

	California Caucus of College and University Ombuds 53rd Annual Conference <i>The Grove and the Understory</i> Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA November 8th-11th, 2026
All activities will occur in the Fred Farr Room unless specified.	
Sunday, November 8, 2026	
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Conference registration: located in Fred Farr Room Room check-in: at Asilomar Front Desk
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Dinner Location: Fred Farr Room
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Brief Welcome, Introductions & Dessert
Monday, November 9, 2026	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Location: Crocker Dining Hall
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Opening Remarks Co-Convenors: Natalie Gibson & Serena Young
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Opening Mini-Circles Facilitators: Natalie Fleury & Brenda Berlin
9:15 - 10:15 AM	Session 1: Jenn Mahony, <i>The Grove of Time Intertwined: Finding our Future in the Roots of our Ombudsing Understory</i>
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 - 11:45 AM	Session 2: Joan Waters & Kevin Coonrod, <i>Duck and Cover: The Role of an Academic Ombuds in 2026</i>
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch Location: Crocker Dining Hall

1:15 - 1:45 PM	Session 3: Programming Committee, <i>Refreshing Our Understory</i>
1:45 - 2:15 PM	Session 4: Jen Amano, <i>Upholding Impartiality while Rooted in Empathy</i>
2:15 - 3:00 PM	Session 5: Programming Committee, <i>Entangled in the Understory: Challenges to Ombuds Empathy and Impartiality (Case Studies)</i>
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Session 6: Bryan Hanson, <i>Strengthening the Canopy: Reflective Practice and Resilience in Ombuds Work</i>
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Daily Evaluation & Small Caucus Sign ups
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Dinner Location: Crocker Dining Hall
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Community Building Activities: Join with fellow Ombuds for games, crafts, conversation and connection
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Location: Crocker Dining Hall
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Announcements
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Session 7: Matt Ricke, <i>The Understory Speaks: Folklore, Myth and the Hidden Life of Organizational Conflict</i>
10:15-10:30 AM	Break
10:30-11:45 AM	Session 8: Kathie Greenwood, <i>Navigating Deep Rooted Organizational Conflicts: A "Tree-Layered" Case Study</i>
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Awards
12:00 - 12:15 PM	Evaluations & Group Photo

12:15 -1:00 PM	Lunch Location: Crocker Dining Hall
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Caucus and Small Group Discussions This session provides time for self- and small group reflection, and for networking with colleagues. Groups form around shared interests in a topic and/or activity.
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Dinner Location: Crocker Dining Hall
7:30 - 9:00 PM	Gift Exchange Location: Fred Farr This Cal Caucus tradition provides an entertaining way to learn more about your colleagues. Bring a wrapped gift (to keep it a surprise) that represents a passion or interest in your life. <i>Around \$25.</i>

Wednesday, November 11, 2026	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Location: Crocker Dining Hall
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Announcements
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Session 9: Cindy Mazur, <i>How Can Nature and Forest Therapy Enrich and Inform our Ombuds Practice</i>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Closing Circles
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Evaluations & Caucus Conclusion
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Cal Caucus Debrief and Planning Meeting Please take advantage of this opportunity to share your feedback and ideas to help shape the direction of the next caucus
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Cal Caucus Annual Business Meeting Everyone is welcome!