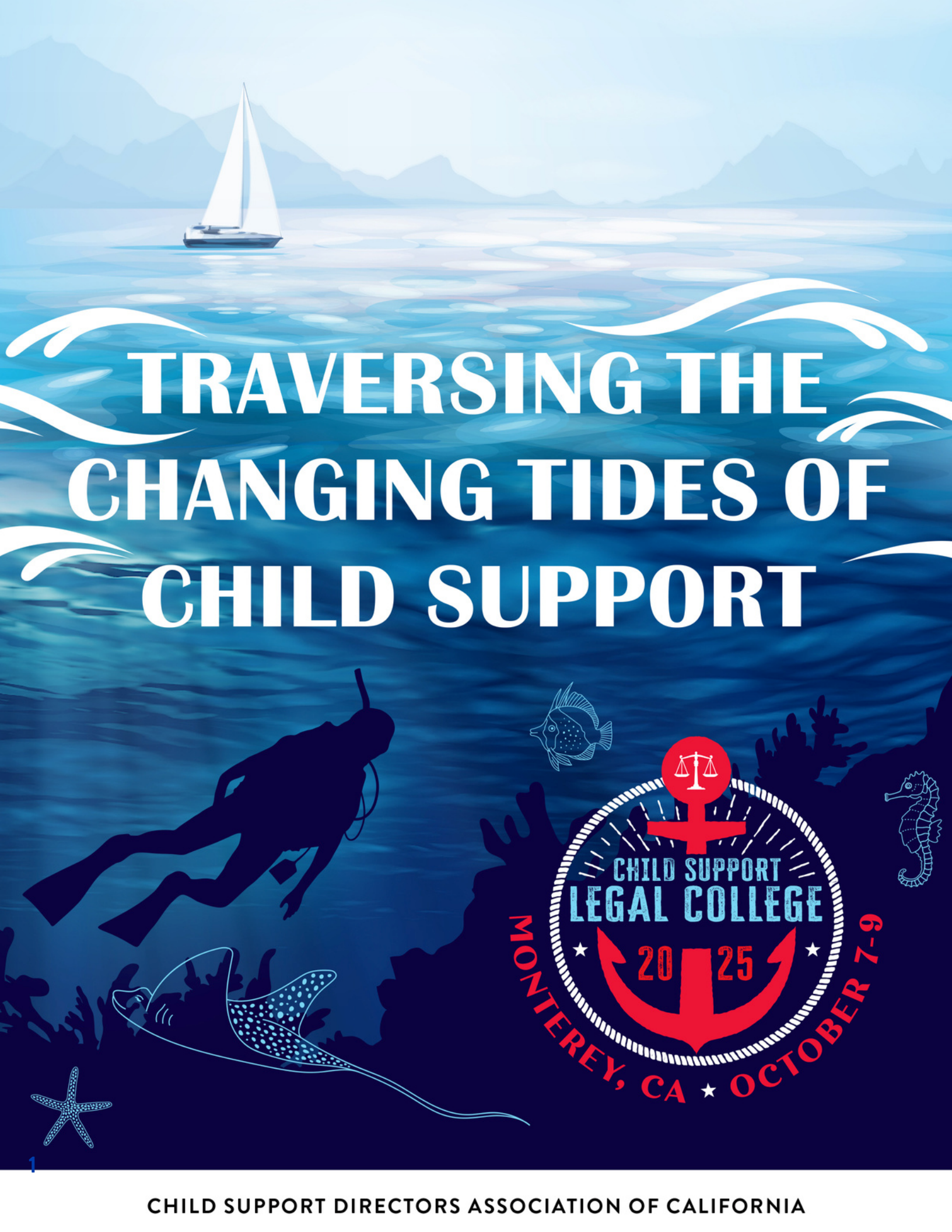




TRAVERSING THE CHANGING TIDES OF CHILD SUPPORT





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025 CSDA Legal College! I'm thrilled to have you join us as we gather in beautiful Monterey to explore this year's theme: Traversing the Changing Tides of Child Support.

As your CSDA President, it is an honor to welcome local child support agency attorneys, court partners, family law facilitators, policy leaders, and partner advocates from across the state. This year's Legal College recognizes the evolving challenges and opportunities in our legal and policy landscape—and is designed to foster collective understanding, creativity, and progress within the child support community.



