

65th Annual

Corporate Counsel Institute

JUNE 8–9, 2026
CHICAGO, IL

Monday, June 8, 2026

7:45–8:45 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45–9 a.m. | Welcome and Overview

Zachary Clopton, Dean, Daniel Hale Williams Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

Christopher Athas, Institute Chair, Vice President-General Counsel and Secretary, Amsted Industries, Chicago

9–10 a.m. | The Evolving Boardroom: Understanding New Corporate Governance Standards and SEC Disclosure Rules

- How to operationalize SEC mandates
- Guiding the Board in thinking about disclosure requirements
- Board risk oversight
- Succession planning and Board refreshment
- Factors impacting incorporation/reincorporation decisions

SESSION CHAIR

Tanya Jaeger de Foras, Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Corporate Secretary, and Chief Compliance Officer, Ingredion Incorporated, Westchester, IL

PANELISTS

Anika Hermann Bargfrede, Sidley Austin LLP, Chicago

Christopher Dekker, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer, Brunswick Corporation, Mettawa, IL

Lisa Young, Chief Legal Officer, Snap Finance, Salt Lake City

10–10:10 a.m. | Break

10:10–11:10 a.m. | M&A: Navigating Deals in Public and Private Companies

- Major antitrust considerations
- Key factors in the current regulatory and legal landscape
- Use and governance of AI in data due diligence
- Involvement of the C-Suite and sponsors in legal diligence and documentation

SESSION CHAIR

Tushin Shah, General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer, Wrigley Management, Inc., Chicago

PANELISTS

Matthew Colman, Global Chief Legal Officer and Executive Vice President of Corporate Development, Berlin Packaging, Chicago

Bradley Reed, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Chicago

Kristy Waterman, Institute Vice Chair, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Human Resources Officer, TreeHouse Foods, Inc., Oak Brook, IL

11:10–11:25 a.m. | Break

11:25 a.m.–12:25 p.m. | Litigation Management: Aligning Strategy and Operations

- Best practices for selecting, managing, and evaluating outside counsel
- Integrating enterprise risk appetite, reputational considerations, and commercial priorities into litigation decision making
- Moving from reactive cost management to forward-looking budget discipline
- Developing playbooks, escalation models, and resolution strategies that promote consistency, speed, and informed decision making

SESSION CHAIR

Andrew Oppenheimer, Senior Vice President and General Counsel North America, Ferrero, Chicago

PANELISTS

Hal Merck, Associate General Counsel and Vice President of Global Litigation, McDonald's Corporation, Chicago

Jeanah Park, Vedder, Chicago

Caroline Teichner, Associate General Counsel, Litigation & Legal Operations, The Kraft Heinz Company, Chicago

12:25–1:40 p.m. | Lunch (provided)

12:35–1:30 p.m. | Sponsored Lunch & Learn Sessions (By Invitation Only)

Session A: Trade Fraud Risk Playbook: Navigating Escalating Enforcement, Tariffs, and Country-of-Origin Exposure

Sponsored by Hilco Global

Session B: Market Overview and Trends in M&A

Sponsored by Houlihan Lokey

1:40–2:40 p.m. | Case Study: NIL and the Obstacle Course of Legal Issues

- Overview of the *House v. NCAA* settlement and resulting paradigm
- Practical implications for athletes, universities, and businesses
- Convergence and interplay of IP, contract, antitrust, and employment law
- Impacts of executive, congressional, and legislative initiatives

SESSION CHAIR

Anil Gollahalli, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, Big Ten Conference, Rosemont, IL

PANELISTS

David Greenspan, Winston & Strawn LLP, New York City

Casey Schwab, President & Founding Partner, Pathway Sports & Entertainment, Madison, WI

Josh Whitman, Director of Athletics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

2:40–2:50 p.m. | Break

2:50–3:50 p.m. | Who is the Client? Loyalty, Conflicts, and the Duty to the Entity

- Understanding the conflict-of-interest risks inherent in representing companies alongside their officers, directors, and shareholders (Model Rules 1.7-1.10 and 1.13)
- Analyzing real-world corporate scenarios to better identify potential ethical pitfalls
- Learning practical strategies for evaluating consent ability and managing conflicts before they escalate

SESSION CHAIR

Wendy Muchman, Professor of Practice, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

PANELISTS

Diane Klotnia, Miller Shakman Levine & Feldman LLP, Chicago

Bernardo Lopez, Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C., Chicago

Douglas Richmond, Senior Vice President, Lockton Companies, Olathe, KS

3:50–4 p.m. | Break**4–5 p.m. | The Changing Workplace: Essential Labor & Employment Updates for In-House Compliance**

- Regulating AI in hiring and people management
- Addressing the current administration's policies and positions affecting the workforce
- Administrative demands and state court legislation related to the Equal Pay Act
- General employment law updates, including updates to non-competes and restrictive covenant strategy, classification (and reclassification) of non-exempt employees and independent contractors, and evolving NLRB rulings and their impact on union and non-union environments

