

2026 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE PROGRAM*



8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast



9 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Danielle L. McGee, Executive Director and General Counsel, Freedom of Information Commission

Kate Farrish, President, Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and FOIC Commissioner

Keynote Address

TBA

9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

Breakout Session 1

FOI 101: A Crash Course in the FOI Act

Nicholas A. Smarra, Commission Counsel, Freedom of Information Commission

OR

Legislative and Legal Update: FOI in the Courts and the Capitol

FOIC Staff

10:45 A.M. – 11 A.M.

Break

11 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Breakout Session 2

Complying with the FOIA: Some Helpful Hints

Thomas B. Mooney, Attorney and Partner, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP

Jessica Richman Smith, Attorney and Partner, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP

OR

FOI and Law Enforcement Records: What You Need to Know

Russell Blair, Director of Education and Communications, Freedom of Information Commission

12:15 P.M.

Luncheon

12:45 P.M. – 2 P.M.

Panel Discussion: Tips and Tricks From FOI Veterans

Moderator

Attorney Claire Howard, Partner, Madsen, Prestley & Parenteau, LLC

Panelists

Nicholas R. Bamonte, Partner, Berchem Moses PC

Melinda Decker, Director, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Matthew Reed, Town Administrator, Town of Ellington

**Program is subject to revisions. Visit ct.gov/foi for updates.*