



2025
SPRING
CONFERENCE

APRIL 24-26, 2025

CHARLOTTESVILLE OMNI

~ LGA PARTNER PROGRAM ~

LGA would like to thank our Annual Partners, who make a significant continuing commitment to support LGA's operational and education programs. Scan the QR codes to find the services these generous supporters can provide your locality.

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EXHIBIT TABLES

Visit our exhibit area for more information about our program supporters:

Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program

LGA has collaborated with Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (VJLAP) to provide a space where folks in recovery can gather and support each other on Thursday, April 24, 5:30-6:30 pm before LGA's Opening Night Party. Attendees can privately gather with a VJLAP representative in **SKYLINE**.

~ 2024-2025 LGA Board of Directors ~

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~ 2025 LGA Spring Conference Committee ~

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James L. Windsor, Chair of Real Estate Claims & Title Insurance Solutions, Co-Chair of
Government & Municipal Law, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

~ Welcome from the LGA President ~

Andrew H. Herrick
County Attorney, County of Albemarle

LGA Family,

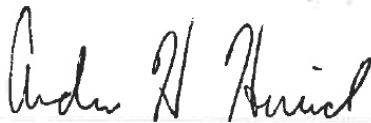
Greetings and welcome to Charlottesville and Albemarle County! I'm delighted to welcome you to our beautiful community.

I'd especially like to welcome our first-time attendees. Thank you for joining us.

As LGA conference veterans already know, these conferences are among LGA's most valuable member benefits. Where else can you share knowledge, experiences, and good times with friendly colleagues of all kinds from across our Commonwealth? These conferences are more than worth the price of admission, thanks to the support of our fantastic sponsors.

Of course, these conferences don't just happen. They require the sustained efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteer attorneys. I'd especially like to thank the Spring Conference Committee, led by Matt Freedman, as well as Amy Sales, Christy Jenkins, and the Easter team for all their work to plan a great conference. Please let Amy, Christy, or their team, or any Board member, know if there's anything we can do to improve your experience.

Again, welcome to Charlottesville/Albemarle County and the LGA Spring Conference. Enjoy!



Andrew H. Herrick

~ **Conference Information** ~

SESSION MATERIALS

LGA members can access handouts from the LGA website after logging in and selecting “Conference Session Materials” from the “Conferences” drop down menu. Registration desk staff can assist non-members.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Registrants will receive a program evaluation by email. Please provide feedback to improve future conferences. Registrants can also scan the QR code to access the evaluation.



MCLE FORMS

Registrants will receive MCLE forms by email. If you do not receive the MCLE form, please contact Christy Jenkins at christy.jenkins@easterassociates.com.

JOIN A COMMITTEE!

Click the QR code or visit the registration desk to grab a Committee Application form and be part of the good work of LGA! Completed forms can be returned to the registration desk or sent to Amy Sales at amy.sales@easterassociates.com.



CONFERENCE COMFORT

The session room temperature is set at a level generally comfortable to groups. If you tend to be cold, please consider bringing a light jacket.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

See the Registration Desk or LGA website for more information on a variety of local options for your Friday afternoon free time, including:

- Cville Escape Room (\$20/person – 8 Spaces Available)
- Gearharts Chocolate Tour (\$20/person)
- Hike with Tyler Southall (Free)
- LGA Book Exchange

~ Conference Agenda ~

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

8:30-9 am	BOARD BREAKFAST	SKYLINE
9 am-1 pm	LGA SPRING BOARD MEETING <i>Meeting and noon Lunch with Committe & Practice Group Chairs</i>	SKYLINE
11 am	REGISTRATION OPENS	JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION
1-1:15 pm	OPENING REMARKS	JEFFERSON AB
1:15-2:45 pm	GENERAL SESSION A	JEFFERSON AB

Legislative Update

Moderator:

Daniel N. Whitten, County Attorney, County of Fluvanna

Speakers:

David Blount, Deputy Director, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Michelle M. Gowdy, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League

Panelists will provide an update on the results of the 2025 General Assembly session and the veto session, highlight bills impacting the practice of local government law, and discuss important issues coming out the session.

