2025 LEGAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

May 13 – 16, 2025 // Savannah, GA

"THE EVOLVING LEGAL LANDSCAPE"

Welcome to the Hyatt Regency Savannah! All educational sessions will take place in the ABC Ballroom and meals in the DEF Ballroom.

Last Updated| April 30, 2025

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TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	**Registration**
8:00 AM - 12:30 PM	**Legal Affairs Steering Group Meeting** Verelst Percival Room| *Steering Group members only*
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	**Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks** ***Kevin Burke,*** *President and CEO, Airports Council International- North America (ACI-NA)* ***Greg Kelly*** *[invited], Executive Director, Savannah Airport Commission* ***Erin Locklear****, Chair, ACI-NA Legal Affairs Committee & General Counsel, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority*
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	**What's Going on in Washington?** ACI-NA staff will discuss the quickly evolving landscape in Washington, including a view from the Hill, Executive actions and judicial review. What is the status of Congressional appropriations? Are 2025 funds now available? And, in light of Executive Orders, OMB directives, and reductions in force, what has happened to 2024 funds previously authorized and appropriated by Congress? What have the courts held in some of these key cases when executive branch actions have been challenged? The panel will discuss what is going on in Washington and how ACI-NA continues to advocate for its airport members. ***Pablo Nüesch****, General Counsel, ACI-NA* ***Annie Russo,*** *Chief Political and Congressional Strategy Officer, ACI-NA*
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	**Changes to the Federal Regulatory Landscape** This panel will discuss proposed federal rulemakings, agency and judicial interpretations of existing regulations, any newly issued guidance, and what lawyers need to know. ***Christina Marshall****, Partner, Anderson & Kreiger* ***Steven Osit****, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLP* ***Dan Reimer****, General Counsel, Jackson Hole Airport* *Moderated by* ***Erin Locklear****, General Counsel, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority*
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	**Networking Break**
3:15 PM – 4:00 PM	**Changes to the Federal Regulatory Landscape** (continued)
4:00 PM – 4:45 PM	**What Does it All Mean? How Attorneys Can Navigate the Evolving Legal Landscape** John Putnam previously served as the U.S. Senate confirmed General Counsel of the U.S. Department of

Transportation, dealing with complex legal and policy issues affecting all modes of transportation. After his time in Washington, John came back to Colorado to serve as Director of Environmental Programs for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Most recently, John returned to Kaplan Kirsch, the firm he worked at prior to the roles in government. Drawing on his experiences in government and in private practice, John will provide insights on how to advise clients in the midst of fast-moving legal, policy, and regulatory changes.

***Hon. John Putnam**, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLP*
*Moderated by **Dan Reimer**, General Counsel, Jackson Hole Airport*

5:15 PM – 7:00 PM **Welcome Reception** Sponsored by SSP America
Rocks on the Roof at the Bohemian Hotel Savannah Riverfront

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

7:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Registration**

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **Networking Breakfast**

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM **The New Normal: Federal Business Diversity Programs Today**
In the quickly evolving legal landscape, the laws, regulations, and agency policies impacting the ACDBE and DBE programs may well have changed by the time of the conference. What is the current status of the federally mandated business diversity programs, ACDBE and DBE? The panel will discuss *Mid-America Milling Company v. United States Department of Transportation*, Case No. 3:23-cv-00072 (E.D. Ky. 2023), Executive Orders, and the legal mandates for these programs, including the Reauthorization Act of 2024. The panel will also explore the legal and practical issues raised by any changes that may have occurred (or by the uncertainty of the future of these programs), including relationships with certified businesses.

***Amber Floyd**, General Counsel, Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority*
***Hector Huezo**, Assistant General Counsel, Los Angeles World Airports*
***Margaret Martin**, Partner, Thompson Burton*

*Moderated by **Tracy Davis**, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLP*

9:45 AM- 10:15 AM **Networking Break**

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM **Still a Thing? The Journey to Net Zero**
In 2022, ICAO Member States, including Canada and the U.S., adopted a long-term aspirational goal for the aviation sector of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Airlines have also set a net-zero goal, in response to community and passenger demands, as have many ACI-NA member airports.

