

TBA International Law Forum 2026

Tennessee Bar Association Training Center

May 29, 2026



Total Credits: 6 General

This Annual Conference of the TBA International Law Section will provide an overview of the trade and investment landscape as it concerns Tennessee for 2026 and beyond, as well as both policy and legal views of the ever-changing global standard of Tennessee in the international investment environment.

The Conference will focus on providing content for both experienced and new attorneys in the international business space, including exposure to current and changing international law issues and events that affect companies and individuals in Tennessee, as well as beyond the border.

The program will offer the opportunity to have direct interactive discussions with the speakers and other attendees; it is a unique space to network, learn about best practices, and chart a path to increase capacity for internationalization and to create equitable access to the benefits of international research, outreach, and economic growth.

8:30am - 9:00am CT

Registration

9:00am - 9:50am

Tennessee Foreign Direct Investment: Government Perspectives

The panel will provide an overview of the global & U.S. trade & investment landscape as it concerns Tennessee for 2026. They will provide current & practical perspectives regarding international companies exploring expansion and new operations in Tennessee.

Brie Knox, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service

Adam Breeze, FDI of Tennessee

Waddell Wright, Henderick, Inc.

9:50am - 10:05am

U.S.-Japan Investment Initiatives in the United States

This brief session will provide an update on the Japan-Tennessee economic relationship and recent Japanese FDI projects.

Shinji Watanabe, Consulate-General of Japan Nashville

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| 10:05am – 11:05am | <p>Global Markets in Motion: Trade, Investment, and Opportunity for Tennessee <i>As global markets shift, Tennessee’s role as both a destination for foreign direct investment and a hub for international trade continues to grow. This panel brings together Consulate representatives to share real-time perspectives on investment flows, trade dynamics, and the evolving regulatory landscape. Attendees will gain insight into how global partners are approaching the U.S. market—and where the next opportunities for cross-border growth are emerging.</i></p> <p>Lori Odom, Nashville Chamber of Commerce Michael Mancini, Consulate General of Canada Abdullahi Hashi, Consulate General of the Netherlands</p> |
| 11:05am – 11:15am | <p>Break</p> |
| 11:15am – 12:15pm | <p>Meharry Medical College’s Impact Globally: Global Health Perspectives & Global Partnerships <i>Through innovative research, community engagement, and collaborative partnerships, Meharry Medical College’s School of Global Health (SGH) engages in international collaborations that are rooted in the bidirectional transfer of knowledge and services of mutual benefit to all. This presentation will discuss the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>SGH innovative strategies for global training and research; and</i> 2. <i>Meharry’s PEPFAR program as a successful initiative with both health and economic benefits to the USA and globally.</i> <p><i>The project is strengthening national and global health security through reducing HIV epidemic risk and strengthening pandemic preparedness. Ancillary benefits include building capacity to identify and alert the USA and the world about the emergence of arising health threats and emerging diseases.</i></p> <p>Dr. Rosemary Nabaweesi, Meharry School of Global Health Dr. Sanika Chirwa, Meharry School of Global Health</p> |
| 12:15pm – 12:45pm | <p>Lunch (Provided)</p> |
| 12:45pm – 1:45pm | <p>International Financing: Private Sector Perspectives <i>This panel will provide timely insights, practical guidance, and real-time perspectives as it relates to Tennessee companies & individuals financing their international actions, investments, and exports. They will address the possible actions & strategies of Tennessee businesses looking to expand into the global marketplace, such as South America, Europe, and Asia.</i></p> <p>Thomas Arey, Synovus Financial Evelyn Vigistain, AllianceBernstein Dr. Jeffrey Overby, Director of State Export Initiative</p> |

1:45pm – 2:00pm

Break

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Current U.S.-Canada Cross Border Issues to be Considered for Employers & Employees

Canada is one of Tennessee's largest international trading partners, and as trade and entry policies change through new agreements, tariffs, retaliatory measures or legislation, it is imperative to plan ahead, manage risk and compliance, and maintain competitiveness. This panel will address what Tennessee lawyers must know about cross-border tax issues, income tax and estate tax considerations, planning for purchases of real estate, crossing the U.S.-Canada border, traveling with criminal records and general best practices. The panel will also address current trade & investment issues facing Tennessee & Canada.

Jidé Afolabi, probatePro

Michael Mancini, Consulate General of Canada

Kehinde Olalere, Olalere Law Office

Taiwo Olalere, Olalere Law Office

Terry Olsen, Olsen Law Firm

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Attorney Perspectives of Global Sales & Supply Chains

This presentation will examine the rapidly evolving legal and strategic issues affecting global sales and supply chains, including sanctions, export controls, competing U.S. and foreign regulations, anti-corruption regimes, cybersecurity, and cross-border contracting risks. Drawing from real-world experiences as former general counsels of global U.S. companies, the speakers will provide practical insights into managing sales and supply chain disruptions, specific drafting provisions for minimizing cross-border sales, distribution and supply risks, and outline traps for the unwary in today's fractured international trade environment.

Nathan Fagre, former General Counsel to Spectrum Brands

George Phillips, Phillips Ralston