

2026

UPDATES IN HIGHER EDUCATION TAXATION



June 3–4, 2026

 Live Webcast Only

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Times listed are in Central Time

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 3, 2026

Presiding Officer:
Jodi R. Kessler, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

12:30 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

12:40 p.m. 1.25 hrs

Recent Developments in College and University Tax Law

Review recent tax law developments that affect the higher education community, such as Congressional legislation, IRS enforcement measures and pronouncements as well as judicial decisions. Discuss the impact on prevalent tax issues, including unrelated business taxable income, compensation and fringe benefits, charitable contributions, international activities, endowments, and reporting requirements.

Benjamin A. Davidson, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
 Edward J. Jennings, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

1:55 p.m. 5-Minute Break

2:00 p.m. .75 hr

OB3 Sleeper Provisions

In this presentation, the panel walks through the new rules and requirements in OB3 and the less-evident ways they may impact colleges and universities.

Shy Joseph, KPMG LLP, Boston, MA
 Eric Pinsoneault, Smith College, Northampton, MA
 Steven Shaw, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2:45 p.m. 5-Minute Break

2:50 p.m. 1.00 hr

Name, Image, Likeness Updates

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) continues to reshape the legal, tax, and financial landscape of college athletics. This session provides a practical and timely update on NIL developments as they stand in 2026, with a focus on tax treatment, compliance obligations, and emerging institutional risks.

Joel Levenson, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
 TaRonda Randall, Husch Blackwell LLP, Kansas City, MO

3:50 p.m. 5-Minute Break

3:55 p.m. 1.00 hr

A New Landscape of Strategic Alliances: Structuring Transactions with Donors, Faculty, and Commercial Partners

This session uses case studies to examine how universities can structure transactions with donors, faculty, and commercial partners, with an emphasis on tax law compliance and the practical implications of alternative structures. Using real-world scenarios, compare choices among structuring alternatives and discuss protections universities can, and should, build into these arrangements. Topics include preserving tax-exempt status, avoiding private benefit and inurement, managing unrelated business taxable income, navigating the IRS joint venture rules, ensuring compliance with tax-exempt bonds, and IRS Form 990 reporting.

Edward J. Jennings, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
 Erica McReynolds, PwC, Philadelphia, PA
 Kendi Ozmon, Ropes & Gray LLP, Boston, MA

4:55 p.m. Adjourn

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 4, 2026

Presiding Officer:
Kyle R. ZumBerge, The University of Texas - Tax Services, Austin, TX

12:35 p.m. Welcome Back

12:40 p.m. 1.00 hr

Legislative and Policy Updates Impacting Higher Education Taxation

Hear a timely and insightful discussion exploring key legislative developments—both proposed and recently enacted—that are shaping the taxation landscape for higher education institutions in the year ahead.

Richard A. Grafmeyer, Capitol Tax Partners, Washington, DC
 Alexander L. Reid, Baker & Hostetler LLP, Washington, DC

1:40 p.m. 5-Minute Break

1:45 p.m. .50 hr

Bond Issuance Preparedness: New Money and Refundings Done Right

As interest rates and market dynamics continue to shift, issuers and borrowers of tax-exempt bonds must be proactive and strategic in preparing for upcoming financings, whether for new money or refunding. This session offers a practical overview of key considerations and essential documentation for a successful bond issuance. Topics include the importance of accurate arbitrage rebate and private business use calculations for refundings, strategies for planning and timing capital projects, best practices for reimbursement resolutions, and guidance on permitted investments to ensure compliance and flexibility.

Alan Bond, BLX Group, New York, NY
 Cathleen Chang, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Houston, TX
 Christopher Pings, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

2:15 p.m. 5-Minute Break

2:20 p.m. .75 hr

UBI Basics (Jeopardy Edition)

This interactive session provides a practical, foundational overview of Unrelated Business Income (UBI) and Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) as they apply to higher education institutions. Using a Jeopardy-style format, participants will test and build their knowledge of core concepts such as the statutory framework, the three-part UBI test, common university revenue streams, key exceptions and exclusions, and Form 990-T fundamentals.

Susan P. Clark, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
 Andrew J. Gray, Forvis Mazars, Dallas, TX
 Rebecca Menin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

3:05 p.m. 5-Minute Break

**M
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This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 8.00 hours. The University of Texas School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider (#1944), and an Oklahoma Bar Association MCLE presumptively-approved provider (#169).

3:10 p.m.

.75 hr

UBI (Advanced)

This advanced session builds on the foundational overview to examine complex UBIT issues facing higher education institutions, including expense allocation methodologies, expense substantiation, and high-risk technical areas that frequently draw scrutiny. Through practical case studies and discussion of planning considerations, this presentation explores sophisticated compliance challenges and strategic approaches that institutions are confronting in today's enforcement environment.

Amy S. Bellanca, Crowe LLP, Plano, TX
Jackie Daniels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Matthew Shade, Penn State University, University Park, PA

3:55 p.m.

5-Minute Break

4:00 p.m.

1.00 hr

Executive Contracts and 4960 Rules

In negotiating executive compensation agreements for tax-exempt entity executives, this presentation discusses some tax issues that may not come up in for-profit entities, including:

- Most longer-term retirement, reward, or retention programs;
• Executive fringe benefits (housing, cars, tuition-free benefits for family members, life insurance, post-retirement health, country clubs, spousal travel, board travel, security, etc.);
• A possible future separation agreement.

In negotiating a compensation package, an entity needs to keep an eye on how these benefits and payments will "play together" under section 4960 (and for W-2 timing). This may include charting expected increases in pay, the value of benefits, and separation agreements, along with the possible use of various substantial risks of forfeiture structures to help balance the entity's need for retention and incentives and the executive's need to generally feel secure and rewarded.

Susan P. Clark, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Karen Field, RSM US LLP, Washington, DC
Joel Levenson, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Donald Neal Jr., University of Nebraska System, Lincoln, NE

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn

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UT26

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Field of Study: Tax

Delivery Method: Group-Internet

Program Level: Intermediate and Advance

Advanced Preparation: None

Prerequisite: A foundational understanding of federal tax rules applicable to tax-exempt organizations and familiarity with higher-education tax compliance.

Learning Objectives: Identify and evaluate recent legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments affecting tax-exempt higher-education institutions. Explain the new rules and less-apparent compliance implications of OB3 affecting colleges and universities. Identify compliance obligations, risk points, and reporting considerations associated with NIL activities. Assess how forthcoming changes may affect institutional planning, operations, and compliance. Develop strategies to address areas commonly targeted in IRS enforcement.

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LIVE WEBCAST

June 3–4, 2026

KEY DATES

May 29, 2026

Last day for partial refund cancellation
\$50 processing fee applied

June 3, 12:30 p.m., CT

Conference begins

June 4, 2026

Last day to order a printed and shipped course binder
with webcast conference registration.

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