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The 2026 Nonprofit Law Conference

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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ESSENTIAL UPDATES

- The 2026 **Priorities of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office**
- The **State of the Nonprofit Sector** in Minnesota
- **IRS Exempt Organizations** Update

CUTTING-EDGE INSIGHT

- **Advising Nonprofits** During Legal Uncertainty
- Minnesota Regulatory Oversight and **Fraud Investigations**
- **AI Integration and Data Privacy** Governance

PLUS

- **Tax Exemption Essentials**
- **Fundraising Fundamentals**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026 – ATTEND IN PERSON
Minnesota CLE Conference Center | Minneapolis

CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON? View the online replay Thursday, November 12, 2026

The 2026 Nonprofit Law Conference

Attend In Person
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Minneapolis

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. CHECK-IN & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.
Welcome & Introduction
– Gregory A. Larson & Heidi Neff, Course Co-Chairs

9:05 – 9:35 a.m.
2026 Trends and Data for Minnesota’s Nonprofit Sector
An overview of key developments in the nonprofit field including numbers, legislation, employment trends, compensation, types of nonprofits, areas of growth, areas of decline and important public policy initiatives.
– Kari Aanestad & Halla Henderson

9:35 – 10:05 a.m.
**The Minnesota Attorney General’s Charities Division
2026 Regulatory Priorities**
Get first-hand information on developments in the Charities Division and the Division’s regulation and enforcement priorities for 2026.
– Assistant Attorney General Carol Washington

10:05 – 10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.
**IRS Exempt Organizations Update –
Initiatives and Developments Impacting Nonprofits**
An overview and important analysis of the IRS Exempt Organization Division’s activities and priorities for 2026.
– Karen A. Gries & Mackenzie P. McNaughton

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
**Charitable Fundraising During Emergencies –
Advising Mutual Aid Groups**
This session explores advising grassroots mutual aid groups, contrasting traditional top-down 501(c)(3) structures with low-barrier frameworks like unincorporated associations and fiscal sponsorships. Gain insights on handling complex crowd-funding tax issues, mitigating organizer liability, and aligning regulatory compliance with horizontal, community-led governance.
– Dierdre Hodgson, Heidi Neff & Claire H. Topp

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
LUNCH (provided by Minnesota CLE)

12:00 – 12:45 p.m.
MID-DAY PLENARY
Advising Nonprofits in a Time of Legal Uncertainty
Recent executive orders, legislative and rulemaking proposals, and Department of Justice initiatives have called into question longstanding definitions of charitable activity and created uncertainty and risk for nonprofits. This panel discussion will cover current legal theories challenging nonprofits and provide actionable compliance strategies to protect nonprofit funding and status.
– Susie Brown, Sarah Duniway & Nena M. Lenz

12:45 – 12:55 p.m. BREAK

12:55 – 1:55 p.m.
BREAKOUT SESSION A

- 101

The 990 as a Public Relations Document
A review of the 990’s importance in informing the public and regulators about the activities of nonprofits.
– Gregory A. Larson & Deborah D. Nelson
- 102

Tax Exemption Essentials – Rules, Compliance and Issue-Spotting for Federal and State Exemptions
Learn about the rules of the road for nonprofit organizations related to federal and state tax exemptions.
– Susan J. Markey
- 103

AI Integration and Data Privacy Governance for Nonprofits
Practical legal guidance on adopting generative AI tools in nonprofit administration, using AI to record board meetings, managing donor data privacy under evolving state privacy laws, protecting proprietary organizational information, responding to a breach, and more.
– Megan A. Bowman & Lisa B. Ellingson
– Kyle R. Kroll (moderator)

1:55 – 2:05 p.m. BREAK

2:05 – 3:05 p.m.
BREAKOUT SESSION B

- 201

Governance as a Preventative for Fraud – Practical Advice for Ethical Board Service
1.0 ethics credit applied for
This session explores how robust governance acts as a primary safeguard against organizational fraud, specifically framed through the lens of an attorney’s professional ethical duties under the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).
– Heidi Neff
- 202

Fundraising Fundamentals – Common Charitable Solicitation Issues
This session provides a foundational understanding of charitable solicitation laws and the key regulations governing how nonprofits can solicit donations, ensuring compliance and protecting both the organization and its donors.
– Angela I. Theodoropoulos

3:05 – 3:15 p.m. BREAK

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.
Minnesota Regulatory Oversight and Fraud Investigations
Minnesota’s nonprofit sector has been the focus of intense scrutiny, including high-profile fraud investigations and prosecutions. This session will focus on the role of the Minnesota Attorney General in charitable oversight, important considerations when your nonprofit receives a CID or otherwise is under investigation and legal considerations for funders when a grantee or partner organization is under investigation.
– Collin R. Ballou, Angela T. Fogt, Erica H. MacDonald & Carol Washington

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New edition April 2026
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**COURSE
INFORMATION**

LIVE IN PERSON
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370
Third Floor City Center, Minneapolis

ONLINE REPLAY
Thursday, November 12, 2026
View online at www.minncle.org
The online replay will include all plenary and breakout sessions. A moderator will be available to answer questions by e-mail.

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