

*"The secret to success is good leadership, and good leadership is all about making the lives of your team members or workers better." – NFL Hall of Fame Coach Tony Dungy*

## The Chicago Bar Association

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Leadership Institute is designed to enhance the leadership skills and foster the professional growth of emerging leaders within Chicago's legal community. Get the practical knowledge and business development strategies necessary to attain and be successful in significant leadership roles. Sessions feature dynamic faculty, interactive skill building exercises and networking opportunities.

Our 2026 cohort begins May 26 and runs through June 23.

Applicants must be an Illinois attorney with at least 3 years of experience, but not more than 10 years.

Session locations vary, with most held at the CBA, 321 S. Plymouth Ct. Chicago, IL 60604.

**10 IL PR-MCLE CREDIT**  
(PENDING APPROVAL)



**DR. NAKIA HALL**  
Next Level Core  
Solutions



**TASNEEM KHOKHA**  
GrowthPlay



**JOHN MITCHELL**  
KM Advisors



**DAVID SUSLER**  
National Material L.P.



**DR. BRENT TURNER**  
Employment Boost

Sessions: Leading from Within: Self-Awareness as the Foundation of Effective Leadership | Leading with Impact: Personal Brand, Emotional Intelligence & Leadership Agility | Leading Through Challenge: Inclusive Strategies for Engaged, High-Performing Teams | Leading for Growth: Strategic Business Development for Emerging Leaders | Leadership Institute Graduation Reception





# The Chicago Bar Association Leadership Institute

## Who is eligible?

Attorneys interested in participating in the CBA Leadership Institute must complete and submit the attached application. Applicants must be licensed Illinois attorneys in good standing with the Illinois bar who have practiced between 3-10 years. An applicant must be a member of the CBA, or become a member of the CBA concurrent with applying. Program registration is limited.

## How does it work?

The program curriculum consists of 4 substantive sessions and corresponding networking events. Each session will have a specific topic and skill, which build upon the topics and skills addressed in prior sessions. Participants must attend all substantive sessions in order to graduate from the program. Upon submission of the program application, each participating attorney must be sponsored by an attorney who is senior to the participating attorney and from within their law firm or organization. The sponsoring attorney will agree to be available for the participating attorney to try out or discuss what he or she has learned in each a session and is encouraged to attend certain program events as noted in the program agenda.

## Why should I apply?

Qualified participants will be taught to be leaders in the legal profession, will build relationships for the future, and, most importantly, will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to take on significant leadership opportunities and challenges. Participants who successfully complete the program will receive a graduation certificate from The Chicago Bar Association Leadership Institute. The participating attorney, and their sponsoring firm or organization, will be acknowledged in the CBA Record magazine upon successful completion of the program. The substantive sessions of the program will qualify for Illinois MCLE credit.

## What is the cost?

A fee of \$1500 per participant is payable to the Chicago Bar Association upon acceptance into the program.

# 2026 Full Program Agenda

## ***Session I: Leading from Within***

### ***Self-Awareness as the Foundation of Effective Leadership***

**May 26, 2026, 2:00pm-6:00pm (2.50 IL PR MCLE Credit)**

**Location: Clark Hill, 130 E. Randolph Drive, Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60601**

#### **2:00pm-3:15pm: Part A - Know Yourself: Assessing Your Leadership Style**

Participants will complete a Hogan Insight Series assessment and analyze their results to become more aware of how personality traits can impact interactions with others.

#### **3:15-3:30pm: Break**

#### **3:30pm-4:45pm: Part B - Manage Relationships: Applying Insight to Lead Effectively**

Participants will be able to apply what they've learned about themselves to interact with supervisors more effectively, manage others, balance their professional and personal time, and improve overall productivity.

Speaker: **Dr. Brent Turner**, Director, Leadership Development, Employment Boost

**4:45pm-6:00pm: Welcome Reception for the Class of 2025 (Clark Hill, 130 E. Randolph Drive, Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60601)**

## ***Session II: Leading with Impact***

### ***Personal Brand, Emotional Intelligence & Leadership Agility***

**June 2, 2026, 2:00pm-6:00pm (2.50 IL PR MCLE Credit)**

**Location: The Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago, IL**

#### **2:00pm-3:15pm: Part A - How to Develop Your Personal Brand So it Elevates Your Leadership**

Participants will learn how to shape how those in their professional environment see and experience them. You cannot create your personal brand. However, you can take steps to influence how your brand develops and how that impacts your ability to lead.

