



IMLA 2026 91st Annual Conference

Salt Lake City, Utah - Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City

September 23-27, 2026

Wednesday – September 23, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:30 AM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake Foyer	IMLA Registration	
8:30 AM – to 12:00 PM Traverse	IMLA Board of Directors Meeting	
8:30 AM – to 4:50 PM Salt Lake B	ILGL Program - Full program listed below. This program is free and open to all registrants.	
8:00 AM – to 5:00 PM Salt Lake D	Code Enforcement Program - Full program listed below. This program is free and open to all registrants.	
12:30 AM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake A	Utah Day - Full program listed below. This program is free and open to all registrants.	
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Salt Lake E	Large Population Meeting	
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
3:15 PM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake E	State League Meeting	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	State League/First Time Attendee Reception Join all of our first timers and state league counsel for a great reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. It's a great way to meet your fellow attendees right at the start of the Conference!	

Thursday – September 24, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:00 AM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake Foyer	IMLA Registration	
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Regency AB	State/Provincial Breakfast The State/Provincial Breakfast with give attendees an opportunity to sit down with fellow attendees from their area. Advance registration is required.	
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Salt Lake C	Opening Ceremonies Join IMLA President and Executive Director for welcoming remarks and helpful tips for new and long-time attendees alike, including information about the Conference and various networking opportunities.	Amanda Karras & Susana Alcala Wood

9:00 AM – 5:15 PM	Canada Day - Full program listed below. This program is free and open to all Canadian registrants.	
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Salt Lake C	Work Session TBA	
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM Salt Lake C	Work Session TBA	
12:15 PM – 2:15 PM Regency AB	All Conference Lunch & Awards Ceremony - Included in all full Conference registrations.	
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Salt Lake A/B	State Preemption	Lina James
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Salt Lake C	Concurrent Session 2 TBA	
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Salt Lake D	<p>From Policy to Practice: Model Local Government Ordinances that Protect Pets and People</p> <p>Local governments are modernizing animal care and control laws to improve public safety while prioritizing the public's desire to live in a no-kill community. This panel explores proven and scalable ordinances — including dangerous dog laws, ordinances to address free-roaming cats, and laws that address the puppy-mill-to-pet-store-pipeline — by sharing their implementation experiences, ideal legal frameworks, and key implementation strategies to bring agencies and the public along. Attendees will gain practical tools to draft, defend, and enforce effective local laws.</p>	Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Salt Lake E	Concurrent Session 4 TBA	
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Regency C	<p>The Evolution Is Now: Alternative Project Delivery Methods and What It Means for Municipal Attorneys</p> <p>This presentation explores the rapid shift from traditional design-bid-build to alternative project delivery methods such as CMAR, CM/GC, and Progressive Design-Build. It will highlight the key legal, procurement, and risk-allocation differences that municipal attorneys must understand to effectively advise their clients. Attendees will leave with practical insights on how to navigate this evolving landscape and support successful project outcomes.</p>	Mary Beth Coburn & Craig Hayes
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Regency D	Concurrent Session 6 TBA	
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake A/B	State Preemption	Lina James
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake C	Concurrent Session 2 TBA	
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake D	<p>From Policy to Practice: Model Local Government Ordinances that Protect Pets and People</p>	Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral

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3:45 PM – 4:45 PM Salt Lake E	Concurrent Session 4 TBA	
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM Regency C	The Evolution Is Now: Alternative Project Delivery Methods and What It Means for Municipal Attorneys This presentation explores the rapid shift from traditional design-bid-build to alternative project delivery methods such as CMAR, CM/GC, and Progressive Design-Build. It will highlight the key legal, procurement, and risk-allocation differences that municipal attorneys must understand to effectively advise their clients. Attendees will leave with practical insights on how to navigate this evolving landscape and support successful project outcomes.	Mary Beth Coburn & Craig Hayes
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM Regency D	Concurrent Session 6 TBA	
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake D	Nominating Committee	
5:15 PM – 6:45 PM	Welcome Reception - Included in all full Conference registrations.	

Friday – September 25, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake Foyer	IMLA Registration	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Regency AB	WONK Breakfast For the WONK breakfast you will sign up for a table based on subject matter and sit down with the subject matter expert to enjoy a meal and discuss areas of interest. Advance registration is required.	
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM Salt Lake C	Federal Funding	Lisa Marcus
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Salt Lake C	Work Session TBA	
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Regency AB	Lunch On Your Own Regency AB will be open if you would like to bring lunch and eat with other attendees, or feel free to eat lunch out in Salt Lake City or the hotel.	
1:35 PM – 2:35 PM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	

