

A Capital Idea: Regulating for the Future, Building on our Past

2024 Annual Conference

Washington, D.C.



Ernest P. Legier, Jr.
NCSLA President



Conference Host:
DC Alcoholic Beverage
& Cannabis Administration

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

NCSLA Registration and Information Desk

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

WELCOME RECEPTION

8:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

1st DAY – MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 - General Session:

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.

BREAKFAST

8:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

WELCOME / PRESENTATION OF FLAG / ROLL CALL

9:45 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

MORNING BREAK

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

PANEL #1: Beer, Wine and Spirits in the White House: A Historic Perspective!

This moderated panel will provide fresh insight on how beverage alcohol, including spirits from Mount Vernon, wine from Monticello, and beer brewed inside the White House impacted former United States Presidents. Come explore and learn about Washington, Jefferson, and Obama's relationship with value added agriculture. The panel will provide lots of "Did You Knows" with history buffs sure to enjoy this session. DC offers the perfect venue to gain a better understanding of alcohol's role in these presidencies.

Moderator: ERNEST LEGIER, Commissioner, Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control

Panelists: STEVE BASHORE, Master Distiller, Mount Vernon Distillery
MARGIE A.S. LEHRMAN, CEO, American Craft Spirits Association and Smithsonian Representative
MARYBETH WILLIAMS, Attorney, Williams Compliance and Consulting Group, LLC

11:05 A.M. – 12:05 P.M.

PANEL #2: Public Safety & Enforcement Issues – Focus on Youth Access

Underage drinking is a public health concern in the United States that has existed since the dawn of the industry. This panel will discuss the many tools and practices that may be used by regulators and industry members to help combat underage drinking, from preventative and reactive programs to proactive enforcement and education efforts. We'll also discuss the availability and use of federal funds and grants, how third party marketplaces approach the issue, the advancement of technology in detecting and producing fake IDs (and the balance of collecting sensitive personal information), and the general issue of responsible marketing of beverage alcohol products.

Moderator: CHIEF DEREK BROOKS, District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration

Panelists: JOE FINELLI, Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement, New York State Liquor Authority
KEN KAST, Counsel, Product & Regulatory, DoorDash
JAMES SKLODA, Assistant General Counsel, Casey's General Stores

12:05 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

LUNCH

Keynote Speaker: HONORABLE MURIEL BOWSER, Mayor of Washington, D.C.

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1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

PANEL #3: Perspectives on the Rapid Growth of Non-Alcoholic and Low Alcohol in Beverages

Recent trends in consumers seeking a better-for-you option that allow for moderation in drinking has led to innovation in non-alcoholic offerings. This panel explores the various types and products, including 0.0 and alcohol removed products from the perspective of suppliers, wholesalers, consumer protection, and regulators.

Moderator: SHAUNA BARNES, Founding Partner, Barnes Beverage Group (MD)

Panelists: THOMAS AKRAS, Director, Legal and Legislative Division, Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission
BRIAN FINK, Associate, Foster Garvey PC (NY)
STEPHEN LARSON, Administrator, Iowa Dept. of Revenue-Alcoholic Beverages Division
EMILY PENCE, Chief People Officer, Best Day Brewing

2:35 P.M. – 3:35 P.M.

PANEL #4: Cross-Over Beverages – Marketing and Trade Practices

Industry perspectives on co-branded (crossover) and infused products (ice cream, ice pops, etc.) discussing the issues that arrive from all three tiers. Topics include sales of both, restrictions of alcohol brands, slotting fees, public health concern.

Moderator: ALVA MATHER, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery (DC)

Panelists: MARC HAALMAN, Special Agent in Charge, Compliance, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority
JEREMY KRUEDINIER, Executive Director and General Counsel, Wine and Spirits Distributors of Illinois
SGT. BRIAN STEWART, Trade Practice Unit, Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission

3:35 P.M. – 3:50 P.M.

AFTERNOON BREAK

3:50 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.

