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2026 AILA Spring CLE Conference and Webcast: Government Relations Update

Join us for the 2026 AILA Spring CLE Conference and Webcast to get an insider's view of what is happening at the government agencies. This conference provides a unique opportunity to hear from liaison committee leadership as well as representatives of the administration. Speakers will discuss the latest regulatory and policy initiatives affecting your practice and clients. Come learn about current trends, issues in agency adjudications, and potential future changes.

Viewing Options: All registrants will be given a link to the entire set of conference recordings, so any sessions missed can be revisited later (particularly helpful for our West Coast participants given the time difference).

April 17, 2026
Grand Hyatt Washington
1000 H St. NW
Washington, D.C.

Times listed on the program are Eastern Time
Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Friday, April 17, 2026

7:30 am – 5:45 pm **Registration and Exhibits**

8:00 am – 9:00 am **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Hot Topics**

- Discretionary denials: change of status, extension of status, adjustment of status
- Discretionary denials
- Regulatory and policy changes
- H-1B cap updates
- Local office trends and developments
- Gold Card

Faculty:

Kevin Miner (DL), AILA USCIS HQ Liaison Committee Chair, Spring Conference Chair, Atlanta, GA
Lucy G. Cheung, USCIS High Impact Adjudications Assistance Committee Chair, New York, NY

9:00 am – 9:20 am	Networking Break
9:20 am – 10:20 am	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preclearance issues • Effects of the travel ban • Electronic device and social media searches • Departure screenings • Parole fee and payments • Esta Mobile
	<i>Faculty:</i>
	<i>Nell W. Barker (DL), AILA CBP Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Chicago, IL</i>
	<i>Zabrina Reich, AILA CBP Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Buffalo, NY</i>
	<i>*Graham S. Dudley, Director, Enforcement Programs Division, Admissibility and Passenger Programs, Office of Field Operations, Washington, D.C.</i>
	<i>*Matthew S. Davies, Executive Director, Field Operations, Baltimore, MD</i>
	<i>*Luis A. Mejia, Deputy Executive Director, Admissibility and Passenger Programs, Office of Field Operations, Washington D.C.</i>
10:20 am – 10:40 am	Networking Break
10:40 am – 11:40 am	Verification and Documentation Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrant and Employee Rights Section (IER) update • I-9 Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ TPS changes and litigation impacts on work authorization/I-9 compliance ◦ Acceptable documents • E-Verify+: updates and enhancements • I-9 audits, worksite enforcement • Update on state E-Verify laws
	<i>Faculty:</i>
	<i>Kimberley Best Robidoux (DL), AILA Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Chair, San Diego, CA</i>
	<i>John Mazzeo, AILA Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Warminster, PA</i>
	<i>*Varda Hussain, Special Policy Counsel, Immigrant and Employee Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.</i>
	<i>*Mariluz Hogan, Acting chief, Document, Benefit, and Labor Exploitation Unit, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Washington, D.C.</i>
	<i>*Lauren Kallins, Senior Legislative Director for Health and Human Services Policy, State-Federal Affairs, National Conference of State Legislatures, Washington, D.C.</i>
	<i>*Irene Kawanabe, Director, Quad Caucus & Women's Legislative Network, National Conference of State Legislatures</i>
11:40 am – 12:25 pm	Lunch (Provided)
12:25 pm – 1:25 pm	U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Open Forum

- Office of Foreign Labor Certification Program and Foreign Labor Application Gateway updates
- PERM and prevailing wage determination processing times
- PERM RFIs, audits, supervised recruitment, and denials
- H-2 updates

Faculty:

Bob White (DL), AILA DOL Liaison Committee Chair, Schaumburg, IL

Sonal Verma, AILA DOL Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Rockville, MD

Edward White, AILA DOL Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Boston, MA

**Brandt Carter, Deputy Director, Employment and Training Administration, DOL Office of Foreign Labor Certification, Washington, D.C.*

**Brian Testa, Director, Division of Policy and Regulation, DOL Office of Foreign Labor Certification, Washington, D.C.*

**Brian Pasternak, Director of Program Services, U.S. Department of Labor*

1:25 pm – 1:45 pm

Networking Break

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

U.S. Department of State (DOS) Hot Topics

- Travel Ban updates
- Prudential revocations

Faculty:

Steven D. Heller (DL), AILA DOS Liaison Committee Chair, Lewes, East Sussex, UK

Claire S. Pratt, AILA DOS Liaison Committee Vice Chair, San Francisco, CA

**Taylor Beaumont, Deputy Assistant Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.*

2:45 pm – 3:05 pm

Networking Break

3:05 pm – 4:05 pm

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Hot Topics

- Recent EOIR memoranda
- EOIR docket management and case timelines
- Interaction between EOIR detention proceedings and federal habeas corpus litigation
- Temporary immigration judges

Faculty:

Aaron Hall (DL), AILA EOIR Liaison Committee Chair, Aurora, CO

David Wilson, AILA EOIR Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Minneapolis, MN

**Daren K. Margolin, Director of EOIR, Falls Church, VA*

**Teresa Riley, Chief Immigration Judge, Falls Church, VA*

**Matthew Kaufman, Acting Deputy Director of EOIR, Falls Church, VA*

4:05 pm – 4:25 pm

Networking Break

4:25 pm – 5:25 pm

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Hot Topics

- Expansion of detention facilities and mandatory detention
- Liaison and communicating with ICE-ERO and OPLA
- Enforcement actions nationwide

- Third-country removals

Faculty:

John Gihon (DL), AILA ICE Liaison Committee Chair, Altamonte Springs, FL

Michelle Edstrom, AILA ICE Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Oklahoma City, OK

**Todd Lyons, Director of ICE, Washington, D.C.*

**Charles Wall, Deputy Director of ICE, Washington, D.C.*

**Marcos Charles, Acting Exec Assoc. Dir. ICE-ERO, Washington, D.C.*

**Matthew L. Elliston, Associate Director, Law Enforcement Systems and Analysis Division, Washington, D.C.*

5:25 pm

Conference Concludes

Conference Program Committee

John Gihon, Conference Chair, AILA ICE Liaison Committee Chair, Altamonte Springs, FL

Nell W. Barker, AILA CBP Liaison Committee Chair, Chicago, IL

Steven D. Heller, AILA DOS Liaison Committee Chair, Lewes, East Sussex, UK

Kevin Miner, AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Liaison Committee Chair, Atlanta, GA

Kimberley Best Robidoux, AILA Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Chair, San Diego, CA

Bob White, AILA DOL Liaison Committee Chair, Schaumburg, IL

Emmie R. Smith, AILA Director of Professional Development, Washington, D.C.

Michael J. Orlando, AILA Associate Director of Professional Development, Washington, D.C.