

**48th Annual Congress On Governmental Ethics Laws Conference
December 6-9, 2026, Denver, CO**

[Schedule - 2026 COGEL Conference]

Sunday, December 6, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Public Financing Administrators Roundtable

11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Conference Registration and Check-In

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Kay Williams First Timers & Conference Preview

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

- **Campaign Finance:** Raising the Roof: Building New Systems while Meeting Stakeholder Expectations
- **Ethics:** Workplace Ethics: The Evolving Landscape of Addressing Harassment and Discrimination
- **Lobbying:** The Hashtag Lobbyist: Disclosure Challenges in the Era of Likes & Influencers
- **Training:** Training Curve Balls: Dealing with the Unexpected
- **Professional Development:** Tips for Success: What Every Leader Should Know

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

- **Campaign Finance:** What's Speech Got to Do With It? The Supreme Court, First Amendment, and Campaign Finance
- **Elections:** The Legality of Speculation: How Prediction Markets Impact Elections
- **Ethics:** Government Functions, Private Funding and the Public Trust: What Gives?
- **Investigations & Enforcement:** Enforcement Update
- **Multi-Discipline** Blurred Lines: Government Social Media and the Crossroads of Ethics, Campaign Law, and Public Records

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM Connection Hour

5:15 PM – 6:45 PM Mile High Open Mic Night

7:00 PM Dinner - On Your Own or Join a COGEL Dine-Around

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Monday, December 7, 2026

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Breakfast (Provided) & Table Topics

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Plenary Session

10:20 AM – 11:40 AM

- **Elections:** Election Update
- **FOIA:** Weighing Privacy and Safety Concerns and the Public's Right to Know
- **Ethics:** Ethics Update
- **Lobbying:** Clear as Mud: What the People You Regulate Want You to Know
- **Multi-Discipline:** COGEL 101: Quick Hits and Key Concepts for COGEL Disciplines

12:00 PM – 1:40 PM Lunch - On Your Own

2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

- **FOIA:** Vexatious Requesters 2.0
- **Ethics:** Captured Institutions: Ethics of Survival Under Political Pressure
- **Lobbying:** Lobbying Update
- **Investigations & Enforcement:** The Art and Mechanics of an Effective Investigation
- **AI:** AI 101: Building Better Work with AI

3:40 PM – 5:00 PM

- **Campaign Finance:** Campaign Finance Update II: Legislative Update
- **Elections:** The Election Media Landscape: Coverage, Narratives, and Trust
- **Ethics:** Prohibited Political Activity: 50 Shades of Gray – Navigating Political Activity When Everything Is Political
- **Investigations & Enforcement:** No Subpoena, No Problem: How to Guide on Open Source Investigations
- **Training:** More Bang, Less Buck: New Ways to Train Without Draining the Budget

6:30 PM Dinner - On Your Own or Join a COGEL Dine-Around

**48th Annual Congress On Governmental Ethics Laws Conference
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Tuesday, December 8, 2026

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Breakfast (Provided) & Table Topics

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Plenary Session

10:20 AM – 11:50 AM

- **Campaign Finance:** Campaign Finance I: Litigation Update
- **FOIA:** FOI Litigation & Legislation Update
- **Investigations & Enforcement:** Anatomy of a Scandal: Inside a Congressional Investigation
- **Training:** Training Beyond the Rulebook: The Five Covenants Every Public Servant Should Understand
- **Multi-Discipline:** The Day After: Navigating the Rules That Apply After Election Day

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch - On Your Own or Join a COGEL Dine-Around

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

- **Campaign Finance:** Ask the Advocates: The Next Generation of State Campaign Finance Reforms
- **Elections:** Election Innovations/Concerns from Abroad: Canaries in the Coal Mine for the U.S.
- **FOIA:** From Principle to Practice: Making Transparency and Information Access Meaningful
- **Ethics:** Ethics Update II
- **AI:** Robot, Meet Regulator: AI in Investigations & Enforcement

3:50 PM – 5:00 PM

Plenary Session

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Gather at the Gallery: Denver Art Museum

7:00 PM Dinner - On Your Own

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Wednesday, December 9, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast (Provided) & Annual COGEL Business Meeting

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

- **Campaign Finance:** Public Campaign Finance: From Startup to Scale
- **Elections:** Managing Trade-offs in Election Administration
- **Ethics:** Reasonable Minds: Same Facts, Different Calls – A Live Ethics Scenario
- **Training:** Training Roundtable
- **Multi-Discipline:** Breaking Through the Noise: Covering Politics and Government in Polarized Times
- **FOIA:** FOI Roundtable

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

- **Campaign Finance:** Standard Deviants: Campaign Finance Outliers Way Outside the Norm
- **Ethics:** The Politics of Profit: Should Public Officials Trade in—Stocks or Bet on Political Outcomes
- **Investigations & Enforcement:** Ticking Clock, Tied Hands: Enforcing Campaign Finance with Limited Authority and Hard Deadlines
- **AI:** Bias Check: Evaluating the Promise, Risk, and Practical Use of Generative AI for Ethics Agencies
- **Professional Development:** Executive Director Roundtable

12:00 PM Lunch - On Your Own or Join a COGEL Dine-Around

END OF CONFERENCE