



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

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

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
Minneapolis, MN*

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Thursday, September 24, 2026 (continued)

10:45 – 11:30 am	Beyond the TAP: Emerging PFAS Exposure Pathways Testing and Risks	Frank Pagone <i>RHP Risk Management Inc. Chicago, IL</i> Brian Gross <i>MG+M The Law Firm Boston, MA</i> Robyn Gutheil <i>Swiss Re America Holding Corporation Oxford, CT</i> Jay West <i>American Chemistry Council Washington DC</i>
11:30 – 12:15 pm	Releases to Publicly Owned Treatment Works, PFAS, petroleum and industrial waste	Christopher DeCarlo <i>The Vertex Companies, Inc. Branchburg, NJ</i> Brianna Schroeder <i>Janzen Schroeder Ag Law</i>
12:15 – 1:15 pm	Lunch	
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Using Environmental Due Diligence to Inform Insurance Underwriting and Claims Analysis	Amy Schultz <i>Aetna Pittsburgh, PA</i> Michelle Lawson <i>Chubb Environmental Philadelphia, PA</i> Seth Kagan <i>Sompo North America Purchase, NY</i>
1:45 – 2:30 pm	Environmental Considerations for Navigating the ABC's of Modern Technology	Sara Mangelsdorf <i>Goldberg Segalla LLP St. Louis, MO</i> Lauren Behan <i>Goldberg Segalla LLP St. Louis, MO</i> Christopher S. Abel <i>Vertex Indianapolis, IN</i>

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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, (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*

9:00 – 10:00 am

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

Daniel Berkowitz
*Cruser Mitchell
Chicago, IL*

Kieran Purcell
*Rimkus
Austin, TX*

Melissa Anderson
*Old Republic
Chicago, IL*

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Friday, September 25, 2026 (continued)

10:00 – 10:30 am	Silent but Costly: Vapor Intrusion Updates You Need to Know	Yvette Nadgir <i>Westfield Specialty Ins. Co.</i> <i>Berkeley Heights, NJ</i> Bjorn Wespestad <i>Roux</i> <i>Oakland, CA</i> Frederick Brown <i>Weber Gallagher</i> <i>Philadelphia, PA</i>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 – 11:15 am	PFAS Coverage Continued	Charles W. Browning <i>Plunkett Cooney, PC</i> <i>Bloomfield Hills, MI</i>
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Opening Pandora's Box- Microplastics, Emerging Contaminants and Old Favorites (And, Their New Tricks)	Howard Goldberg <i>MG+M The Law Firm</i> <i>Boston, MA</i> Mary Gade <i>Gade Environmental Group</i> <i>Chicago, IL</i> Andrew Patterson <i>Eurofins Specialty Services</i> <i>El Dorado Hills, CA</i> Timothy R. Barber, PhD <i>Environmental Resources Management</i> <i>Cleveland, OH</i>
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Renewable Energy: Generating Litigation, Environmental Risks, & Insurance Challenges	Russ Greatorex <i>HETI</i> <i>Atlanta, GA</i> Bonnie Stevenson <i>Allianz</i> <i>St. Louis, MO</i> Larry Mason <i>Goldberg Segalla</i> <i>Chicago, IL</i> Robin Kelliher <i>USI Insurance Services</i> <i>Short Hills, NJ</i>
1:00 – 1:15 pm	Business Meeting	

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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."