PANEL #5: NCSLA Productions presents “But What Does It Mean?” The new game show where contestants, and the audience, bring clarity to alcohol industry jargon.

Two teams (four persons on a team) of industry professionals (made up of regulators and industry members) face off as they vie to define industry terms such as “Things of Value,” “Temperance,” “Inducement,” “Obviously Intoxicated,” “Suitability,” “Public Convenience” and so many more.

But wait, there’s more!!! The judges for this game show are...YOU...the audience! Be enlightened, entertained and, like any game show, have a chance to win “fabulous prizes!”

Game Show Hosts: LISA GARDNER, Executive Director, Illinois Liquor Control Commission
LILY FAN, Chair and Commissioner, New York State Liquor Authority

Contestants: DEBBI BEAVERS, Director, Kansas Alcoholic Beverage Control Division
LATONYA HUCKS-WATKINS, Senior Legal Counsel, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control

Agenda Subject to Change

March 21, 2024

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JACQUELINE METTE, Commissioner, Delaware Alcoholic Beverage Control
CHRISTOPHER THIEMANN, Program Manager, Regulations and Rulings Division, TTB
JO MOAK, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Winebow
TYLER RUDD, Central States Counsel, Wine Institute
KARA RUECKER, Public Policy-Alcohol, Amazon
BILL TOMASZEWSKI, General Counsel, Wine.com

5:00 P.M. **FREE EVENING TO DINE & EXPLORE**

8:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M. **HOSPITALITY SUITE**

2nd Day – TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 - General Session:

7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. **Registration and Information Desk**

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. **BREAKFAST**

8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. **PANEL #6: Supporting a Culture of Compliance**

What can industry members and regulators do to promote an industry-wide culture of compliance? Having a culture of compliance in our industry is more than just meeting the minimum legal requirements. It is creating values that support, acknowledge, and reward integrity, ethical values, and positive business behaviors. The panel will cover the following topics: Is the alcohol industry a self-regulating system; What are the practices employed by regulators and industry members to promote an industry-wide culture of compliance; What are the regulatory consequences of failing to promote a culture of compliance; What are internal business consequences of failing to promote a culture of compliance.

Moderator: SGT. RISA WILLIAMS, Investigations Division, Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

Panelists: ROD DIAZ, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
RUSSEL THOMAS, Executive Director, Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission
LUIS GONZALEZ, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Commercial Counsel, RNDC
BEN HALPERT, Head of Regulated Products & Corporate Compliance, GoPuff
MAGGIE LU, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Diageo

9:35 A.M. – 10:35 A.M. **PANEL #7: Balance of Regulation and Business**

A liquor regulator is responsible for communicating and enforcing rules and regulations. They are also public servants serving businesses and taxpayers. How do states modernize liquor laws and regulations to evolve with industry practices without negatively impacting the three-tier system? What is the influence of legislators and their constituents on amending laws? How do states navigate the loudest voice in the room? Panelists will discuss how states can deliver excellent customer service to licensees as regulators, whether regulation and business support are mutually exclusive, and how to balance business interests of licensees with the public safety mission of ABCs.

Moderator: ANNA C. HIRAI, Assistant Administrator, Honolulu Liquor Commission

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Panelists: MATTHEW BOTTING, General Counsel, California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
SEAN GORDY, Licensing Manager, District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration
WENDY KNIGHT, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery
MARC SORINI, General Counsel, Brewers Association

10:35 A.M. – 10:50 A.M. **MORNING BREAK**

10:50 A.M. – 11:50 A.M. **PANEL #8: Legal Update**

The Annual Legal Update is regarded as a “must see” by most conference attendees. Nationally recognized alcohol lawyer Richard Blau returns to the podium to review 2023-2024 federal and state court cases, as well as new statutes and executive orders relevant to the industry.

