

**STATE OF COLORADO**  
**Department of State**

1700 Broadway  
Suite 250  
Denver, CO 80290



**Scott Gessler**  
Secretary of State

**Suzanne Staiert**  
Deputy Secretary of State

Ms. Maureen Toomey  
Assistant Director  
1300 Broadway  
Suite 240  
Denver, Colorado 80203

*Advisory Opinion 14-10*  
*Request*

April 24, 2014

Re: Request for an Advisory Opinion regarding travel to the Republican National Lawyer Association's National Election Law Seminar by the Secretary of State

Ms. Toomey,

In accordance with the Independent Ethics Commission's (IEC) Rules of Procedure, I am writing to request an advisory opinion from the IEC regarding an upcoming seminar sponsored by the Republican National Lawyer Association (RNLA). The seminar is in August of this year. Specifically, RNLA has invited Scott Gessler, the Colorado Secretary of State and a prominent election-law attorney, to speak at its annual National Election Law Seminar, which has previously been approved Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program designed to train and educate election-law attorneys on recent trends in election law. Accordingly, I write to seek the IEC's opinion on three main questions:

1. Does RNLA's waiver of Secretary Gessler's \$239.00 registration fee and the Secretary's acceptance of travel and lodging accommodations in consideration for speaking at the seminar violate Amendment 41's gift ban?
2. If the registration-fee waiver and the accommodations do not violate the gift ban, is the Secretary required to report the waived fee and accommodations as gifts and honoraria under Colorado law?
3. Does Amendment 41 prohibit me, the Deputy Secretary of State, and other policy staff within the Secretary of State's office, from using state time to prepare briefing packets on election-law policy, draft talking points for the Secretary's presentation, and generally organize his travel for the seminar?

The specifics of the RNLA, the seminar, and the Secretary's planned attendance are included in more detail below.

Additionally, because the IEC has announced it will not meet during the month of May, despite the statement on its website that it "meets once or twice each month," I request that the IEC

consider this request at its April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and issue an opinion no later than its first meeting in June of this year.

Finally, I want to be very clear that I am requesting an advisory opinion for the 2014 RNLA seminar only. This request is in no way related to the *Gessler v. Grossman* matter currently before the Colorado Court of Appeals and the IEC should not deem it related.

### **Specific facts regarding the request**

*The RNLA is a nonprofit organization with a targeted mission of open, fair, and honest elections.*

The RNLA is a nonprofit entity and is registered under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. As specified on its website, the RNLA is the principal national organization of Republican lawyers focused primarily on promoting "open, fair and honest elections at all levels of American society in a non-discriminatory manner and [providing] access to the polls to all qualified and eligible voters." The RNLA is funded in part through membership fees (which are as low as \$10 for law students and can be as high \$300 for "sustaining members") and in part through donations and sponsorships from for-profit entities. For purposes of this request, the IEC should operate on the belief that the RNLA receives more than five percent of its funding from for-profit entities.

*The RNLA's National Election Law Seminar affords election lawyers an opportunity to collaborate on policy issues and share expertise.*

As a nonprofit organization with a focus on fair and honest elections, one of the many important roles of the RNLA is to provide election-law training from pertinent election-law professionals. To this end, the RNLA conducts an annual National Election Law Seminar designed to educate both expert and novice lawyers on what is happening in American elections. Attendees may attain up to 11 hours of CLE credit, including one hour of ethics credit; in the past, the Colorado Supreme Court has approved the seminar for CLE credit. This means that the Supreme Court's Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education found that RNLA election-law seminar is an "educational activity which has as its primary objective the increase of professional competence of registered attorneys and judges."

At the seminar, attorneys receive instruction from top Republican election-law attorneys, former and current state chief election officers, and state party counsels. As you are aware, Secretary Gessler is a top election-law attorney and, as Secretary of State, is Colorado's chief election official, just the type of speaker the RNLA seeks for its election-law seminar.