Legal College is a space to strengthen our shared purpose, build meaningful connections, and enhance our collective impact. Whether you are here to sharpen your legal expertise, deepen your advocacy skills, or collaborate with peers across disciplines, this week offers something valuable for everyone, as reflected in our schedule. This year's program also reflects our ongoing effort to broaden collaboration across the legal and human services landscape.

- Tuesday will focus on core legal courses and the latest in case law updates.
- Wednesday features FEM (Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization) Final Rule sessions with immersive mock hearings and evidence-based learning.
- Thursday offers specialized MCLE credits, including essential topics such as technology in law, attorney competence, and elimination of bias.

As our theme suggests, a tide is more than just water's movement—it represents the ebb and flow of societal change, policy trends, and legal evolution. Together, we'll explore how to better navigate and influence these tides to serve families and children across California more effectively.

And while we engage in thought-provoking discussions and sessions, I hope you also take time to enjoy Monterey—whether it's walking the scenic coastline, indulging in local seafood, or visiting historic Cannery Row. This stunning setting offers the perfect backdrop for both professional growth and personal reflection.

On behalf of CSDA, thank you for being part of this vital dialogue. Let's make this an inspiring and impactful Legal College!

Warm regards,

Natalie Walter, CSDA President



GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT LEGAL COLLEGE

The 2025 Legal College is CSDA's annual legal education event, dedicated to supporting and advancing legal professionals in the evolving field of child support.

With this year's theme, "Traversing the Changing Tides of Child Support," the program addresses the shifting legal landscape, offering a space for shared learning, innovation, and collaboration.

As CSDA continues to lead California's child support community, the Legal College reflects our commitment to legal excellence, cross-agency partnerships, and professional growth. More than just a training, the Legal College brings together local child support agencies, legal advocates, policy leaders, and partners to strengthen connections and navigate the future of child support—together.

ABOUT CSDA

The Child Support Directors Association of California (CSDA) was established as a nonprofit association to represent the local child support directors of California's 58 counties. The Association strives to be of service to local child support agencies (LCSAs) in their effort to provide children and families with the financial, medical, and emotional support required to be productive and healthy citizens in our society. Our purpose is to collaborate as a unified voice, transforming the lives of children.

CSDA MISSION

To advocate, educate, and collaborate on behalf of the local child support agencies to advance the child support program as a safety net service leading to family financial stability.

AUDIENCE

- Local Child Support Agencies
- Family law and related legal services
- Public agencies, private firms, or advocacy organizations
- Professionals interested in expanding their knowledge of child support law

MCLE CREDITS

The Child Support Directors Association is a State Bar of California approved provider for minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) and certifies that the activities for this event conform to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing MCLE. This training provides opportunities for approximately 18 hours of Continuing Legal Education Credits, including specialty credits; Technology, Elimination of Bias, and Competence Issues.

MOBILE APP

The Whova mobile app will be released closer to the event and is compatible with iPhone, Android, iPad, Laptop or Desktop.

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Managing and Lead Attorneys Forum	Seaside Ballroom
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Registration	Ballroom Pre-convene

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration	Ballroom Pre-convene
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Opening Remarks	Laguna Grande ABC
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Session 1 <i>Are We Doing Long Board or Short Board? Surfing Your Way Through Changing Tides of Judicial Opinions with Case Law Update</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Session 2 <i>Exploring the Tide Pools</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Networking Break	Ballroom Pre-convene
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Session 3 <i>Across Borders and Jurisdictions: Navigating UIFSA in International and Tribal Child Support Cases</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon	Laguna Grande DEFG
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Session 4 <i>Navigating the Numbers: A Deep Dive into Tax Return Analysis</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Networking Break	Ballroom Pre-convene
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Session 5 <i>An “Appealing” Day to Kayak Monterey Bay</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Networking Reception	Ballroom Pre-convene

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Wednesday is FEM DAY! Be immersed in a full-day, hands-on exploration into the FEM (Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization) Final Rule which is changing California's child support landscape. You will be equipped with tools to navigate the emerging order setting practices with confidence and clarity.