#### **3:15pm-3:30pm: Break**

#### **3:30pm-4:45pm: Part B – Leadership Styles**

This program provides participants with insights into how emotional intelligence shapes their leadership style. Learn about your default leadership style and how to flex or shift into other leadership styles so you can maximize your effectiveness with the largest number of people across all sorts of situations.

#### **Speakers:**

**John Mitchell**, Lawyer, Leader and Owner of KM Advisors

**David Susler**, Associate General Counsel, National Material, L.P.

**4:45pm-6:00pm: Networking Reception (Location TBD)**

## ***Session III: Leading Through Challenge Inclusive Strategies for Engaged, High-Performing Teams***

**June 9, 2026, 2:00pm-6:00pm (2.50 IL PR MCLE Credit)**

**Location: The Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago, IL**

### **2:00pm-3:15pm: Part A – Building Inclusive, High-Performing Teams in the Face of Challenge**

Effective leadership today requires more than technical skill—it demands cultural awareness, adaptability, and the ability to unify teams through complexity. This interactive session brings together core leadership themes to equip participants with practical strategies for navigating real-world challenges through a culturally responsive lens.

Speaker: **Dr. Nakia Hall**, Leadership Development Facilitator, Next Level Core Solutions

### **3:15pm-3:30pm: Break**

### **3:30pm-4:45pm: Part B - Panel Discussion with Leadership Institute Alumni**

Leadership Institute alumni will share real-world insights on how they have navigated team challenges, fostered inclusion, and sustained high performance in their own organizations. Through candid reflections and practical examples, panelists will offer actionable guidance on translating culturally responsive leadership principles into everyday practice.

**4:45pm-6:00pm: Networking Reception (The Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago, IL)**

## ***Session IV: Leading for Growth Strategic Business Development for Emerging Leaders***

**June 16, 2026, 2:00pm-6:00pm (2.50 IL PR MCLE Credit)**

**Location: The Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago, IL**

### **2:00pm-3:15pm: Part A – Crafting Your Business Development Roadmap**

Participants will learn about key business development trends in the marketplace, how to organize and execute business development best practices, how to create the perception of gravitas and credibility and how to follow through with a thoughtful and well-disciplined business development plan. Participants will learn how to use inquiry skills to uncover potential client needs and advocacy skills to sell personal benefits.

Speaker: **Tasneem Khokha**, Managing Director, GrowthPlay

### **3:15pm-3:45pm: Break**

### **3:45pm-4:45pm: Part B – The Secrets to Becoming a Rainmaker**

Participants will be joined a panel of business development leaders, law firm rainmakers, and corporate counsel about the fundamentals of building relationships, networking, selling oneself and developing the coveted “book of business.”

Moderator: **Tasneem Khokha**, Managing Director, GrowthPlay

**4:45pm-6:00pm: Networking Reception (The Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago, IL)**

## ***Leadership Institute Graduation Reception***

**June 23, 2026, 4:30pm-6:00pm**

**Location: Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa, 225 W Washington St, Chicago, IL 60606**

All program faculty members, steering committee members, sponsoring attorneys and CBA Leadership Institute alumni are invited to join participants in celebration of their successful completion of the 2024 Leade



# The Chicago Bar Association Leadership Institute

## 2026 CBA Leadership Institute Application

Please return the following to [jbyrne@chicagobar.org](mailto:jbyrne@chicagobar.org) by no later than the close of business on  
Wednesday, May 1, 2026:

- Resume
- Completed Application
- Electronic photograph of applicant (submission signifies permission to use photo in publicity about Institute)

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### APPLICANT INFORMATION: Please complete this section and enclose with application submission.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Admission to Illinois Bar: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm /Company/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm /Company / Organization Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Attorney Name and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please provide a brief answer to the below questions (150 words or less).

Why do you want to participate in the CBA Leadership Institute and what training and skills do you hope to obtain?