



LEGAL AFFAIRS SEMINAR

March 15-17, 2026 / Philadelphia, PA



About the APTA Legal Affairs Seminar

The Legal Affairs Seminar provides up-to-date information on regulatory/legislative developments, industry-related litigation, and other legal issues affecting the transit industry. Many of the sessions will provide continuing legal education credits.

Who should attend: Attorneys representing all APTA members.

APTA Code of Conduct: APTA is committed to providing a welcoming environment to all attendees at APTA conferences. By registering to attend the APTA Legal Affairs Seminar, you agree to abide by APTA's Code of Conduct for APTA Conference Attendees. To learn more, please review the [Code of Conduct](#) page.

[Register Now](#)

APTA Legal Affairs Seminar

March 15-17, 2026 | Philadelphia, PA

The Legal Affairs Seminar provides up-to-date information on regulatory/legislative developments, industry-related litigation, and other legal issues affecting the transit industry. Many of the sessions will provide continuing legal education credits.

We expect to hear from the Federal Transit Administration on issues for the coming year.

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Airline Discounts

APTA has partnered with United Airlines and Delta Air Lines to provide meeting attendees special discounts for travel to Philadelphia, PA.

United Airlines

Promotion Code: ZRKT746122

Valid for Travel: March 12 - 20, 2026

Eligible Airport: Philadelphia International (PHL)

To make a reservation:

1. Navigate to www.united.com and search for flights through the advanced search option. Enter ZRKT746122 in the promotion code field.
2. Call United Meeting Reservation Desk at 800-426-1122. Booking fees are waived for Meeting reservations. International customers may contact their local United Reservation Desk.

Delta Air Lines

Meeting Code: NY45J

Valid for Travel: March 10 - 22, 2026

Eligible Airport: Philadelphia International (PHL)

To make a reservation:

- Go to www.delta.com to book your flight. Enter meeting code NY45J to get the discounted rate.
- Call Delta Meeting Network reservations at 800-328-1111 and refer to meeting code NY45J.

To book hotel reservations, please visit the [Hotel & Travel](#) page.

Official APTA Hotel

The official hotel for the APTA 2026 Legal Affairs Seminar is the **Notary Hotel**. APTA has reserved a block of rooms at the rate of \$269 per night (single or double). Rooms are taxable at a 16.37% sales tax rate and a 0.75% hospitality district levy per room night.

All seminar activities and sessions will be held at the **Notary Hotel**.

The Notary Hotel

21 North Juniper Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

How to Make Reservations

To reserve your room, please visit the [Notary Hotel Reservation Page](#).

APTA Room Block Cut-Off Date

Your reservation must be received by the hotel before **February 20, 2026**. After this date, all rooms will be released and reservations will be accepted on a space and rate-available basis. Please note that rooms may sell out prior to **February 20**, so early bookings are recommended.

All reservations must be made through the [Notary Hotel online reservations link here](#).

For questions regarding the hotel reservation process, please contact [Marcus Eng](#).

Airline Discounts

For information on Airline Discounts, please visit the [Airline Discounts](#) page.

WARNING

Unauthorized housing companies may contact you identifying themselves as being affiliated with APTA. APTA reminds attendees that the ONLY way to make hotel reservations is through the link listed on this page. We have no affiliation with other 3rd party hotel room brokers soliciting APTA attendees.



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2026 Legal Affairs Seminar Registration Information

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY-BIRD RATE	STANDARD RATE
	(through January 30)	(after January 30)
Member	\$934	\$1,074
Non-Member	\$2,399	\$2,399
Speaker - Full Conference	\$934	\$934
Speaker - Session Only	Complimentary	Complimentary
Federal Government	\$575	\$575
University Faculty	\$575	\$575
Student Member - Full Conference	\$399	\$399
Student Member - Sessions Only	Complimentary	Complimentary
Personal Guest	\$399	\$399
Selecting the category listed below requires pre-approval from APTA and/or additional verification.		
Media	Complimentary	Complimentary

[Register Now](#)

What's Included with Registration?