*If the Secretary were to participate as a speaker at the seminar, the RNLA would provide for travel and lodging accommodations, and would also waive the seminar registration fee.*

As is customary for similar organizations, the RNLA would provide for travel and hotel accommodations should the Secretary speak at its annual seminar. In the recent past, the IEC has viewed similar provisions as reasonable and adequate consideration for the speaker's participation in the conference. In this instance, the Secretary would not only speak at the seminar, but would likely donate several hours to the organization of the seminar. Additionally,

Secretary Gessler would share his policy expertise and leadership experiences with seminar attendees.

Further, it is worth noting that the RNLA would invite the Secretary to speak at and attend the seminar not in his individual or personal capacity but in his capacity as the Secretary of State of Colorado, Colorado's chief election official, and based on his expertise in relevant topics of the seminar. Finally, the IEC should assume for the purposes of this request that the Secretary may consume food and beverages provided by the RNLA while he attends the seminar.

*Due to the seminar's subject matter and the depth of the Secretary's involvement, certain policy personnel on staff at the Secretary of State's office would likely help compile briefing packets and draft the Secretary's comments.*

Because the Colorado Secretary of State is the state's chief election official, many staff members within the office possess in-depth knowledge of state and federal election law. Also, the office employs an executive assistant who, among other duties, maintains the Secretary's calendar. As such, it is likely that state employees would be used in a limited manner to brief the Secretary on election-law issues and to coordinate his schedule for speaking engagements at the RNLA seminar. No state funding will be used to subsidize the RNLA seminar.

*Because the Secretary is currently running for Governor, it is likely that potential campaign donors may attend the seminar and donate to the Secretary's campaign.*

As you know the RNLA is a partisan organization. As such, it is likely that certain attendees may wish to donate to the Secretary's gubernatorial campaign. In fact, the Secretary may likely compile a list of potential donors and seek them out for contributions.

#### **Particular questions for which I seek an advisory opinion**

1. *Does the RNLA's waiver of the seminar's registration fee and does the Secretary's acceptance of travel and lodging accommodations violate Amendment 41's gift ban?*

Section 3 of Amendment 41 states that a public officer may not accept money or any other thing of value over \$53 in a calendar year unless the gift-giver receives lawful consideration of equal or greater value in return from the public officer. Here, the Secretary would receive travel and lodging accommodations and the waiver of a registration fee in consideration for his attendance at and participation in the RNLA's annual election-law seminar. Does the Secretary's acceptance violate Amendment 41's gift ban?

2. *If the registration-fee waiver does not violate the gift ban, is the Secretary required to report the waived fee as gifts and honoraria under Colorado law?*

Section 24-6-203 (3) (d), C.R.S., requires a public officer to disclose any payment received for a speech or appearance. In this instance, the Secretary would receive travel and lodging accommodations for speaking at the RNLA seminar. Under the IEC's expansive definition and application of "other standards of conduct as provided by law," does the gifts and honoraria

disclosure requirement fall within the IEC's jurisdiction and, if so, is the Secretary required to report any consideration he receives from RNLA for his participation in the seminar?

3. *Does Amendment 41 prohibit Secretary of State staff from briefing the Secretary on election-law developments and scheduling his appearance at the seminar?*

The commission has previously found (and then subsequently *not* found) that the use of state staff time to plan and attend a conference is a violation of other standards of conduct; specifically, the IEC has found such use to be a breach of the public trust under section 24-18-103 (1), C.R.S., asserting that using state staffers to plan for a conference is not an allowable expense under state fiscal rules. Despite this early IEC interpretation, the Commission recently dismissed a complaint containing similar allegations. Here, Secretary of State staff will likely brief the Secretary on relevant election-law issues. Additionally, the Secretary's executive assistant will coordinate his schedule for the RNLA seminar. Does this limited use of state staff breach the public trust, thereby falling under "other standards of conduct" within the IEC's expansive jurisdiction?

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. As mentioned above, because the IEC has determined that it is not necessary to meet during the month of May and because the seminar is this August, I request an expedited consideration and response. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.



