Association of Life Insurance Counsel
2026 Annual Meeting

Grove Park Inn | Asheville, NC

May 17-19, 2026

The New Life Insurance Industry – different challenges and opportunities

2026 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 16

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Committee Meetings**
Membership & Diversity, Eisenhower F
Planning & Communications, Eisenhower G
Audit Committee, Coolidge
Finance Committee, Hoover HJ

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Board of Governors Meeting** *(Hoover HJ)*

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Early Arrivals Reception** *(Vanderbilt Gallery)*
Plan to arrive on Saturday and reconnect with other ALIC members at this reception.

Sunday, May 17

10:00 a.m. **Registration Opens** *(Vanderbilt Registration Desk)*

4:00-5:30 p.m. **General Counsel Roundtable (by invitation only)** (*Hoover HJ*)

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **The Billy Shands New Member/Emeritus Member Reception** *(Pavilion Lawn)*
Members of the ALIC Board of Directors will be on hand to reconnect with Emeritus members and meet ALIC's newest members at this reception. Join us for a cocktail and introduction to the ALIC Annual Meeting!

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **President's Cocktail Reception and Welcome** *(Pavilion)*
ALIC President Paige Freeman cannot wait to welcome you to the ALIC Annual Meeting! Guests can enjoy the beautiful setting of the Grove Park Inn, while meeting new ALIC members and reconnecting with old friends.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Sunday Group Dinner** *(Pavilion Lawn)*
This event will take place in the Pavilion, a stunning building adjacent to the Grove Park Inn. The buffet-style meal will be sure to have something for everyone. No longer a separately ticketed event, the Sunday Group Dinner is open to all!

Monday, May 18
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast Available** *(Grand Ballroom Prefunction)*

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Mainstage Session I: Navigating Complexity Ethically to Maximize Impact** *(Ballroom AB)*
Companies, legal departments, and law firms are rapidly evolving to meet a quickly changing world that includes increasingly complex ethical opportunities and challenges for attorneys. With as much as 85 percent of the average company's value tied up in intangible assets, the role of attorneys in safeguarding the reputation and confidential company information has never been more important. Yet how – specifically – can we balance stakeholder viewpoints to navigate complexity? Using data and case studies, this session will leave you with pragmatic takeaways and tools to take back to your organizations to maximize your impact in a time of challenging complex ethical dilemmas.
Panelists: Steve Koslow, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, Allianz Life Insurance Co., and Erica Salmon Byrne, Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Chair, Ethisphere

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. **Mainstage Session II: Panel Discussion: NAIC Leadership Perspectives on the U.S. Life Insurance and Annuity Market** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*
Join us for an in-depth panel discussion featuring the current leaders of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). This session will explore the most pressing issues and emerging trends impacting the U.S. life insurance and annuity marketplace, providing an exclusive opportunity to hear directly from NAIC leadership on the regulatory priorities, challenges, and expectations shaping the future of the life insurance and annuity sector.
Panelists: Scott A. White, Commissioner of the Virginia State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance and NAIC President and Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer, Superintendent of the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation and NAIC President-Elect; **Moderator**: Paige Freeman, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Munich American Reassurance Company

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Breakout Sessions I**

- **Corporate Section Breakout: Offshore Reinsurance, Regulatory Expectations, and Practical Deal Design** *(Roosevelt)*

This panel discussion will examine offshore reinsurance, both via captive reinsurance and how it is influencing life insurance M&A, and how corporate counsel can help in designing transactions. The discussion will focus on practical issues facing life insurance company general counsel and their outside advisors, including:

- *When offshore reinsurance should be incorporated into transaction structure and regulatory strategy*
- *Key regulatory concerns that can delay or complicate approvals, and how to address them early (including state-specific variations)*
- *Governance and control issues arising in PE-backed and reinsurance-focused transactions*
- *Drafting and sequencing considerations that materially affect regulatory outcomes, including Forms A and D, and reinsurance agreement terms*

