



## 2026 FARB Summit on Regulatory Excellence

July 23-25, 2026  
The Marquette Hotel  
710 Marquette Ave  
Minneapolis, MN

### Cultivating Courageous Leadership: Leading with Conviction, Collaboration, and Clarity

The FARB Summit on Regulatory Excellence is the premier gathering for regulatory law professionals, licensure board members and staff, and leaders of national and international regulatory associations. Designed to explore the intersection of **law, policy, leadership, and innovation**, the Summit offers timely insights and practical strategies to strengthen professional regulation in a rapidly evolving environment.

As scrutiny of licensure intensifies and public expectations continue to shift, **courageous leadership** is essential to uphold integrity, transparency, and trust. This year's Summit will focus on developing the mindset and skills needed to lead with confidence, whether navigating political pressures, guiding boards through change, addressing complex enforcement issues, or shaping national policy. Participants will leave empowered to champion regulation that serves the public interest with **foresight, conviction, collaboration, and clarity**.

#### Summit Format and Learning Tracks

The Summit features a combination of plenary sessions and concurrent breakout tracks designed to deliver targeted learning experiences for FARB's key audiences. Across both tracks, sessions are designed to strengthen courageous leadership and equip attendees to lead with conviction, collaboration, and clarity in service of the public interest.

##### **Track 1: Regulatory Leadership & Practice (CAE Track)**

Designed for licensure boards, regulatory agencies, and national and international regulatory associations. Track 1 sessions are structured to support continuing education for Certified Association Executives. CAE accreditation details will be confirmed closer to the Summit.

##### **Track 2: Regulatory Law & Enforcement (CLE Track)**

Designed for regulatory law professionals and includes continuing legal education (CLE) content to support attorney licensure renewal requirements. Track 2 sessions are structured to support CLE credit. CLE accreditation details will be confirmed closer to the Summit.

**\*Please note:** *Session titles, presenters, and descriptions are subject to change without notice. We appreciate your understanding as we work to provide the most timely, relevant, and engaging program possible.*

**Thursday, July 23**

### **Midwest Occupational Licensing Collaborative Roundtable**

**11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The Midwest Occupational Licensing Collaborative Roundtable is an invitation-only session bringing together regulatory leaders and staff from neighboring states to strengthen regional relationships and **collaboration**. This facilitated discussion creates a dedicated space for participants to share common challenges, exchange practical insights, and build trusted peer connections across jurisdictions. The goal is to establish a network of regional colleagues who can serve as ongoing resources for consultation, coordination, and **collaborative** problem-solving among regulatory boards and agencies. Featured speakers and participation are limited to invited representatives from states within the region to support focused, peer-to-peer engagement.

### **Pre-Summit Workshops**

**2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Pre-summit workshops are optional professional development sessions designed to support regulators and legal counsel in their ongoing growth and pursuit of regulatory excellence. Each in-depth learning opportunity is available to Summit attendees for an additional fee of \$150 per session. As the workshops are offered concurrently, attendees may select one to attend.

#### **Track 1: Regulatory Excellence Training: Best Practices for Board Members and Staff – Sponsored by Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards**

**Presenter: Dale Atkinson, The Atkinson Firm**

This interactive workshop provides a practical overview of core regulatory responsibilities and proven best practices for effective board and agency operations. Participants will explore key governance principles, decision-making frameworks, and strategies for **strengthening consistency, accountability, and public trust**. Designed for both new and experienced regulators, this session offers tools and insights that can be applied immediately in day-to-day regulatory work, supporting leaders in **making confident decisions with clarity and purpose**.

#### **Track 2: Ethics, Wellness, and Professionalism for Regulatory Law Professionals**

**Presenter: Jon Tynjala, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers  
Bradley Guye, Ethics Boundaries Assessment Services**

This workshop explores the ethical responsibilities and professional challenges faced by regulatory attorneys and legal staff, with a focus on maintaining sound judgment under pressure. Participants will examine how implicit bias, stress, and burnout can influence legal decision-making and professional conduct. The session will provide practical strategies for strengthening professionalism, resilience, and ethical integrity, reinforcing the role of **courageous leadership** in high-stakes regulatory environments.

### **Centralized Agency Leader Circle Networking Reception (Invitation Only)**

**5:30 p.m.**

Join fellow central agency leaders for an evening networking reception. This informal gathering offers a unique opportunity to connect with peers navigating the complexities of multi-board oversight, share approaches to common challenges, and build relationships that strengthen coordination, consistency, and regulatory impact across jurisdictions.