---

Suzanne Staiert  
Deputy Secretary of State

Suzanne,

Here are some questions that would help in evaluating your advisory opinion request for the Secretary of State ("SOS"):

1. What is the estimated cost of travel, lodging, conference fees and meals which the RNLA will reimburse?
2. Is the SOS making a speech that is part of the planned agenda or is he a member of a panel? How long is his section on the Agenda in terms of speaking time? Can you send me a copy of the Agenda with specific topics and speakers? Can you also send me a copy of the invitation that the SOS received from the RNLA?
3. How many hours do you estimate that the SOS will spend for preparation and in helping out at the Seminar?
4. How many hours do you expect yourself and the Administrative Assistant to contribute to the preparation for the Seminar?
5. Does the SOS pay dues to the RNLA? If so, how much is the annual payment? Do the dues include travel expenses for members to conferences such as the National Election Law Seminar ?

That's it for now. Thank you so much.

Maureen Toomey  
IEC Assistant Director

STATE OF  
COLORADO

Toomey, Maureen &lt;maureen.toomey@state.co.us&gt;

---

**Questions on advisory opinion request**

2 messages

---

**Toomey, Maureen** <maureen.toomey@state.co.us>  
To: Suzanne Staiert <Suzanne.Staiert@sos.state.co.us>

Tue, May 6, 2014 at 3:05 PM


Hi Suzanne,

Attached are some questions on the advisory opinion that you submitted on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Thanks so much,

Maureen Toomey  
IEC Assistant Director

---

 **Questions for Suzanne on Advisory Opinion.docx**  
15K

---

**Suzanne Staiert** <Suzanne.Staiert@sos.state.co.us>  
To: "Toomey, Maureen" <maureen.toomey@state.co.us>

Tue, May 13, 2014 at 3:59 PM

Maureen,

Attached is the invite from the RNLA. I do not have a complete agenda, but there are some examples provided in the text of the invite. His invitation is to speak on a panel. The room rate is \$150. Airfare varies, but is approximately \$250. They have not provided a value to the meals. The Secretary does not pay dues to the RNLA. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Thanks

Suzanne

---

**From:** Toomey, Maureen [mailto:maureen.toomey@state.co.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** Suzanne Staiert  
**Subject:** Questions on advisory opinion request

[Quoted text hidden]

---

 **invite.pdf**  
138K

# REPUBLICAN NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

May 13, 2014



Hon. Scott Gessler  
1700 Broadway, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80290

Randy Evans  
*Chair*

Heather Heidelbaugh  
*Co-Chair*

Craig Burkhardt  
*President*

Larry Levy  
*First Vice-President*

John Ryder  
*Vice-Chair*

David Bowsher  
*Vice-President,  
Judicial Affairs*

Todd Steggerda  
*Vice-President,  
Election Education*

Kimberly Reed  
*Vice-President,  
Finance*

Kevin Hanratty  
*Vice-President,  
Membership*

Joanne Young  
*Vice-President,  
Washington Operations*

George J. Terilliger III  
*Vice-President,  
Programming*

Frank Salinger  
*Vice-President,  
Communications*

Michael B. Thielen  
*Executive Director*

P.O. Box 18965  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (202) 802-0437  
Fax: (202) 747-2873

[www.RNLA.org](http://www.RNLA.org)

Dear Secretary Gessler:

The Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) would like to extend an invitation to you to address our ethics in election law panel at our 2014 National Election Law Seminar at the Venetian Hotel, in Las Vegas, Nevada on August 11 at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of the August 10 and 11 National Election Law Seminar is to orient legal professionals and volunteers to the election law systems utilized in the United States, and the manner in which election integrity can be encouraged and protected. The yearly seminar is professionally taught and eligible for continuing legal education (CLE) from over 20 state bars. Please advise if you would like such credit.

While the agenda and speakers at this year's Seminar are still being finalized, speakers at the Seminar last year included: Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and the co-chairs of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, former Obama for President lawyer Bob Bauer and former Romney for President lawyer Ben Ginsberg, among many others. The RNLA does not offer an honorarium for speeches but can cover hotel and travel costs. We also provide CLE credit.

