

2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 4

12:00 – 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION

Level 3 Foyer (3rd Floor)

Welcome to the 2026 AIA Annual Conference. Stop by the Registration Desk to collect your badge, program, and more before heading to the CLE Sessions and the Welcome Receptions.

1:00 – 5:00 PM

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SESSIONS

Trinity 5 & 6 (3rd Fl)

To receive Continuing Legal Education credits, you must sign in and out of each session. For more information, please visit the Registration Desk.

1:00 - 2:30 PM

PASSING THE HOT POTATO: RISK TRANSFER THROUGH CONTRACTUAL INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

Trinity 5 & 6 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Mark Banovetz, Tressler; Beth Bates, Boeing; Armando Carlo, Global Aero; and Laura McGinn, Starr

Join us for a discussion on risk transfer through contractual indemnity and additional insured coverage in the aviation industry. We will distinguish between indemnity and additional insured coverage as vehicles for risk transfer – both how they are different and where they overlap – as well as how Certificates of Insurance factor into the risk transfer equation.

2:30 - 3:30 PM

VISUAL PERCEPTION IN AVIATION CLAIMS: A HUMAN FACTORS APPROACH TO PILOT VISIBILITY AND INTERPRETATION

Trinity 5 & 6 (3rd Fl)

Speaker: Manuel Manolo Meza-Arroyo, ESI

This presentation examines the role of visual perception in aviation incidents, with a focus on how pilots detect, interpret, and respond to visual cues under operational constraints. Using case-based examples, the session will address analyses involving apparent size and distance perception, conspicuity of aircraft and airport lighting, and the impact of low luminance environments on visual performance. Attendees will gain insight into how human factors methodologies are applied to reconstruct visual conditions and evaluate pilot perception. The presentation will highlight how these analyses contribute to understanding accident causation, pilot decision-making, and issues relevant to aviation claims and litigation.

3:30 - 5:00 PM

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: TIPS FOR WEATHERING A LITIGATION STORM

Trinity 5 & 6 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Jeff Gilmore, Jackson Walker LLC; Jim Kiser, Wilson Elser; Steve Sanfelippo, Cunningham Swaim; and Maura Walsh, USAIG

This panel will discuss how seemingly insignificant actions or conditions at or near the beginning of aviation litigation can trigger huge consequences or dramatically change a case's outcome. Most importantly, the panelists will provide suggestions and tips to eliminate or minimize such impacts and help create a positive result for insurers. Factors examined will include: spoliation, dealing with a pro se plaintiff or non-aviation plaintiff's counsel, forum and venue selection clauses, budgeting, and coverage analysis.

QUICK PICK REGISTRATION

Quickly pick up your conference badge before joining the Welcome Reception.

NEW MEMBER/FIRST-TIMER RECEPTION



ACRISURE[®]
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and

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Insurance

Before we gather for the Welcome Reception, all new AIA members and first-time conference attendees are invited to join us for a reception. Meet the AIA Board of Directors, connect with fellow new members and first-time attendees, and learn tips and tricks to maximize your conference experience.

WELCOME RECEPTION



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The Welcome Reception Block Party is your first opportunity at the AIA Conference to engage professionals from all facets of the aviation insurance industry. The reception provides a relaxed atmosphere to reconnect with old acquaintances and build relationships with new industry professionals.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Join us for a golf scramble on the Hackberry Creek Country Club's 18-hole championship golf course. With its rolling hills, the recently updated course offers mini verde greens, premium Arkansas white sand bunkers, and beautiful water features that promise a challenging game each time you play. This year's tournament will offer contests including closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and a \$5,000 hole-in-one opportunity! Pre-registration required.

The AIA Golf outing includes breakfast and lunch (both at the course), snacks and beverages. Golfers can check in from 6:30 – 7:00 AM in the Owners Box Foyer (Lobby) with the bus departing promptly at 7:00 AM. The course is a short bus ride from the hotel. Upon arrival at the course, the group will enjoy breakfast and then tee off at 8:30 AM.



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Consultancy

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for sponsoring tournament activations.

2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

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**MURRAY, MORIN
& HERMAN, P.A.**

Alpine Shooting Range

Kick off your Saturday morning with a sporting clays tournament at Alpine Shooting Range. Shooters of all levels will enjoy this event, as targets will include a mix of easy to difficult. Alpine offers plenty of sun and shade to be comfortable for everyone. Prizes go to top shooters!

The AIA Group outing will include transportation to and from the club as well as breakfast, lunch and beverages. Clay Shooters can check in and pick up their grab-and-go breakfast beginning at 7:30 AM. The bus will depart promptly at 8:00 AM to ensure a 9:00 AM start.