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration	Ballroom Pre-convene
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Session 1 <i>Breaking the Surface: The Long Migration from FEM to the Family Code</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Session 2 <i>Anchored in Precedent: Earning Capacity Case Law and Appellate Review</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Networking Break	Ballroom Pre-convene
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Session 3 <i>Casting the Net: Preparing Pleadings that Capture Earning Capacity</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Luncheon	Laguna Grande DEFG
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Session 4 <i>Dock-umenting Earning Capacity – Preparing and Presenting Your Case for a Proper Hearing</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Networking Break	Ballroom Pre-convene
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Session 5 <i>Earning Capacity Mock Hearings: Navigating Below the Surface</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Session 5 <i>Anchors Up: Preparing for FEM Form Changes and Smooth E-Filing</i>	Laguna Grande ABC

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration	Ballroom Pre-convene
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Session 1 <i>Mapping the New Horizon: Generative AI and its Place in Child Support Legal Practice</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Session 2 <i>Breathing in the Sea Air: How Well-Being Invigorates our Competence</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Networking Break	Ballroom Pre-convene
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Session 3 <i>Uncovering the Hidden Reef: Strategies to Identify and Eliminate Bias</i>	Laguna Grande ABC
12:00 PM	Adjourn	Laguna Grande ABC





LEGAL COLLEGE PROGRAM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025

10:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Managing and Lead Attorneys Forum

Seaside Ballroom

This event is only for the Managing and Lead Attorneys at the local child support agencies in California.

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Registration

Ballroom Pre-convene

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

07:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Registration

Ballroom Pre-convene

08:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Opening Remarks

Laguna Grande ABC

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Are We Doing Long Board or Short Board? Surfing Your Way Through Changing Tides of Judicial Opinions with Case Law Update

Laguna Grand ABC

Getting a good surf report is key to having

a good session your board. One should know the wave sizes, the wind conditions, and the high and low tide times. Come prepared, and you'll be ready to "carve it up" in the water. The same goes for your knowledge of case law. Know the holdings and the rationale, and you'll be more effective in and out of court. Don't miss this session as a very average surfer presents the latest holdings and pertinent points from IV-D case decisions from the past 12 months. Whether your court day holds a long cause or a series of small matters, your ability to adapt to the judicial tides of your caseload will be eased by the knowledge of these case summaries. Bring your board and wax, and let's get started!

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Exploring the Tide Pools

Laguna Grand ABC

Dip your toes in the Monterey tide pools as our speakers Jennifer Coultas, Shannon Welton and Elizabeth Lawrence take us on a guided beach walk exploring the shallows of topics including Family Code 4251(c), Public Records requests, and Veterans' benefits. The discussion will provide an understanding of when these laws are triggered, the challenges some of our local child support agencies have encountered and provide some suggested best practices.



LEGAL COLLEGE PROGRAM



10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Networking Break

Ballroom Pre-convene

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Across Borders and Jurisdictions: Navigating UIFSA in International and Tribal Child Support Cases

Laguna Grand ABC

As the tides of child support continue to shift, we are increasingly called to navigate complex cases that cross international borders and tribal jurisdictions. This session will dive into the application of UIFSA in scenarios involving reciprocating countries and tribal nations, offering a deeper understanding of jurisdictional authority, service of process, recognition and enforcement of orders. Participants will explore current trends and best practices for fostering cooperation across systems while honoring cultural and legal sovereignty. Prepare to chart a course through some of the most dynamic waters in child support enforcement.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Luncheon

Laguna Grande DEFG

01:30 PM - 03:00 PM

Navigating the Numbers: A Deep Dive into Tax Return Analysis

Laguna Grand ABC

All hands on deck as we set sail on a journey into tax return analysis for child support cases. Whether exploring income currents, charting a course through self-employment waters, or uncovering hidden financial treasures or sunken assets, this session is designed to equip you with the tools necessary to navigate complex tax documents like a seasoned mariner. Learn to read the financial compass of IRS forms, identify red flags, and avoid being led astray by murky figures. Whether you're charting a new course or shoring up existing knowledge, this voyage will strengthen your ability to anchor child support calculations in accurate, well-analyzed data.

03:00 PM - 03:30 PM

Networking Break

Ballroom Pre-convene

03:30 PM - 05:00 PM

An "Appealing" Day to Kayak Monterey Bay

Laguna Grand ABC

Put your oar in the water as we paddle along the shoreline of Monterey adjusting to the tide and wind as we head into the appellate



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waters. Our speakers will guide our newer and experienced kayakers on a group tour focused on handling cases up to and through the appeal process. Zip up your spring suit and climb in your watercraft as we learn to prepare, argue and present a case that may result in appeal.