Full Conference: includes access to the sessions, welcome reception, and meal functions.

Personal Guest: includes access to the welcome reception and meal functions

Cancellation and Refund Policy

All cancellations and refund request must be received by email by February 20, 2026. Refunds will not be issued for cancellations made after this date. Refunds will be processed 30-45 days after the workshop, and a 20% processing fee will be deducted. You can transfer your registration to another person from the same company/agency without penalty by logging into the Registration Service Center using your credentials in your confirmation email.

Payment

APTA requires payment to be submitted at the time of registration. Registrations will not be considered valid until payment is received by APTA. Registrations may be paid by Credit Card, Wire Transfer, or Credit Voucher.

Code of Conduct

APTA is committed to providing a safe, hospitable, and productive environment for all participants. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated, including but not limited to offensive gestures or verbal comments related to ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, gender, or sexual orientation; deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome attention. As a reminder, by registering for this event, you agreed to follow [APTA's Code of Conduct for Conferences](#).

Questions: Please contact [APTA Meetings](#) with any registration questions.

WARNING: *IGNORE FRAUDULENT ATTENDEE LIST PROVIDERS*

It has come to our attention that companies have been contacting APTA attendees and exhibitors and identifying themselves as having access to APTA's attendee lists. APTA DOES NOT SELL its attendee lists to any vendors or other third parties. Anyone attempting to sell you this information should be considered fraudulent. APTA strongly recommends that all conference registrants disregard such emails. To report a fraudulent solicitation, use the [Federal Trade Commission reporting website](#).




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Seminar Program


APTA Program and Schedules are subject to change.

 Sunday, Mar 15, 2026

 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST


[Registration](#)

 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

[Pick-up Lunch](#)


 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM EST

[Welcome Remarks](#)

Speaker(s):

 [Welcome: Jonathan Hunt, Esq., Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Interim General Manager/CEO, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority](#)  [President's Welcome: Paul Skoutelas, President and CEO, American Public Transportation Association](#)

 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM EST


[Government Affairs Update](#)

A panel of legislative experts will provide a focused update on current transportation initiatives, legislative actions, and political developments affecting public transit law and policy at all levels of government.

Speaker(s):

 [Moderator: Ward McCarragher, Vice President-Government Affairs and Advocacy, American Public Transportation Association](#)  [Panelist: Taria Barron, General Counsel, American Public Transportation Association](#)

 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM EST

[DOT Alumni Perspectives](#)



Former DOT, FHWA, FTA, and FRA Counsels will share leadership insights and discuss current policy and legal issues and offer practical advice for legal professionals in the transportation sector.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Subash Iyer, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell](#) [Panelist: Allison Ishihara Fultz, Kaplan Kirsch LLP](#) [Panelist: John Putnam, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP](#) [Panelist: Fred Wagner, Partner, Venable, LLP](#)

🕒 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST

[Developments in Transportation Litigation](#)



This panel will review recent topics, trends and significant cases in transportation litigation, and will highlight and discuss key impacts and implications for practitioners.

Speaker(s):

[Panelist: David Hackett, Attorney, King County Metro](#) [Panelist: David F. Innis, Deputy City Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney's Office](#) [Panelist: Andrew Marcuse, General Counsel, King County Metro](#) [Panelist: Brenda J. Oliver, Principal, Jackson Lewis](#) [Panelist: Fred Wagner, Partner, Venable, LLP](#)

🕒 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM EST

[Break](#)



🕒 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM EST

[Roundtable](#)