Attendees of the seminar include leading Republican attorneys from across the country, state party counsels, counsels to members of Congress and congressional committees, Election Assistance Commission attorneys, elected state representatives, national campaign committee counsels, and other leading Republicans and election law practitioners.

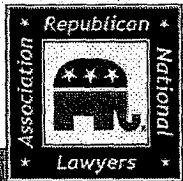
Thank you for considering this invitation. For more information, please have your staff contact the RNLA at (202) 802-0437 or via e-mail at [thielen@republicanlawyer.net](mailto:thielen@republicanlawyer.net). We look forward to hearing from you.

Finest Regards,

Craig Burkhardt  
President

Randy Evans  
Chair

Michael Thielen  
Executive Director



# RNLA

## Republican National Lawyers Association

### The National Bar Association for Republican Lawyers

www.RNLA.org

Advancing Professionalism, Honest Elections,  
Career Opportunity, and Republican Ideals

- ABOUT US
- EVENTS
- NEWS
- FIND A LAWYER
- JOIN US
- BLOG
- SUPPORT US
- MEMBERS ONLY

## Events

### April 2014

4/29/2014 **Conference Call with Senator Charles Grassley** *All Members*  
 2:30 p.m. Eastern  
 Ranking Senate Judiciary Committee Member Charles Grassley will brief RNLA Members.

### May 2014

5/1/2014 RNLA Election Education Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 4:30 pm, Conference Call

5/6/2014 RNLA Executive Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 2:00 pm

### June 2014

6/2/2014 RNLA Executive Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 2:00 pm

### July 2014

7/1/2014 RNLA Executive Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 2:00 pm

### August 2014

8/10/2014 **National Election Law Seminar** *All Members*  
 Noon to 5:00PM, with a reception to follow,  
 The Venetian  
 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. South  
 Las Vegas, NV 89109  
 All you need to know about election law from petitions to campaign finance to recounts at the RNLA's one-of-a-kind annual Seminar. More details soon.

8/11/2014 National Election Law Seminar Day 2 *All Members*  
 Morning TBA to 5 p.m. ,  
 The Venetian  
 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. South  
 Las Vegas, NV 89109  
 Click on Day 1 for more details.

### September 2014

9/2/2014 RNLA Executive Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 2:00 pm  
 Date subject to one week delay.

### October 2014

10/7/2014 RNLA Executive Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 2:00 pm

### November 2014

11/4/2014 Election Day 2014 *Committee Meeting*

11/11/2014 Special Pre-Board RNLA Executive Committee Call *Committee Meeting*  
 2:00 pm

~ Help Our Mission ~

[DONATE NOW](#)

[JOIN US](#)

[VOTE FRAUD NEWS](#)

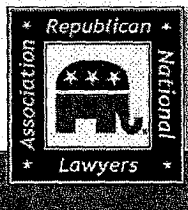
~ Stay Connected With RNLA ~

Find us on Facebook
 Follow us on Twitter
 Connect on LinkedIn

~ How to Contact RNLA ~

Republican National Lawyers Association  
 PO Box 18965  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Email: [info@RepublicanLawyer.net](mailto:info@RepublicanLawyer.net)





# RNLA

Republican National Lawyers Association  
The National Bar Association for Republican Lawyers

www.RNLA.org

Advancing Professionalism, Honest Elections,  
Career Opportunity, and Republican Ideals

[ABOUT US](#) [EVENTS](#) [NEWS](#) [FIND A LAWYER](#) [JOIN US](#) [BLOG](#) [SUPPORT US](#)

[MEMBERS ONLY](#)

## HELP OUR MISSION

[DONATE NOW](#)

[JOIN US](#)

[VOTE FRAUD NEWS](#)

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US

Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter Follow us on LinkedIn Sign up for Email

### National Election Law Seminar

### NATIONAL ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

The 2014 National Election Law Seminar will take place Sunday August 10 and Monday August 11 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Seminar will take place at the world renown Venetian Hotel. Discounted room rates of \$125 will be available to all those who sign up for the Seminar.

The Seminar will be taught by leading election law lawyers and other leading officials. Special guests will include famous Republican as keynote speakers.

