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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.

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

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| 8:00 am–5:00 pm | Registration and Exhibits |
| 8:50 am–9:00 am | Welcome Address |
| 9:00 am–10:00 am | The Future of Immigration Practice: Trends, Tools and Transformations (Law Practice Management “LPM”) |

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

10:00 am–10:30 am **Networking Break**

10:30 am– 1:30 am **The Immigration Tech Stack: Building Your Modern Practice Toolbox (Technology/LPM)**

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

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

1:00 pm–2:00 pm **Lunch** *(Provided for in-person attendees)*

2:00 pm–3:00 pm **Metrics that Matter: Using Data to Drive Practice Improvement (Technology/LPM)**

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

3:00 pm–3:30 pm **Networking Break**

3:30 pm–4:45 pm **AILA Innovators' Spotlight (Not CLE Eligible)**

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.

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.



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2026 FALL CONFERENCE AND WEBCAST LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Leading an immigration law firm in today's highly charged environment involves much more than legal expertise. A successful law firm manager needs the skills to build a resilient, cohesive, and sustainable organization that can survive and thrive through uncertainties, client crises, and constant change in the legal, regulatory, technological, and workforce landscapes. Attorneys must meet these challenges while also maintaining client service, employee wellness, and meeting the highest ethical standards. The good news is that you don't need to go at it alone! Join us in Atlanta for a day of thoughtful and supportive conversations with law firm leaders and recognized experts in the field to gain practical tips and insights for protecting your practice, surviving the daily chaos, and setting your business and your employees up for success.

October 16, 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.

Friday, October 16, 2026

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| 8:00 am–5:00 pm | Registration and Exhibits |
| 8:50 am–9:00 am | Welcome Address |
| 9:00 am–10:00 am | Building a Mission-Driven Firm Culture: Vision, Values, and Leadership as Continuing Motivators (Law Practice Management)
Most immigration attorneys got into their line of work believing in something greater than themselves: due process, family unity, corporate excellence, protection for the vulnerable. But noble missions quietly erode under the daily grind of billing, staffing, and survival. This panel is about defining the culture you want to create and the values you aspire to uphold, then building them into hiring, client selection, decision-making, and the standards by which you |

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = Invited Speakers, Not Confirmed*

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measure success. Speakers share how they've built and rebuilt firms where purpose and sustainability reinforce each other.

- Defining your “WHY”—Mission, Vision, and Values: why you need all three, and how blurring them leaves teams with nothing aspirational to hold on to on hard days
- Hiring and firing through a values lens: screening for mission fit, not just competence, and making the harder call when someone talented isn't a values fit
- Redefining "success": measuring vision (client outcomes, community trust, impact) alongside revenue, so the firm isn't only tracking what's easiest to count
- Mission under market pressure: how your mission and vision hold up against AI, technology shifts, and a changing marketplace
- Marketing your mission: communicating vision and values to a broader audience through marketing and business development

10:00 am–10:30 am **Networking Break**

10:30 am–11:30 am **From Reactive to Intentional: Leading and Retaining Your Team (Law Practice Management)**

Most immigration attorneys were trained to practice law, not manage people. Building and retaining a dedicated and efficient staff, however, is often what separates a firm that grows from one that just gets by. This panel of firm leaders will share how they've tackled feedback, pay, delegation, and culture head-on, and they will discuss successful strategies to implement in your own practice.

- Feedback and development systems throughout the employee lifecycle
- Delegating without micromanaging; spotting overconfidence before it costs you
- Pay, benefits, and what keeps people from walking
- Reinforcing/utilizing a culture that holds up under the emotional weight of this work
- Cross training your team so one departure doesn't sink the firm

11:30 am–12:00 pm **Networking Break**

12:00 pm–1:00 pm **Market with Integrity: AI, Ethics, and Client Trust (Ethics)**

The way clients find attorneys, evaluate law firms, and interact with legal services is changing rapidly as AI becomes part of everyday life. From AI-generated marketing content and deepfakes to AI-assisted client communication and internal firm policies, technology offers incredible opportunities—but also new ethical responsibilities. Maintaining client trust requires thoughtful leadership, transparent marketing, responsible AI use, and clear policies that protect both clients and the integrity of the profession.

- How AI is reshaping legal marketing, visibility, and client acquisition, and how these changes intersect with the Rules of Professional Conduct, including;

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- ABA Model Rules 7.1–7.3: Communications Concerning a Lawyer's Services, Advertising, and Solicitation
- ABA Model Rule 4.1: Truthfulness in Statements to Others
- Developing responsible AI policies for marketing, client communications, and legal teams, including best practices for engaging with the media
- Building client trust through transparent marketing, ethical AI use, and professional responsibility

1:00 pm–2:00 pm **Lunch** (*Provided for in-person attendees*)

2:00 pm–3:00 pm **Everyday Decisions that Affect Your Bottom Line (Law Practice Management)**

As your law firm faces the challenges of today, what does it take to ensure financial well-being? This group of recognized experts will provide best practices for developing systems within your organization that support your billing, invoicing, and profitability goals. How can law firm leaders achieve buy-in from staff so that the organization as a whole works towards a financially sustainable future? Panelists will share practical insights on leveraging technology and efficient workflows to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

- The numbers every law firm should know: understanding key financial metrics and benchmarks
- The best financial tools and technologies to support healthy accounting practices, including for invoicing and vendor relations
- How to create practical and helpful budgets to support sound financial decision-making
- How to introduce transparency in accounting practices to obtain critical buy-in from staff

3:00 pm–3:30 pm **Networking Break**

3:30 pm–4:30 pm **Managing Workloads and Avoiding Burnout: Building a Sustainable Future for Immigration Law (Wellness/Law Practice Management)**

This panel draws on the findings of the AILA Future of Immigration Law Practice Task Force Report to explore the unique pressures facing immigration lawyers and staff. Panelists will examine why burnout is not a personal weakness, but often the result of how work is designed. They also will share practical, evidence-based strategies for building sustainable practices. They will conclude by imparting actionable steps for building workplace cultures that prioritize well-being, retaining talent, and strengthening the quality of legal representation provided to immigrant communities.

- The high-volume reality of immigration practice
- Sources of stress and recognizing burnout
- Reducing administrative burdens with thoughtful tech strategies
- Supporting the people behind the cases

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- Changing the culture of “always on”
- Resilience in a changing policy landscape

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Sandra A. Grossman, AILA Fall Conference Committee Co-Chair, Washington, D.C.

Andrea P. Reyes, AILA Board of Directors, Jacksonville, FL

Ruby Lichte Powers, AILA Author,

Power Up Your Practice: Create the Law Firm and the Life You Deserve, Houston, TX

Kirby Gamblin Joseph, Aurora, CO

Alycia T. Moss, Coeur d'Alene, ID

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