

Wednesday, September 17

1:30 pm – 8:30 pm **MEETING | BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

@ McGinnis Lochridge

6:30 pm **DINNER | COO and CMO DINNER/ROUNDTABLE**

Local Restaurants

DINNER | GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRACTICE

DINNER | EARLY ARRIVALS NO HOST NETWORKING

To assist Members in connecting, SCG will arrange restaurant reservations. Please contact Membership Coordinator Erin Kane (ekane@scglegal.com) for more details/to be included.

Thursday, September 18

8:00 am – 5:00 pm **WELCOME DESK | ON-SITE CHECK-IN, REGISTRATION & INFORMATION**

Waller Pre-function Area

8:30 am – 11:00 am **WOMEN IN LAW WORKSHOP | THE CONFIDENT ADVOCATE: SPEAKING UP & STAYING WELL**

Waller F

This interactive workshop is designed for women in law who want to strengthen their public speaking and business development skills while also prioritizing their personal wellbeing. Through practical training, participants will gain tools to speak with clarity, confidence, and impact—whether in courtrooms, boardrooms, or client meetings. The session also explores strategies for managing stress, maintaining balance, and building resilience in high-pressure legal environments. Attendees will leave with actionable techniques to amplify their voices and sustain their energy—both professionally and personally. *Breakfast is included.*

➤ **All female attorneys and professionals attending the meeting as well as female McGinnis Lochridge attorneys are invited.**

Wellbeing: Alina Gorokhovsky, CEO, SCG Legal

Enhance Your Executive Presence: Christine Clapp, President, Spoken with Authority

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **NETWORKING LUNCH | PRACTICE GROUP MEETUPS**

These opportunities will enable participants to discuss industry trends and issues impacting their practice, firms, and clients.

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Waller E

>> **CORPORATE/MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS PRACTICE**

>> **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRACTICE**

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **INFORMAL NETWORKING LUNCH | CONNECT WITH SCG LEGAL'S BOARD & TEAM**

Waller AB

Please join us for this pre-event networking lunch, especially if it is your first SCG meeting.

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm **COFFEE, CONFECTIONS & CONNECTIONS | NETWORK WITH FELLOW SCG MEMBERS**

Waller Pre-function Area

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Waller CD

- Celeste Bruce, Rifkin Weiner Livingston (US: Maryland) | Chair, SCG Legal
- Alina Gorokhovsky, CEO, SCG Legal
- Melissa Salhab Sykes, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Waller F

BREAKOUT | WORK WITHOUT BORDERS: NAVIGATING IMMIGRATION & EMPLOYMENT LAW

As global mobility and workforce dynamics continue to evolve, the intersection of immigration and employment law has become increasingly complex. This panel will explore key legal considerations for employers navigating cross-border talent acquisition, work authorization, remote work, compliance obligations, and shifting immigration policies. Panelists will provide practical guidance on managing risks, supporting international hires, and aligning immigration strategies with broader employment law frameworks. Whether advising multinational corporations or local employers, this session offers essential insights into staying compliant and competitive in a global talent market.

Moderator: Felicity Fowler, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

Panelists:

- Mary Kate Fernandez, Adams & Reese (US: Louisiana)
- Kristopher Kunasingam, Hall & Wilcox (Australia: Melbourne)
- Lauren Sigg, Robinson + Cole (US: Massachusetts)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Waller CD

BREAKOUT | FROM WELLS TO WIND: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF OIL, GAS & RENEWABLES

As the global energy landscape shifts, the oil and gas industry is navigating new challenges and opportunities alongside the rapid growth of alternative and renewable energy sources. This panel will examine the evolving legal, regulatory, and market dynamics shaping the future of energy—both traditional and emerging. Panelists will discuss trends in energy business strategies, cross-border investments, ESG pressures, and innovations in technology and infrastructure. This session will provide a forward-looking view of how legal advisors can support clients through the complex realities of a dual-energy future.

