



119TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



GRAND HYATT
NASHVILLE, TN

APRIL 2-4, 2025



WELCOME

Registration for our 119th Annual Conference is open!

Join us for our **Annual Conference at the Grand Hyatt in Nashville**, where you will hear renowned speakers and industry experts share insights into the latest industry topics and trends, engage in networking opportunities and enjoy time to experience the music and culture of Nashville, Tennessee.

This year's program includes a new **Emerging Leaders Training*** uniquely designed for the next generation of leaders in your organization, along with new workshops addressing the **latest technologies and innovations** in banking, **banking operations**, and **compliance/finance**. We also continue to offer **fantastic opportunities to connect** with fellow attendees, starting with our Welcome Party.

Plus, we've added an extended **Director Training Program*** prior to the start of the conference, which will address the key challenges facing boards today.

The following pages will provide everything you need to know about this year's conference including the program agenda, networking opportunities, registration information, and travel details.

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville!

REGISTRATION

Register online at www.njbankers.com/2025conference.

We encourage you to register as early as possible; register and pay by January 15 to enjoy early bird registration rates (early bird pricing is non-refundable).

If you need hard copies of the registration forms, please contact us: info@njbankers.com.

For full event registration and cancellation information, please refer to NJBankers.com and your confirmation email.

DRESS CODE

For all educational programs, the dress code is business casual.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Annual Conference offers numerous opportunities to build brand awareness, connect with attendees and put your company front and center. Several speaking spots are also available in our new workshops for our service providers. For information on becoming a Conference sponsor please visit NJBankers.com or contact Jenn Zorn at jzorn@njbankers.com.

***Seperate pre-registration required**



EVENT POLICIES

It is NJBankers policy that conference attendees are not allowed to sponsor any functions during the conference, which conflict with a scheduled NJBankers event. This applies to hotel suites, meeting rooms, and any outside activity. Any groups wishing to host additional functions will need approval by NJBankers Director of Business Development. In addition, no printed materials, gifts, etc. may be sent to any guest rooms without the consent of NJBankers Director of Business Development. Associate Members are encouraged to plan group dinners on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings and our conference partner East West Connection (more info below) can assist with arrangements. Refer to the format in the agenda for timing.

CODE OF CONDUCT

NJBankers has a Code of Conduct Policy for any members, guests, and staff attending NJBankers events. The policy covers harassment, alcohol, attendance at event venues without registration, and abuse of membership of any kind. NJBankers members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this policy prior to attending the Annual Conference. Penalties may include but not limited to loss of membership. The policy can be found at NJBankers.com.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

You are encouraged to make your hotel reservations NOW, as we anticipate the hotel to be sold out during our stay. Hotel reservations must be made before Friday, February 21, 2025, to receive the NJBankers sleeping room rate of \$359 per night, plus local and state taxes, single or double occupancy room.

Hotel reservations can be made online at:
<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BNARN/G-NJ25>

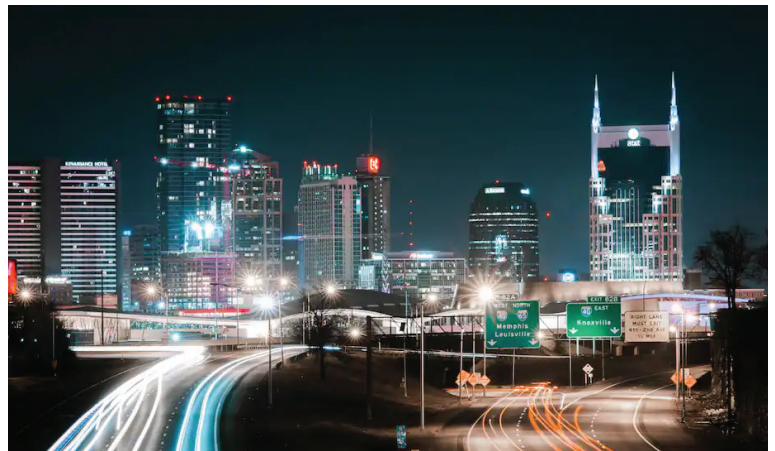
Or by calling 615-622-1234 (please reference NJBankers)



CANCELLATION OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Guests can cancel their rooms without penalty until 48-hours prior to arrival. If they cancel within 48-hours of arrival, or do not show for the reservation, the penalty is one-night of room/tax charges.

Attendees may be responsible for cancelled room charges if NJBankers does not meet its room block obligation.



TRANSPORTATION AND EXCURSION INFORMATION

NJBankers Associate Member, East West Connection, can assist with your travel plans, including ground transportation options, group dinner planning, or access to local excursions. Their offerings include:



- Blend Your Own Bottle Experience for whiskey enthusiasts
- Custom Food Tour with Beer, Bourbon & BBQ
- Chef-Inspired Food & Wine Pairing
- Dinner at The Finch Restaurant or The Palm Nashville Restaurant
- And more

More information is available at <https://cvent.me/WV9q7y>.

Nashville International Airport (BNA) is 9 miles away from the hotel, a 15-minute drive. Conference attendees should make their own airline reservations directly with the carrier or consult their own travel agent. Attendees also must make their own ground transportation arrangements to and from the hotel.

You may also contact the Grand Hyatt Nashville concierge for travel needs at 615-622-1234.

Opportunities Are Knocking Network in Nashville

Director Training Program

April 2, 2025 | 8am to 12pm

Director training is essential for effective governance, ensuring that boards are equipped to lead organizations successfully in a complex and dynamic environment.