2:45-3:15 pm	BREAK	JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION
3:15-4:45 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5 & 6	

The Great GASB: Navigating Local Government Finance and Taxation

JEFFERSON AB

Moderator:

Catherine B. Lea, Town Attorney, Town of Orange

Speakers:

Leah D. Han, Deputy County Attorney, County of Hanover

Michael W.S. Lockaby, Member, Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC

This session combines practical advice and real-world scenarios in a discussion designed to help you ensure legal compliance, and effectively advise your clients regarding Comp Board appropriations, GASB issues, school budgets and appropriations, and the intricacies of managing litigation liabilities and debt compliance and bond covenant compliance for localities navigating financial and taxation processes central to local government operations.

OSHA and VOSH – Administrative Framework for Enforcement of Workplace Safety Standards

JEFFERSON C

Moderator:

Lisa A. Robertson, Assistant Division Counsel, County of Prince William County Public Schools

Speakers:

Alfred B. Albiston, Litigation Manager, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry

Brandi A. Law, Senior Deputy City Attorney, City of Hampton

Panelists will discuss the relationship between the regulations and standards of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as implemented within the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virginia State Plan, and the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Program administered by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. This presentation will provide an overview of the relationship between the State Plan and the VOSH Program and will describe the processes and procedures used by VOSH to investigate and enforce occupational and health standards within local government workplaces, fines that apply to public entities, and procedures for informal resolution conferences and appeals from citations.

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|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 5:30-6:30 pm | “FRIENDS OF BILL W.” | SKYLINE |
| | <i>Support meeting for those in recovery</i> | |
| 5:45-6:45 pm | YLGA-HOSTED HAPPY HOUR | JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION |
| | <i>All are welcome to join before we leave for the opening night party!</i> | |
| 7-9 pm | OPENING NIGHT PARTY | THREE NOTCH'D |
| | <i>This spring's Opening Night Party will be held at Three Notch'd Brewing Company, located at the IX Arts Park, 520 2nd St SE, just a short walk from the Omni Charlottesville. LGA has bought out the entire venue for the night, ensuring an exclusive and vibrant atmosphere with craft beers, delicious food, and plenty of space to mingle. For those interested, brewery tours may also be available to explore the brewing process up close. If you prefer not to walk from the hotel, transportation will be provided. We look forward to kicking off the conference with you in style!</i> | |

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7:30 am | REGISTRATION OPENS | JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION |
| 7:30-9 am | BREAKFAST | JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION |
| 8-8:50 am | PROCUREMENT PRACTICE GROUP | MEADOW CREEK |

8-8:50 am	LOCAL TAXATION PRACTICE GROUP	IVY CREEK
8-8:50 am	DSS PRACTICE GROUP	DOWNTOWN BUSINESS CENTER SUITE 205
9-10:30 am	GENERAL SESSION B	JEFFERSON AB

The Basics of Virginia Governing Bodies: Meetings, Rules of Procedure, and Actions

Moderator:

Matthew C. Freedman, City Attorney, City of Lynchburg

Speakers:

John C. Blair, City Attorney, City of Staunton

Courtney R. Sydnor, City Attorney, City of Hampton

Panelists will discuss the basic requirements applicable to meetings, rules of procedure, and actions of local governing bodies and other public bodies in Virginia. The panelists will also address and discuss methods to help local government attorneys navigate through conflicts among governing body members. This presentation is designed for the new local government attorney but will also serve as a refresher to the experienced local government attorney.

10:30-11 am	BREAK	JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION
11 am-12:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3 & 4	

Risk Management– Why Does It Matter in Local Government?

JEFFERSON C

Moderator:

Anthony R. Bessette, City Attorney, City of Hopewell

Speakers:

Tracey Dunlap, Director of Property/Liability Claims, Virginia Risk Sharing Association

John S. Honeycutt, Partner, Lucas & Kite, PLC

Lisa A. Robertson, Assistant Division Counsel, County of Prince William School Division

Panelists will discuss the management of legal and financial “risks”, as part of public bodies’ operations, using appropriate insurance coverages, and by attention to commercial contract clauses intended to shift risks in ways unfavorable to public entities. Panelists will discuss the importance of understanding their public bodies’ insurance coverages, of working with insurance providers to ensure that public officials and employees receive appropriate education and training, and the need for attorneys to scrutinize contracts for boilerplate provisions intended to shift risks to public bodies (which may result in unintended waivers of legal rights or immunities, or violations of Article VII, Section 10 of the Virginia Constitution (the ‘Debt Clause’).