[Prev](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [Next](#)

[About Us](#) [Events](#) [News](#) [Find a Lawyer](#) [Join Us](#) [Blog](#) [Support Us](#) [Members Only](#)

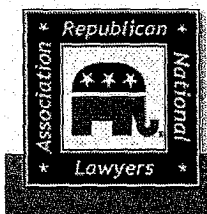
About the RNLA  
Leadership  
Local Contacts

Press Releases  
Vote Fraud News  
Newsletter

By Name or State  
By Practice Area

Become a Member  
Member Benefits

Donate  
Sponsor



# RNLA

## Republican National Lawyers Association

### The National Bar Association for Republican Lawyers

Advancing Professionalism, Honest Elections,  
Career Opportunity, and Republican Ideals

ABOUT US | EVENTS | NEWS | FIND A LAWYER | JOIN US | BLOG | SUPPORT US | MEMBERS ONLY

## Sponsor

### Become a Contributor

Individuals who are members or others who are friends of the RNLA are encouraged to contribute to the RNLA. Proceeds are utilized to fund the current operations of the organization. Special gifts designed to fund specific programs of the association may be arranged by contacting the Executive Director. Individuals do not have to be lawyers to make such donations.

#### \$15,000 Abraham Lincoln Fellow

Those who contribute this amount are recognized among the most dedicated supporters of the RNLA and its missions. Benefits include lifetime membership in RNLA, complimentary admission to all RNLA National Policy Conferences and National Election Law Seminars, and complimentary admission for one couple to the 2017 RNLA inaugural ball. Unless otherwise instructed, you will be permanently recognized on the organization's web site.

#### \$7,500 Ronald Reagan Fellow

Benefits include a lifetime membership in the RNLA, and complimentary admission to all National Policy Conferences. Unless otherwise instructed, you will be permanently recognized on the RNLA web site.

Contributors who donate \$7,500 can make possible a summer internship for a law student through the RNLA. Such interns will assist the RNLA Executive Director and volunteer national officers in the organization and conduct of the National Election Law Seminar, and other lawyer programs. Contributors who desire to make an internship contribution should notify the Executive Director of such intent on or before March 1 of the anticipated calendar year. Contributors become life members of RNLA, and receive a recognition item.

#### \$3,000 RNLA Life Member

Contributors receive a lifetime membership to RNLA and at the Sustaining Member level with the first three years on the RNLA Advisory Council.

#### \$1,000 RNLA Advisory Council

Contributors will be recognized for their unique services and financial support. The Advisory Council entitles a member to special recognition, preferred seating at all RNLA sponsored or invited events and an invitation to special events which will be held throughout the year.

Your contributions can be made via check, on-line credit card transaction or stock gift.

For more information about how to become a contributor to the RNLA, please contact RNLA Executive Director Michael Thielen at 202-802-0437.

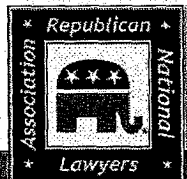
### ~ Help Our Mission ~

### ~ Stay Connected With RNLA ~

### ~ How to Contact RNLA ~

Republican National Lawyers Association  
PO Box 18965  
Washington, DC 20036  
Email: info@RepublicanLawyer.net

<b>About Us</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>News</b>	<b>Find a Lawyer</b>	<b>Join Us</b>	<b>Blog</b>	<b>Support Us</b>	<b>Members Only</b>
About the RNLA Leadership Local Contacts		Press Releases Vote Fraud News Newsletter	By Name or State By Practice Area	Become a Member Member Benefits		Donate Sponsor	



# RNLA

## Republican National Lawyers Association

### The National Bar Association for Republican Lawyers

www.RNLA.org

Advancing Professionalism, Honest Elections,  
Career Opportunity, and Republican Ideals

ABOUT US | EVENTS | NEWS | FIND A LAWYER | JOIN US | BLOG | SUPPORT US

MEMBERS ONLY

## Member Benefits

The Republican National Lawyers Association provides member benefits including services and events. The Professional Development Committee is continually reviewing the list of benefits offered. If you have suggestions for other benefits, please email them to [info@republicanlawyer.net](mailto:info@republicanlawyer.net).