Airports seeking to achieve such goals must consider both legal and practical challenges. The panel will discuss an array of issues including power purchase agreements, microgrids, the prohibition against revenue diversion, policy decisions, and more.

***Bill Wright**, General Counsel and Compliance & Governance Officer, Edmonton International Airport*
***Kyle Fisher**, Attorney, Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Airports Commission*
***Mina Markarious**, Partner, Anderson & Kreiger*

*Moderated by **Evan Wilson**, General Counsel, Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Airports Commission*

11:30 AM – 5:00 PM **Networking Time** (on your own) and optional bonus breakout session with lunch.

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM **BONUS BREAKOUT SESSION and LUNCH** sponsored by the Savannah Airport Commission
Verelst Percival Room| Details next page

Airports Working with DOD: ARFF Services, PFAS, Indemnities and Other Challenges
Civilian-military joint use airports and airports with heavy military presence face particular challenges when establishing roles and responsibilities. In many cases, the military provides ARFF services for military and civilian operations alike. Has the military asked your airport to indemnify it for any and all liability for PFAS as part of a new or extended agreement? Are you trying to negotiate for ARFF services? Then this conversation is for you. Hear from each other and from private practice attorneys with expertise advising airports around the country.

Take advantage of this important conversation over lunch with your peers and still have plenty of time to enjoy Savannah! And be sure to **sign up**[1] separately if you would like to attend so we can get a head count for lunch.

***Mina Makarious**, Partner, Anderson & Kreiger*
***Hon. John Putnam,** Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLP*

*Moderated by **Brooks Stillwell**, Airport Legal Counsel, Savannah Airport Commission and*
***Lenny Panzitta**, Attorney, Savannah Airport Commission*

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM **Registration**

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **Networking Breakfast**

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Artificial Intelligence: What Lawyers Need to Know**
AI is everywhere, but do you know exactly where -and how- it is used in your organization? The panel will focus on generative AI such as ChatGPT, explain the basics, and discuss the use case. The panel will also explore legal concerns and what policies or practices for using AI should be in place. What should a good policy address? What department should develop it? Ultimately, what does a lawyer need to know?

***Vivica Brown**, Division Chief Counsel, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport*
***Kevin Cain**, Assistant General Counsel, Denver International Airport*
***Andrew Hanson**, Attorney, Metropolitan Airports Commission*
***Dawoud Stevenson**, Senior Director of Program Management and IT, Savannah Airport Commission*

*Moderated by **Joe Huber**, Chief Legal Officer, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport*

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM **Networking Break**

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **Airport Land Use & Development: The End Goal**
This session will feature three very different issues, tied together by the thread that they each relate to what airports are doing- or trying to do- as they develop their land and make their property available for both aeronautical and non-aeronautical use. Hear about a master development project with a third-party developer, the business terms used in the case study, and lessons learned. Hear about reversionary clauses in leases, a small provision with an outsized potential impact on your airport. And hear too about minimum standards, considerations for adoption, and what they should or could look like.

***Dan Reimer**, General Counsel, Jackson Hole Airport*
***Jill Casson Owen**, Partner, Snell & Wilmer*
***Carolina Potts**, Assistant Chief Counsel, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport*

*Moderated by **Elaine Rodriguez**, General Counsel, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport*

[1] Registration for the Bonus Breakout Session ends May 1st. Sign up by emailing llahbabi@airportscouncil.org with "Bonus Session" in your subject line.

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM **Lunch** Sponsored by WhiteBird
DEF Ballroom

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM **Airport Land Use & Development: FAA Oversight & Section 743**
The preceding land use session examined some of the things airports want to do with their property and the control they wish to exert over other users. This session will examine the FAA's role, in law and in practice, over airport development. How does Section 743 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 actually work? What does the law say about FAA's authority, and what does the FAA understand it to say? The panelists will discuss these issues and more, sharing real world experiences and practical advice.

