2020 LGA Regional Seminar
Zoom Conference

AGENDA

FRIDAY, June 26, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

8:45 - 9 a.m. – *Welcome & Introductions*

**9 - 10:30 a.m. - Session #1 | 1.5 CLE**

Virginia Freedom of Information Act

Moderator: Brandi Law, Deputy City Attorney, City of Hampton

Speaker: Alan Gernhardt, Executive Director, Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

Description: This session will include information on both the records and meeting rules of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act with a focus on exemptions that relate to personnel issues. Topics will include what constitutes a personnel record and when a personnel record may be exempted from a records request and what personnel matters qualify for a closed session.
**10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Session #2 | 1.5 CLE**Getting and Keeping Tax Revenues

Moderator: Meredith Jacobi, Assistant City Attorney, City of Chesapeake

Speakers:

* Ara Tramblian, Of Counsel, Bancroft, McGavin, Horvath & Judkins, P.C.
* John Rife, Partner, Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C.
* Andrew Neville, Attorney, Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C.

Description: This session will be broken into two parts. John Rife and Andrew Neville will present on “Restarting the Collections Engine.” This portion will focus on balancing the duty to collect taxes with economic and policy considerations; adjusting collection practices within the law to be “compassionate” collectors; and some creative and underutilized Code sections to leverage difficult accounts. Ara Tramblian will present on “Cross-examination of Plaintiff’s expert appraiser: Methods, approaches and excerpts from a recent trial concerning the assessment of an office building.”

12 - 1 p.m. – *Webinar Break***1 - 2 p.m. - Session #3 | 1.0 CLE**

2020 Legislative Session Review

Moderator/Speaker:Randall C. Eads, City Attorney, City of Bristol

Speakers:

* Michelle Gowdy, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League
* Eric Gregory, Partner, Hefty, Wiley & Gore, P.C.; City Attorney, City of Emporia

Description: The panelists will cover the 2020 General Assembly actions of significance to local governments, including new or amended laws affecting procurement, land use, elections, taxes, economic development, transportation, FOIA, and COIA.

**Note: If you took credit for the legislative session review portion of LGA’s May 29 Spring Webinar, you may not take credit for this session.****2 – 4 p.m. - Session #4 | 2.0 CLE**

Ethics Updates

Moderator: Dan Whitten, County Attorney, County of Prince George

Speakers:

* Barbara Notar, Partner, Bancroft, McGavin, Horvath & Judkins, P.C
* Greg Haley, Partner, Gentry Locke
* Liz Whiting, Town Attorney, Town of Lovettsville

Description: Description: The panel will review changes in governing law and advisory principles that affect the practice of law by Virginia's local government lawyers, including Supreme Court Rules 4.2 and 4.4(b) and the short-lived LEO 1890.  It will also examine ethical issues presented by multiple client representation, including how to manage competing expectations among locality stakeholders with respect to what the local government attorney is expect to do.

The panel will also address ethical issues related to Virginia Freedom of Information Act meeting compliance practices, including special issues related to remote meeting participation during declared emergencies.

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