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SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

1.) NEW CDLA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO START MID-SEPTEMBER



Samantha M. Phillips will assume management of CDLA on Monday, September 14, 2026. Samantha was hired on Thursday, August 6 and assisted CDLA Executive Director Dr. Roger C. Andersen (& wife Mary) with running the 2026 Annual Kuwatch Conference. Samantha also attended the Board of Director's Annual Meeting.

She has been training with retiring Executive Director Dr. Roger C. Andersen for the past several weeks to assure a smooth transition.

A nationwide search was launched in June and July. Samantha was selected from a pool of over 120 candidates.

CDLA President Lara Gressley will issue a "formal" announcement in mid-September, introducing Samantha to the CDLA membership.

2.) FOLLOW-UP: 2026 ANNUAL KUWATCH CONFERENCE:

A follow-up survey of the 86 attendees of the 2026 Annual Kuwatch Conference indicated:

- 100% indicated the conference met their educational objectives, kept them updated and informed of their legal responsibilities, and contained significant professional content.
- 90% were very satisfied (79%) or satisfied (11%) with the quality of customer service, assistance and support they received from Dr. Andersen (and wife Mary) before or during the conference.

- 100% were very satisfied (68%) or satisfied (32%) with their overall experience at the 2026 Annual Kuwatch Conference

3.) AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Virginia Landry
Edward Kuwatch Lifetime Achievement Award



Patrick Kolasinski
President's Award



Richard Middlebrook
Presidential Leadership Award
August 2024 to August 2026



Michele Horning & David Nico
LifeSafer Ignition Interlock
Recognition of 30+ years of Partnership with CDLA

During the Awards Ceremony at the 2026 **Annual Kuwatch Conference**, the following were recognized:

VIRGINIA LANDRY

Edward Kuwatch Lifetime Achievement Award

This prestigious award is given annually to a CDLA member who, over an extended period of time, has made significant contributions to the mission, goals, and growth of CDLA and who has had a substantial positive impact in the lives of hundreds of clients accused of driving under the influence and related offenses in his or her legal career.

PATRICK KOLASINSKI

President's Award

The President's Award is given to a CDLA member in recognition of steadfast commitment to CDLA and to freedom, and for outstanding efforts in defending the accused that zealously guard our Constitutional rights.

RICHARD MIDDLEBROOK

Presidential Leadership Award

This award recognizes his outstanding leadership of CDLA and the Board of Directors from August 2024 to August 2026.

LIFESAFER IGNITION INTERLOCK

This special award was presented to David Nico & Michele Horning recognizing 30+ years of partnership with CDLA. LifeSafer has been CDLA's longest term Partner (sponsor).

Please send your [congratulations](#) to these outstanding CDLA members and one of our Diamond Partners for their contributions and accomplishments to the overall vitality and success of our 37-year-old Association.

4.) CDLA EXPERTS GUIDE

All CDLA members should have recently received the September 2026 quarterly update to the *CDLA Experts Guide*.

Since the June 2026 quarterly update, CDLA has added three (3) new Experts:

Blake Stutzman

Paul Stucker

Lloyd M. McCullough

For a person to be classified as a CDLA Expert, he/she must have significant specialized knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education sufficient to qualify as an expert on the subject/topic/issue to which his/her expertise or testimony relates. CDLA allows a limited number of Experts and strives to have at least one Expert in selective fields of expertise.

CDLA Experts often provide relevant and accurate information on the all-member listserv that may assist our attorneys in the defense of their clients, including providing applicable scientific material and explanations. Also, CDLA Experts often present monthly webinars or speak at our annual conference.

This guide presents information about our Experts' areas of expertise, qualifications and experience, and contact information.

This guide is updated quarterly and is always available to our membership via our website:

MEMBER LOGIN – MEMBER PAGE – CDLA EXPERTS GUIDE

Please contact me with questions about this new CDLA Experts Guide or any CDLA membership matter.

5.) APRIL 2027 MASTERCLASS PROGRAM

The CDLA Masterclass, ***DMV & Criminal Writs & Appeals***, filled all 15 available slots within a week of the program announcement. Two CDLA members are on the waitlist. Immediate Past President Richard Middlebrook and President Lara Gressley will present this intensive, 4-day program on April 15-18, 2027, at a location TBD. (4 destination locations are under consideration.)