An open forum for transit counsels to discuss key legal issues and developments in public transportation. Topics may include artificial intelligence, grants, funding, certifications, tariffs, procurements, public safety, security, law enforcement, fare evasion, claims fraud, regulatory actions, executive orders, and litigation. This session is closed to federal government officials, labor, and manufacturers.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: William Moseley, Immediate Past Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Principal, Jackson Lewis](#) [Panelist: Desmond Brown, General Counsel, Sound Transit](#) [Panelist: Janet Burney, General Counsel/Deputy General Manager, Legal Affairs, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority](#)

🕒 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM EST

[Legal Affairs Committee Meeting](#)



Speaker(s):

[Facilitator: Jonathan Hunt, Esq., Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Interim General Manager/CEO, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority](#)

📅 Monday, Mar 16, 2026

🕒 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM EST

[Continental Breakfast](#)



🕒 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST

[Registration](#)



🕒 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM EST

[Legal Updates and Perspectives from USDOT Leadership](#)



Senior DOT legal officials will discuss current policy initiatives, regulations, and developments in public transportation, with emphasis on civil rights, grants, compliance, audits, enforcement, safety, and project development.

🕒 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM EST

Local Ballot Measures



Transit ballot measures continue to grow as a source of revenue complementing other funding sources supporting transit investment. This panel will discuss the legal matters and experiences of recent transit campaigns and measures and examine their impacts on public transportation projects and funding. These practitioners will provide a wealth of knowledge and lessons-learned transferable to other jurisdictions.

Speaker(s):

👤 [Moderator: Shayna van Hoften, Partner, Hanson Bridgett LLP](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Jessica Grennan, Executive Director, APTA's Center For Transportation Excellence](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Molly O'Shaughnessy, Principal and COO, EMC Research](#)

🕒 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Labor Law



This session will address dispute resolution under Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans, collective bargaining trends, workforce transition issues, and recent litigation concerning labor statutes and pension reform.

Speaker(s):

👤 [Moderator: Jane Sutter-Starke, Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: William Moseley, Immediate Past Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Principal, Jackson Lewis](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Thomas Stuebner, Director, Corporate Law, Metra](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: David Wilkins, Assistant Attorney General-Director of Transit Section, Utah Transit Authority](#)

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST

Lunch with Keynote Leslie Richards



🕒 12:30 PM - 12:45 PM EST

Break



🕒 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM EST

Procurement Panel



Experts will discuss procurement and contracting challenges, including the use of artificial intelligence, acquisitions, purchases, contract modifications, change orders, tariffs (e.g. credits, refunds), Buy America Act requirements, FTA Third Party Contracting circular updates, and examine procurement policies and compliance strategies for ensuring project delivery.

Speaker(s):

👤 [Moderator: Raymond Melleady, Chair, APTA BMBG; and President, STER North America LLC](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Lucy Andre, Chief Executive Officer, Stadler Signalling North America](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: David F. Innis, Deputy City Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney's Office](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: James LaRusch, Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Counsel, Raul V. Bravo + Associates, Inc.](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Raymond Pascual, Attorney, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District \(BART\)](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Margaret Robertson, Assistant Counsel, Valley Metro](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Nicole Wiit, Attorney, Hanson Bridgett LLP](#)

Major and Mega Event Coordination, Crisis Management and Emergency Response



Panelists will review legal issues and discuss best practices in crisis management, law enforcement engagement, safety, security, planning and coordination for major events, threats, and incidents.

Speaker(s):

👤 [Panelist: Polly Hanson, Senior Director - Security, Risk and Emergency Management, American Public Transportation Association](#) 🗣️ [Panelist: Scott Sroka, Special Counsel, Phillips Lytle LLP](#)

[Intellectual Property and Public Information Law](#)



This session will address intellectual property management, protection strategies, cybersecurity, and best practices for handling public information requests and records.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Erik Van Hagen, Director, Legal Services, Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon](#) [Panelist: Catherine Groves, Senior Counsel, Hanson Bridgett LLP](#)

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM EST

[Break](#)



🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

[Environmental Law \(NEPA\) Update, New Guidance, Revisions and Case Analysis](#)



