

NRECA LEGAL FUNDAMENTALS & NRECA LEGAL SEMINAR 66

2026 Dates and Locations

Vail, Colorado

[The Hythe Vail](#)

July 13 • CLO Roundtable

July 13 • Pre-Conference Workshop

July 14 • ECBA Lunch

July 14-15 • Seminar

Marco Island, Florida & Online

[JW Marriott Marco Island](#)

August 9 • CLO Roundtable

August 9 • Pre-Conference Workshop

August 10 • ECBA Annual Meeting & Lunch

August 10-11 • Seminar

Legal Seminar is for NRECA voting member employees, directors, consultants, and attorneys only. By registering for the Legal Seminar, you represent that you are one of these individuals and that you will not distribute or disclose information or materials from the Legal Seminar to anyone other than these individuals.

Registration Fees (In-Person and Online)

Pre-Conference Workshop	\$450	Add-On Fees (In-Person Only):	
ECBA Member Registrant	\$1,050	Printed Seminar Materials	\$25
Non-ECBA Member Registrant	\$1,150	ECBA Lunch	\$75
		CLO Roundtable	No Fee

Note: The live online sessions are presented in Eastern Time (available in August only). Online participants may participate live or view the session recordings for two weeks following the seminar for CLE credit.

Need to Register? Only if you do not have access to Cooperative.com, please contact Melissa DePuy at melissa.depuy@nreca.coop, otherwise please visit Cooperative.com to register online. [Click here for information about CLE credits.](#)

CLO Roundtable – July 13, August 9 (No CLE Credit Available)	
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<p>Electric Distribution Cooperative Chief Legal Officer Roundtable*</p> <p>This event is exclusively for NRECA electric distribution cooperative chief legal officers (CLO) and CEOs who are also licensed attorneys. Attendees may candidly and openly discuss legislative, executive, and judicial developments impacting, or potentially impacting, distribution cooperatives, as well as practical legal and operational challenges facing the attorney and/or cooperative. Don't miss this opportunity to make new connections, learn, and collaborate with colleagues in a smaller and more focused setting. There is no fee to attend, however registration is required, and attendance is limited to CLOs and CEO attorneys. Contact Melissa DePuy at melissa.depuy@nreca.coop for more information.</p> <p><i>* Separate registration required (no fee). Not available for online attendees</i></p>

NRECA LEGAL FUNDAMENTALS PRE-CONFERENCE & NRECA LEGAL SEMINAR 66

Pre-Conference – July 13, August 9
(Up to 3 CLE Credits)

1:00-4:00 p.m.	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop*: Poles, Wire, and Paperwork: Procurement and Contracting Fundamentals for Electric Cooperatives</p> <p>This course provides a practical overview of sourcing, procurement, and contracting fundamentals. The session walks through the procurement lifecycle, highlighting key considerations unique to electric cooperatives. Participants will gain a fundamental understanding for making better procurement decisions at their electric cooperative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Pascale, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, NRECA Additional Presenters to be Announced <p><i>*Separate registration required</i></p>
----------------	--

Day One – July 14, August 10
(Up to 6.5 CLE Credits)

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:30-10:00 a.m. Session 1	<p>National Electric Cooperative Legal Update This session will address recent legal developments impacting, or potentially impacting, electric cooperatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ty Thompson, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Director and Member Legal Services, Office of General Counsel, NRECA
10:00-10:30 a.m. Session 2	<p>Tax and Accounting Update for Attorneys</p> <p>This session will address recent changes in tax law and accounting standards potentially impacting electric cooperatives. This session will also revisit, at a high level, existing tax law and accounting principles at play in today’s environment of expanded business activities, including serving “mega” or “hyperscale” loads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Miller, Utility Tax Partner (Of Counsel), Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP

