

Business Law Forum 2026

May 5, 2026

Total Credits: 5 Dual, 1 General



9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CT

DUAL

AI 101 for Business Lawyers

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the practice of law, and business lawyers must understand both its potential and its risks. This session provides a practical foundation of how AI tools work and how they are being used in legal and business contexts. The presenters will explore key ethical considerations, including competence, confidentiality, and supervision, and will walk through a SWOT analysis to help attorneys evaluate when and how AI can be effectively integrated into their practice. The session will also highlight the growing need for internal policies governing AI use within law firms and organizations. Attendees will leave with a foundational understanding of AI and actionable insights for responsible and strategic adoption.

T. Kyle Turner, Vanderbilt University

Bianca White, Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

A Substantive Overview of State (and Federal) AI Laws Impacting Businesses

There have been recent efforts at the federal level to preempt state AI laws, but Congress has not passed robust AI legislation. On the other hand, many states have passed AI laws and are enforcing certain provisions. This session will address current substantive AI laws impacting business law practitioners.

A.J. Bahou, Bradley

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

DUAL

AI and Cybersecurity: What Business Lawyers Need to Know

Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the threat landscape faster than most organizations can adapt -- and law firms are not exempt. This session covers how AI is being weaponized by adversaries (deepfakes, spear phishing, automated reconnaissance), how AI tools used inside the firm create new data exposure and liability risks, and what practical governance steps lawyers and their business clients should be taking now. Attendees will leave with a clear-eyed view of where the real risks are, what regulators and courts are beginning to expect, and how to advise clients operating in this environment.

Milton Bartley, ImageQuest

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch Break (Provided)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

DUAL

Panel Q&A: AI Platform Selection and Implementation for Law Firms and Legal Organizations

Artificial intelligence is no longer on the horizon for law firms and legal organizations. It is here, and the decisions being made now about which platforms to adopt, how to evaluate them, and how to implement them will shape the future of legal practice. This session brings together practitioners and legal technology leaders who have been through the process to share what they learned, what worked, and what they would do differently. Attendees will come away with a practical framework for evaluating AI tools, a clearer understanding of the key questions to ask vendors, and real-world insight into the challenges and opportunities of AI adoption in a legal setting.

Moderator: TJ Gentle, Miller Martin

Chris Bombardo, University of Tennessee Winston College of Law

Emily Burrows, Bass, Berry & Sims

Justin Joy, Lewis Thomason

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

DUAL

Drafting with AI: A Practicum with Commentary

Follow along as one veteran generative artificial intelligence (AI) user and one newbie—you guess who is who—walk through AI contract drafting approaches using a form of agreement well known to one of the two. Different AI products will be used over the course of the hour, and panelists and audience members will be encouraged to make observations on the processes and outcomes.

Van East, Bradley

Joan Heminway, University of Tennessee Winston College of Law

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

DUAL

Navigating the Ethical Minefield: AI in Transactional Legal Practice

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how transactional lawyers work, from contract drafting and due diligence to client communication and deal management. This program examines the ethical obligations attorneys must satisfy when integrating AI tools into a transactional practice, with practical guidance on the issues most likely to arise in the real world. Topics include: competence and supervision duties when using AI-generated work product; confidentiality obligations and data security risks when transmitting client information to third-party platforms; developing and implementing firm-wide AI governance policies; and key provisions to negotiate in vendor agreements.

Alex Davie, Riggs Davie