Thank You to



and

**The Law Offices of
Michael L. Poindexter**

for graciously donating
the tournament prizes.

12:00 – 6:00 PM

REGISTRATION

Level 3 Foyer (3rd Floor)

Have questions or need directions to Queuing Up or the Women's Initiative Happy Hour? We are here to help—just stop by the Registration Desk.

4:00 – 5:30 PM

QUEUING UP AT AIA

Trinity 5 & 6 (3rd Fl)

Queuing Up features a unique speed networking format, allowing agents and brokers to meet multiple insurance company underwriters in a neutral setting. Participating underwriting companies host a station and brokers rotate through the stations to fill a slip signed by each carrier. Discuss market conditions, hear their viewpoints on what's ahead, and exchange business cards while you build valuable relationships. Participants must use time wisely to ensure they complete their slip and are eligible for a prize.

Business casual attire recommended. Remember to bring your AIA tote bag, business cards, and a pen for a smooth speed networking experience. Additionally, we will have a special first-timer raffle, so bring your new team members. Open to Agents/Brokers and Underwriters only.

5:30 – 7:00 PM

WOMEN'S INITIATIVE HAPPY HOUR

SPONSORED BY



CUNNINGHAM SWAIM

Join us for a happy hour dedicated to networking and celebrating the achievements of women in the aviation insurance industry. This event is open to all women attending the AIA Conference, with a special invitation extended to those interested in increasing their involvement in the AIA and exploring leadership opportunities.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

7:00 AM – 5:30 PM

REGISTRATION

Level 3 Foyer (3rd Floor)

Need directions to the educational sessions or headshot studio? Have questions or tech issues? Visit the Registration Desk and we will be glad to help you. We are here to ensure you have a great conference experience.

BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS

Trinity Foyer (3rd Fl)

Start your Wednesday morning with breakfast while exploring the cutting-edge technologies and services shaping the aviation insurance industry. This is a great opportunity to network with industry experts and discover the latest innovations. For a complete list of exhibitors, please refer to page 42. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 – 8:00 AM.

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Need to check emails or catch up on work during the conference? Visit the Departure Lounge, sponsored by Concirrus. Take advantage of a quiet workspace conveniently located near the conference floor. The Departure Lounge is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM in South Side 1 (3rd Fl).

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AWE-INSPIRING TECHNOLOGY

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

CONTINUING INSURANCE EDUCATION MORNING SESSIONS

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Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

To receive Continuing Insurance Education credits, you must attend all four morning sessions and complete the documentation process (signing in and out of sessions). For more information, please visit the Registration Desk.

8:00 - 9:00 AM

UNDERSTANDING HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAN BE USED IN CLAIMS

Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Chuck Fox, ESI; Dean Hawley, Sedgwick; and James Hopkins, Global Aerospace

This session offers a practical, real-world exploration of how artificial intelligence is beginning to transform the claims process. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the different types of AI and how they are being applied today across claims handling, investigation, and analysis. The presentation examines key challenges such as trust, data security, cultural resistance, and cost, while also highlighting emerging opportunities in areas like assisted reporting, coverage analysis, document translation, trend identification, and data capture technology. Through case examples and interactive discussion, attendees will see how AI-powered tools, ranging from digital scanning to predictive analytics, are improving efficiency and decision-making. The session also aims to address AI risks, limitations, and current best practices, helping professionals confidently integrate AI into their workflows while maintaining sound judgment and client trust.

9:00 - 10:00 AM

ACCIDENTS HURT, SAFETY DOESN'T — THE SEQUEL: AVIATION GROUND HANDLING ACCIDENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Steven Abreu-Hill, IBAC; Tamer Ahmed, Global Aerospace; Amanda Ferraro, Aviation Safety Solutions; and Christopher Fostiak, Arthur J. Gallagher

Aviation ground handling accidents have seen an unprecedented rise within the past several years. Incidents of malfunctioning equipment, inadequate training and understaffing are core issues. The panel will discuss various aircraft ground handling accidents. The causal factors surrounding these accidents, and what advancements are taking place from regulatory, risk management, and technical standpoints.