### Membership Levels and Benefits

#### Regular Membership

- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit programming
- Nationwide network of fellow professionals with similar expertise
- Information about assistance opportunities for the Republican Party and its candidates
- Publication of online membership profile
- National and local chapter events
- Career advancement assistance
- A membership discount is available for signing up for two years membership instead of annual membership

#### Contributing Membership

- RNLA pin
- Exclusive and advance invitations to special recognition events
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit programming
- Nationwide network of fellow professionals with similar expertise
- Information about assistance opportunities for the Republican Party and its candidates
- Publication of online membership profile
- National and local chapter events
- Career advancement assistance
- A membership discount is available for signing up for two years membership instead of annual membership

#### Sustaining Membership

- RNLA notepad and pen holder
- RNLA pin
- Special recognition in publications
- Exclusive and advance invitations to special recognition events
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit programming
- Nationwide network of fellow professionals with similar expertise
- Information about assistance opportunities for the Republican Party and its candidates
- Publication of online membership profile with photograph
- National and local chapter events
- Career advancement assistance
- A membership discount is available for signing up for two years membership instead of annual membership

#### Advisory Council Membership


- Complimentary invitations to all fundraisers and special events
- Special briefing with Republican leaders
- RNLA notepad and pen holder
- RNLA pin
- Special recognition in publications
- Exclusive and advance invitations to special recognition events
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit programming
- Nationwide network of fellow professionals with similar expertise
- Information about assistance opportunities for the Republican Party and its candidates
- Publication of online membership profile with photograph
- National and local chapter events
- Career advancement assistance
- A membership discount is available for signing up for two years membership instead of annual membership

#### Lifetime Membership

~ Help Our Mission ~

 [DONATE NOW](#)

 [JOIN US](#)

 [VOTE FRAUD NEWS](#)

~ Stay Connected With RNLA ~



~ How to Contact RNLA ~

Republican National Lawyers Association  
PO Box 18965  
Washington, DC 20036  
Email: [info@RepublicanLawyer.net](mailto:info@RepublicanLawyer.net)

- Sustaining level for life
- Three years on the Advisory Council
- Complimentary invitations to all fundraisers and special events for three years
- Special briefing with Republican leaders
- RNLA notepad and pen holder
- RNLA pin
- Special recognition in publications
- Exclusive and advance invitations to special recognition events
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit programming
- Nationwide network of fellow professionals with similar expertise
- Information about assistance opportunities for the Republican Party and its candidates
- Publication of online membership profile with photograph
- National and local chapter events
- Career advancement assistance
- A membership discount is available for signing up for two years membership instead of annual membership

#### **Law Student Membership**

- Legal educational programming
- Nationwide network of legal professionals belong to various practice areas
- Information about assistance opportunities for the Republican Party and its candidates
- Publication of online membership profile
- National and local chapter events
- Information about career opportunities

#### **Biographic Web Page**

A notable benefit for members is the biographic web page listing on [www.rnla.org](http://www.rnla.org). Each member can list contact information, including links to e-mail addresses and law firm web sites. Up to two pages of prose biographic information follow the contact information. Finally, members choose up to three "practice areas" to designate for professional practice concentration.

These biographic webpages are consulted by potential clients, party officials, prospective employers and even the media. Many members have found new clients and been found by old friends. It is a great resource available to all members.

#### **Events**

The RNLA sponsors two annual national events of program rarity presented by preeminent lawyers, political professionals, diplomats and law professors. All events that are open to the public have discounted rates for members.

#### National Policy Conference

The National Policy Conference, always held in Washington, D.C. in March or April, is a one-day event held on a Friday. A pre-Conference reception is traditionally held the evening before the Conference at a foreign embassy or other place of renown for Contributing and higher level members. The press is invited to cover any and all aspects of the conference. Members must be willing to allow their images to be taped and broadcast by the media, including C-SPAN, which has often broadcast this event.

