

2024 LGA Spring Conference | April 25-27 | Omni Richmond

Thursday, April 25

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. LGA Spring Board Breakfast, Meeting, & Lunch with Committee Chairs

1 – 1:15 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

1:15 – 2:45 p.m. General Session A (1.5 MCLE)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Moderator:

Andrew R. McRoberts, County Attorney, Counties of Nottoway and Richmond; Town Attorney, Town of Irvington, Sands Anderson PC

Speakers:

M. Christopher “Chris” Sigler, Chief Legislative Liaison, County of Fairfax

Mark K. Flynn, Attorney, Mark Flynn Legal Services at Law, former Virginia Municipal League Counsel

Eric A. Gregory, City Attorney, City of Emporia; Attorney, County of Northumberland; Attorney, Town of Crewe; Partner, Hefty, Wiley & Gore, P.C.

The panel will update the LGA on the results of the General Assembly session 2024 and the veto session, highlight bills impacting the practice of local government law, and advise on important issues coming out of the session.

2:45 – 3 p.m. Annual Meeting

3 – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 – 5 p.m. Concurrent Sessions 1 & 2 (1.5 MCLE)

EMERGING INFRASTRUCTURE: DATA CENTERS, SOLAR, AND POWER

Moderator: Leo P. Rogers, County Attorney, County of Loudoun

Speakers:

Vivian R. Seay, County Administrator and County Attorney, County of King and Queen

David “Dave” J. DePippo, Managing Counsel, Dominion Energy

Leo P. Rogers, County Attorney, County of Loudoun

The panelists will review regulatory, land use, tax and other legal issues in emerging power infrastructure and data centers and how they impact local government.

LOCALITIES ON THE OFFENSIVE: LOOKING OUT FOR OUR CONSTITUENTS

Moderator: Robert “Bob” E. Pealo, City Attorney, City of Newport News

Speakers:

Patrick V. Foltz, Assistant County Attorney, County of Fairfax

W. Edgar “Ed” Spivey, Attorney, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

Diandra Debrosse Zimmermann, Partner, DiCello Levitt LLP OR David D. Burnett, Partner, DiCello Levitt LLP

This panel will discuss a variety of actions wherein localities take on the role of plaintiff, including Fair Housing Act litigation, mass and class actions, and multidistrict litigation. Panelists will touch on hot-button issues and recent litigation against drug manufacturers and social media companies.

6 – 7 p.m. YLGA Program

7 – 9 p.m. Opening Night Party

Friday, April 26

8 – 8:50 am Practice Group Meetings

8:30 – 9 a.m. Breakfast

9 – 10:30 a.m. General Session B (1.5 MCLE)

FOIA AROUND AND FIND OUT: HOW TO EXPLAIN AND ADMINISTER FOIA RECORDS COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIENTS

Moderator: Meredith Harlow Jacobi, Deputy City Attorney, City of Hampton

Speakers:

Lola R. Perkins, County Attorney, County of Surry

Roderick “Rod” R. Ingram, Senior Deputy City Attorney, City of Virginia Beach

This panel will provide a discussion of the Freedom of Information Act in the context of a simulated real training exercise and advice to local government officials and employees. It will include advice for attorneys conducting FOIA training, as well as practical tips for addressing vague or overbroad requests, properly applying tricky exemptions, finding FOIA guidance, and

enlightening recalcitrant clients. Panelists will also share a brief overview of the latest in FOIA case law and legislative updates.

10:30 – 11 a.m. Break

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions 3 & 4 (1.5 MCLE)

LAND USE AND ZONING 101

Moderator: Andrew R. Newby, County Attorney, County of Henrico

Speakers:

David W. Robinson, Senior Assistant County Attorney, County of Chesterfield

Andrew R. McRoberts, County Attorney, Counties of Nottoway and Richmond; Town Attorney, Town of Irvington, Sands Anderson PC

This panel will give an overview of land use and zoning, its history, and application in Virginia localities, along with “pro tips” on how to navigate the world of comprehensive plans, subdivision and sites plans, zoning, and zoning/land use litigation.

UPDATE ON APPEALS IN VIRGINIA: VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS AND 4TH CIRCUIT

Moderator: Christopher “Chris” M. Mackenzie, County Attorney, County of Caroline, Attorney, Sands Anderson PC

Speakers:

The Hon. Marla Graff Decker, Chief Judge, Virginia Court of Appeals

Graham K. Bryant, Deputy Solicitor General, Office of Attorney General

Trevor S. Cox, Attorney, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

This session will provide an overview of appeals to Court of Appeals, Virginia Supreme Court and 4th Circuit, with emphasis on proper procedure, best practices, and a view on the “front lines” of our Virginia appellate courts.

12:30 — 1 p.m. Awards Reception

1 — 2:30 p.m. Awards Banquet

(Offsite for afternoon activities)

9 — 11 p.m. Hospitality Suite

Saturday, April 27

8 – 8:50 am Practice Group Meetings

8:30 – 9 a.m. Breakfast

9 – 10:30 a.m. General Session C (1.5 MCLE)

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT UPDATE: HOT TOPICS IN EMPLOYMENT LAW FOR VIRGINIA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Moderator: Marjorie A. Smith, Senior Associate City Attorney, City of Virginia Beach

Speakers:

William D. Prince, IV, Partner, ThompsonMcMullan, P.C.

Amy E. Smith, Attorney, IslerDare PC

Faith A. Alejandro, Shareholder, Sands Anderson PC

Speakers will provide employment law updates, including collective bargaining and employment legislation passed during the 2024 Session and how it changes the status quo. This session will provide background on union presence in Virginia and the impact that legislation has on local government employers. Panelists will also explore the pros and cons of DEI policies and trainings and offer tips on how to navigate differing opinions about DEI while remaining in compliance with state and federal law.

10:30 – 11 a.m. Hotel Check-out Break

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions 5 & 6 (1.5 MCLE)

THE BASICS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: WATER, WASTE, AND WHEN ENFORCEMENT IS INEVITABLE

Moderator: Brandi A. Law, Senior Deputy City Attorney, City of Hampton

Speakers:

Christopher “Chris” D. Pomeroy, President, Aqua Law

Andrea W. Wortzel, Partner, Troutman Pepper

Mark E. Gori, Assistant County Attorney, County of Fairfax County

This panel will discuss basic concepts regarding environmental law, including drink water, solid waste and stormwater, and what steps to take when enforcement action becomes necessary.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE 101

Moderator: Kathleen A. Dooley, City Attorney, City of Fredericksburg

Speakers:

Gregory "Greg" J. Haley, Partner, Gentry Locke Attorneys

Kevin A. White, Attorney, Butler Snow LLP

Mark Whitley, Assistant City Manager, City of Fredericksburg

This panel will discuss public finance including the annual budget process, amending the budget, appropriations, committed versus appropriated funds, capital improvement plan (CIP), bonds/public loans, and tax advance loans.