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2026 AILA FALL CONFERENCE AND WEBCAST TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SUMMIT TRACK

The 2026 AILA Technology and Innovation Summit will examine how technology, artificial intelligence, and innovation are shaping the practice of immigration law. Join us in Atlanta on Thursday, October 15, 2026, for a full day of practical insight, candid conversations, and strategic guidance on how to make technology work for you, your firm, and your clients.

This year's program will help attendees explore how to assess technology needs, strengthen client service, leverage data, and navigate the professional responsibilities that come with emerging tools. The program will also look at how AI, new practice models, and evolving workforce trends are influencing the future of the immigration bar. Capped by the popular Innovators' Spotlight, attendees will have a "first look" at the tech innovators who are developing tools and ideas designed to meet the needs of today's practitioners and help prepare firms for what's ahead.

This year's summit will be one of six tracks offered at the AILA Fall Conference and Webcast. In-person registrants will pre-select a track to attend on site but will receive webcast access and recordings for all tracks. Webcast attendees can move between tracks for live sessions and will also receive the recordings.

October 15, 2026
The Hyatt Regency Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

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

Thursday, October 15, 2026

8:00 am–5:00 pm

Registration and Exhibits

8:50 am–9:00 am

Welcome Address

Hannah F. Little, AILA Innovation & Technology Committee Chair/Fall Conference Co-Chair, Charlotte, NC

9:00 am–10:00 am

The Future of Immigration Practice: Trends, Tools and Transformations

The 2026 AILA Futures Report is here! The report provides insight on how technology, shifting global mobility, new business models, and the evolving legal workforce are reshaping our practice environment. Panelists will discuss what the next decade may hold for immigration lawyers—and more importantly, how to prepare. From AI powered tools and digital government systems to reregulation and the urgent need for mentorship and sustainability, this session invites attorneys to reflect on their own professional futures and the future of the immigration bar.

- A survey of a rapidly evolving landscape: the role of technology and AI in today's practice
- Looking beyond the traditional law firm: what you need to know about Alternative Business Structures (ABS) and Managed Service Organizations (MSO)
- Becoming a future-ready lawyer: examining trends that will shape the future and how to prepare your firm

Faculty:

Hannah F. Little (DL), AILA Innovation & Technology Committee Chair/Fall Conference Co-Chair, Charlotte, NC

Kirby Gamblin Joseph, Aurora, CO

Jeff O'Brien, Berkeley, CA

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

The Immigration Tech Stack: Building Your Modern Practice Toolbox

Panelists will discuss what defines the essential technology stack for a solo or small immigration firm, from client intake and case management to document automation and secure client portals. They will show how to streamline heavy document workflows and deadline tracking using affordable, immigration-specific tools. Attendees will learn how to identify which tech components are “must-haves” versus “nice-to-haves” for their firm, and how to integrate these tools on a small-firm budget.

- Defining the “tech stack” for immigration law firms and how to think about your firm as a combination of tools, platforms, and processes
- How do you define the “must haves” versus “nice to haves” for your firm?
- Tips and practical advice for the solo practitioner/small firm owner on how to budget time and resources for tech, experimentation with tech, and DIY

Faculty:

Roman Zelichenko (DL), Kew Gardens, NY

Tahreem Kalam Bohman, Chicago, IL
Gregory Siskind, Memphis, TN

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Networking Break

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

AI Ethics and Pitfalls: Keeping Your Practice Safe and Compliant (Ethics)

Many solo and small firms have rapidly embraced AI's limitless opportunity to "scale" and to do exponentially more with less. However, even as models have improved, AI carries significant ethical and risk considerations that can't be ignored. Panelists will discuss AI "hallucinations," confidentiality concerns, bias, and competence obligations. They also will cover recently published ABA and state bar guidance on technology competence and data security. Attendees will receive practical tips to minimize risk—from vetting vendors to sandbox-testing AI outputs—and learn when a human touch is critical.

- Privilege and confidentiality (ABA Model Rule 1.6 Confidentiality) and the privilege risks after the Heppner and Warner decisions
- Competence and duties to disclose under the rules of professional conduct (ABA Model Rules 1.1, Competence, 1.4 Communication, and 3.3, Duty of Candor)
- Practical risk management for your practice: training, workflow changes, and implementing an AI Use Policy in accordance with ABA Model Rules 5.2 – 5.3, Supervision

Faculty:

John Manley (DL), AILA Board of Directors, Los Angeles, CA

Alina Kats, Brooklyn, NY

Charity Anastasio, Interim Director, AILA Practice & Professionalism Center, Washington, D.C.

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Lunch (Provided by AILA for in-person attendees)

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Metrics that Matter: Using Data to Drive Practice Improvement

You've implemented new technology and new processes. Now, how do you know they are working? Every practice, including solo practitioners, can benefit from measuring key performance indicators (KPIs) to manage and grow their practice. The message: You don't need to be a big firm to use data, as even a few tracked metrics can spotlight improvements that strengthen a small practice.

- The type of data that helps to identify trends and opportunities
- Methods to turn raw numbers into actionable insights, spotlighting the use of existing tools versus dedicated options
- How a data driven approach can guide decisions on every aspect of the firm, including marketing, service offerings, and client expectations

Faculty:

Elizabeth Rompf Bruen (DL), AILA Board of Directors, Chicago, IL

Michele G. Madera, AILA Board of Directors, Philadelphia, PA

Shannon Englert, Vista, CA

3:00 pm–3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:45 pm

AILA Innovators' Spotlight

This curated spotlight introduces members to a new wave of tech, from focused niche tools to emerging platforms, each designed to address real challenges in immigration practice. In a fast-moving, moderated Q&A format, innovators will share the challenges that inspired their work and demonstrate the solutions-focused tools they have built.

Faculty:

Elina Magaly Santana, Moderator, AILA Board of Directors, Miami, FL

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Fall Conference Happy Hour

Join us for networking and drinks following the sessions.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Hannah F. Little, AILA Innovation & Technology Committee Chair/

Fall Conference Co-Chair, Charlotte, NC

Elizabeth Rompf Bruen, AILA Board of Directors, Chicago, IL

John Manley, AILA Board of Directors, Los Angeles, CA

Elina Magaly Santana, AILA Board of Directors, Miami, FL

Roman Zelichenko, Kew Gardens, NY

Charity Anastasio, Interim Director, AILA Practice & Professionalism Center, Washington, D.C.

Sarah Kra, Education and CLE Program Associate, Washington, D.C.

Emmie Smith, Director, Professional Development

Reid Trautz, Senior Director (Retired), AILA Practice & Professionalism Center, Washington, D.C.