In the past, the National Policy Conference has included presentations by the Vice President of the United States, leading White House officials; senators; White House counsels; former Attorneys General; Ambassadors; leading staff members from the White House, Republican National Committee, Congress and government agencies; personalities from major Republican Party-oriented think tanks; nationally-known election law practitioners; preeminent litigators of significant political cases; lawyers who lead the national practice departments of major law firms; and RNLA members with national-level credentials within their professional practice areas. For details on this year's conference click [here](#).

The event is scheduled in a manner allowing participants to choose from different program tracks, with multiple sessions taking place simultaneously. Members from outside Washington arrive the evening before, to accommodate the early starting time of the event.

#### National Election Law Seminar

The National Election Law Seminar, always held outside Washington, D.C., is a two-day, two-night event in election years and a one and one-half day event in non-election years held at a conference facility. In contrast to the National Policy Conference, the Election Seminar is a closed event, open only to RNLA members and invited guests. Any other person who desires to attend the Election Seminar must attend with the written permission of. Persons should not arrive at the Election Seminar without pre-registering.

The Election Seminar is designed to orient Republican Party legal professionals and volunteers to the election law systems utilized in the United States to encourage and protect open, fair and honest elections. Emphasis is placed on the need to preserve the rights of voters in a non-discriminatory manner. "Beginner track" topics include petition preparation and circulation, ballot access, objections to the legal sufficiency of petitions, pre-election planning, precinct election procedures, poll watching regulations, election fraud prevention, post-election counting procedures, post-election canvassing board operations, election challenges, and post-election court litigation.

Advanced election law training is also offered to those with a legal background or experience in the professional administration of election activities. This track emphasizes the lawyering strategies and

techniques available to advance and protect ballot access of a candidate (or referendum committee), protect the integrity of the election day process through ethical and effective accessing of law enforcement and judicial authorities, defense or prosecution of post-election recount administrative and judicial cases, the filling of vacancies in public or political offices, the redrawing or consolidation of election precincts, the administration and counting of absentee, military, nursing home and other ballots not normally executed in-precinct, the operations of ballot counting and tabulation equipment, and the organization of non-lawyer volunteers in the provision of election services (such as volunteer assistance in a ballot recount).

All instruction at the National Summer Election Seminar is provided by experienced lawyers, election administration officials, employees of Republican Party entities and others who have national credentials in election law and election operations. Please click here for details on the 2012 Election Law Seminar.

#### Quadrennial Republican National Convention

The Association gathers during the quadrennial conventions of the National Republican Party to conduct *The Lawyers Reception* at the Republican Convention. RNLA members often volunteer with the Republican National Committee chief counsel to serve in convention staff positions, such as legal counsel to the convention committees and legal counsel to the various parliamentary functions of the convention.

#### Lawyers Inaugural Event

The Association hosts an inaugural event after the election of each Republican President. The event is open to members and their guests and held at a time not in conflict with the inaugural balls hosted by the Inaugural Committee.

The 2005 Inaugural event was held as a luncheon on January 19, 2005 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC to celebrate the re-election of the Bush-Cheney national ticket in 2004. Of the Inaugural Luncheon, John Fund wrote in the Wall Street Journal's Political Diary on January 21, 2005 "Amid the inaugural celebrations in Washington, a quiet luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton stood out. The Republican National Lawyers Association may well have contributed as much as anyone to making sure it was George Bush, not John Kerry, who took the oath of office yesterday. . . . At the RNLA lunch this week, former Solicitor General Ted Olson, who as a private lawyer argued George W. Bush's Florida recount case before the Supreme Court in 2000, told the group: 'The strategy of delegitimizing election results didn't work in 2000 and it didn't work in 2004. Anyone who says lawyers don't make a difference in politics doesn't know what the people in this room did.'"

#### Other National Events

Other national events include an Annual Holiday Reception at a foreign Embassy or place of renown in Washington, DC. Other occasional events such as a RNLA Members only White House briefing have occurred in the past. The RNLA seeks to provide its members with the best in value for their membership.

