WSBA CLE #27208 SEA/WEB



Business Law Trends and Updates

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026

Approved for 5.0 CLE credits
(4.0 Law and Legal Procedure + 1.0 Ethics).
$199 - Standard
$179 - New Members*

Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

IN-PERSON & WEBCAST

DESCRIPTION

Navigating modern business law requires mastering rapid regulatory shifts, evolving technological tools, and emerging market dynamics. This full-day program delivers timely, practical guidance on Washington's noncompete landscape, AI implementation in court and corporate legal departments, developments in privacy law, and evolving venture capital practices. Join us in person for an end-of-year toast with business law colleagues as we adjourn!

CO-CHAIRS
Megan McNally – *Edgewater Business Law PLLC, Seattle*
Trey Chenier – *Chenier Law LLC, Seattle*

SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration • Refreshments

8:40 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

8:55 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions by Program Chairs
- **Megan McNally** – *Edgewater Business Law PLLC, Seattle*
- **Trey Chenier** – *Chenier Law LLC, Seattle*

9:00 a.m. > The Year in Review: 2026 Privacy and Data Security Updates for Business Counsel
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
Privacy and data security are baked into every vendor contract, marketing tool, and product launch, bringing privacy and security concerns top of mind for business lawyers. This panel will review key changes and updates in 2026 that impacted Washington businesses, and discuss emergent issues for those businesses in 2027. We will cover Washington's My Health My Data Act and biometric privacy law, and preview its AI companion chatbot law. We will also cover requirements in other states, including Colorado's automated decision-making law. International regimes will come up where Washington businesses operate across borders. We will discuss practical approaches to privacy compliance in today's regulatory landscape for those working in-house. Finally, the presentation will address lessons and best practices for cybersecurity protocols from 2026, including for data breach preparedness and response. Attendees will gain actionable insights they can take back to their organizations and clients to better evaluate privacy and cybersecurity compliance responsibilities, address emerging challenges, and make informed business decisions in an evolving regulatory environment.
- **Esther Arokun** – *Schlemlein, Fick & Franklin PLLC, Seattle*
- **Smitha Gundavajhala** – *Helsell Fetterman, LLP, Seattle*
- **Radhika Prabhakar** – *Locus Legal Solutions, PLLC, Seattle*
- **Leigh Wickell** – *Asurion, LLC, Seattle*

Moderator: Megan McNally – *Edgewater Business Law PLLC, Seattle*

10:00 a.m. > After the Ban: Washington's New Noncompete Landscape
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
ESHB 1155 fundamentally rewrites Washington's restrictive covenant rules, enacting a sweeping ban on noncompete agreements while preserving narrow carve-outs for specific business interests like equity transfers. This session breaks down the new statutory compliance mandates and details the remaining framework of non-solicits, confidentiality terms, and retention strategies available to protect company assets.
- **Michelle Hayden Bomberger** – *Equinox Business Law Group PLLC, Seattle*
- **Jordan Wada** – *Baker & Hostetler LLP, Seattle*

Moderator: Megan McNally – *Edgewater Business Law PLLC, Seattle*

11:00 a.m. > BREAK

CONTINUED >

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11:15 a.m. > Choose Your Entity Wisely: QSBS, the Millionaires' Tax, and the New Washington Math
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
Section 1202 got bigger. Washington got an income tax. Entity choice may never be the same. Paul Swegle and Joe Wallin explain how QSBS, the 9.9% millionaires' tax, PTET, and self-employment tax reshape advice on entity formation, equity, and exits, and what clients should do before 2028.
- **Paul Swegle** – *Observa, Inc., Seattle*
- **Joseph Wallin** – *Carney Badley Spellman, PS, Seattle*

12:15 p.m. > LUNCH

1:15 p.m. > Order in the Tech: Ethics & AI in Washington Courts
60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics
Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how lawyers research, draft, and present information in court, but its use raises important ethical and professional responsibility questions. This session explores how Washington's Rules of Professional Conduct apply to AI-assisted legal work, including duties of competence, confidentiality, candor to the tribunal, and supervision. Attendees will gain practical guidance on using AI responsibly in litigation and other court-related matters while avoiding common ethical pitfalls.
- **Jeffery Wheat** – *Miller Wheat Law, P.S., Mercer Island*

Moderator: Trey Chenier – *Chenier Law LLC, Seattle*

2:15 p.m. > BREAK

2:30 p.m. > Your Client's GC Now Has AI: How In-House Transformation Changes What Outside Business Lawyers Do and How They Bill
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
When your client's legal department has access to the same AI tools that you do, what work will clients still pay outside counsel to perform? This session explores how AI is transforming the relationship between in-house and external lawyers, including changes in work allocation, expectations around turnaround time, pricing, and strategic advice. Panelists will share perspectives from both sides of the table on how outside business lawyers can adapt and thrive as legal services evolve.
- **Kristina Silja Bennard** – *Avalara, Inc., Seattle*
- **Kanika Chander –** *Cloudbreak Legal PLLC, Seattle*
- **Jenna Wolfe** – *Codemetal, Redmond*
- **Joleen Hughes** – *Hughes Media Law Group PC, Seattle*

Moderator: Trey Chenier – *Chenier Law LLC, Seattle*

3:30 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations
Reception/Toast

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REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the **registration page**. Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

If special accommodations are needed, please email **cle@wsba.org** or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

☐ *Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.*

PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#27208 SEA, attend in Seattle, 12/4/26**

- ◯ $199 - Standard
- ◯ $179 - New Members*

☐ **#27208 WEB, attend via webcast, 12/4/26**

- ◯ $199 - Standard
- ◯ $179 - New Members*

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