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AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

1.) 2026 ANNUAL KUWATCH CONFERENCE: ONLY 11 DAYS AWAY!

For the first time in its 37-year history, CDLA will be holding its annual two-day conference in **Monterey**, California!

As usual, our conference rates are among the lowest in the country. Also, we have secured a limited number of rooms at the Hyatt at the super-low room rate of \$275/night. The Education Committee has developed a truly exceptional program with eight featured speakers. There will also be ample opportunity for social interaction and networking throughout the two days.



My wife Mary and I look forward to seeing all of you again in this beautiful venue.



DATES: Friday, August 7 & Saturday, August 8, 2026

LOCATION: Hyatt Regency Hotel & Spa Monterey; Monterey, California

PROGRAM, SCHEDULE, COST: [2026-annual-kuwatch-conference.pdf](https://www.californiaduilawyers.org/conference-2026)

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Elizabeth Little: High-Profile Trial to Everyday Practice: Strategies from the Karen Read Case

Anthony Palacios: SFSTs in Action - Insights from the Expert

Richard Middlebrook: DMV Litigation Update - Key Appellate Rulings Every DUI Lawyer Should Know

Al Menaster: DUI Case Law Update - One Battle After Another (virtual)

Aaron Olson: Finding the Flaws - Toxicology Errors and How to Expose Them

Patrick Kolasinski & Lara Gressley: Using AI to Streamline Your DUI Practice &

AI in DUI Defense - Ethical Boundaries & Best Practices

Lucy McAllister: Defending Professional Licenses in California - Crossover Cases Involving Drug & Alcohol Issues

Bubba Head: Winning the Unwinnable DUI - Impeaching Officer Credibility in Court

MCLE: 9 credit hours, including 1 credit hour in Technology and 1 credit hour in Ethics

REGISTRATION: <https://www.californiaduilawyers.org/conference-2026>

2.) GIFT CARD & EMAIL IMPERSONATION SCAM TARGETING CDLA MEMBERS



Several California DUI Lawyers Association members have recently received fraudulent emails that appear to come from me or from our President. These emails are **scams** and should be deleted immediately.

A recent example asked a member to:

"Please purchase three (3) Amazon e-gift cards for \$150 each (\$450 total) directly from the Amazon website for digital delivery. Once you let me know you are ready, I will provide the recipients' email addresses."

This is NOT a legitimate request from CDLA.

These criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated and often use the names of association officers in an attempt to gain your trust.

How to Spot These Scams

The easiest way to identify these fraudulent emails is to **carefully examine the sender's email address**. While the display name may say "Roger Andersen" or another CDLA officer, the actual email address will almost always be different from our legitimate email addresses.

Other warning signs include:

- Requests to purchase gift cards, wire money, send cryptocurrency, or make other unusual payments.
- Claims that the request is "urgent," "confidential," or that you should not call.
- Requests to communicate only by email or text.
- Poor grammar or awkward wording (although many scams today are very well written).
- Requests that are out of character or unrelated to normal CDLA business.

When in Doubt

If you receive an email that seems unusual—even if it appears to come from me, the President, or another Board member:

- **Do not reply.**
- **Do not purchase anything or send money.**
- **Verify the request by calling the individual directly** using a phone number you already know or by contacting the CDLA office.
- Delete the email after reporting it as phishing to your email provider, if possible.

Please remember that **CDLA will never ask members to purchase gift cards on behalf of the Association by email.**

Thank you for remaining vigilant. By taking a few seconds to verify the sender's email address before responding, you can help protect yourself and other members from these increasingly common scams.

3.) UPDATE: SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As President **Richard Middlebrook** has recently communicated to all CDLA members:

“After five extraordinary years of service as Executive Director of the California DUI Lawyers Association, Dr. Roger C. Andersen will be retiring this fall as he approaches his 75th birthday in late September. While we will certainly miss Roger’s daily leadership, we are profoundly grateful for the lasting impact he and his wife, Mary, have had on this organization, our membership, and the DUI defense community throughout California.

At its June meeting, the CDLA Board of Directors unanimously approved a comprehensive five-month transition plan developed by Dr. Andersen to ensure a thoughtful, organized, and seamless search for CDLA’s next Executive Director.”

The CDLA Board of Directors will be meeting this week to review the recommendation of the Executive Director Search Committee, chaired by CDLA Vice President **Lara Gressley**. We anticipate an announcement next week.

Our goal is to welcome the new Executive Director at the 2026 *Annual Kuwatch Conference* on Friday, August 7 and Saturday, August 8, 2026, in beautiful Monterey, California. Following the conference, I will be training the new ED until the second half of September when he/she will officially take over management of our Association. I will remain available as a consultant for at least two months to help ensure continuity and a smooth transition of responsibilities.

Please note that Mary and I will still be coordinating our annual conference as we have done for the past four years.

This year's conference will feature eight outstanding speakers addressing the most important and timely issues facing DUI practitioners today.

President Richard Middlebrook:

"I strongly encourage every member to attend — not only for the exceptional educational program and networking opportunities, but also to personally thank Roger and Mary for their extraordinary service, friendship, and unwavering commitment to CDLA."

4.) NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS IN JULY

The following attorneys joined CDLA in July:

Domenico Togninali
Sean Panahi
Kirk Tarman
Thomas Ferri
Charles Shivers
Patrick Bowers
Jansi Muradyan
Martin Caraves
Daniel P. Flores

5.) THE LAST WORD!

If you have any CDLA membership issue, just call, text, or email me and I will assist you with the resolution of the problem.

Dr. Roger C. Andersen, Executive Director, California DUI Lawyers Association

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