

Legal Forum 2025



Le Meridien Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
May 4 – 6, 2025

SUNDAY, MAY 4th

3:00 – 4:00pm

Concurrent Sessions:

- **Structuring 101**

Speakers:

Matthew Cleaves

*Managing Counsel, Equipment Finance
and Vendor Financial Services*
Wells Fargo Equipment Finance

Mike Tobak

Partner
Kutak Rock LLP

Debby Devassy Babu

Shareholder
Darcy & Devassy PC

- **Vendor Finance**

Speakers:

Christine Brown

Sr. Flex Financial Counsel
Flex Financial, Stryker

Ryan Thompson

Of Counsel
Womble Bond Dickinson

Shari Bacsardi

Partner
Womble Bond Dickinson

4:00 – 4:15pm

BREAK

4:15 – 5:15pm

Concurrent Sessions:

- **UCC 101 – The Importance of Being Perfected**

This panel discussion will provide foundational information on perfection and priority issues related to UCC Article 9, including the importance of and common pitfalls observed in UCC searches, purchase-money security interests, perfection of specialty collateral, and a discussion on common issues encountered in negotiating landlords lien subordinations and waivers.

Speakers:

Dan Dvorak

Chief Legal Counsel
Choice Financial Group

Shari Bacsardi

Partner
Womble Bond Dickinson

Thomas Makens

Partner
Kutak Rock

Trudie McAdams

Assistant General Counsel
The Huntington National Bank

- **State Law Update**

Speakers:

Moorari Shah

Partner
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLC

MONDAY, MAY 5th

8:00 – 9:30am

GENERAL SESSION – ELFA Update & Legal Update Part 1

**Welcoming Remarks
Presentation of Edward A. Groobert Award
for Legal Excellence, 2025**

ELFA Update

Leigh Lytle

President and CEO

Equipment Leasing and Finance Association

Legal Update I

Vince Borst

Partner

Latimer LeVay Fyock LLC

Randy Armentrout

Attorney

Nyemaster Goode Law Firm

Larry Holmes

Principal Attorney

Offit Kurman PC

9:30 – 9:45am

BREAK

9:45 – 10:45am

Concurrent Sessions:

- **AI – Intro/ Advanced, Ethical concerns**

Speakers:

Brittany Ogden

Attorney, Partner

Quarles & Brady LLP

10:45 – 11:00am

BREAK

11:00 – Noon

Concurrent Sessions:

- **Cybersecurity**

Speakers:

Eric Gazin

General Counsel

Verdant Commercial Capital LLC

- **Securitization**

Speakers:

Carla Potter

Lawyer

Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP

Noon – 1:00pm

LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions:

- **Bankruptcy – Hot Topics**

Speakers:

Jennifer Crastz

Partner

Hemar, Rousso & Heald, LLP

- **Blockchain, UCC, Crypto, Digital Assets**

Speakers:

Barbara Goodstein

Partner

Mayer Brown LLP

2:00 - 2:15pm

BREAK

2:15 – 3:15pm

Concurrent Sessions:

- **Advanced UCC**

Speakers:

Eddie Gross

Shareholder

Vedder Price P.C.

- **Industry Fraud**

Speakers:

Alexis Levine

Partner

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

3:15 – 3:30pm

BREAK

3:30 – 4:30pm

Concurrent Sessions:

- **Unlocking Government Finance: Tax-Exempt Leasing and Emerging Issues**

This presentation dives into government finance with a focus on state and local financing, and examines the requirements and documentation for tax-exempt leasing as well as the growing trend toward “alternative” agreements. It also delves into current hot topics and important issues lenders should consider, offering a comprehensive guide to navigating the current landscape of government leasing.

Speakers:

Brad Nielsen

Partner
Kutak Rock, LLP

Matthew McKeon

SVP & Senior Associate General Counsel
The Huntington National Bank

Ben Hall

VP & Senior Legal Counsel
U.S. Bank

- **Advanced Tech Assets**

Drones, autonomous vehicles, tracking device implications, server farms, and other things you need to be careful of.

Speakers:

Joe Davies

Partner
Smith Debnam Narron Drake Saintsing & Myers, LLP

Brittany Ogden
Attorney, Partner
Quarles & Brady LLP

4:30 – 4:45pm

BREAK

4:45 – 5:45pm

General Session
4th Annual “It’s All Legal!” Trivia Game with Drinks

Led by Chair of the Legal Committee, Mr. Brian Kestenbaum, the “It’s All Legal!” trivia game

features a diverse range of questions with a playful connection to legal topics. Get ready for two engaging rounds of in-person competition alongside your ELFA Legal Forum companions. Prizes, along with the coveted bragging rights, await the top three participants.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND THIS YEAR:
Alcoholic refreshments will be available for all contestants during the game.

FIRST PLACE WINNER WILL RECEIVE FREE REGISTRATION TO 2026 LEGAL FORUM!

Brian Kestenbaum

Senior Vice President and General Counsel
LEAF Commercial Capital Inc.

TUESDAY, MAY 6th

8:00 – 9:00am

General Session - Legal Update Part 2

Speakers:

Julia Gavrilov

Partner
Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP

Brittany Ogden

Attorney, Partner
Quarles & Brady LLP

Lisa Peters

Attorney
Kutak Rock LLP

9:00 – 9:15am

BREAK

9:15- 10:15am

Concurrent Sessions:

- **Federal Law Update**

Speakers:

Brad Salyer

Associate General Counsel
U.S. Bank

- **Energy Finance**

Speakers:

Steve Whelan

Partner
Blank Rome LLP

Rafael Castillo-Triana

CEO, Latin American Region
The Alta Group LLC

10:15 – 10:30am **BREAK**

10:30am – 11:30am

**General Session: AI in Law Practice -
Ethics**

Speakers:

Scott Adams

*Vice President Legal & Compliance, North
America*
Volvo Financial Services

Ellen Murphy

Professor of Practice
Wake Forest University School of Law