



Littler

Powering the Future Workplace

The 2026 Regional Employer Conference

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL EMPLOYER | BURLINGTON, MA | OCTOBER 16, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Managing Trade Secret Risk in Remote and BYOD Environments

Trade secret disputes increasingly arise when employees access sensitive information from personal devices, cloud platforms, collaboration tools, and home networks. Traditional assumptions about possession, control, and evidence preservation no longer reflect the realities of remote and hybrid work. This session examines advanced issues involving BYOD environments, AI platforms, personal messaging apps, cloud storage, shadow IT, home printing, and remote offboarding — and how in-house lawyers can build defensible practices before a departure event and respond effectively when one occurs.

Speakers:

[Melissa L. McDonagh](#), [Puneet Dhaliwal](#)

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Vice in the Workplace: Gambling, Prediction Markets, and Emerging Employee Risks

As new gambling platforms and prediction markets become increasingly accessible and problem gambling becomes more prevalent among younger demographics, employers face evolving workplace challenges that extend beyond traditional concerns surrounding drugs and alcohol. In this session, Littler attorneys will discuss best practices for how to structure employee contests, develop policies for prediction market use to protect confidential employer information, implement responsible workplace gambling, and navigate accommodation requests involving gambling addiction and related addictions.

Speakers:

[Ellen McCann](#), [Steve Silver](#)



11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead: Workplace Policy Developments Shaping Employer Strategy

Although last year's policy developments were slowed by the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history, as mid-term elections approach, the administration and Congress are back in motion. Legislators are responding to major court rulings with the broadest array of labor-law reforms in a generation, while federal agencies advance regulations on workplace safety, worker classification and more. This year promises to be a busy – and potentially tumultuous – time for employers.

Join Littler's Workplace Policy Institute as we navigate these waves. The panel will preview key developments in Congress, the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In this session, you will:

1. Gain insight into agency leadership initiatives and regulatory activities at the DOL, EEOC and NLRB;
2. Understand labor and employment reform proposals in the U.S. House and Senate and what they mean for employers; and
3. Get a snapshot of the pending midterm elections and how potential shifts in congressional power could impact legislative priorities.

In a policy storm, every employer needs a compass – find yours here.

Speakers:

[Gary Lieberman](#), [James \(Jim\) A. Paretti Jr.](#)