SESSION CHAIR

Kara Harchuck, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Hunt Companies, Inc., Chicago

PANELISTS

Sara Davey, Perkins Coie LLP, Chicago

Brandon Dixon, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Chicago

Alexis Dominguez, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP, Chicago

9–10 a.m. | Protect the Corporation: Strategies for Navigating Regulatory Changes and a Dynamic Political Environment

- Addressing hot button issues with a diverse employee base
- Impact of executive orders on the corporate environment and legal team
- Analyzing the legal risk and opportunity created by regulatory change
- Guiding the Board and senior management through regulatory and geopolitical changes

SESSION CHAIR

Jason DeSanto, Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

PANELISTS

Megan Garcia, Vice President, Government Affairs, Conagra Brands, Inc., Washington, DC

Bryan Locke, Partner, FGS Global Inc., Chicago

Edward Siskel, Latham & Watkins LLP, Chicago

Matthew Zabel, Chief Executive Officer, Mile 27 Partners, Minneapolis

10–10:10 a.m. | Break**Tuesday, June 9, 2026****8–8:45 a.m. | Sponsored Roundtable (By Invitation Only)****The Next Frontier: Cyber Risks Spike During M&A Transactions**

Sponsored by FTI Consulting

8:15 a.m. | Continental Breakfast

10:10–11:10 a.m. | C-Suite Success: Creating Healthy Relationships Between the GC, CFO, and HR

- Practical tips for building trust and collaborating effectively across departments and functions
- Navigating the tension between legal caution and the moves needed to drive growth
- Effectively managing escalation and the relationship with the CEO and Board between the three roles
- Understanding the role each function plays in contributing to a culture of compliance

SESSION CHAIR

Uma Amuluru, Chief Human Resources Officer and Executive Vice President, Human Resources, The Boeing Company, Chicago

PANELISTS

Carly Anderson, General Counsel and Chief Legal, Strategy, and Human Resources Officer, Jet Support Services, Inc., Chicago

Nancy Berardinelli-Krantz, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, W.W. Grainger, Inc., Lake Forest, IL

Tim Elberfeld, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer, Jet Support Services, Inc., Chicago

Melanie Tinto, Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, W.W. Grainger, Inc., Lake Forest, IL

11:10–11:25 a.m. | Break

11:25 a.m.–12:25 p.m. | The Supreme Court Effect: Advising the Board on the Shifting Constitutional Terrain

This session will examine key Supreme Court cases from the most recent term. Issues discussed will include:

- The status of independent agencies and how regulated companies' interaction with the agencies may change
- The tariff battle under IEEPA and its aftermath
- The scope of federal agency remedies
- Companies' obligations in designing certain technology

SESSION CHAIR

Jonathan Marcus, Senior Managing Director and General Counsel, CME Group, Washington, DC

PANELISTS

Ian Gershengorn, Jenner & Block LLP, Washington, DC

Nicole Saharsky, Mayer Brown, Washington, DC

James Speta, Elizabeth Froehling Horner Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

12:25–12:50 p.m. | Boxed Lunch Break

12:50–1:50 p.m. | The Future GC: Cultivating Business Acumen and Leadership in Legal Teams

- Showing up as a leader and a lawyer
- Strategies for cultivating followership and influence
- Nuances and implicit expectations of the role

SESSION CHAIR

Noelle Perkins, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary, Cushman & Wakefield, Chicago

PANELISTS

Angelique David, Executive Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, B.C. Ziegler and Company, Chicago

Margaret Egan, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Chicago

Gayle Littleton, Member of the Board of Advisors, Atomic Canyon, Palo Alto, CA

Aimee Nolan, Chief Legal Officer, Anacostia Rail Holdings, Chicago

1:50–2 p.m. | Break

2–3 p.m. | AI: Cross-Functional Governance and Legal Ops Best Practices

- Defining essential roles and responsibilities from key departments
- Implementing practical technical controls
- Mitigating IP, bias, and disclosure risks posed by AI
- Using metrics to measure success and productivity to understand the ROI of legal tech integration

SESSION CHAIR

Stephen Reynolds, McDermott Will & Schulte, Chicago

PANELISTS

Donna Haddad, Former Vice President and Associate General Counsel, IBM; Executive in Residence, Governance, Risk and Emerging Technology, Energy Innovation Lab, Northwestern University, Chicago

Margaret Hermes Neiman, Chief Administrative & Operating Officer, Avant, LLC, Chicago

3 p.m. | Institute Concludes

Contact Us

Contact us at professional-ed@law.northwestern.edu with any questions.

Agenda as of 5/7/2026

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 AFFILIATES

PLATINUM AFFILIATES

KIRKLAND & ELLIS

LATHAM & WATKINS ^{LLP}

DIAMOND AFFILIATES

Baker
McKenzie.

faegre
drinker

SIDLEY

LEAD AFFILIATES

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JENNER & BLOCK ^{LLP}

MAYER | BROWN

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