Panelists: Elena Coyle, Partner, Skadden; Adam Greenhut, Deputy General Counsel, Fortitude Re; Gary Silber, Head of Investments and Risk, KKR; **Moderator:** Paul Barbato, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, TruStage

- **Insurance Section Breakout: The Modern Life Insurance Lawyer: Navigating New Developments in Strategy, Innovation, and Efficiency** *Providing Efficient Lawyering and Strategic Counsel During a Time of Transformative Change in a Dynamic Industry (Taft)*

Join us for an insightful panel exploring the evolving landscape of legal counsel in the life insurance industry. This session will delve into how legal teams can advise the business on strategic pivots—such as alternative capital structures—while navigating regulatory changes in a dynamic environment. Attendees will also discover how lawyers are responding to pressure to "do more with less," including practical use of AI to drive efficiency and manage costs.
Panelists: Olga Buland, General Counsel, Zinnia; Alex Cochran, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton; Eleni Watts, Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company; **Moderator:** Leigh McKegney, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Legal Officer, Resolution Life

- **Investment Section Breakout: Structural Shifts in Life Insurance: Capital, Investments, and Long-term Promises** *(Wilson)*

This panel will examine the structural evolution of the life insurance industry, focusing on the relatively recent shift from traditional fixed income towards private credit, private equity, and alternative assets and asset managers. We will discuss how the life insurance industry is optimizing capital efficiency by rapidly expanding into private credit and strategically converging with private equity as well as utilizing asset-intensive reinsurance in offshore jurisdictions. We also will discuss certain legal and regulatory responses to these structural shifts, including the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' and global standard-setters' implementation of rigorous new regulations intended to increase transparency, eliminate "capital arbitrage" loopholes, and ensure that solvency frameworks accurately reflect the risks associated with these complex, private-market-driven models.
Panelists: Vince Marriott, Principal, Financial Regulation, Apollo Global Management; Katherine Milgram, Chief Legal Officer, Global Atlantic and Managing Director, KKR; Ed Sunoo, SVP an Head of Financial Reinsurance, Munich RE; **Moderator:** Nick Secara, Partner, Foley & Lardner

11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. **Breakout Sessions II** *(Grand Ballroom AB, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson)*

- **Securities Section Breakout: Navigating the New Normal: SEC Developments, RILA Growth, and AI in Registered Insurance Products** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*

This session will examine how the SEC has begun to evolve during the first year under Chair Atkins and what those developments mean for registered insurance products going forward. Panelists will discuss regulatory priorities and constraints at the SEC, the maturation of the RILA market following the transition to Form N-4, emerging regulatory activity impacting RILAs, and the increasing role of AI in product development and legal work.
Panelists: Alfred Ayensu-Ghartey, Head of Insurance Products Practice Group, Equitable; Joe Caruso, Assistant Vice President, Jackson National; Heidi Kaiser, Chief Compliance Officer, Jackson National; **Moderator:** Chip Lunde, Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher

- **Tax Section Breakout: Taxation of Insurance Companies and Products: Where are We Headed?** *(Roosevelt)*

This session will feature a Q&A with industry panelists regarding current trends in life insurance company and product tax, including the current legislative outlook and possible changes that we may see in the coming years. Topics include selected current federal company tax developments, discussion of the current state of and future risks to the tax-advantaged status of insurance products, and the potential impacts of state revenue-generating proposals.
Panelists: Scott Lenz, SVP, Deputy General Counsel & Chief Tax Counsel, New York Life; Tamara Saverine, VP and Chief Counsel, Voya Financial; Aditi Banerjee, VP and Corporate Counsel, Prudential; **Moderator**: Shannon Gamache, Lead Counsel, Product Tax, MassMutual

- **Litigation Section Breakout: Learning from Yesterday's Lessons to Plan for Tomorrow** *(Taft)*