6:00 PM - 07:30 PM

Networking Reception

Ballroom Pre-convene

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Prepare to set sail on a full-day journey through California's evolving child support waters. FEM Day is your immersive dive from the surface-level overview of the FEM Final Rule to the depths of strategic case building and live hearing demonstrations. Like charting a new course through unfamiliar waters, you'll explore how federal policy has surfaced into state law, learn how to prepare pleadings that hold water, and watch real-time courtroom advocacy in action. With each session, you'll gain the tools to confidently shift toward modern order-setting practices, anchored in both precedent and innovation. So, grab your gear, steady your course, and join us on this legal voyage as we traverse the changing tides of child support – together.

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Breaking the Surface: The Long Migration from FEM to the Family Code

Laguna Grand ABC

Much like a whale surfacing after a long journey through deep, unseen waters, California's shift from the FEM Final Rule to its implementation in the Family Code signals a powerful emergence—revealing a new navigational chart for local child support agencies and attorneys. This session offers an in-depth overview of the FEM Final Rule and how its core principles have surfaced into actionable state law through recent amendments to the Family Code. We'll trace the long migration from the depths of federal guidance to the clear statutory shoreline of California's establishment practices. Join us as we break the surface together and navigate this legal transformation—one that is reshaping not only the letter of the law but the way attorneys approach child support litigation in California.

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Anchored in Precedent: Earning Capacity Case Law and Appellate Review

Laguna Grand ABC

In the changing tide of child support, understanding the legal foundations of



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earning capacity is critical. This session examines key case law and evidentiary standards that shape how courts determine imputed income. It will also help you navigate your lower court hearing to best prepare the case for appellate review. Lastly, presenters will explore evolving pleadings and procedures. Stay anchored in precedent while weathering the storm of change to our establishment process.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Networking Break

Ballroom Pre-convene

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Casting the Net: Preparing Pleadings that Capture Earning Capacity

Laguna Grand ABC

Before setting out on the legal waters, preparation is everything. In this session, we'll explore how to skillfully prepare pleadings that reflect earning capacity from the very start—casting your net wide to include key factors like education, employment history, available jobs, and ability to earn. Much like coastal fishing, knowing when, where, and how to cast matters. We'll examine practical tools, discretionary considerations, and best practices for building pleadings that can withstand crosscurrents and catch the relevant information needed to determine earning capacity.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Luncheon

Laguna Grande DEFG

01:00 PM - 02:00 PM

Dock-umenting Earning Capacity – Preparing and Presenting Your Case for a Proper Hearing

Laguna Grand ABC

Like any good sailor, being prepared is an absolute must! Life jackets on board, check! Navigational system operational, check! Sails in good shape, check! Before setting sail in court, you need to know what to prepare and what to present at the hearing. In this course we will discuss how to find evidence of earning capacity, learn how and when to properly plead for it, and discuss best practices in presenting the evidence in Court.

02:00 PM - 02:30 PM

Networking Break

Ballroom Pre-convene

02:30 PM - 04:00 PM

Earning Capacity Mock Hearings: Navigating Below the Surface

Laguna Grand ABC

When the financial waters get murky, it's time to grab your gear and take the plunge. In these lively mock hearings, we will explore



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how to use earning capacity to make waves when actual income is missing, muddled, or mysteriously low. You'll swim through key factors like age, health, education, job skills, work history, and local job opportunities – everything the court considers when determining what a parent *should* be earning. This session will leave you better equipped to navigate the undercurrents and ensure support is appropriate and meets the best interests of the children.

04:00 PM – 05:00 PM

Anchors Up: Preparing for FEM Form Changes and Smooth E-Filing

Laguna Grand ABC

Raise anchor and prepare to sail into the next phase of child support establishment under the Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization (FEM) Final Rule. Beginning January 1, 2026, new types of judgments will require updated establishment forms—designed to reflect FEM's modernized vision and the new order setting practices. This session will guide you through the redesigned forms, their intended use, and how they will interact with your electronic filing systems. From rigging your documentation to navigating the e-filing current, you will leave this session ready to captain your caseload with confidence and compliance.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

08:30 AM – 09:30 AM

Mapping the New Horizon: Generative AI and its Place in Child Support Legal Practice

Laguna Grand ABC

Charting the rising tides and choppy waters of child support has always been tough; add FEM changes, caseload fluctuations and an ever-changing economic landscape and it's hard to know if you're still on course or lost on a three-hour tour with Gilligan and the Skipper. Just as sailors and explorers moved from celestial navigation and maps to GPS and electronic charts, so too are child support attorneys moving from dusty old legal texts to modern tools like ChatGPT. Join us for an exciting session discussing generative AI and its place in child support legal practice. Whether its ethical considerations, privacy concerns or competency ruminations, we will voyage through the rough waters and plot a course to a new horizon.

09:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Breathing in the Sea Air: How Well-Being Invigorates our Competence

Laguna Grand ABC

Feel the sun on your face and the sand between your toes as we stroll along the

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beaches of Monterey talking about well-being and its impact on our competence in the legal field. As the sun sparkles on the bay and the birds float along the breeze, we will become acquainted with the rules of competence, the need for a greater focus on well-being in the legal profession and how feeling our best allows us to do our best as attorneys.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Networking Break

Ballroom Pre-convene

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Uncovering the Hidden Reef: Strategies to Identify and Eliminate Bias

Laguna Grand ABC

Much like the ocean, human perception has hidden depths. On the surface, interactions may seem neutral, but just below lie powerful undercurrents shaped by our cultural history—currents that influence how we think, view the world, and engage with others. In this session, we'll slip beneath the waves and explore the complex reef of bias—where seemingly small perceptions cluster and grow, shaping the larger ecosystem of our interactions and decisions. Through guided exploration, we'll chart different strategies to surface, examine, and eliminate bias. Participants will leave with a practical toolkit to improve their

personal awareness and contribute to more inclusive, bias-aware workplaces and communities. By uncovering the hidden biases that cluster like coral beneath the surface, we can begin to reshape the legal reef.

12:00 PM

Adjourn

Laguna Grand ABC



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Registration Fee:

Registration Type	Early Bird	Regular
Member Full Registration	\$650	\$700
Non-members Full Registration	\$700	\$750

Full registration for one person includes:

- Access to all courses
- MCLE certificates provided based on attendance
- Lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Refreshment breaks every day
- Networking reception on Tuesday

To register for the 2025 CSDA Legal College, please click on the link below.

[REGISTRATION](#)

Please follow the instruction when registering. Your email address will be used for all communications regarding the event including the mobile app access.

PAYMENT

Registrants may pay online by credit card (Visa/MasterCard/American Express) or by check. If paying by check, please choose to be invoiced. Please note which registrants should receive credit for payment in the check memo.

Mail checks to:

Child Support Directors Association
Attn: Accounting/2024 Legal College
2150 River Plaza Drive, Suite 420
Sacramento, CA 95833

CANCELLATION & REFUND

Please read the cancellation and refund policy below carefully.

[CANCELLATION POLICY](#)

MCLE CHECK-IN & CREDITS

To receive MCLE credit, attendees must check in to each individual session by scanning the QR code provided at the conference.

MCLE certificates will be available for download through your CSDA account 7 days after the conference ends. If you don't have an account, [click here](#) or contact us at administrative@csdaca.org for assistance.

2025 LEGAL COLLEGE

TRAVERSING THE CHANGING TIDES OF CHILD SUPPORT

HOTEL & TRAVEL INFORMATION



Conference Hotel

Embassy Suites by Hilton Monterey Bay - Seaside

1441 Canyon Del Rey Seaside, CA 93955

Room Rate

Available Monday 10/6 - Thursday, 10/9

Room rate: \$224.10

(plus applicable taxes and fees)

Check-in: 4:00 PM | Check-out: 11:00 AM

Cut-off date: Friday, September 12, 2025

Attire/Weather

The attire for this event is business casual.

In October, Monterey, California, typically experiences mild and pleasant weather. Average daytime highs are around 69°F (21°C), while nighttime lows drop to about 51°F (11°C).

Special Needs

Registrants who require special accommodations related to facility access, communication, or dietary needs are asked to please add their needs to their profile at www.csdaca.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tran at tran@csdaca.org.

Parking

Self-Parking for one (1) standard-sized vehicle at discounted rate of \$15.

Transportation

Distance from

- Monterey Peninsula Airport: 2 miles
- San Jose International Airport: 70 miles
- San Francisco International Airport: 100 miles



CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



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