



DRAFT Agenda
DOECAA SPRING 2026 CONFERENCE
APRIL 22-23, 2026

“Energy and Transformation”

Hosted By:
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
Batavia, Illinois

and
Argonne National Laboratory
Lemont, Illinois

Conference Co-Chairs

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Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Time	Topic/Event
7:30 am	Continental Breakfast and Networking
8:30 am	DOECAA Welcome and Opening Remarks, Logistics
8:45 am	Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Leadership in Neutrino Science, Exploring the Quantum Universe, and Beyond
9:15 am	Networking Break
9:30 am	Innovation in Action: Legal Strategies for Driving Success and Innovation in Contracting and Construction Projects <i>This panel addresses special considerations for complex projects involving construction, international partnerships, and more.</i>
10:30 am	Taking Charge in Complex Procurements: Highlighting Risks and Successes in Domestic and International Transactions <i>This panel explores legal and regulatory strategies attorneys may pursue for managing the dynamic environment of tariffs, including highlighting successes in securing tariff refunds and obtaining novel forms of exemptions. This panel will also address domestic supply chain considerations.</i>
11:30 am	Lunch
12:30 am	Legal Perspectives on Implementing Novel Collaborations and Partnerships with Industry: Fusion and Advanced Nuclear Projects in Focus <i>This panel explores the enabling role legal counsel can play in supporting national laboratory partnerships with industry leaders in crucial fusion and advanced nuclear projects.</i>
1:30 pm	With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility: Counsel Perspectives on Guiding Clients and Managing False Claims Act (FCA) Risk <i>With increasing innovation, funding, and partnerships, there are also a variety of increased risks facing contractors. This panel provides some focus on increased risk related to the False Claims Act.</i>
2:30 pm	Networking Break
2:45 pm	Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory Site Tours
5:15 pm	Reception <i>Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory Atrium (separately ticketed)</i>

Thursday, April 23, 2026
Argonne National Laboratory

Time	Topic/Event
8:00 am	Continental Breakfast, Registration and Networking
8:45 am	Argonne National Laboratory and Leadership in Project Genesis
9:15 am	DOE Keynote: Perspectives from DOE Counsel
9:45 am	Legal Leadership and Strategies Supporting Artificial Intelligence <i>This panel will discuss approaches already implemented and those that might be under consideration for legal professionals across disciplines to help: (i) accelerate advanced nuclear, fusion and grid modernization using AI to provide affordable and reliable energy for the country; (ii) accelerate the building of the “quantum ecosytem” that will advance scientific discovery; and (iii) assist in deploying technology and systems to help ensure the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear stockpile and accelerate the development of “defense-ready” materials by creating and advancing AI technologies for national security mission.</i>
10:45 am	Networking Break
11:00 am	Employment Law in Focus: Supporting the Workforce Through Rapid Transformation <i>Although palpable excitement and energy surround the bold vision for our future, the national need for innovation and the requisite pace of change gives rise to employment law considerations. Employers are seeing increased respectful workplace and mental health disorders issues, sometimes particularly impacting student programs. Legal counsel is increasingly asked to help clients balance considerations between individual employees and the working environment.</i>
12:00 pm	Conference Lunch
1:00 pm	With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility Redux: Legal Topics on Research Security and Foreign National Access
2:00pm	Topics in Legal Ethics
3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Argonne National Laboratory Site Tours