#### Local Chapter Events

Local chapters of the RNLA conduct activities allowing interaction among local members. Networking receptions and trainings for upcoming election activities are typical events. Not all localities have RNLA chapters, and any member is invited to investigate formation of a new chapter by consulting RNLA staff.

Local events, including those organized in Washington, D.C. by the Washington, D.C. Operations Committee, are open to all members and their guests. To view the currently scheduled events click here.

#### Law School Events

Law students are invited to form chapters of the RNLA at their law schools, and are encouraged to follow the formation and program suggestions in the law school chapter operations guide. Law students are invited to participate in all RNLA activities and events. Law school chapters are encouraged to list their events on the Events and Education page by contacting RNLA staff.

#### **Political News**

Web-based news services abound. Therefore, RNLA only provides members narrowly targeted information related to lawyer involvement in Republican politics, news of interest to lawyers such as the latest on the judicial confirmation front, member political and professional accomplishments, and other information from the national capital city that is directly relevant to members.

The quarterly RNLA web newsletter, *The Republican Lawyer*, updates members on RNLA organizational matters, includes articles written by members, and highlights upcoming events. The web site features a daily blog and twitter @TheRepLawyer. Addition news, including opportunities with Republican campaigns, are also sent by email.

#### **Identity Items**

Members can obtain RNLA lapel pins by upgrading their membership level to the Contributing level or higher. Sustaining level and Advisory Council Members receive an annual gift. Past gifts include cardholders, commemorative Republican paper weights, coasters, etc. Advisory Council Members receive an autographed book by a leading Republican or Conservative authors.

#### **National Affiliation**

A member's affiliation with the RNLA is a gift to themselves in recognition of a career of professional accomplishment. It is both a public and professional distinction.



# RNLA

Republican National Lawyers Association  
The National Bar Association for Republican Lawyers

www.RNLA.org

Advancing Professionalism, Honest Elections,  
Career Opportunity, and Republican Ideals

- ABOUT US | EVENTS | NEWS | FIND A LAWYER | JOIN US | BLOG | SUPPORT US | MEMBERS ONLY

## About the RNLA

### Missions of the Republican National Lawyers Association

As the principal national organization of Republican lawyers, the Association has a targeted set of missions - all complementary, and none of which duplicate missions accomplished elsewhere. Each member of the Association and every local chapter must ascribe to the accomplishment of these missions, which include:

- o **Advancing Professionalism.** The RNLA is comprised of lawyers and law students who advance the professionalism of lawyers generally. It gathers Republican lawyers for legal education related to law in political, government, legislative and private firm settings. It provides a nationwide network of fellow professionals by practice area who share expertise.
- o **Advancing Open, Fair and Honest Elections.** The RNLA seeks to promote open, fair and honest elections at all levels of American society in a non-discriminatory manner and to provide access to the polls to all qualified and eligible voters. It provides election law training from preeminent election law professionals. It responds to requests for assistance from the Republican Party and its candidates by communicating the requests to its members.
- o **Advancing Career Opportunity.** The RNLA networks lawyers committed to lives of significant career accomplishment. Its national events allow interaction with lawyers of professional, political and governmental acclaim. It provides an advanced web service allowing members to share professional qualifications with other members and persons seeking professional assistance. It organizes local chapters within which members can seek career advancement assistance.
- o **Advancing Republican Ideals.** The RNLA further builds the Republican Party goals and ideals through a nationwide network of supportive lawyers who understand and directly support Republican policy, agendas and candidates.

### ~ Help Our Mission ~



### ~ Stay Connected With RNLA ~



### ~ How to Contact RNLA ~

Republican National Lawyers Association  
PO Box 18965  
Washington, DC 20036  
Email: info@RepublicanLawyer.net

**About Us**  
About the RNLA  
Leadership  
Local Contacts

#### Events

#### News

Press Releases  
Vote Fraud News  
Newsletter

#### Find a Lawyer

By Name or State  
By Practice Area

#### Join Us

Become a Member  
Member Benefits

#### Blog

#### Support Us

Donate  
Sponsor

#### Members Only