### **Optional Dinner Circles**

**6:45 p.m.**

Meet new regulatory colleagues or join old friends in one of our optional dinner circles. FARB leadership will serve as hosts at a variety of local restaurants, allowing you to connect with fellow Summit attendees. Sign up for the restaurant of your choice at the registration desk throughout the day.

**Friday, July 24**  
**2026 FARB Summit on Regulatory Excellence**

**8:00 – 8:50 a.m.      Networking Breakfast with Sponsors**

**9:00 – 9:50 a.m.      Opening Plenary & Keynote - Leading Courageously During Times of Regulatory Challenge – Sponsored by Ethics Boundaries Assessment Services**

**Presenter:              Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA, American Association of Medical Assistants**

Courageous leadership includes the willingness to challenge oneself and those around us to do better. Leaders also provide foresight on ways to navigate during times of challenge while being humble and open to critiques. Recent public debate over occupational licensing has intensified as arguments are presented stating that licensing restricts workforce participation and increases costs for consumers.

In this keynote session, Donald Balasa will examine major critiques of occupational licensing, acknowledging where reform conversations may have merit while also highlighting where key assertions are not supported by law, fact, or economic theory. The session will explore how regulators can courageously and thoughtfully respond to the growing movement toward deregulation and articulate the value of regulation and its critical role in public protection.

This presentation will help regulators **lead with clarity and conviction** in policy discussions about professional regulation, while remaining grounded in the public protection mission.

**9:50 – 10:10 a.m.      Networking Break**

**10:10 – 11:00 a.m.      Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)**

**Track 1:              AI: Charting the Course from Principle to Practice**

**Moderator:          Veronica Meadows, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards**

**Presenter:          Leanna Fortunato, American Psychological Association**

**Paul Byrne, Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation**

This session will examine how establishing principles of use can help regulators navigate the introduction of artificial intelligence into professional practice and their own work. Then, this session will highlight the difficulty of regulating a technology that intersects with professional practice but is quickly evolving outside of current occupational licensing frameworks. Discussion will include recommendations for responsible use by licensees and regulators, misuse by unlicensed individuals, and implications for enforcement, consumer protection, and evolving standards. Participants will gain practical insights into how boards can better anticipate AI-related issues and respond to them more **proactively** and **consistently**—all while maintaining **transparency** and public trust as technology rapidly evolves. Participants will also gain a better understanding of the limits of current regulatory frameworks and the need for new policies to address emerging threats and the largely unregulated digital professional services.

## **Track 2: Secondary Trauma in Investigations and Trauma-Informed Prosecution**

This session will examine the impact of secondary trauma on regulatory attorneys and investigative teams and how trauma-informed approaches can strengthen outcomes. Discussion will include wellness considerations, effective communication strategies, and how trauma-informed principles intersect with licensing questions, enforcement, and due process. Participants will gain practical tools for supporting both professional resilience and fair regulatory practice, reinforcing the importance of leading with **integrity and sound judgment** in difficult circumstances.

### **11:10 a.m. – Noon Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)**

#### **Track 1: Coalition Building and Public Engagement: Strategies for Building Trust and Influence, Presented by MultiState, FARB Supporting Member**

**Moderator: Matthew Barusch, Council of Interior Design Qualifications**

**Presenters: Brock Ingmire, MultiState**

**Jennifer Garrett, Midwest Occupational Licensing Collaborative**

**Veronica Meadows, Interorganizational Council on Regulation**

This session will explore practical strategies for building effective coalitions and engaging the public in ways that **strengthen trust** in regulation. Participants will examine how regulatory boards, agencies, and associations can **collaborate** with stakeholders, **communicate with clarity**, and navigate competing interests while remaining grounded in the public protection mission. The session will provide tools and real-world approaches for building alignment, increasing transparency, and **strengthening credibility** in today's evolving regulatory environment.

#### **Track 2: Speech vs. Conduct: Supreme Court and Constitutional Considerations**

**Presenter: S. Wesley Tripp III, North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors**

This session will explore recent legal developments affecting the regulation of professional conduct, with attention to constitutional boundaries and First Amendment considerations. Attendees will review key case examples and discuss how courts interpret speech versus conduct in professional regulation. The session will provide practical guidance for legal counsel advising boards and agencies as they navigate complex legal landscapes with **clarity and confidence**.

