



THE NATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND TOXIC TORT ISSUES

32nd Annual Conference

Union League Club
Chicago, IL

September 23 – September 25, 2026

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AGENDA

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 pm Networking Reception

Thursday, September 24, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast

7:50 – 8:00 am Opening Remarks

Ryan Gillespie
*Chubb Environmental
Chicago, IL*

Suzanne Karapashev
*Westfield Insurance
Westfield Center, OH*

8:00 – 9:00 am Legislative Update – Asbestos Litigation Reform and Sound
Science in Regulations

Mark Behrens
*Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP
Washington, D.C.*

Mary Margaret Gay
*Gay Jones & Kuhn PLLC
Jackson, MS*

John Kotte
*Nationwide Indemnity
Wheaton, IL*

9:00 – 9:45 am Climate Change Litigation at a Crossroads: Supreme Court
Review and Emerging Liability Frameworks

Phil Goldberg
*Shook Hardy & Bacon, LLP
Washington, DC*

Erica Klenicki
*National Association of
Manufacturers
Washington, DC*

Michael Williams
*State of West Virginia
Charleston, WV*

9:45 – 10:00 am Break

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10:00 – 10:45 am

Eating Risk: Ultra-Processed Foods and Mass Tort Exposure

Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten

*Foley Mansfield
Minneapolis, MN*

Shelley Napolitano

*Foley Mansfield
New Orleans, LA*

Thursday, September 24, 2026 (continued)

10:45 – 11:30 am

Beyond the TAP: Emerging PFAS Exposure Pathways Testing and Risks

Frank Pagone

*RHP Risk Management Inc.
Chicago, IL*

Brian Gross

*MG+M The Law Firm
Boston, MA*

Robyn Gutheil

*Swiss Re America Holding
Corporation
Oxford, CT*

Jay West

*American Chemistry Council
Washington DC*

11:30 – 12:15 pm

Releases to Publicly Owned Treatment Works, PFAS, petroleum and industrial waste

Christopher DeCarlo

*The Vertex Companies, Inc.
Branchburg, NJ*

Brianna Schroeder

Janzen Schroeder Ag Law

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15 – 1:45 pm

Using Environmental Due Diligence to Inform Insurance Underwriting and Claims Analysis

Amy Schultz

*Aetna
Pittsburgh, PA*

Michelle Lawson

*Chubb Environmental
Philadelphia, PA*

Seth Kagan

*Sompo North America
Purchase, NY*

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1:45 – 2:30 pm

Environmental Considerations for Navigating the ABC's of
Modern Technology

Sara Mangelsdorf
Goldberg Segalla LLP
St. Louis, MO

Lauren Behan
Goldberg Segalla LLP
St. Louis, MO

Christopher S. Abel
Vertex
Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, September 24, 2026 (continued)

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Before We Set Sail: Regulatory Updates You Can't Afford to
Miss

James Hogan
The Elam Group
Noblesville, IN

Amy Fitzpatrick
Co/Action Specialty Insurance
Group
Morristown, NJ

Boarding between
3:30 – 4:00 pm
Departs at 4:00 pm
Returns at 6:00 pm

FETTI – ODYSSEY RIVER CRUISE RECEPTION

(Business Casual Attire)

Buses will be available
to transport attendees
to the dock leaving at
3:15 pm

Friday, September 25, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 am

All Things Coverage: (1) Coverage Update For 2026, A N
(2) Recent Developments in Silica-Related
Litigation, and (3) Contribution Claims Between
Insurers in "All Sums" States

Patricia Santelle
White & Williams LLP
Philadelphia, PA

Linda Bondi Morrison
Tressler LLP
Irvine, CA

Peter Mintzer
Selman Leichenger Edson
Seattle, WA

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9:00 – 10:00 am

Smart Tools, Smarter Ethics: Meeting Your Ethical Duties in the Age of AI

Thomas Hanekamp
Cruser Mitchell
Chicago, IL

Kieran Purcell
Rimkus
Austin, TX

Melissa Anderson
Old Republic
Chicago, IL

Friday, September 25, 2026 (continued)

10:00 – 10:30 am

Silent but Costly: Vapor Intrusion Updates You Need to Know

Yvette Nadgir
Westfield Specialty Ins. Co.
Berkeley Heights, NJ

Bjorn Wespestad
Roux
Oakland, CA

Frederick Brown
Weber Gallagher
Philadelphia, PA

10:30 – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 – 11:15 am

PFAS Coverage Continued

Charles W. Browning
Plunkett Cooney, PC
Bloomfield Hills, MI

11:15 – 12:00 pm

Opening Pandora's Box- Microplastics, Emerging Contaminants and Old Favorites (And, Their New Tricks)

Howard Goldberg
MG+M The Law Firm
Boston, MA

Mary Gade
Gade Environmental Group
Chicago, IL

Andrew Patterson
Eurofins Specialty Services
El Dorado Hills, CA

Timothy R. Barber, PhD
Environmental Resources Management
Cleveland, OH

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12:00 – 12:45 pm

Renewable Energy: Generating Litigation,
Environmental Risks, & Insurance Challenges

Russ Greatorex

HETI

Atlanta, GA

Bonnie Stevenson

Allianz

St. Louis, MO

Larry Mason

Goldberg Segalla

Chicago, IL

Robin Kelliher

USI Insurance Services

Short Hills, NJ

1:00 – 1:15 pm

Business Meeting

This is a Business Casual Event.

The Union League Club is an elegant experience. All club members and their guests are asked to dress appropriately.

A relaxed, well-dressed look described as ‘Smart Casual’ is welcomed throughout the club. Smart Casual may include jeans, denim, and collarless shirts. Smart Casual attire or better is permitted throughout the Clubhouse with the following exception:

In the Wigwam during lunch and evening meals expected attire is Business Casual or better. (Business Casual includes collared shirt, including turtleneck, slacks or skirt with blouse or sweater. Dress denim is not considered Business Casual.)

Individual Event dress code will be defined by each event (e.g. black tie, white tie, Business, casual, etc.). Event notices will contain dress code requirements. If no dress code is stated, the expected attire by default is “Smart Casual.”