Employment Law and Virginia Local Governments: The Basics, Grievances, and Collective Bargaining

JEFFERSON AB

Moderator:

Jeremy E. Carroll, Member, Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC

Speakers:

Jeremy E. Carroll, Member, Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC

Meghan S. Roberts, Deputy City Attorney, City of Alexandria

Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney, City of Roanoke

Panelists will discuss employment law issues concerning discipline and discharge relevant to Virginia local governments, including employee investigations, procedural due process, progressive discipline, grievances and other employee rights, and collective bargaining, among others.

12:30-1:15 pm **RECEPTION** JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION

1:15-2:30 pm **LUNCHEON & AWARDS** JEFFERSON AB

2:30 pm **FREE TIME/AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**

Visit the registration desk for area options.

8-10 pm **HOSPITALITY SUITE** SKYLINE/BLUE RIDGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

7:30 am **REGISTRATION OPENS** JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION

7:30-9 am **BREAKFAST** JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION

8-8:50 am **EMINENT DOMAIN PRACTICE GROUP** MEADOW CREEK

9-10:30 am **GENERAL SESSION C** JEFFERSON AB

Cybersecurity: Risks to Virginia Localities

Moderator:

James L. Windsor, Member, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

Speakers:

Laura M. Carini, Deputy City Attorney, City of Roanoke

Joseph A. Dickinson, Member, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

Panelists will discuss data privacy and cybersecurity challenges facing local governments today. Speakers will share real-life experiences from recent cyberattacks, transactional due diligence cases and regulatory compliance struggles. They will also discuss the alarming rise in ransomware threats, wire fraud and some of the vulnerabilities in local government systems. Attendees will

gain valuable insights into identifying and protecting sensitive citizen information and understanding the practical aspects of implementing best practices to enhance data privacy and cybersecurity policies and compliance controls. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to safeguard your municipality in an increasingly valuable and risky digital landscape.

10:30-11 am

BREAK

JEFFERSON PREFUNCTION

(Hotel check-out time is 11 am.)

11 am-12:30 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5 & 6

***Hot Topics in Law-Enforcement –
Balancing Technology and Privacy***

JEFFERSON C

Moderator:

April R. Wimberley, Deputy City Attorney, City of Charlottesville

Speakers:

Sau Chan, Deputy City Attorney, City of Charlottesville

Michael P. Kochis, Chief of Police, City of Charlottesville

Karla J. Soloria, Assistant City Attorney, City of Norfolk

Panelists will discuss the practical usage and benefits of the latest law enforcement technology, the Fourth Amendment and other Constitutional concerns raised by such technology, recent litigation surrounding Flock cameras, and the challenges of adopting new technologies and considerations regarding public education and engagement.

***The Virginia Uniform Statewide
Building Code and Blight***

JEFFERSON AB

Moderator:

Bonnie N. Brown, Deputy City Attorney, City of Alexandria

Speakers:

Emily C.R. Bittner, Senior Assistant County Attorney, County of Chesterfield

Anne Ligon, Assistant City Attorney, City of Hampton

Kimberly Mikel, Building Code Official, City of Hampton

Panelists will discuss blight, unsafe structures, building code requirements, enforcement procedures, remedies, and present example case studies, including the enforcement measures taken to address a multifamily apartment complex in Hampton, such as enforcement in General District Court and injunction. The panel will also discuss relevant updates to case law.

~ A. Robert Cherin Award ~

OUTSTANDING DEPUTY OR ASSISTANT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHED IN 1994; RENAMED FOR BOB CHERIN IN 2000

LGA's Cherin Award for an Outstanding Deputy or Assistant Local Government Attorney honors a deputy or assistant local government attorney who has demonstrated distinguished public service that has enhanced the image of local government attorneys in the Commonwealth and reflects a personal commitment to the highest ethical and professional principles.

This award was established in 1994 and renamed in the Fall of 2000 to honor Bob Cherin, a long-time LGA member who had served for 25 years in the Fairfax County Attorney's Office when he retired as Deputy County Attorney in September 1998. That retirement was cut short by Bob's untimely death in August 2000, from lymphoma. He was 61 years old.

The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc. hopes that this award will inspire deputy and assistant local government attorneys throughout Virginia to serve LGA and local government law with the same enthusiasm, dedication, and professional ability that characterized Bob Cherin's distinguished career.

