

Attorney General Symposium

Apr. 7-9, 2025 | Nashville, Tenn.

All sessions will take place in Symphony Ballroom ABC unless otherwise noted

Monday, April 7

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Registration** *Symphony Ballroom Foyer*
Breakfast *Symphony Ballroom DEF*

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Welcome to Nashville**
Jonathan Skrmetti, *Tennessee Attorney General*

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Franklin High School JROTC

OPENING REMARKS
John Formella, *NAAG President and New Hampshire Attorney General*

9:20 am – 10:20 am **Banned but Not Jammed: The Problem of Cell Phones in Prisons and Possible Solutions**

During this session, panelists will discuss cell phone jamming and why it is a problem, the issues specific to their states, and the state and federal actions that would help combat drug deals and organized crime happening from within.

MODERATOR
Jonathan Skrmetti, *Tennessee Attorney General*

PANELISTS
Tim Griffin, *Arkansas Attorney General*
Jeff Jackson, *North Carolina Attorney General*

10:20 am – 10:35 am **Break**

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10:40 am – 11:40 am **Reimagining Solutions: Uniting Forces and Leveraging Innovative Partnerships to Combat Substance Abuse and Drug Trafficking**

As part of his "Presidential Initiative," General Formella, NAAG President, will guide the panel discussion and facilitate a dynamic Q&A session. The discussion will explore the critical role of collaboration between law enforcement, academia, and the private sector in addressing the opioid crisis, drug trafficking, and substance abuse. The panel will focus on innovative partnerships combining scientific research, technology, and strategic law enforcement initiatives to tackle the evolving drug epidemic. Notably, it will highlight collaborations with companies like Meta, which is using digital tools to address online drug-related content, and academic institutions like Vanderbilt University, which is partnering with agencies such as the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to provide evidence-based solutions for addiction prevention and treatment.

MODERATOR

John Formella, NAAG President and New Hampshire Attorney General

PANELISTS

Jim Crotty, Law Enforcement Outreach Manager, Meta Platforms, Inc.

Thomas Farmer, Special Agent In Charge, Dangerous Drug Task Force, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Kristen Gilliland, Ph.D., Director of Outreach and Advocacy Programs, Assistant Professor of Research, Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery at Vanderbilt University

11:45 am – 1:00 pm **Networking Lunch** *Symphony Ballroom DEF*

Joining us during lunch will be local songwriter Anthony Smith. Songs written by Anthony are weaved into the fabric of country music. His songs have shaped the careers for some of the most iconic country music artists like George Strait, Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton, Chris Stapleton, Eric Church, Montgomery Gentry and others.

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1:05 pm – 2:05 pm **Social Engineering Scams – Enforcement and Policy Strategies for Stopping Criminals and Protecting Consumers**

Social engineering scams perpetrated by international crime organizations are robbing U.S. residents of tens of billions of dollars each year according to recent reports, and the rate of loss is still increasing. Romance scams, business email compromise scams, and crypto investment scams – all are being utilized. This panel will discuss the scope of the problem and challenges facing government enforcers and how they are approaching these cases and achieving success. The panel will also include a presentation regarding efforts that have shown success in other countries as a possible path forward in the U.S.

MODERATOR

Alan Wilson, *South Carolina Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Erin West, *Founder, Operation Shamrock*

Ken Westbrook, *Founder and CEO, Stop Scams Alliance*

2:10 pm **Plenary Sessions Conclude for the Day**

Attorneys General and AGO staff only

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Attorney General Roundtable Discussion**

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Executive Committee & Mission Foundation *Harpeth I & II***
Virtual and call-in options will be available for those AGs/proxies not in attendance.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **All Attendee Dinner & Evening Event**
Pete’s Dueling Piano Bar – 152 2nd Ave N

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Tuesday, April 8

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Chief Deputies/Chiefs of Staff Breakfast** *Harpeth I & II*

8:00 am – 9:00 am **General Attendee Breakfast** *Symphony Ballroom DEF*

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Youth and Young Adult Suicide – The Silent Epidemic**

The first part of this session will be looking at the mental health crisis of suicide ideation and how Attorneys General offices can assist in prevention efforts. The second part will be announcing a new program for college-athletes helping address mental health issues and how AGs can help. Finally, Craig Bohl, will share how important this program is, especially to medium to small colleges, and will take any questions about the current environment of college sports in our nation.

SPEAKERS

Craig Bohl, *Executive Director, American Football Coaches Association*

Brian Farley, *Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary, Acadia Healthcare*

Clark Flatt, *President, The Jason Foundation*

Paul Summers, *Director of Corporate and Government Relations, The Jason Foundation, and Former Tennessee Attorney General*

10:00 am – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 am – 11:15 am **Supreme Court Review**

Two of the nation's leading U.S. Supreme Court experts will discuss the cases before the Court this term.