Panelists will provide perspectives on NEPA developments, regulatory revisions, case law, and best practices for environmental impact analysis and documentation.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Fred Wagner, Partner, Venable, LLP](#)

[Rail Law Update](#)



Experts will discuss best practices and legal strategies as well as recent legal developments in rail law, including mergers, corridor identification program, contracting out operations, and international investment in passenger rail operations.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Allison Ishihara Fultz, Kaplan Kirsch LLP](#) [Panelist: Thomas Andreoli, General Counsel, Metra](#) [Panelist: Ayelet Hirschhorn, Esq., Partner, Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell](#) [Panelist: Lauren Weber, Special Counsel, Phillips Lytle LLP](#)

[Emerging Transit and Mobility](#)



This panel will discuss the latest legal issues, laws, and developments as it relates to emerging technologies in artificial intelligence, information technology, and autonomous mobility and vehicles in public transit. It will explore how stakeholders in the public and private sector can partner, cooperate, and collaborate to address issues and uses as well as discuss regulatory challenges, developing standards, legal responsibility and liability, and competing interests at federal, state, and local levels.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Cleveland Ferguson, EVP/CAO, Jacksonville Transportation Authority](#)

🕒 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM EST

[Break](#)



🕒 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM EST

[New Developments in Civil Rights Law](#)



Panelists will examine recent changes in civil rights laws including executive orders, regulatory actions, contract and grant requirements impacting transportation.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Vince Malone, Chief of Staff and Administration, WeGo Public Transit](#) [Panelist: Subash Iyer, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell](#) [Panelist: Angela Berry-Roberson, Esq., Principal Advisor/CEO, ABR Advisory Consultants, LLC](#) [Panelist: Michael Bryant, Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Transportation](#)

🕒 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM EST

Impacts of Tariffs on Public Transit



Legal experts will discuss procurement and contracting challenges related to tariffs including impacts on purchases, contract modifications, change orders, credits, refunds and discuss best practices and lessons learned.

Speaker(s):

[Panelist: Lucy Andre, Chief Executive Officer, Stadler Signalling North America](#) [Panelist: David F. Innis, Deputy City Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney's Office](#) [Panelist: James LaRusch, Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Counsel, Raul V. Bravo + Associates, Inc.](#)

Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM EST

Continental Breakfast



8:30 AM - 8:45 AM EST

Chair's Remarks



Speaker(s):

[Remarks: Jonathan Hunt, Esq., Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Interim General Manager/CEO, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority](#)

8:45 AM - 10:15 AM EST

Ethics and Professionalism



Ethics practitioners will address attorneys' ethical and professional obligations, client relationship challenges, and guidance under the Model Rules, including the use of artificial intelligence, and discuss civility and courtesy in practice.

Speaker(s):

[Speaker: Fred Wagner, Partner, Venable, LLP](#) [Speaker: Bruce Smith, Member, Apperson Crump PLC](#)

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM EST

Break



10:30 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Modernizing Legal Operations and Collaborative Partnerships



Legal professionals will discuss best practices for enhancing operational efficiency, managing costs, the application of artificial intelligence, building collaboration, maintaining partnerships, and supporting strategic objectives within legal departments.

Speaker(s):

[Moderator: Jonathan Hunt, Esq., Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Interim General Manager/CEO, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority](#) [Panelist: Jenifer Ross-Amato, Senior Vice President, Project Development, WSP](#) [Panelist: Thomas Andreoli, General Counsel, Metra](#)

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Closing Remarks



Speaker(s):

[Closing Remarks: Jonathan Hunt, Esq., Chair, APTA Legal Affairs Committee; and Interim General Manager/CEO, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority](#) [Closing Remarks: Taria Barron, General Counsel, American Public Transportation Association](#) [Closing Remarks: Paul Skoutelas, President and CEO, American Public Transportation Association](#)