

38th Annual

# LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW CONFERENCE

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 2026

Roger Williams University School of Law

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC  
INITIATIVES



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
SCHMIDT CENTER FOR LABOR  
RELATIONS & HUMAN RESOURCES

8:00 am	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast (<i>in Atrium</i>)</b>
8:30 am - 8:45 am	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Dr. Peggy Boyd, Director, Schmidt Center for Labor Relations &amp; Human Resources, University of Rhode Island</i> <i>Dr. John Olerio, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, University of Rhode Island</i> <i>Gregory W. Bowman, Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law</i>
8:45 am - 9:45 am	<b>State and Federal Court Updates</b> <i>Jessica Schachter Jewell, Esq., Nixon Peabody LLP</i> <i>Carly Beauvais lafrate, Attorney, Law Office of Carly Beauvais lafrate, P.C.</i>
9:45 am	<b>Break (<i>in Atrium</i>)</b>
10:00 am - 11:00 am	<b>Inclusive Leadership During Legislative Uncertainty</b> <i>Sean Fontes, Counsel, Partridge Snow &amp; Hahn LLP</i> <i>Joshua Xavier, Xavier Law LLC.</i> <i>(TBD)</i> <i>Danilo A. Borgas, Shareholder, Sinapi Law Associates LTD</i>
11:05 am - 12:00 pm	<b>NLRB Updates/Misconduct During Union or other Protected Activity &amp; NLRB Deferral to Arbitral Awards</b> <i>Richard Bock, Retired Associate General Counsel, Division of Advice, National Labor Relations Board</i>
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Conversations (<i>in Atrium</i>)</b>
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	<b>Artificial Intelligence Integrations in the Workplace</b> <i>Linn F. Freedman, Partner, Robinson+Cole</i>
1:45 pm	<b>Break (<i>in Atrium</i>)</b>
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	<b>Honorary - Fireside Chat</b> <i>Rosemary Pye, National Academy of Arbitrators</i> <i>John Higgins, Retired</i>
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>Parting Remarks</b> <i>Dr. Peggy Boyd, Director, Schmidt Center for Labor Relations &amp; Human Resources, University of Rhode Island</i>

*The conference is open to the public and will benefit anyone working in the labor and employment fields. This program has been submitted for Rhode Island MCLE credits and PDC credits for the SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP. Agenda subject to change*