In litigation targeting the life insurance industry, old trends often become new again. Litigation over disclosures, discretion, and statutory language comes in waves, but is ever-present. The panelists for this session will analyze past and current litigation to identify trends and develop strategies to anticipate and mitigate future risk.
Panelists: Jason Gosselin, Faegre Drinker; Michaelanne Ehrenberg, Symetra; Steve Weinberg, Head of Litigation, Pacific Life; **Moderator**: Andrew Kay, Partner, Venable

- **Data and Technology Section Breakout: How are Legal Departments Really Using AI and What Should They do about Business Use Cases?** *(Wilson)*

This panel of external and in-house counsel will explore how legal departments are putting AI to work today—and how they're governing the technology as business pressure mounts for expanded AI usage. Panelists will share practical, real-world examples of the main legal-team use cases, including accelerating contract review and playbook adherence, improving legal research and knowledge management, streamlining matter intake and triage, e-discovery, note-taking, and enhancing compliance monitoring and internal investigations. The discussion will also examine how legal leaders are partnering with the business and other functions to evaluate proposed AI use cases: setting risk-based approval frameworks, defining guardrails for data and model use, assessing vendor and product controls, and determining when a use case is appropriate for pilots versus broader deployment. **Panelists:** Monica Curtis, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, MetLife; Avi Gesser, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton; Kerry Jung, Deputy General Counsel, Transamerica; **Moderator:** Rachel Reid, Partner, Eversheds-Sutherland

12:15 p.m. **Boxed Lunch Pickup** *(Grand Ballroom Pre-function)*
Pick up a boxed lunch before heading out to an afternoon activity.

Afternoon Social Activities
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Golf Tournament**
Swing into a round of golf on the legendary 18-hole course at the Omni Grove Park Inn & Spa. The 6,113-yard championship course offers tree-lined fairways and bent greens with amazing views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Elevated tee boxes on the par 70 course provide perfect sight lines for each drive.

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Biltmore Estate Tour**
America's largest home is the centerpiece of the Biltmore Estate, which is just 15 minutes from the Grove Park Inn. En route, the guide will provide an informative and entertaining background about the history of Asheville, the impact of George Vanderbilt and his Estate on the region, and Asheville's phenomenal Art Deco architecture. Upon arrival, enjoy a self-guided visit through more than 60 rooms carefully preserved by Vanderbilt's descendants, rooms appearing as they did a century ago. After exiting the Biltmore House, you can peruse the Biltmore Estate Gardens or the Stable Arcade Gift Shops, both adjacent to Biltmore House.

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. **E-bike Tour**
Spend your afternoon on a fun-filled and informative ride around Downtown Asheville! This guided electric bike tour is the perfect way to get up close and personal with the city's charm and fascinating history. Participants will see Asheville's noteworthy architectural gems, take in stunning scenery from carefully chosen viewpoints, and hear the stories behind Asheville's most significant historic sites. The tour will conclude with a stop at one of Asheville's iconic breweries.

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Guided Waterfall Hike**
Experience the breathtaking beauty of DuPont State Forest on this guided hike through the Blue Ridge Mountains. This moderate (mostly downhill) two-mile hike will take you to three of DuPont's splendid waterfalls (High Falls, Triple Falls and Hooker Falls). Make sure to wear appropriate shoes for light hiking and to bring your camera because this location is truly a photographer's dream!

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Downtown Asheville Tour**
Enjoy the afternoon strolling through Downtown Asheville and visiting Asheville's most noted shopping, arts & crafts, architecture & historic venues. Tour stops will include the Folk Art Center, historic Biltmore Village, the Thomas Wolfe Memorial, and Asheville's Urban Trail, a history and art museum without walls, that is an opportunity to examine rich architecture, enjoy neighborhoods and learn about the people and events that have given Asheville its distinctive flair.

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Cocktail Reception** *(Skyline Room)*
Dinner and Award Presentation *(Mountain View Terrace)*

9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. **After Party Celebration** *(Skyline Room and Mountain View Terrace)*
Time to celebrate! We all deserve to spend an evening relaxing and enjoying the company of peers in the life insurance industry. Help ALIC celebrate the 2026 Anderson Award recipient and enjoy a sumptuous meal. After dinner the celebration continues with music and dancing, as well as a lounge area for conversations and connecting with peers.

