

# TBA Immigration Law Forum 2026

May 15, 2026



**Total Credits:** 4 General, 1 Dual

In today's immigration climate, keeping up with hot topics and policy changes is more important than ever. TBA's Immigration Law Forum, to be held in-person in Nashville on May 15, will cover everything immigration attorneys in Tennessee need to know. Rep. Yusuf Hakeem will discuss state legislation again this year, and other topics include practice management tips, an ethical discussion with the BPR about fee changes, and a session with Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition leadership on using court petitions for immigration advocacy.

8:30am - 9:00am CT

**Registration**

9:00am - 10:00am

**DUAL**

**Fees & Other Ethics Issues: How to Successfully Negotiate Recurring Obstacles**

*In today's ever-shifting immigration environment, how do you appropriately value your services? This session will discuss fees and other topical ethics issues in the context of quickly changing environment, with subtopics including dealing with the unexpected and managing expectations.*

John Gilliland, Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility

10:00am - 11:00am

**Immigration Policy in Tennessee: 114th General Assembly & Community Impact**

*This presentation examines the evolution of immigration policy in Tennessee, beginning with earlier laws that allowed flexibility and local decision-making, and transitioning into the stricter, state-controlled policies introduced during the 114th General Assembly. It highlights key legislation such as HB 6001 and SB 1364, emphasizing the shift toward required cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The presentation also explores the broader impact of these changes on communities, including concerns around public safety, trust in law enforcement, family stability, and access to essential services. It encourages a deeper understanding of how policy decisions affect both systems and the everyday lives of individuals.*

Rep. Yusuf Hakeem, Tennessee House of Representatives

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| 11:00am – 11:15am | <b>Break</b>  |
| 11:15am – 12:15pm | <p data-bbox="532 264 1349 338"><b>Case Management &amp; Firm Strategies for an Always Evolving &amp; Challenging Immigration Law Environment</b></p> <p data-bbox="532 344 1411 695"><i>We will address current situations, issues &amp; changes facing immigration lawyers across our State of Tennessee in terms of Field Offices, Services Centers, and other immigration law centers. We will help you think through techniques, strategies, and best practices in creating management &amp; firm policies and procedures for the providing of ethical, consistent, efficient, and organized immigration legal services' program delivery. We will address best practices for intake procedures, file maintenance, client communication, data and deadline tracking, and case closing. All discussion will be the context of how best to remain flexible, and responsive to immigration policies that change daily.</i></p> <p data-bbox="532 701 824 737">Terry Olsen, Olsen Law Firm</p>   |
| 12:15pm – 1:00pm  | <b>Lunch (Provided)</b>   |
| 1:00pm – 2:00pm   | <p data-bbox="532 907 1019 938"><b>Playing with Fire: Hot Topics in Immigration</b></p> <p data-bbox="532 945 1411 1058"><i>A review of some of this year's most significant changes and updates in immigration law, policy, and enforcement. Spoiler alert: everything is on fire but we can still do good things.</i></p> <p data-bbox="532 1064 927 1100">Dawn Garcia, Garcia Immigration Law</p>  |
| 2:00pm – 3:00pm   | <p data-bbox="532 1169 1295 1243"><b>Beyond the Agency: How to Effectively Use Federal Court Petitions for Immigration Advocacy</b></p> <p data-bbox="532 1249 1411 1562"><i>This session provides a general overview of habeas corpus, mandamus, and related federal court litigation, with a focus on when and how to use district court actions to challenge unlawful custody or agency inaction. Designed for practitioners who may be new to federal litigation—or who want a refresher—this session walks through the jurisdictional foundations, strategic considerations, and procedural mechanics of filing habeas petitions and related claims in federal court. The session emphasizes practical guidance, including drafting considerations, evidentiary issues, motion practice, and remedies available in federal court.</i></p> <p data-bbox="532 1568 1224 1680">Neely Baugh-Dash, Rose Immigration Law Firm<br/>Julio Colby, Tennessee Immigrant &amp; Refugee Rights Coalition<br/>Michael Holley, Tennessee Immigrant &amp; Refugee Rights Coalition</p> |