Presenter: RICHARD BLAU, Chair, Alcohol Beverage and Food Department, GrayRobinson, P.A. (FL)

11:50 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. **LUNCH**
NCSLA REGIONAL STATE MEETINGS:

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. **PANEL #9: Licensing in the Age of Complex Ownership Structures**

Difficulty or confusion in licensing and qualifying complex ownership structures has a major impact on the growth of, and investment in, the industry. Numerous state regulators are looking for more information on complex ownership structures when entities seeking licensure may be owned by trusts, private equity funds, Real Estate Investment (REIT) funds, Limited Partnerships, and employees. And the industry is looking for more guidance on how these complex ownership structures will be handled, especially as their use proliferates. This panel will shed light on how these ownership structures work and how regulators can be assured they have appropriate information on how these entities are managed, controlled and funded. The issues discussed during this panel will hopefully result in productive dialogue that will lead to a more consistent nationwide approach to the licensing and regulation of licensees with complex ownership structures.

Moderator: BAHANEH HOBEL, Partner and Head of Alcohol Beverage Law and Compliance, DP&F Law (CA)

Panelists: REBECCA SMITH, Director-Licensing and Regulation, Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
TONY BARNES, Chief Corporate Counsel, Mahou USA
ERIN KELLEHER, Partner, Hinman & Carmichael (CA)
CLARK SMITH, Partner, Vela Wood (TX)

2:05 P.M. – 3:05 P.M. **PANEL #10: AI Revolution: What Are the Regulatory Implications of Creating a “Smart” Alcohol Beverage Industry?**

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AI is everywhere – from self-driving cars to computer games to food and beverage manufacturing -- artificial intelligence is positioned to help our industry get “smart.” Throughout the industry, AI is being integrated into day-to-day operations to reduce labor costs and reduce human error. From improvements in quality control and logistics operations to more accurate predictive forecasting and fully automated retail stores, AI is taking the lead in global industry innovation. But how far can we go with AI? Are there limitations on how AI can be used or how AI generated information can be shared? Are automated retail service models legal? What are current state laws and regulatory/licensing requirements for this type of automated service? What are the risks and liabilities associated with reliance on AI or automated alcohol services?

Moderator: MARBET LEWIS, Founding Attorney & Team Manager-Alcohol Industry Group, Spiritus Law (FL)

Panelists: ERLINDA DOHERTY, Sommelier, Wine/Spirits Educator and Writer, Vinicola Wine/Spirits and Emerging Tech Consulting
ALEX KORAL, Regulatory General Counsel, Sovos ShipCompliant
CLAIRE MITCHELL, Partner, Stoel Rives LLP (WA)

3:05 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.

AFTERNOON BREAK

3:20 P.M. – 4:20 P.M.

PANEL #11: Gen Z Effects- Societal Trends and Their Impact on Alcohol Marketing

Changing national demographics (i.e. Gen Z), social media’s ascendancy, new health and taste preferences, political divisiveness and a surge in focus on ESG issues have markedly changed how alcohol is marketed. This panel will discuss those changes and how these developments interplay with the applicable rules and regulations governing alcohol.

Moderator: NICHOLE SCHUSTACK, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery (DC)

Panelists: SANDY ANAOKAR, Chief Marketing Officer, Mahou USA
COURTNEY ARMOUR, Chief Legal Officer, DISCUS
MATTHEW CHERRY, Senior Counsel, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT’S BANQUET

10:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

3rd Day – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 - General Session:

8:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Registration and Information Desk

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

BREAKFAST

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

PANEL #12: Ethical Responsibility of Regulators in Management of the Three Tier System and the Concept of Wellness Drinking

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Recent legislative proposals in the alcohol industry that will ease certain restrictions have been interrupted by addiction experts as anti-temperance. This ethics presentation will focus on how regulatory changes have impacted state funded services of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery. The discussion will also include a guide on what to do when a legal professional becomes aware of a colleague struggling with mental health or addiction issues.

Applicable Rules of Professional Conduct will be covered; qualifies as MCLE accredited panel.

Presenter(s): To Be Announced

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. ***NCSLA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ALL State and Associate members welcome!)***

11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. ***BOXED LUNCH TO GO (Optional)***