2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

10:00 - 11:00 AM

COVERAGE B TAKES FLIGHT: PERSONAL & ADVERTISING INJURY RISKS FOR DRONES

Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Konrad Krebs, Clyde & Co. and Stephanie Short, Great American Insurance Group

This presentation explores aviation insurers' increasing risks for personal and advertising injury (Aviation CGL Coverage B) claims with a focus on drone operations. Because Coverage A typically excludes bodily injury and property damage 'arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use' of an aircraft - and many courts treat drones as 'aircraft' - claimants and insurers are turning to Coverage B theories such as invasion of privacy, trespass/wrongful entry, defamation/disparagement, and publication of private information. Aviation insurers, brokers, and claims professionals should assess how drone-related activities create exposure to privacy and advertising-injury claims (especially where audio/video capture and data use are integral to operations. Courts continue to adapt long-standing personal and advertising injury language to modern technology, so results are highly jurisdiction- and policy-wording-dependent. A disciplined review of allegations, timing, damages sought, insured status, and applicable exclusions is essential.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

BREAKING DOWN ANCILLARY COVERAGES: DOES ONE SIZE REALLY FIT ALL?

Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

Speaker: Thomas Hollinger, Great American Insurance Group

This session takes a practical, operational view of ancillary aircraft insurance coverages, examining whether standardized packages truly make sense across varying aircraft types, risk profiles, and operational uses. While certain core ancillary coverages may be broadly applicable, others become more -or less - relevant depending on aircraft complexity, utilization, and mission profile. We will compare common ancillary and expanded coverages across different

aircraft classes and higher-risk operations, highlighting where blanket approaches can create misalignment between exposure and protection. The discussion will emphasize why coverage packages, limits, and values should be dynamic rather than static, adapting to both operational realities and evolving risk.

In addition, the session will address broker considerations, including comparing ancillary coverage differences between markets, effectively communicating coverage intent and limitations to insureds, and managing expectations to reduce confusion, disputes, and potential E&O exposure. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to tailor ancillary coverages to the operation—not the template—and how to better explain those decisions to buyers.

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS

Trinity Foyer (3rd Fl)

Enjoy a delicious lunch while networking with industry peers. Take advantage of this opportunity to visit the Exhibitors, explore innovative offerings, and snag a 50th Anniversary Golden Ticket. For a complete list of exhibitors, please refer to page 42. Lunch will be served from 12:00 - 1:00 PM.



1:00 - 5:00 PM

CONTINUING INSURANCE EDUCATION AFTERNOON SESSIONS

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Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

To receive Continuing Insurance Education credits, you must attend all four afternoon sessions and complete the documentation process (signing in and out of sessions). For more information, please visit the Registration Desk.

2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

at the coverage investigation process, including a disciplined pre flight review of policy language, insured status at the time of loss, applicable exclusions and endorsements, damage valuation, and the factual timeline and cause of the event.

But not every flight is turbulence free. When disputes arise, the panel will taxi into the litigation phase—discussing when and how defense counsel is brought on board, how insureds, adjusters, and attorneys work together as a crew, and what it takes to build a strong defense. The session will follow a claim all the way to trial, explaining how courts determine liability by applying policy wording to proven facts, and how fault is assigned using negligence standards, breach of contract principles, or aviation specific statutes. Whether you're on the claims, underwriting, agent, or risk management side of the industry, this session offers a high altitude view of how aviation claims really get from the tarmac, back into the sky.

3:00 - 4:00 PM

SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE COVERED? YOU DID WHAT, WHERE, WHEN? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Nicole Banks, The James A Gardner Co; Michelle Brown, McLarens; Jim Gardner, The James A Gardner Co; and Meghan Griffin, Sompco

This is a moderated panel discussion between an aviation insurance broker, underwriter, and claims professional. Discussion will revolve around real life claims and potential claims, as related to policy language, incidents and accident situations, potential denial of claims and limited claims coverage. These discussions will include aircraft and aviation general liability premises, products, completed operations, hangar keepers' legal liability, pilot warranties, territory, policy definitions, exclusions and many more.

4:00 - 5:00 PM

AI'S EFFECT ON BROKERING AND UNDERWRITING AVIATION INSURANCE: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS, COVERAGE CONSIDERATIONS & EMERGING E&O EXPOSURES

Trinity 4-8 (3rd Fl)

Speakers: Jim Anderson, Starr; Tim Bonnell Jr., Aeris Insurance Solutions; Art Jimenez, CyTech Consulting; and Danny Maco, TriVector Labs/ AeroTelematics

This course examines how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the brokering and underwriting of aviation insurance and the coverage implications that arise from its use. While AI offers opportunities for efficiency, analytics, and improved decision-making, it also introduces material considerations related to coverage accuracy, underwriting integrity, regulatory compliance, and producer responsibilities.