Tuesday, May 19

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast Available** *(Grand Ballroom Prefunction)*

7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Business Meeting** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Mainstage Session III: From Reactive to Proactive Policy Positioning – From "What's Happening To Us?" to "This is Who We Are!"** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*
Legal counsel not only interpret and apply laws and regulations – we also play a key role in forming public policy at the state and federal level. Legislative change presents both legal risk and strategic business opportunity for our industry and companies. Using recent federal tax developments -- including the Tax and Jobs Act of 2017 and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, this panel will share lessons learned and what the industry is proactively doing to position ourselves well with policymakers on matters including tax, technology, finance, privacy and beyond. The panel will provide insights from CEOs and Government Relations executives and will discuss how we can influence outcomes that materially affect insurers. We will also discuss how the life insurance industry can enhance its image and messaging on "who we are" and "what we do" to best describe our valuable role in securing our clients and communities. Attendees will gain practical insights into how legal professionals can stay ahead of legislative change, integrate public policy considerations into enterprise decision making, and collaborate across legal, tax, government relations, communications and trade associations to advance business objectives.
Panelists: Teresa Rasmussen, President & CEO, Thrivent; Chair, American Council of Life Insurers, Jasmine Jirele, President & CEO, Allianz Life; Chair-Elect Designate, American Council of Life Insurers and Steve Radke, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, Northwestern Mutual; President, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, **Moderator:** Paul Johnston, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel & Secretary, Thrivent

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Mainstage Session IV: Cyber Attacks on Our Sector: Thoughts from the FBI and Lessons Learned from the Trenches** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*
Cyberattacks against insurers have accelerated in both frequency and sophistication—driven by ransomware, business email compromise, supply-chain compromises, and highly organized threat actors targeting sensitive customer data and mission-critical operations. This panel brings together a cross-functional view of the problem: in-house counsel from a leading life insurer, an FBI special agent with firsthand investigative experience involving Scattered Spider, and outside counsel who leads cybersecurity incident response. Using real-world examples from the life insurance industry from the last few years as a backdrop, the speakers will map today's threat landscape for the sector and translate it into practical guidance on incident response readiness, cyber governance, and communications with regulators and law enforcement. **Panelists:** Erez Liebermann, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton; FBI Special Agent Russ Ficara

10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. **Mainstage Session V: Trends in Life Insurance and Annuity Transactions** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*

This panel discussion will cover how certain macro trends, such as demographic change, new technologies, and financial market dynamics are driving transaction in the life insurance and annuity sector.

Panelists: Gary Antenberg, Vice Chair, Global Investment Banking Team, RBC; Juliya Chekmarova, Ardea; Katie Nelson, Principal and Consulting Actuary, Milliman; Richard Zhang, Partner, McKinsey & Company; **Moderator:** Jared Wilner, Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLC

11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. **Mainstage Session VI: Global Rules, Local Reality: IAIS, NAIC, and the Future of Life Insurance** *(Grand Ballroom AB)*

The NAIC and the IAIS have an inter-connected agenda regarding the life insurance industry and how it is shaped on the regulatory front. Everything from reinsurance, investments, capital adequacy, cross-border asset-intensive reinsurance and resolution and recovery plans. How do the two interact and influence each other's thinking regarding these crucial regulatory topics and where do they diverge? We will have an interactive discussion regarding these consequential topics. Even if your life insurance company does not act on the international stage, the regulatory initiatives at the IAIS and its dialogue with the NAIC shape the U.S.-based life insurance industry.

Panelists: Nathan Houdek, Commissioner of Insurance, Wisconsin; Sara Manske, Partner, Faegre Drinker; **Moderator:** Jacqueline Veneziani, SVP, CLO, and Secretary, Symetra Financial Corp.