

# 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

**RWU** | **LAW**  
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

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

**8:00 AM**

## **REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (IN ATRIUM)**

**8:30 AM**

### **WELCOME**

**Dr. Peggy Boyd**, Interim Director, Schmidt Center for Labor Relations & Human Resources, University of Rhode Island

**Dr. John Olerio**, Executive Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, University of Rhode Island

**Gregory W. Bowman**, Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law

**8:45 AM**

### **STATE AND FEDERAL COURT UPDATES**

**Jessica Schachter Jewell, Esq.**, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

**Carly Beauvais lafrate**, Attorney, Law Office of Carly Beauvais lafrate, P.C.

**9:45 AM**

## **BREAK (IN ATRIUM)**

**10:00 AM**

### **INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP DURING LEGISLATIVE UNCERTAINTY**

**Sean M. Fontes, Esq.**, Labor & Employment Counsel, Partridge Snow and Hahn, LLP

**Joshua Xavier**, Founder, Xavier Law LLC.

**Danilo A. Borgas**, Shareholder, Sinapi Law Associates LTD

**Felicia Sullivan**, Senior Counsel, Labor & Employment, PPL Corporation

**11:05 AM**

### **NLRB UPDATES/MISCONDUCT DURING UNION OR OTHER PROTECTED ACTIVITY & NLRB DEFERRAL TO ARBITRAL AWARDS**

**Richard Bock**, Retired Associate General Counsel, Division of Advice, National Labor Relations Board

**12:00 PM**

## **LUNCH & CONVERSATIONS (IN ATRIUM)**

**12:45 PM**

### **THE REGULATORY ROADMAP FOR AI IN EMPLOYMENT**

**Linn F. Freedman CIPP/US**, Chair, Data Privacy, Cybersecurity + AI Practice, Robinson & Cole LLP

**1:45 PM**

## **BREAK (IN ATRIUM)**

**2:00 PM**

### **HONORARY - FIRESIDE CHAT**

**Rosemary Pye**, Arbitrator and Mediator, National Academy of Arbitrators

**John E. Higgins, Jr.**, Co-Editor-in-Chief of "How to Take a Case before the NLRB" and Retired National Labor Relations Board Deputy General Counsel

**3:30 PM**

### **PARTING REMARKS**

**Dr. Peggy Boyd**, Interim Director, Schmidt Center for Labor Relations & Human Resources, University of Rhode Island