The Director Training Program is a one-day event designed to address the key challenges facing boards today. This is an engaging session, focusing on strategic learning and strong leadership development as well as current regulatory issues. Whether you're an experienced director or just starting out, you'll leave with enhanced insights and tools to offer informed, prudent, and independent guidance to bank leadership. In addition to valuable educational content, this program also creates opportunities to connect with fellow directors and regulatory officials.

Presented by



Navigate Complex Regulations **Build Confidence**
Improve Risk Management *Foster Collaboration*
Enhance Governance **Adapt to Industry Trends**

Pre-registration is required to attend Director Training, which is being held prior to the 119th Annual Conference. Reserve your spot today: njbankers.com/2025conference.



2025 CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Pre-Conference Networking Reception

6:00 pm

Dinner on Your Own

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Director Training Program - Pre-registration required

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Premier Exhibitor Set-Up

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Event Registration

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Premier Exhibits Open in General Session

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

General Session

3:00 pm – 3:05 pm

Annual Meeting

3:05 pm – 3:15 pm

President's Address

*Michael P. Affuso, President & CEO,
New Jersey Bankers Association*

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Banking Industry Update

*Rebeca Romero Rainey, President & CEO,
Independent Community Bankers of America*

3:30 pm – 3:35 pm

Excellence in Banking Awards Presentation

3:35 pm – 3:45 pm

Government Relations Update

*Brittany Wheeler, VP/Director of Government Affairs,
New Jersey Bankers Association*

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

**From the Manhattan Project to Artificial Intelligence:
Lessons From Robert Oppenheimer's Life**

Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning Biographer and Journalist

4:30 pm

Closing Remarks

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Welcome Party

*Join us for a "Nashville Nights" themed Welcome Party.
Wear your cowboy boots and get ready to rock out,
Nashville style!*

6:30 pm

Dinner on Your Own

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**NEW! Emerging Leaders Networking Dinner at
Oak Steakhouse - Pre-registration required**

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD

7:30 am – 2:30 pm

Registration Open

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Breakfast & Premier Exhibits in General Session

8:30 am – 10:20 am

General Session

8:30 am – 8:35 am

Welcome

8:35 am – 9:20 am

Banking Industry Strategy - Panel Discussion

Moderated by: *Anthony Latini, CFA, Managing Director,
Investment Banking, Janney*

Panelists: *Edward Dietzler, President and Chief*

Executive Officer, The Bank of Princeton

Anthony Labozzetta, President & CEO, Provident Bank

Elizabeth Magennis, President, ConnectOne Bank

9:20 am – 10:05 am

**Policy Normalization in an Abnormal Economic Cycle
(1 CPE & 1 CLE Credit Apply)**

Dudley Carter, Senior Economist, Market Strategist, Stifel

10:05 am – 10:25 am

**Networking Break with Premier Exhibitors/
Move to Workshops**

10:25 am – 11:25 am

Morning Workshops (attend one of three)

1. Technology
2. Compliance/Finance
3. Banking Operations



11:25 am – 11:30 am

Move to General Session

11:30 am – 1:00pm

General Session Continued

11:30 am – 12:15pm

The Prospects for American Exceptionalism in a Polarized World

Jason Dempsey, Co-Founder and Chief Strategic Officer, Millions of Conversations

12:15 pm – 1:15pm

**Networking Lunch and Speaker Presentation/
Move to Workshops**

12:30 pm – 1:15pm

Executive Challenge: Answer the Call to Rebuild the Lost Trust in our Institutions

Susan J. Stehlik, Clinical Professor, Management Communication Program, New York University, Leonard Stern School of Business

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Networking Break with Premier Exhibitors

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Afternoon Workshops (attend one of three)

- 1. Technology**
- 2. Compliance/Finance**
- 3. Banking Operations**

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Using Communication Strategy to Build Leadership Presence - Emerging Leaders Training
Pre-registration required**

Susan J. Stehlik, Clinical Professor, Management Communication Program, NYU Stern School of Business

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Networking Reception

6:00 pm

Dinner on Your Own

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH

7:30 am – 10:30 am

Registration Open

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Breakfast & Premier Exhibits

8:30 am – 10:30 am

General Session

8:30 am – 8:35 am

Welcome

8:35 am – 9:20 am

**Regulatory Issues in Bank M&A
(1 CPE & 1 CLE Credit Apply)**

*Rob Azarow, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter
James Bergen, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter
Michael Mancusi, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter*

9:20 am – 10:05 am

The Board's Role in CEO and Director Succession

Moderated by: *Alan J. Kaplan, Founder & CEO, Kaplan Partners*

Panelists: *Jim Dunigan, Independent Director, Provident Bank*

James Vaccaro, Chair, President & CEO, Manasquan Bank

10:05 am – 10:10 am

Outgoing Chair Remarks

Patrick L. Ryan, President & CEO, First Bank

10:10 am – 10:15 am

Installation of Officers

10:15 am – 10:20 am

Incoming Chair Remarks

Craig L. Montanaro, President & CEO, Kearny Bank

10:20 am – 10:30 am

Closing Remarks & Premier Exhibit Giveaway

10:30 am

Annual Conference Concludes





PREMIER EXHIBITORS



WORKSHOP SPONSORS

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE



TECHNOLOGY



SUITCASE POLICY

There is a strict policy of "no suitcasing." Strong sales activities and the distribution of literature on the exhibit floor are prohibited for non-exhibitors out of deference to those who are exhibiting. Associate Members are encouraged to exhibit and/or sponsor a workshop to maximize visibility of products and services offered. Thank you for your cooperation.



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