Moderator: Jonathan Baughman, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

Panelists:

- Jack Balagia, former Vice President and General Counsel, Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Joseph Kesler, Parsons Behle & Latimer (US: Utah)
- Brett Koenecke, May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson (US: South Dakota)
- Jeff Trotter, Adams & Reese (US: Louisiana)

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Waller CD

SESSION | U.S. DIPLOMACY THROUGH TIME WITH CANADA & EUROPE

This panel will explore the evolution of U.S. diplomatic relationships with Canada and Europe—from long-standing alliances to emerging rivalries—and the forces that have shaped them. Panelists will examine key moments and policy shifts that have defined America's global role and offer insights into where U.S. foreign relations may be headed in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

Moderator: Martin Lutz, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

Panelists:

- Gunnar Jonsson, Jonsson & Hall (Iceland)
- Aaron Makovka, Dunton Rainville (Canada: Quebec)
- Tom Pickthorn, Mills & Reeve (UK)
- Robert Theissen, GvW Graf von Westphalen (Germany)

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Waller Pre-function Area

BREAK | NETWORKING

4:00 pm – 4:20 pm
Waller CD

#RAPIDINSIGHTS | GENERATIVE AI & THE PRACTICE OF LAW: CURRENT REALITIES & FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Generative AI is transforming the practice of law. During this session, an international expert on AI for the legal market will survey the current use of GenAI in legal practice, the new benefits and pitfalls presented, and the likely impact of GenAI on the legal labor market.

- Dan Meyers, President, Consulting & Information Governance | TransPerfect Legal + Q & A with Andrew Edge, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

4:20 pm – 5:00 pm
Waller CD

FIRESIDE CHAT | MORE THAN LEGAL: ELEVATING CLIENT VALUE THROUGH INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

In today's competitive legal market, delivering strong legal work is no longer enough. Clients increasingly expect strategic partners who offer added value through innovation, collaboration, and a deep understanding of their business objectives. This session will explore how law firms are going beyond traditional services—leveraging technology, cross-functional teams, data-driven insights, and creative partnerships to drive better client outcomes. Panelists will share real-world examples of client-facing innovations, business collaboration efforts, and law firm network-powered solutions that are redefining what it means to be a “trusted advisor.”

Moderator: Alina Gorokhovsky, CEO, SCG Legal

Panelists:

- Trish Lilley, Barnes & Thornburg (US: Indiana)
- Stephen Rozen, Amit, Pollak, Matalon & Co. (Israel)
- Liz Sobe, Robinson + Cole (US: Massachusetts)

5:00 pm
Waller CD

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURN

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Waller Pre-function Area

RECEPTION | WOMEN IN LAW

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Waller Pre-function Area

RECEPTION | BUSINESS MADE SOCIAL

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Local Restaurants

DINNER | NO HOST NETWORKING

*Please refer to the calendar invitation emailed to you for final details/directions. Restaurant information is also available in SCG's mobile app under **2025 Annual Meeting: Venues**.*

9:30 pm – 11:30 pm
Waller EF

SUNDOWN SOCIAL | SPURS & SPIRITS NIGHTCAP RECEPTION

After dinner, join us for local sweet treats, card games, two-steppin' fun, and plenty of mingling!

Friday, September 19

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Waller Pre-function Area

WELCOME DESK | ON-SITE CHECK-IN, REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Waller AB

BREAKFAST | NETWORKING

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Waller CD

KEYNOTE | MAYOR OF AUSTIN KIRK WATSON

10:00 am – 10:20 am

Waller CD

#RAPIDiNSIGHTS | THE RISE OF THE ACTIVATOR: REDEFINING GROWTH IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

In an era where client loyalty is fading fast, client expectations are increasing, and markets are hyper competitive, traditional approaches to rainmaking are losing effectiveness. Based on insights from The Activator Advantage—a study of nearly 3,000 professional services partners—this session unveils the emergence of a new kind of growth leader: the Activator. These elite professionals don't rely on instinct or legacy relationships—they use insights, collaboration, and systematic client outreach to drive success. Learn how technology can bring this model to life, empowering firms to activate their networks, orchestrate pursuits, and build resilient, growth-focused client relationships. This session is a call to arms for professionals who want to stay ahead in an industry being reshaped by expectations, competition, and innovation.