1:35 PM – 2:35 PM Salt Lake C	Work Session TBA	
1:35 PM – 2:35 PM Salt Lake D	Work Session TBA	
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Salt Lake A/B	<p>Setting the Rules for AI: An Attorney’s Guide to Drafting GenAI Policies for Local Governments</p> <p>As generative AI tools become increasingly embedded in government operations, local government attorneys play a critical role in helping their jurisdictions establish responsible, risk-conscious AI use policies. This presentation will examine the emerging landscape of state and local government GenAI policies — drawing on frameworks adopted by Oregon, New York, Maine, Washington, Georgia, Kansas, and cities including New York City, San Jose, Seattle, and Boston — to identify common principles and best practices that attorneys can adapt for their own communities. Attendees will gain practical guidance on drafting policies that define clear boundaries for acceptable and prohibited AI uses, mandate human oversight and accountability for AI-generated content, and protect sensitive, confidential, and personally identifiable information from unauthorized exposure through AI systems. The session will also address key legal considerations, including how AI-generated content intersects with public records laws, copyright obligations, and contractor and vendor requirements.</p>	Tenee’ Frazier
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Salt Lake C	<p>Passing the Torch: Preserving Institutional Legal Knowledge Across Generations in Municipal Law Departments</p> <p>Municipal law departments are confronting a pivotal moment: four generations working side-by-side with differing work styles while satisfying ABA Rules 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4 through competent, diligent, and well-communicated transitions. There is a growing retirement wave with a loss of undocumented knowledge poses a direct threat to consistent, competent legal representation under Rule 1.1. This presentation will explore how municipal attorneys can maintain ethical competence and continuity under the ABA Model Rules while preparing for inevitable turnover through structured succession planning and modern knowledge-preservation tools. Structured knowledge-transfer systems and cross-training are essential to uphold supervision duties under Rules 5.1 and 5.3 during staff changes. Using a real case study from a large city attorney's office, the session highlights practical, technology-supported strategies to safeguard institutional memory and strengthen future operations.</p>	TJ Martin & Brandall Nelson
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Salt Lake D	Concurrent Session 3 TBA	
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Salt Lake E	Concurrent Session 4 TBA	
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Regency C	Concurrent Session 5 TBA	
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Regency D	Concurrent Session 6 TBA	
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake A/B	<p>Setting the Rules for AI: An Attorney’s Guide to Drafting GenAI Policies for Local Governments</p> <p>As generative AI tools become increasingly embedded in government operations, local government attorneys play a critical role in helping their jurisdictions establish responsible, risk-conscious AI use policies. This presentation will examine the emerging landscape of state and local government GenAI policies — drawing on frameworks adopted by Oregon, New York, Maine, Washington, Georgia, Kansas, and cities including New York City, San Jose, Seattle, and Boston — to identify common principles and best practices that</p>	Tenee’ Frazier

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4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake C	Passing the Torch: Preserving Institutional Legal Knowledge Across Generations in Municipal Law Departments Municipal law departments are confronting a pivotal moment: four generations working side-by-side with differing work styles while satisfying ABA Rules 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4 through competent, diligent, and well-communicated transitions. There is a growing retirement wave with a loss of undocumented knowledge poses a direct threat to consistent, competent legal representation under Rule 1.1. This presentation will explore how municipal attorneys can maintain ethical competence and continuity under the ABA Model Rules while preparing for inevitable turnover through structured succession planning and modern knowledge-preservation tools. Structured knowledge-transfer systems and cross-training are essential to uphold supervision duties under Rules 5.1 and 5.3 during staff changes. Using a real case study from a large city attorney's office, the session highlights practical, technology-supported strategies to safeguard institutional memory and strengthen future operations.	TJ Martin & Brandall Nelson
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake D	Concurrent Session 3 TBA	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Salt Lake E	Concurrent Session 4 TBA	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Regency C	Concurrent Session 5 TBA	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Regency D	Concurrent Session 6 TBA	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Salt Lake Foyer	Networking Reception - Included in all full Conference registrations. This reception will provide an additional opportunity for attendees to network with one another. Plan to come and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and drinks while getting to know more attendees. Included in all full Conference registrations. (Time and Date may change)	
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Riverside Park	Softball Game Come play or watch the annual IMLA softball game brought to you by Best Best & Krieger! This is free for attendees to join. Please bring your own glove.	

Saturday – September 26, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
8:45 AM – 12:15 PM	IMLA Registration	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	IMLA Past Presidents Breakfast	
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Salt Lake C	Work Session TBA	

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break/Passport Drawing Participating exhibitors will provide prizes as attendees visit all exhibitor booths to be eligible for the prize drawing.	
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Salt Lake A/B	Work Session TBA	
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Salt Lake C	Work Session TBA	
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Land Use Tours	

Sunday – September 27, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Salt Lake Foyer	IMLA Registration	
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Regency BCD	Business Meeting	
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Regency BCD	Councilmembers Gone Wild	
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM Regency BCD	Work Session TBA	
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Salt Lake Foyer	Coffee Break	
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Regency BCD	Ethics for Government Attorneys: Interactive Scenarios In this interactive presentation, speakers will discuss different ethics scenarios and how to address them. The presentation will then go over the professional rules (including ABA Rule 1.11, 1.7, 1.9, and 3.3, 4.1, 8.4), and cases that apply to the situation and provide the ‘answer’ to the dilemma.	Darren Shulman & Alan Bojorquez

Please note the agenda is tentative and subject to change.

Last Updated: 06/10/26

2026 Annual Conference Programs

Institute for Local Government Lawyers (ILGL)

Wednesday – September 23, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Personnel and Employment Law	Deidra Norris Sullivan
9:40 AM – 10:40 AM	Land Use 101	Ellie Neiberger
10:40 AM – 10:55 AM	Coffee Break	
10:55 AM – 11:55 AM	Fundamentals of Municipal Finance and Borrowing	Eric Shytte
11:55 AM – 1:05 PM	Lunch Break	
1:05 PM – 2:05 PM	Parliamentary Procedure	Benjamin Mount
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Establishing Good Relationships as a Young Professional	Wynetta Massey
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Coffee Break	
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Negotiations	Mac McCarley

Code Enforcement Program

Wednesday – September 23, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM		
9:55 AM – 10:55 AM		
10:55 AM – 11:10 AM	Coffee Break	
11:10 AM – 12:40 PM		
12:40 PM – 2:00 PM		
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM		
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Coffee Break	
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM		

Utah Day

Wednesday – September 23, 2026

Canada Day

Thursday – September 24, 2026