

2025



# 2025 NCRA LEADERSHIP & LEGISLATIVE BOOT CAMP

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Alexandria Old Town, VA

**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2025**

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

- 7-8:30am**                      **Breakfast/Registration**
- 8:30-8:45**                      **Opening Remarks**  
Alexandria, Va. Mayor Alyia Gaskins; NCRA President Keith R. Lemons FAPR, RPR, CRR (Ret.)
- 8:45-10:30am**                **Goals of the 2025 NCRA Leadership & Legislative Boot Camp and objective setting**  
NCRA Executive Director Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC;  
President-Elect Cindy L. Isaacsen, RPR; Board member Carol Naughton, RDR
- 10:30-11:30am**              **Politics 101: "Being a part of the process helps!" (CEU 0.1)**  
NCRA Executive Director Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC
- 11:30-1pm**                      **Lunch provided**
- 1-1:45pm**                      **Advocating Legislative Staff for Judicial Integrity**  
Crafting your message to resonate with staff on the Hill. Former Legislative Director for the U.S. House of Representatives, outside counsel to members of the Virginia General Assembly, and Charlottesville, Va., based attorney Elliott Harding will offer insight for advocating staffers on the Hill. Audience participation will be encouraged.
- 2-4:30pm**                      **Prepping for roleplaying and committee testimony**
- 4:30-4:45pm**                      **Break**
- 4:45-5pm**                      **NCRA Government Relations Update**  
State Government Relations Manager Colin Brehm
- 5-6pm**                      **Subject expert panel with Q&A**
- Political Action Committee (PAC) fundraising, Hanna Pelletier**  
PAC management, political fundraising, and when to leverage campaign contributions.
- Grassroots Organization/Mobilization, Yint Hmu**  
Advocacy organization and mobilization at the local, state, and national levels.
- Advocacy through media, Farahn Morgan**  
Integrating strategic messaging to help support advocating federal and state officials, non-profit organizations, and privately and publicly held businesses.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 7-7:45am**                    **Breakfast**
- 8-9am**                        **Keynote Address – Shannon L. Taylor**  
A respected figure in the realm of criminal justice, Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney Shannon L. Taylor will explore critical themes in her address, including the emergence of Artificial Intelligence in the legal system, the ongoing efforts toward Criminal Justice Reform, and the enduring importance of judicial integrity.
- 9-9:15am**                    **Break**
- 9:15am-1pm**                **Breakout sessions/committee testimony**  
Teams will rotate through various sessions dedicated to lobbying techniques, testifying before legislative committees via roleplaying, and working with elected officials and staff to deliver effective advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels
- 1-2:30pm**                    **Lunch provided**
- 2:30-4:30pm**                **Committee testimony simulation**  
Members will be delivering testimony they crafted with teammates during the working lunch. Prepare to answer questions from NCRA Board members roleplaying as elected officials who may or may not be for judicial integrity – or even know what it is!
- 4:30-4:45pm**                **Break**
- 4:45-6pm**                    **What to expect on Capitol Hill, Q&A**  
NCRA Executive Director Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC; Contracted Lobbyist Will Krieger

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 6:30-7am**                    **Breakfast**
- 7:15am**                        **Meet in lobby at water fountain**
- 7:30am**                        **Depart for Capitol (James A. Garfield Monument circle)**
- 8:15-8:30am**                **Group picture in front of Capitol**  
Use #NCRADC when posting about your visits with members, remember to ask for a group picture inside their office before leaving – staff are usually more than happy to help.
- 8:45am**                        **Groups depart for House and Senate office buildings**  
NCRA is asking that members' attire be business formal for Hill Day, but wearing comfortable shoes is highly recommended. Attendees will see elected officials and staff wearing formal business attire with dress sneakers or even running shoes due to the amount of walking required every day for votes and committee meetings across Capitol Hill.
- 9am-5pm**                    **Hill Day visits**  
Attendees will be grouped according to their state while prioritizing Congressional districts of those present to maximize advocacy efforts as constituents. NCRA has partnered with Washington, D.C., based lobbying firm Farragut Partners to schedule these meetings.
- 5-6:45pm**                    **Hunan Dynasty Reception**
- 6:45-7pm**                    **Depart from Capitol (James A. Garfield Monument circle)**
- 7pm**                            **Return to the Embassy Suites Old Town**

# 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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**Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC**  
Executive Director  
Reston, Virginia

## Speaker biographies, in order of scheduled appearance

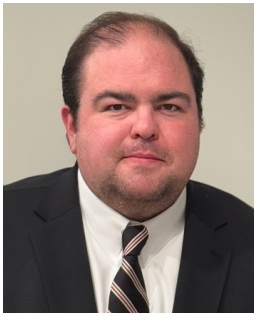


### **Will Krieger**

Junior Partner

Farragut Partners, Washington, D.C.

Will Krieger has nearly a decade of experience in the political arena, working in a multitude of different capacities, from K Street to campaigns. His focuses include legislative, advocacy, and political work and also brings his expertise in the field of coalition and association management.

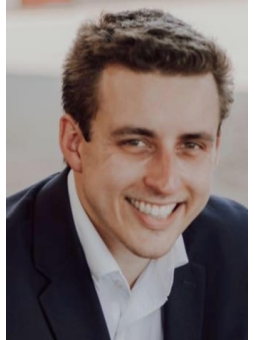


### **Colin Brehm**

State Government Relations Manager

National Court Reporters Association, Reston, VA

Colin Brehm joined NCRA in 2021 and aims to provide the Association's members with effective advocacy. He enjoys reading about American history and collecting political campaign memorabilia. Colin graduated cum laude from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

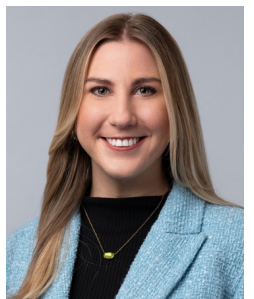


### **Elliott Harding**

Attorney

Harding Law, PLLC, Charlottesville, VA

Elliott Harding is a former legislative director for the U.S. House of Representatives and active trial and appellate litigator in Virginia and in federal courts throughout the country. He serves as outside advisory counsel to several members of the Virginia General Assembly. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and earned his JD from Washington & Lee University School of Law.



### **Hanna Pelletier**

Government Relations and PAC Administrator, ICSC

Hanna Pelletier is a skilled government relations professional specializing in PAC management, political fundraising, and advocacy. In their role as Government Relations Manager at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), Hanna oversees disbursements to Members of Congress, coordinates high-profile PAC events, and drives donor engagement initiatives all over the country. She is an alumni of the University of Maine.



### **Yint Hmu**

Trips Director (N.C.), Harris for President

Yint Hmu is an experienced and versatile political operative with backgrounds in Democratic campaigns and foreign policy. He most recently served as Trips Director for Harris for President in the battleground state of North Carolina. Prior to the 2024 elections, he was the Campaigns Manager at Win Without War, a D.C. based progressive foreign policy advocacy organization.



### **Farahn Morgan**

Communications Consultant

Farahn Morgan is an essayist and journalist living and working in the Appalachian Mountains. She is a contributing writer for County Highway, where she covers Appalachian and Southern culture, the new economy, and the politics of place. For more than a decade, she has worked as a communications consultant, supporting federal and state officials, non-profit organizations, and privately- and publicly held businesses. She is a student of traditional agricultural practices and a lover of the Blue Ridge Mountains.