



SBA's Mini Virtual Solo, Small Firm & TECH Conference
November 16-17, 2021
FACULTY

Austin Benton is a practicing attorney at the law firm of Benton, Benton & Benton and focuses on domestic and civil litigation. He is also the owner of the legal technology company, Ayla, LLC. Ayla designs and builds document automation systems for practitioners of personal injury, family, successions, criminal, foreclosure, and commercial defense work. Ayla is utilized by firms located in Louisiana (including McGlinchey Stafford), New York, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, California, and Ohio. Austin works with over 100 law firms to assist in increasing productivity and decreasing the time required to generate simple and complex legal and administrative documents. Austin is also a member of the Access to Justice Technology Subcommittee.

Jess Birken is a “solopreneur” attorney in Minneapolis and founder of Birken Law Office which provides legal advice to nonprofit organizations. When she isn’t lawyering, Jess helps other lawyers change their lives and their law practices through her passion project “Hack Your Practice.” She loves teaching lawyers the benefits of efficient practicing. An outside the box thinker, Jess likes to jazz it up in CLEs. She believes that lawyers can modernize without breaking the bank or knowing how to code. “And when they do, they’ll have happier clients and love their lawyer life.”

Casey C. DeReus practices with Baer Law LLC and focuses on negligent security and rideshare cases. A native Virginian, Casey holds a masters in French studies from Tulane and earned her her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Loyola University New Orleans, where she served as the Managing Print Editor for the *Loyola Law Review*. She has published numerous articles in trade publications such as the *Louisiana Bar Journal* and *Louisiana Advocates*, and currently serves as the Chair of the Woman’s Caucus Publications Committee for the Louisiana Association for Justice. She is also the founder of Lady Lawyers of Louisiana, a group designed to foster connections and communication.

Michael Maschke is the CEO/Director of Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics at Sensei Enterprises, Inc. He holds a degree in Telecommunications from James Madison University. He is an EnCase Certified Examiner, a Certified Computer Examiner, a Certified Ethical Hacker and an AccessData Certified Examiner, and holds a Certified Information Systems Security Professional. Mike has significant experience with network troubleshooting, design and implementation, security, systems integration and computer engineering. He is also a member of the International Society of Forensic Computer Examiners.

Sharon Nelson, a practicing attorney and **John Simek** founded Sensei Enterprises, Inc. which provides digital forensics and cybersecurity services nationwide. Noted authors of several books on cybersecurity and technology for lawyers, Sharon and John have spoken at the LSBA’s Solo, Small Firm & TECH conferences and the LSBA’s COVID webinars last year as well as other LSBA seminars as well as for conferences nationwide, including the ABA’s TECHSHOW.

Tom O'Connor of Gulf Coast Legal Technology Center is a nationally known expert, consultant, speaker and writer on computerized litigation support systems. A New England native (now New Orleans “native”) with an undergraduate degree in political science from The Johns Hopkins University and a JD degree, he supports complex litigation with his expertise on technology issues. He has been appointed by various federal and state courts on cases involving large amounts of electronic evidence. His expertise is also sought for negotiating ESI exchange protocols. A co-author of the award winning article, “In Katrina’s Wake,” he is also the author of *The Automated Law Firm: A Guide to Computer Systems and Software* and *The Lawyers Guide to Summation and EDiscovery for Small Cases*, both published by the ABA. Tom’s professional accolades include the inaugural Betsy Ann Reynolds Award for Excellence in Litigation Support from the Litigation Support Leaders Conference and the inaugural Scarpitti Award for Professional Achievement from the Masters Conference.

Hon. Scott U. Schlegel is a district judge for the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Division D, State of Louisiana. Immediately after taking the bench in 2013, longtime technophile J. Schlegel investigated and implemented secure technology common in private practice for use in the court system, including electronic signatures, online calendaring, instant messaging systems, and videoconferencing platforms. His success, particularly during pandemic times, garnered nationwide attention from other courts around the country wanting to duplicate what he has accomplished. He currently serves as Chair for the Louisiana Supreme Court Technology Commission, the Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA) Technology Committee, and the LDJA/Department of Corrections Liaison Committee. He was awarded the American Legal Technology Award - Court Innovation, the Kevin Kane Justice Award from the Louisiana Family Forum, the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Citizen Lawyer Award, the Public Service Award from the Gillis Long Poverty Center, Loyola University College of Law, and the Business Retention & Expansion Award from the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO).

John Simek is the vice president of Sensei Enterprises Inc., a managed IT service provider, digital forensics and managed cybersecurity firm in Fairfax, VA. He has a national reputation as a digital forensics technologist and has testified as an expert witness throughout the U.S. He holds a degree in engineering from the United States Merchant Marine Academy and an MBA in finance from Saint Joseph’s University. He is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional and an EnCase Certified Examiner. He is also a certified ethical hacker, Certified Handheld Examiner, Certified Novell Engineer, Microsoft Certified Professional + Internet, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, NT Certified Independent Professional, and a Certified Internetwork Professional. John currently provides IT support to hundreds of Washington, DC area law firms, legal entities and corporations. He is a co-host of the Legal Talk Network podcast “Digital Detectives” and a co-author of *Locked Down: Practical Information for Lawyers Second Edition* (ABA, 2016), *Encryption Made Simple for Lawyers* (ABA, 2015), *Locked Down: Information Security for Lawyers* (ABA, 2012), *The Electronic Evidence and Discovery Handbook: Forms, Checklists and Guidelines* (ABA, 2006), *Information Security for Lawyers and Law Firms* (ABA, 2006), *The 2008-2020 Solo and Small Firm Legal Technology Guides* (ABA, 2008-2020) and a contributing author of *eDiscovery*, Third Edition (Pennsylvania Bar Institute, 2014). He is a frequent author and speaker on cybersecurity, legal technology and electronic evidence throughout the country.