- Laura Saklad, Vice President, Legal Industry | Intapp

10:20 am – 10:30 am

Waller Pre-function Area

BREAK | NETWORKING

10:30 am – 11:15 am

Waller CD

SESSION | NAVIGATING CHANGE: FORECASTING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S IMPACT ON LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

In this timely and thought-provoking session, government relations attorneys will examine the potential and lasting impacts of a second Trump administration on the legal and political landscape across all levels of government. Panelists will explore how federal policy shifts influence local, state, and national frameworks, with a focus on key issues including regulatory rollbacks, international supply chains, tariffs, and constitutional challenges. The discussion will offer forward-looking insights into how these developments may continue to shape the legal environment in the United States.

Moderator: Jamie Joiner, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

Panelists:

- Tray Adams, McGuireWoods (US: Virginia)
- Alexis Glascock, Fennemore (US: Arizona)
- Rob Rieger, Adams & Reese (US: Louisiana)
- Nick Tosco, Poyner Spruill (US: North Carolina)
- Randi Valverde, Capitol Counsel & Consulting (US: New Mexico | Government Relations)

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Waller CD

FIRESIDE CHAT | THE CYBER BRIEF: LAW, LIABILITY & RESPONSE

As cyber threats grow in scale and sophistication, legal exposure and compliance obligations are evolving just as rapidly. This panel will examine key developments in cybersecurity law, emerging liabilities for law firms and their clients, and best practices for incident response. Panelists will share real-world insights on navigating regulatory requirements, managing risk, and responding effectively to cyber incidents across jurisdictions.

- Lyn Brown, Wiley (US: Washington, DC)
- Stephan Menzemer, GvW Graf von Westphalen (Germany)
- Janet Peyton, McGuireWoods (US: Virginia)
- Kathryn Rattigan, Robinson + Cole (US: Massachusetts)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Waller AB

PRACTICE GROUP MEETUPS + LUNCH | NETWORKING FOR LABOR & EMPLOYMENT, WHITE COLLAR, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, IMMIGRATION, LITIGATION, BANKRUPTCY, HOSPITALITY

Lunch tables will be dedicated for these practice groups to network and discuss industry trends + business development and collaboration opportunities.

1:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Waller CD

#RAPIDINSIGHTS | TRADE AT A CROSSROADS: THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL COMMERCE

The global trade landscape is being reshaped in real time—by shifting geopolitics, rising economic nationalism, rapid digitalization, and mounting climate and labor demands. In this RapidInsights talk, Greta Peisch—former General Counsel for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative—explores what’s coming next. Drawing on her deep legal experience and recent leadership at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Greta will offer a strategic look at the forces driving change—from the evolution of supply chains and critical minerals agreements to the future of trade enforcement and dispute resolution.

- Greta Peisch, Wiley (US: Washington, DC)

1:50 pm – 2:00 pm

Waller Pre-function Area

BREAK | NETWORKING

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Waller CD

BREAKOUT | FROM BOARDROOM TO BROWSER: NAVIGATING THE EVOLVING LITIGATION LANDSCAPE

As litigation risks continue to expand across industries and platforms, legal teams are navigating an increasingly complex landscape—from high-stakes business and government disputes to the rise of consumer class actions and website accessibility claims. This panel will explore the evolving litigation environment, highlighting key trends, regulatory developments, and emerging areas of exposure. Panelists will share practical insights on managing risk, responding to litigation involving digital platforms, and preparing clients for what’s ahead.

Moderator: Kelley Duke, Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe (US: Colorado)

Panelists:

- Ray Chester, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)
- J.M. Durnovich, Poyner Spruill (US: North Carolina)
- William Egan, Robinson + Cole (US: Massachusetts)
- Inga Kingland, Larkin Hoffman (US: Minnesota)
- Krista Chaytor, WeirFoulds (Canada: Ontario)

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Waller F

BREAKOUT | M&A TRENDS: NAVIGATING OPPORTUNITIES IN A SHIFTING MARKET

While recent fluctuations in mergers & acquisitions activity have tempered overall deal volume, the landscape is showing signs of resurgence, presenting valuable opportunities for companies seeking to expand their market reach. This session will offer a deep dive into the latest trends, highlighting key considerations and challenges businesses face today.