15-MINUTE BREAK

NRECA LEGAL FUNDAMENTALS PRE-CONFERENCE & NRECA LEGAL SEMINAR 66

<p>10:45-11:45 a.m. Session 3</p>	<p>National Electric Cooperative Legislative and Regulatory Update</p> <p>This session will address what Congress has been up to and how the recent activities of regulatory agencies may affect electric cooperatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter to be Announced
<p>ECBA LUNCH* or LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</p> <p>12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.</p>	
<p>With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility: The Legal Framework for Small Modular Reactors</p> <p>If it has not arrived already, nuclear power is coming to your doorstep. Globally, expanding consumer bases have exponential power needs, and nuclear power is a possible solution. This session will discuss the state of play for new advanced nuclear reactors, small modular reactors, and the restart of larger nuclear power plants in the United States. We will survey what nuclear power is, how it can be used, and the legal considerations for owners and operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Simon-Pearson <p><i>*Separate registration required. 1 CLE credit available. Not available for online attendees.</i></p>	
<p>1:40-3:10 p.m. Session 4</p>	<p>The Data Center Boom: Legal Issues to Process Before the Servers Start Humming</p> <p>This session offers a deep dive into the evolving legal landscape for serving data centers. Panelists will address navigating tax and capital credit considerations, structuring contracts including three-party agreements with generation and transmission cooperatives, managing risk, and advising boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Cook, Partner, Cook & Associates, Georgia • Samantha Crouch, Senior Executive Vice-President, Power Supply and General Counsel, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Texas • David Samford, General Counsel, East Kentucky Power Cooperative • Jessica Healy, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, NRECA
<p>10-MINUTE BREAK</p>	
<p>3:20-4:20 p.m. Session 5</p>	<p>Audit Response Letters for Electric Cooperatives: Ethical and Other Considerations</p> <p>This session will explore various legal, ethical, and practical issues and considerations associated with electric cooperative audit response letters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debbie Harden, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson, LLP • Dennis Worley, Partner, Wright, Worley, Pope, Ekster, and Moss, PLLC • Ty Thompson, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Director and Member Legal Services, Office of General Counsel, NRECA
<p>10-MINUTE BREAK</p>	

NRECA LEGAL FUNDAMENTALS PRE-CONFERENCE & NRECA LEGAL SEMINAR 66

<p>4:30-5:30 p.m. Session 6</p>	<p>Keeping the Lights On: Enterprise Risk Management for Electric Cooperatives</p> <p>Electric cooperatives face a complex and interconnected risk landscape. This session offers a practical, executive-level introduction to enterprise risk management (ERM) tailored specifically to electric cooperatives. The presentation will explore how ERM moves risk management from a siloed approach toward coordinated management. Panelists will examine the role of legal counsel in ERM, the respective responsibilities of management and the board, and practical approaches for integrating risk awareness into enterprise decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Sieverling, Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, Office of General Counsel, NRECA • Additional Presenter to be Announced • Nick Pascale, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, NRECA
<p>Networking Happy Hour 5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	
<p>Day Two – July 15, August 11 (Up to 5.5 CLE Credits)</p>	
<p>7:30-8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Networking Breakfast</p>
<p>8:30-9:30 a.m. Session 7</p>	<p>Practical AI Implementation at the Co-op: Lessons in Policy, Risk, and Governance</p> <p>This session will explore governance considerations for electric cooperatives seeking to implement artificial intelligence. This session will highlight practical lessons and takeaways from one cooperative’s recent AI strategy and policy rollout, and review NRECA’s Sample AI Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trina Zagar-Brown, Vice President, Business Services, Holy Cross Energy • Kitty Sargent, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, NRECA
<p>10-MINUTE BREAK</p>	

NRECA LEGAL FUNDAMENTALS PRE-CONFERENCE & NRECA LEGAL SEMINAR 66

<p>9:40-10:40 a.m. Session 8</p>	<p>Intellectual Property Essentials: A Practical Guide for Electric Cooperatives</p> <p>Intellectual property touches many aspects of electric cooperative operations, often in ways that go unnoticed. This session will review key intellectual property frameworks, explore current trends impacting how businesses approach protection and compliance, and provide actionable insights for anticipating, preventing, and addressing common intellectual property issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyler Butler, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, NRECA
<p>10-MINUTE BREAK</p>	
<p>10:50-11:50 a.m. Session 9</p>	<p>Legal Clinic Forum – What Legal Concerns Keep You Up at Night?</p> <p>During this Q&A session, your legal questions can be shared live or anonymously and discussed by all attendees. Attorneys can share legal, procedural and practical tips for navigating complicated legal issues.</p>
<p>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN 11:50 a.m.-1:15 p.m.</p>	
<p>1:15-2:45 p.m. Session 10</p>	<p>National Electric Cooperative Labor and Employment Update</p> <p>This fast-paced survey session will cover the latest labor and employment developments from 2025 and 2026, focusing on important court decisions from around the country, agency activity, regulations, current events, initiatives from the new Trump Administration, and predictions to help you guide your clients in the coming years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Christensen, Partner, Smith and Christensen, PLLC
<p>10-MINUTE BREAK</p>	
<p>2:55-3:55 p.m. Session 11</p>	<p>Recent Developments in Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility</p> <p>This session will review significant developments in the areas of legal ethics and professional responsibility and discuss their impact on the practice of law for both in-house and outside counsel. The session will cover an array of topics, including, among other things, confidentiality obligations, conflicts of interest, and the use of generative artificial intelligence tools in the practice of law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitty Sargent, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, NRECA