***Amy Murphree**, Chief Legal Officer, Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority*
***Dave Steinberger**, Assistant General Counsel, Denver International Airport*
***Catherine "Katie" van Heuven**, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP*

*Moderated by **Amy Gonzalez**, General Counsel, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority*

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM **Litigation Update**
The panel will discuss current and recent cases of importance to airports.
Closed Session: no one representing interests adverse to airports on the issues or cases being discussed may attend this session.

Airline Pollution Class Action| *Codoni et al. v. Port of Seattle, et al., 25-1293 (9th Cir. pending)*
Avigation Easements| Touch & Go| *Town of Superior, et al. v. Bd. of Cnty. Comm'rs, et al.*, Case No. 2024CV30221 (Colo. D. Ct. Mar. 28, 2025)
Aviation Worker Screening| *City of Billings, et al. v. TSA*, Nos. 23-1290 consolidated with No. 23-1328 (D.C. Cir.)
PFAS MDL| *AFFF Products Liability Litigation,* Multi-District Litigation No. 2873 (SCD)
Proprietary Rights| Delux Public Charter d/b/a *JSX, et al v. County of Westchester, 24-1895 (2nd Cir. pending)*; and *Southwest Airlines v. City of San Antonio, et al.,* No. 5:24-cv-1085 (W.D. Tex, 2024, pending)

***Sean Grammel,** Associate,, Anderson & Kreiger, LLP*
***Tim Filer,** Principal, Foster Garvey, PC*
***Jeff Longsworth,** Partner, Earth & Water Law, LLC*
***Steven Osit**, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLP*

*Moderated by **Adam Bird**, General Counsel, Melbourne Orlando International Airport*

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM **Networking Break**

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM **Roundtable**
Interactive audience discussion focused on current issues of interest to airport lawyers.

*Moderated by **Mort Ames**, Senior Counsel, City of Chicago Department of Law and*
***Elizabeth Smithers,** Lead Counsel, Charlotte Douglas International Airport*

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM **Networking Reception** Sponsored by Anderson Kreiger
Harborside Ballroom

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Registration**

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **Networking Breakfast**

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

ACI and ACI-NA Professional Development Opportunities
Most conference attendees work for members of ACI-NA and, as such, can participate in professional development programs. Enjoy this quick primer on formal and informal opportunities to grow in our industry.

***Erin Locklear**, Chair, ACI-NA Legal Affairs Committee & General Counsel, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority*
***Leila Lahbabi,** Deputy General Counsel, ACI-NA*

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

What I Wish I Had Known: Lessons Learned the First Years of Airport Practice
Attorneys with a few years of airport experience reflect back on being brand new. The panelists will share resources, lessons, and fundamental legal principles they learned, sometimes the hard way. A refresher of key documents and issues, the discussion will be illuminating to airport attorneys of any tenure and a reminder that we are always learning in our roles.

***Adam Ussher**, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Dane County Regional Airport*
***Theresa Yoffie**, Attorney Manager, St. Louis Lambert International Airport*

*Moderated by **Amber Floyd**, General Counsel, Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority*

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM

A Mighty Team of One: Serving as the Only Airport Attorney
When you are the only airport attorney, where do you turn when faced with new, challenging questions? What resources, practices, and skills do you utilize? Whether you are part of a larger "downtown" municipal legal office, a law firm, or an authority, one is a lonely number. This panel will share advice that will resonate with all attorneys, as the only one or one of many, seeking to provide expert advice in a dynamic field.

***Brian Burke**, General Counsel & Director of Compliance, Northwest Arkansas National Airport*
***Kimberly M. Carlisle**, General Counsel, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority*
***Michelle Corsi**, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Paine Field/Snohomish County Airport*

*Moderated by **Brian Werst**, General Counsel, Spokane International Airport*

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Networking Break

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Ethics Session
This interactive panel will discuss ethics rules and opinions in real-world scenarios relevant to advising your clients in a fast-moving legal landscape.

***Dave Mackey**, Partner, Anderson & Kreiger LLP*
***Brian Werst**, General Counsel, Spokane International Airport*

*Moderated by **Chris Schmaltz**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Tucson Airport Authority*

12:30 PM

End of Conference| Grab and Go Lunches Available

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