Wanted to be added to the waitlist? Please contact me (ed@californiaduilawyers.org) to make a \$250 deposit.

6.) SEPTEMBER LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR



HOW TO CHALLENGE THE THC EVIDENCE IN EVERY CASE

DATE: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

TIME: 12:00 - 1:30 pm.

PRESENTER: Dr. Stefan Rose

MCLE: 1.5 credit hours

COORDINATOR: Samantha M. Phillips, CDLA Executive Director (as of 9/14/26)

COST: FREE!

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www.californiaduilawyers.org/challenging-THC-evidence>

WEBINAR DESCRIPTION:

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive compound produced by the marijuana plant, has complex chemistry and pharmacology attributes. In this two-hour webinar, Dr. Stefan Rose will explain and simplify the chemical and pharmacological complexities of THC to help the criminal defense attorney challenge any blood THC case. His PowerPoint presentation will contain the most up-to-date references on the chemical analysis and forensic pharmacology of a typical blood THC case.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER:



Dr. Stefan Rose began his career in science and medicine in 1974, working as a research technician in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Miami School of Medicine and then as a research technician from 1976-1978 at the university's Department of Pharmacology. He earned his BA in Biology from Florida Atlantic University in 1981 and his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Miami in 1985.

Following medical school Dr. Rose trained for two years at the University of Alabama in Clinical Pathology (laboratory medicine) and then for two years at the Dade County Medical Examiner Department Formal Forensic Toxicology training program and rotated through all sections of the medical examiner department and the toxicology laboratory. In 1992, he started the first DUI laboratory at the University of Miami and was responsible for blood ethanol, blood drug, and drug testing for the law enforcement agencies of Dade County, Florida.

From 1995 to 1998, he trained in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Miami, diagnosing and treating psychiatric patients, often under the influence of ethanol and drugs. He has been a courtesy professor in the Department of Chemistry at FIU since 1997 and has taught Forensic Toxicology and performed research in a variety of areas including detector dogs, breath ethanol testing, and blood ethanol testing. Dr. Rose has been in the field of laboratory science and pharmacology since 1974 and has continuously completed formal education, training, and research in clinical and forensic pharmacology and toxicology.

Dr. Stefan Rose serves as a CDLA **Expert** and provides information, expertise, and guidance to CDLA members throughout the year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 4 of CDLA's Partners (sponsors) will make brief presentations at the start of this program.
- This program will be recorded and added to CDLA's Learning Management System.
- All CDLA webinars are available to be viewed on-demand 24/7 via the CDLA website.
- A PDF handout of Dr. Rose's PowerPoint presentation will be sent to all who attend along with a Certificate of Attendance (1.5 MCLE credits) and a brief evaluation survey.

Please contact me for additional information about this webinar or if you have any issues with registration.

7.) BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

At its annual meeting held prior to the 2026 Annual Kuwatch Conference, the Board elected the following officers for the upcoming year:

Lara Gressley, President
Ryan Wilbur, Vice President
Philip Gagnon, Treasurer
Phillip Crawford, Secretary



LEFT TO RIGHT:

Philip Gagnon (Treasurer), Patrick Kolasinski, Mike Donaldson, Lara Gressley (President), Virginia Landry, Lynn Gorelick, Richard Middlebrook (Immediate Past President), Peter Johnson, Samantha Phillips (Executive Director), Suzanne Ferguson, Jeanne Normandeau, Phillip Crawford (Secretary), Ryan Wilbur (Vice President)

DIRECTORS NOT IN PICTURE: Michael Kennedy (Listserv Moderator), Charles Dresow, Joshua Price

8.) NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS IN AUGUST:

The following attorneys joined (or rejoined) CDLA this month:

Herbert Terreri
Benjamin Possick
Anna Tyner
Clair Jenkins
Sinunik Moradian
David Fischer
Asya Ovsepyan

9.) MY FINAL NEWSLETTER!

This is my last monthly newsletter for the CDLA membership. Newly appointed Executive Director **Samantha M. Phillips** will issue the October 2026 newsletter and all future issues.

I have truly loved working with our membership during the past 5 years, especially the hard-working Officers and Board of Directors.

Working 60 years (including the last five serving as CDLA ED) and turning 75 in late September, it's time for me to retire so that Mary and I may enjoy our so-called golden years together.

On behalf of my partner in crime for over 53 years, THANK YOU.



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

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