



18th Annual Alcohol Law and Policy Conference

Session Descriptions

**Hyatt Centric Magnificent Mile
Chicago, IL | August 25-27, 2025**

Challenges in Alcohol Law Enforcement

In many states, alcohol law enforcement agencies are being asked to do more with less. From alcohol and tobacco to lottery, cannabis, hemp, and illegal vape products, the list of responsibilities continues to grow, often without a corresponding increase in resources or staffing. A panel of enforcement leaders will discuss how agencies are attempting to adapt to these pressures, what challenges this is causing on the ground, and how these shifts may impact public health and safety.

National Survey Results: Alcohol and Hemp THC Beverages

For more than a decade, the Center has commissioned a biannual national survey on public opinion surrounding state alcohol regulations. This past year, the Center also commissioned a public opinion survey on hemp-derived THC beverages. This presentation from the polling firm behind the surveys will dig into the details and crosstabs of these surveys revealing consumer insights including priorities for lawmakers as identified by public opinion.

Legal Update: SCOTUS and Litigation Review

A mainstay of the Center's Alcohol Law and Policy Conference, this session will provide attendees with an update of relevant and pending alcohol cases in courts throughout the nation and at the Highest Court in the Land.

Trade Practice in Practice

The Federal Alcohol Administration Act of 1935 is a statute that supports fair competition in the alcohol industry. After the 21st Amendment, states also have their rules to regulate anticompetitive business practices in the alcohol industry. This panel will address recent topics in the regulation of alcohol trade practices with a particular focus on potential commercial bribery implications of modern business practices.

The Changing THC Landscape

The rapidly evolving THC landscape is raising pressing regulatory and public health questions. While historically much of the focus has been on THC derived from marijuana, the most attention these days is on the hemp THC side. This panel brings together various industry and regulatory stakeholders to discuss efforts related to widespread sale of intoxicating hemp-derived products. Panelists will discuss the current market including concerns around product safety, labeling and examine what future regulatory paths could look like. This panel will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of hemp THC – from products to regulation, potential state and federal action and level setting the landscape.

Changes in Public Health Policy

During the past several months there has been a great deal of news concerning the government's role in public health programs and research. This has brought about changes at multiple government agencies and programs that have traditionally been active in alcohol policy research and programming across the country. A panel of experts representing grassroots coalitions, state government and the research community will discuss the challenges and opportunities this has presented.

Organized Retail Theft

Organized retail theft is estimated to cost businesses \$120 billion a year. The theft and resale of products has harmed numerous businesses and has been organized by criminal gangs. Due to the nature of alcohol regulation, the American alcohol industry has not faced the same degree of organized theft domestically as it has in the rest of the world, but there remain increasing challenges. This panel will address the organized retail theft issue and the role of regulation to mitigate risks to business and the public.

Regulation Across the Nation

Now in its eighteenth year, the Alcohol Law and Policy Conference has always strived to serve as a forum to share best practices and learn from counterparts around the nation including different sectors of industry and beyond. This session features leading regulators from across the country, in both license and control jurisdictions, who will share some of the lessons learned and insights gleaned from their combined decades of experience in their respective states.

Keynote Address from Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel

Attorney General Nessel will deliver the keynote address providing attendees an update on alcohol-related litigation and law enforcement in Michigan. General Nessel has served as the 54th Attorney General of Michigan since January 2019.