The session explores how AI impacts risk evaluation, policy placement, and communication between brokers, underwriters, and insureds. Participants will analyze potential errors and omissions (E&O) exposures, misclassification risks, documentation requirements, privacy obligations, and cybersecurity concerns when AI tools are used in insurance transactions. Using aviation-specific examples and real-world scenarios, the course provides guidance on safely implementing AI while meeting professional, ethical, and regulatory standards.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

REGISTRATION

Level 3 Foyer (3rd Floor)

Welcome to the fourth and final day of the 2026 AIA Conference. The Registration Desk opens at 7:30 AM to ensure you have a smooth, seamless experience. Stop by to say hello, goodbye, or ask questions. We are here to help.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Education Committee | Deep Ellum A (2nd Fl)

Safety Committee | Bishop Arts Board Room (2nd Fl)

BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS

Kickoff your Thursday with breakfast and another opportunity to source new technologies and services impacting the aviation insurance industry. For a complete list of exhibitors, please refer to page 42. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 – 9:00 AM.

GENERAL SESSION

Always an attendee favorite, join your peers for a morning of education, inspiration, and laughter during the General Session. We'll also announce the 2026 Pinnacle Award winner and recognize the newest class of Certified Aviation Insurance Professionals (CAIP). This year's industry keynote presentations include:

- **Moderator:** Ian Wrigglesworth, Global Head of Aviation and Aerospace Specialty, Guy Carpenter
- **Speakers:** Eric Donofrio, US Chief Underwriting Officer, Global Aerospace, Inc.; Katrin Noack, Head of Aviation Specialty Reinsurance, Munich Re; and Garrett L. Pendleton, Global Head of Aviation Claims, Starr Adjustment Services, Inc.

- **Speaker:** Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President, AOPA Air Safety Institute



during the General Session.

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

The Kings on Straight Talk About Aviation Safety

Pilots throughout the world regard John and Martha as their personal aviation mentors from their videos and multimedia training programs. After having had an aircraft accident of their own, and discovering their own sense of vulnerability, John and Martha say they have become “born-again pilots.” Having had a hand in the aviation education of nearly half of the pilots in the United States in the last four decades, the Kings feel a deep responsibility towards learning pilots and a strong sense of mission about passing on practical and insightful tools for risk management.

When we say “safety is our highest priority” do we really mean what we say? Wouldn't grounding the airplane be the safest thing? This startling presentation for all pilots will provide a provocative approach with new concepts, a new vocabulary and fresh insights on the subject of aviation risk management. We will never completely eliminate the risks of general aviation, but John and Martha Kings' insightful talk will reveal procedures and techniques that can help pilots manage aviation risks effectively. You'll be better prepared to assess and manage risks confidently...leading to safer flying and more fun in the cockpit.

Following their keynote presentation, John and Martha King will be available to sign copies of their books. Their books, *Lift* and *Sky Kings*, will also be available for purchase on-site.

2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

2:30 – 3:30 PM

DIVISION MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

This year, the Attorney and Underwriter Divisions will host elections during their meetings, electing a new Director-Elect for their respective division. Additional information regarding voting procedures will be provided ahead of and during the meeting.

Underwriter Division | Arts District 5 (2nd Fl)

Attorney and Claims Division | Arts District 6 (2nd Fl)

Agent/Broker Division | Arts District 7 (2nd Fl)

Guest Speaker: Carl Ashenbrenner, Milliman

ELECTION INFORMATION:

This year, the Attorney and Underwriter Divisions will host elections during their meetings, electing a new Director-Elect for their respective division. Premier and Executive Members of the AIA that are in the Attorney or Underwriter divisions are invited to attend and cast their vote. The successful candidate will serve one year as Director-Elect and then serve a full two-year term as a Division Director on the AIA Board.

If you are unsure of your membership qualifications, please stop by the AIA Registration Desk for assistance.

6:00 – 9:00 PM

CLOSING PARTY AT GILLEY'S

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Gilley's Dallas

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we toast to 50 incredible years of AIA at the legendary Gilley's Dallas—the iconic venue made famous by Urban Cowboy. AIA's very own member band, Smooth Limits, will be on stage to greet guests as they arrive. Guests can join in guided line dancing, offering an inviting opportunity for both seasoned dancers and first timers to experience a beloved Texas tradition. On the patio, skilled artisans will demonstrate the craftsmanship of cigar rolling, providing an inside look at this timeless practice. Raise a glass with colleagues, reconnect with old friends, and make new ones as we celebrate our vibrant aviation insurance community. Don't miss the grand finale of AIA 2026—this is the party everyone will be talking about!



Maximize Your Conference Experience with the AIA Conference Mobile App

- ✓ Create Your Custom Schedule
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- ✓ View Exhibitor Information



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