Cynthia A. Bailey	2024	William M. Macali	2008
Curt G. Spear	2023	Beverly A. Burton	2007
Roderick R. Ingram	2022	Jan L. Proctor	2006
Erin C. Ward	2021	Rhysa G. South	2005
Robert B. Dickerson	2020	Leo P. Rogers	2004
Michael S.J. Chernau	2019	Joyce M. Coleman	2003
George A. McAndrews	2018	Barbara M. Rose	2002
Ara L. Tramblian	2017	[No award given]	2001
Bernadette S. Peele	2016	Michael H. Long	2000
G. Gregory Kamptner	2015	William X. Parsons	1999
J.T. Tokarz	2014	John E. Oliver	1998
Stylian P. Parthemos	2013	Jeffrey L. Mincks	1997
Ellen F.M. Posner	2012	[No award given]	1996
Eleanor A. Putnam Dunn	2011	Harold P. Juren	1995
Karen M. Adams	2010	John L. Knight	1994
Cynthia B. Hall	2009		

~ 2024-2025 Leadership Training for New and Aspiring Virginia Local Government Chief Legal Counsel ~

The Virginia State Bar Local Government Law Section, Local Government Attorneys of Virginia (LGA), and the Virginia Institute of Government have collaborated to develop a pilot Leadership Training Program for new and aspiring local government chief counsels. The Program represents an innovative recognition of the legal, management, and leadership skill sets needed for the attorney's success in an important and demanding role in public service. The two-year course of study includes (1) a core curriculum on substantive areas of local government law, (2) training in management skills (e.g., budgeting and personnel management), and (3) intangible or leadership training. Course requirements are met with a combination of webinars, LGA conference programming, and a two-day in-person seminar in Fredericksburg in February 2024 or at a date/location TBD in 2026.

The Virginia State Bar Local Government Section and the LGA each have brought substantial capabilities to this project, through their experience in offering continuing legal education in both in-person and virtual formats. The Virginia Institute of Government, the leadership development and community engagement arm of the Weldon Cooper Center, adds its considerable resources in the areas of management and leadership training. These organizations have worked together to plan, develop, and offer this course of study.

The following LGA members have successfully completed their course requirements, and we are excited to present them with certificates of completion:

Kelly J. Lackey, City Attorney, City of Fredericksburg
(completed on 10/28/2024)

Dennis A. Walter, County Attorney County of Hanover
(completed on 11/15/2024)

Andrew H. Herrick, County Attorney, County of Albemarle
(completed on 11/18/2024)

~ Law Student Scholarship ~

As part of LGA's outreach program, the board of directors has established law student scholarships for each fall, spring, and regional conference. Law student scholarships may be awarded for each conference to a law student from each of the state's accredited law schools and to two out-of-state students who demonstrate that they have a connection to the Commonwealth or LGA.

Sulaiman Safi, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, 2027
Orion Fiscella Semmes, William & Mary Law School, 2027

~ Retiree Recognition ~

The LGA congratulates the following people on their retirement following distinguished careers representing LGA member localities:

Cynthia A. Bailey, County of Fairfax
Elizabeth S. Chupik, City of Virginia Beach
C. Michael DeCamps, Sands Anderson PC
Alan M. Weiss, County of Fairfax

~ Service Awards ~

The LGA Service Awards, presented for the first time in 2003, recognizes those attorneys from the association's active member localities (as well as the full-time legal staff with the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties) who have served local government in Virginia for 15 years or more. If you have served 15, 20, 25, 30 years (or more) contact info@lgava.org. These awards are presented at the LGA's Fall Conference.

~ In Remembrance ~

Blair Mitchell passed away on November 5, 2024. He served as a local government attorney for many years in Stafford, Front Royal and Warren County before retiring in 2016.

~ **Silver Partner** ~



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~ **Bronze Partners** ~

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Bill Murrill, CFO
Mandy Knakmuhs, Bookkeeper

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David Wagoner, Editor
Handbook of Local Government Law and Bill of Particulars

~ *Save the Dates* ~

2025 LGA Regional Seminar

Date: June 27, 2025

Location: The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg

2025 LGA Fall Conference

Dates: October 30-November 1, 2025

Location: Omni Homestead, Hot Springs

2026 LGA Spring Conference

Dates: April 9-11, 2026

Location: Renaissance Portsmouth