MODERATOR

Dan Schweitzer, *Director, Center for Supreme Court Advocacy & Chief Counsel, NAAG*

PANELISTS

Matthew Rice, *Solicitor General, Tennessee Attorney General's Office*

Caroline Van Zile, *Solicitor General, District of Columbia Attorney General's Office*

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11:20 am – 12:20 pm **Guardians in Crisis: How Attorneys General Protect and Serve During Natural Disasters**

In times of natural disasters, the role of state and territory attorneys general becomes crucial in safeguarding the well-being of their constituents. This panel will explore the multifaceted responsibilities of attorneys general before, during, and after such events. From providing essential information on disaster preparedness to enforcing price gouging laws, and from taking action against deceptive contractors to issuing warnings about fraudulent charities, these legal guardians play a vital role in protecting the public.

MODERATOR

Anne E. Lopez, *Hawaii Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Larry Frieman, *Chief Deputy Attorney General, Louisiana Attorney General's Office*

Chris Lewis, *Division Chief, Consumer and Senior Protection, Kentucky Attorney General's Office*

12:20 pm – 1:30 pm **Networking Lunch** *Symphony Ballroom DEF*

1:35 pm – 2:35 pm **Policy and Action: Addressing the Ink of Hope Act and the Illicit Massage Industry in the Fight Against Human Trafficking**

This session will explore legislative efforts to combat human trafficking and the illicit massage industry. Panelists will examine Tennessee's Ink of Hope Act, which mandates that tattoo operators complete human trafficking training before obtaining a permit. The discussion will also cover exploitation within illicit massage businesses (IMBs) and the role of the landlord engagement program in disrupting these operations. Additionally, panelists will provide practical recommendations for Attorneys General on strengthening legal frameworks and enhancing response strategies to combat human trafficking more effectively.

MODERATOR

Tim Griffin, *Arkansas Attorney General*

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PANELISTS

Ian Hassell, *Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Network*

Senator Becky Massey, *Tennessee General Assembly*

Amanda Nyman, *Deputy Attorney General, Human Trafficking Unit, Delaware Department of Justice*

2:40 pm – 3:10 pm **Mental Health Co-Response Programming**

SPEAKERS

Matthew J. Platkin, *New Jersey Attorney General*

David W. Sunday, Jr., *Pennsylvania Attorney General*

3:10 pm **Plenary Sessions Conclude for the Day**

7:00 pm **Attorney General Only Networking Event**

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Wednesday, April 9

8:00 am – 9:00 am **SAGE Breakfast** *Harpeth I & II*

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast for All Other Attendees** *Symphony Ballroom DEF*

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Intoxicating Cannabinoid Products: The Evolving Public Health and Legal Landscape**

The proliferation and easy access to intoxicating cannabinoid products—especially those derived from hemp—have raised urgent public health and legal concerns. These products are often marketed in ways that appeal to youth and misinformed consumers, with wide availability across convenience stores, gas stations, and the largest retail shelf of all: e-commerce platforms. States face significant challenges in protecting vulnerable populations while navigating the ambiguous language of the 2018 Farm Bill, which federally legalized hemp but did not anticipate the rise of intoxicating derivatives. This session will explore the escalating public health risks posed by these products, states' efforts to regulate and restrict access—particularly to youth—and the enforcement actions brought under consumer protection laws. We will also examine the evolving legal landscape as courts interpret state regulatory frameworks in light of federal hemp law.

MODERATOR

William Tong, *Connecticut Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Norman Birenbaum, *Senior Public Health Advisor, U.S. Food and Drug Administration*

Jonathan Blake, *Assistant Attorney General, Connecticut Attorney General's Office*

Pamela N. Epstein, Esq. LL.M., *Chief Legal & Regulatory Officer, Terpene Belt Inc.*

Nathan Mattison, *Assistant Attorney General, Colorado Attorney General's Office*

Gillian Schauer, Ph.D., MPH, *Executive Director, Cannabis Regulators Association*

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10:00 am – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 am – 11:15 am **Ethics: The Evolving Role of Generative AI in the Law: Ethical and Technological Shifts in the Past Year**

This session will explore recent ethics opinions and court decisions regarding artificial intelligence, highlight technological advancements relevant to legal practice, and examine what is on the horizon. We will discuss both the opportunities and the ethical challenges lawyers face as AI becomes more deeply embedded in the profession.

SPEAKERS

Ari Telisman, *Director, Legal Skills and Faculty Development, NAAG*

Beth Simone Noveck, *Professor, Northeastern University, Director, InnovateUS/The Governance Lab and Chief AI Strategist, State of New Jersey*

11:15 am **Program Concludes**