Moderator: Vinita Mehra, Kegler, Brown, Hill, + Ritter (US: Ohio)

Panelists:

- Steve Doak, WeirFoulds (Canada: Ontario)
- Mariano Batalla, ALTA Batalla (Costa Rica)
- Rob Bethea, Adams & Reese (US: Louisiana)
- Craig Hodgson, Mills & Reeve (UK)

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Waller Pre-function Area

BREAK | NETWORKING

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Waller CD

BREAKOUT | ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN ACTION: TRENDS, CHALLENGES & IMPACT

State Attorneys General (AGs) play an increasingly influential role in shaping policy, enforcing laws, and driving litigation that impacts businesses, governments, and communities. This panel will feature former AGs who will share insights on the most pressing legal and political issues AGs are addressing—from consumer protection and antitrust enforcement to environmental regulation, data privacy, and public health. Panelists will discuss recent trends, evolving challenges, and how AGs' actions across the U.S. are influencing political agendas and legal strategies. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how AG offices operate and what to expect as their impact continues to grow.

Moderator: Dean Grafilo, Capitol Advocacy (US: California | Government Relations)

Panelists:

- Doug Chin, Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher (US: Hawaii)
- Bob Cooper, Bass Berry & Sims (US: Tennessee)

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Waller F

BREAKOUT | INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRENDS, RISKS & THE ROAD AHEAD

As innovation accelerates and markets become more interconnected, intellectual property disputes are becoming more frequent, complex, and international. This panel will explore the latest developments shaping IP practice—from shifting enforcement strategies to the implications of high-profile cases like Jack Daniel's and headline-making entertainment disputes. The panel will examine emerging flashpoints such as AI-generated content, new technologies, and evolving forum-selection tactics. They will also offer practical strategies for safeguarding IP assets, managing litigation risks, and anticipating future challenges across patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

Moderator: Eric Stevens, Poyner Spruill (US: North Carolina)

Panelists:

- Emily Evitt, Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp (US: Los Angeles, CA)
- David Weslow, Wiley (US: Washington, DC)

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Waller Pre-function Area

BREAK | NETWORKING

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Waller CD

SESSION | THE CLIENT’S PERSPECTIVE: WHAT MATTERS, WHAT WORKS & WHAT DRIVES LOYALTY

This candid panel brings together corporate clients to share what they truly value in their legal relationships—and what makes them walk away. From communication preferences and responsiveness to fee arrangements, collaboration, and commercial understanding, panelists will offer real-world insights into how law firms can build trust and deliver lasting value. They’ll also highlight common missteps and “deal-breakers” that undermine relationships. This is a unique opportunity to hear directly from the client side and gain actionable guidance on how law firms can better align their service with evolving client needs and expectations.

Moderator: Marla Broadus, McGinnis Lochridge (US: Texas)

Panelists:

- Lawrence Temple, ABDM
- Neal Nobles, Senior Counsel, Exxon Mobil Corporation

5:00 pm
Waller CD

CLOSING | WRAP-UP REMARKS

6:00 pm
Hotel Lobby

TRANSPORTATION | CLOSING RECEPTION & BANQUET

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

CLOSING RECEPTION & BANQUET | Bob Bullock State History Museum

SCG Legal offers its deep appreciation to

HOST FIRM

McGinnis Lochridge

for its Generous Support & Hospitality!

Future In-Person Meetings

2026

26 - 27 Mar | Midyear Meeting > Melbourne (AUS)
Sept 18 - 19 | Annual Meeting > Washington, DC (US)

more details as available @ scglegal.com/events

A SPECIAL ‘THANK YOU’ TO OUR VETTED SOLUTION PARTNERS

This Annual Meeting is sponsored in part by the following Network Partners:

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