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WSSFC 2026

Plenary 4

Gadgets, Gizmos and Widgets

Presented By:
Nerino J. Petro, Jr.
Nerino Petro LLC, Rockford, IL

Bryan Sims
Sims Law Firm, Ltd., Naperville, IL

About the Presenters...

Nerino Petro (IL & WI) is President of the Erickson Group of companies in Rockford, IL and previously the Chief Information Officer for HolmstromKennedyPC. He served as the first Practice Management Advisor for the State Bar of Wisconsin's Practice411™ Law Office Management Assistance Program from 2006-2014. Licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, Nerino uses his years of legal practice and experience being CEO/Senior Legal Technologist for CenCom Legal Technologies, to help lawyers and their staff deal with the technology and practice management issues confronting them. He has worked with numerous leading products including TimeMatters, NetDocuments, TABS® time, billing and accounting software, Practice Master® practice management software, and many others. Nerino was the ABA LPM Magazine Product Watch columnist through 2012 and is a regular contributor to other local, state, and national publications including the Illinois Bar Journal, Wisconsin Lawyer, Wisconsin InsideTrack and ABA GP|Solo Magazine. He has presented throughout the US and abroad and has served on the ABA TECHSHOW Planning Board from 2012-2014 and is serving again for the 2018 ABA TECHSHOW. He was the 2019 Chair for the State Bar of Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference Planning Committee and is a longstanding co-chair of its Technology Track. Nerino was named to the inaugural Fastcase 50 list of the top legal techies in 2011. Nerino continues to provide technology consulting, training and practice management services to lawyers and firms throughout the United States through CenCom Technologies.

Bryan Sims is a shareholder and founder of Sims Law Firm, Ltd., where he concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial litigation, civil appeals, and real estate matters. He's a member of the Illinois Bar and the Northern District of Illinois Trial Bar and is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United State Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the United States courts in the Central District of Illinois, the Southern District of Illinois, and the Eastern District of Michigan. Bryan is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the DuPage County Bar Association, and the Will County Bar Association as well as a member of the ISBA Standing Committee on Legal Technology, where he has previously served as the chair three times and the newsletter editor for 5 years. Since 2006, he has been a member ISBA Solo and Small Firm Conference Planning Committee. He is a past chair of the DuPage County Bar Association Law Practice Management and Technology Committee. Bryan has spoken on legal technology issues at the ISBA Solo and Small Firm Conferences, Wisconsin Solo and Small Firm Conferences, for the DuPage County Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Winnebago County Bar Association, the Lake County (Indiana) Bar Association, the Lake County (Illinois) Bar Association, the International Technology Law Association, National Business Institute and at ABA Techshow. Also, he was the featured speaker at the 2014 Oklahoma Solo and Small Firm Conference. Bryan has contributed to TechnoLawyer and was recognized as the 2005 TechnoLawyer of the Year. He has also written for PDA JD and regularly wrote reviews for Law Office Computing. Bryan blogs about the intersection between law and technology at www.theconnectedlawyer.com. Before entering private practice, Bryan worked as a judicial law clerk for Illinois Supreme Court Justice S. Louis Rathje. He has also worked as a staff attorney for the Second District of the Illinois Appellate Court. He is a 1993 Cum Laude graduate of Wheeling University and a 1996 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. While in law school, Bryan served on the staff of both the Loyola Law Journal and the Loyola Consumer Law Reporter.