### **Noon – 1:00 p.m. Networking Lunch with Sponsors**

### **1:10 – 2:00 p.m. Partner Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)**

#### **Track 1: Exam Development: Getting it Right for Regulation**

This partner-led session will provide insight into examination development and the role of assessment in supporting competency-based licensure. Participants will explore best practices in test design, validity, security, and modernization strategies. The session is designed for regulators and board staff seeking a deeper understanding of the licensure pipeline and how strong assessment systems support **public trust and professional accountability**.

## **Track 2: Governance and Oversight in Regulation: Roles, Risks, and Emerging Challenges**

This session will examine the governance and oversight roles of regulatory boards, national associations, and central agencies, with a focus on where responsibilities intersect—and where they can create legal risk. Presenters will provide a foundational overview of governance structures and then explore emerging challenges, including delegation of authority, board composition, and the balance between coordination and independent decision-making. Drawing on national perspectives and real-world examples, participants will gain practical insight into strengthening governance practices while maintaining clear lines of authority and accountability.

### **2:10 – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)**

#### **Track 1: Public Board Member Success Profile**

**Presenters:** Lorin Mueller, Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
Richard Woolf, Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
Eileen Linnabery, Vantage Leadership

This session will focus on what makes an effective public board member and how boards can better recruit, onboard, and support public participants. Discussion will explore expectations, governance dynamics, and strategies for maximizing public member contributions to board decision-making. Participants will leave with practical tools for strengthening board performance and public trust by fostering **accountability, clarity, and shared leadership**.

#### **Track 2: Unlicensed Practice: Enforcement Tools and Legal Strategies**

**Presenters:** Janice Bellar, Idaho Department of Professional Licensing  
James R. Raines, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P.  
**Moderator:** Adam Grayson, Grayson & Grayson

This breakout will focus on the legal and practical challenges of addressing unlicensed practice, including investigative approaches, enforcement options, and litigation considerations. Participants will explore strategies for **improving compliance** while ensuring due process and appropriate public communication. The session is designed to strengthen consistency and confidence in enforcement decision-making under increasing public and political scrutiny.

### **3:00 – 3:20 p.m. Networking Break**

#### **3:20 – 4:30 p.m. Day 1 Closing Plenary: Policy Maker Panel**

**Moderator:** Director Marlon Brown, DPA, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
**Presenters:** Representative Beth Camp, Georgia  
Senator Alice Mann, Minnesota  
Senator John Fredrickson, Nebraska  
Representative Ken Clouston, Wyoming

This moderated panel will bring together policymakers and regulatory stakeholders to discuss current legislative trends affecting professional licensure and oversight. Panelists will explore emerging reform efforts, political pressures, and the evolving expectations placed on regulatory

bodies. Participants will leave with greater **clarity** on how to engage effectively and **lead with conviction** while remaining grounded in the public protection mission.

**5:30 – 6:30 p.m.      Networking Reception**

Join fellow Summit attendees for an evening networking reception designed to foster connection and **collaboration** across the regulatory community. This informal gathering offers an opportunity to build relationships with regulatory peers, exchange ideas, and strengthen cross-jurisdiction partnerships that support courageous leadership and regulatory excellence.

**Saturday, July 25**  
**2025 FARB Summit on Regulatory Excellence**

**8:00 – 8:50 a.m.      Networking Breakfast with Sponsors**

**9:00 – 9:50 a.m.      **Atkinson Lecture – Sponsored by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards****

**Presenter:              Courtney Arbour, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**

This lecture series offers perspectives on the state of regulation to inspire and provoke important discussions throughout and beyond the summit.

**9:50 – 10:10 a.m.      Networking Break**

**10:10 – 11:00 a.m.      **Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)****

**Track 1:              The Burden and the Benefit: Balancing the Occupational Regulation Equation**

**Presenters:          Christina Curnow, PhD, SkillEdge Research and Consulting**  
**Ryan Nunn, The Budget Lab at Yale**

This moderated fireside chat will feature two leading researchers examining both the benefits and the costs of occupational regulation. Through an engaging dialogue, the session will explore how licensure supports public protection and professional accountability, while also considering the societal and workforce impacts of restrictive entry requirements. Participants will gain a balanced, evidence-based perspective to support **thoughtful policy discussions and confident decision-making.**

**Track 2:              Education, Advocacy, Lobbying....Oh My!**

**Presenter:          Sarah Werner, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies**  
**Kristi Knieps, Washington State Attorney General's Office**

This session will explore the distinction (if any) between education, advocacy, and lobbying in the regulatory landscape, including the legal and ethical boundaries. Participants will examine the origin of such restrictions (real and perceived) on regulators' ability to engage with stakeholders, communicate policy positions, and respond to legislative activity. Are limitations on such communications due to ethical considerations, legal advice, statutory interpretation, court decisions, or separation of powers considerations? The session will provide practical strategies for advancing regulatory efficiency and public protection, while maintaining compliance, **transparency, and public trust.**

**11:10 a.m. – Noon Partner Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)**

**Track 1: Evolving Considerations in Licensing Examination**  
**Presenters: Rory McCorkle, PhD, Strasz Assessment Systems**  
**Adrienne W. Cadle, PhD, Professional Testing, Inc.**

This session explores how licensure examinations are adapting to change, including leveraging data management, use of artificial intelligence for task automation in testing and education, and the growing sophistication of candidates' use of proxy services and technology to cheat on examinations. Presenters will address considerations for deterring and detecting cheating to protect the validity of licensure decisions that both test publishers and licensing boards need to address. This session will also examine how these changes are helping licensing organizations evolve toward more flexible, data-informed, and continuous competency models.

**Track 2: The Legal Issues Everyone's Watching**

This session will provide an in-depth exploration of a timely legal issue affecting professional regulation and board operations. Content will be designed to support regulatory attorneys and agency counsel with practical guidance and emerging trends.

**Noon – 1:00 p.m. Networking Lunch with Sponsors**

**1:10 – 2:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)**

**Track 1: The Future of Workforce Wellbeing**  
**Presenter: Michael Stadler, MD, FACS, Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Foundation**  
**Stef Simmons, MD, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation**

Professions across many sectors are experiencing notable change as workforce demands, training pathways, and public expectations evolve. This session will explore key trends shaping the future of professional practice and discuss considerations for regulatory leaders as they respond to workforce and policy developments.

**Track 2: Collateral Consequences v. Criminal Justice Reform**  
**Presenter: Sarah Bradley, JD, MBA, Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners**

This session will explore the downstream impacts of public disciplinary reporting, including how databases influence licensee mobility, employment outcomes, and public perception. Discussion will include legal and policy considerations related to transparency, accuracy, and fairness in reporting. Participants will examine how boards can **balance public protection with proportional consequences**.

**2:10 – 3:30 p.m. Closing Plenary Session: Central Agency Leaders Panel – Hosted by the FARB Central Agency Leadership Community and Sponsored by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards**

**Moderator: Debra Persinger, PhD, CAE, Federation of Associations of Massage Therapy Boards**  
**Presenters: Executive Director Courtney Arbour, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**  
**Secretary Dan Hereth, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services**  
**Bureau Chief John Price, Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses**  
**Commissioner Sarah Swanson, Montana Department of Labor and Industry**  
**Secretary Mario Treto Jr., Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation**

This plenary session will feature senior agency leaders sharing lessons learned from managing regulatory systems through reform, modernization, and heightened public accountability. Discussion will focus on governance models, organizational leadership challenges, and strategies for maintaining trust and operational effectiveness. The session is designed to provide practical takeaways for both board leadership and staff.

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Central Agency Leader Circle Roundtable (Invitation Only)**

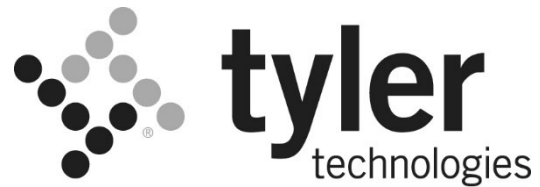
The Agency Leadership Roundtable is an invitation-only session convening central agency directors and senior regulatory staff for candid discussion on shared challenges and emerging issues impacting regulatory agencies nationwide. This facilitated dialogue provides a confidential space to exchange perspectives, explore innovative approaches, and identify opportunities for **collaboration** across jurisdictions. Participation is limited to invited agency leaders to support focused peer-to-peer engagement.

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. FARB Governing Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**

The FARB Governing Council Meeting convenes representatives from FARB's member organizations to conduct official Council business and advance shared priorities. This working session provides an opportunity to discuss emerging regulatory issues, coordinate cross-organizational **collaboration**, and guide strategic initiatives supporting regulatory excellence. The meeting is intended for Governing Council members and invited participants.

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