



ICCFA Leadership Summit

October 20 - 22, 2026
The DeSoto | Savannah, GA

Schedule of Events



Monday, October 19

2:30 - **Registration**
5:30 PM *Foyer*

3:30 - **Finance Committee Meeting**
4:45 PM *Lafayette*

5:00 - **Executive Committee Meeting**
6:00 PM *Lafayette*

Tuesday, October 20

9:00 AM - **Registration**
5:00 PM *Foyer*

9:15 - **Board of Directors Meeting**
10:45 AM *Cumberland*

Breakfast will be served.

11:30 AM - **Lunch & Golf Tournament**
5:30 PM *The Club at Savannah Harbor
2 Resort Dr., Savannah, GA 31421*

Enjoy lunch before teeing off at 12:30 PM with fellow attendees at The Club at Savannah Harbor, a renowned Low Country course nestled along the banks of the Savannah and Back Rivers. Former host of the PGA TOUR Champions' Liberty Mutual Insurance Legends of Golf Championship, this scenic course provides the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of friendly competition, networking, and some of Savannah's best views.

Transportation: Complimentary Uber transportation will be provided to and from The Club at Savannah Harbor. Registered golfers will receive the Uber code and transportation details via email prior to the event.

1:00 - **Cocktails & American Prohibition Museum**
4:00 PM ***Old Savannah Distillery***
234 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Savannah, GA 31401

The American Prohibition Museum
209 W. St. Julian Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Enjoy an afternoon of cocktails, history, and connection! We'll begin at Old Savannah Distillery with a hands-on cocktail class, followed by appetizers, networking, and a

cash bar. Then, take a short 12-minute walk to the American Prohibition Museum for a guided tour exploring the fascinating stories of America's Prohibition era.

Museum tours will depart in small groups of 10 at staggered times throughout the afternoon. Tour groups and departure times will be coordinated onsite, and those with later tours are welcome to continue enjoying appetizers, networking, and the cash bar at the Distillery until it's time to head to the museum.

Please meet at the Old Savannah Distillery at 1:00 PM to begin the afternoon tour. The distillery is .36 miles from the hotel via W. Liberty Street, about a 10 minute walk.

6:30 -
8:00 PM

Welcome Reception
Harborview, 15th Floor

Wednesday, October 21

8:15 AM -
5:00 PM

Registration
Foyer

8:30 -
9:00 AM

Welcome Breakfast & Coffee
Foyer

Start your morning with breakfast and coffee from the buffet in the Foyer, then head into the Cumberland Ballroom to enjoy breakfast as we begin the day's program.

9:00 -
10:30 AM

Welcome & The Irwin W. Shipper Legislative Session

*Breakfast continues during the session
Cumberland*



*Mary Beth McGowan, Dykema
Poul Lemasters, Esq., ICCFA General Counsel
Christine Toson, CCE, The Tribute Companies Inc.*



Following welcome remarks, hear the latest government and legal updates affecting the deathcare profession. With the regulatory and legislative landscape continuing to evolve at both the federal and state levels, the ICCFA Government & Legal team will lead an open discussion on current issues, what's on the horizon, and what these developments could mean for your business. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, share challenges from their own states and regions, and join the conversation.

Keynote

10:45 AM –
12:15 PM

Human-Centered AI Strategy: Putting AI to Work Without Losing the Personal Touch

Cumberland



Caleb Gardner, 18 Coffees

Caleb cuts through the AI hype to focus on what matters most for a profession built on personal connection: where these tools can help and where the relationship with families needs to stay firmly in human hands. Explore AI through the intersection of people, process, and technology, and learn how to distinguish between the work AI can support and the moments only a person can hold.

What attendees walk away with:

- A framework for identifying where AI fits within a deathcare operation – and where it does not.
- Practical examples of where AI can make a meaningful impact, including reducing administrative burden.
- A clearer understanding of what AI can take off your team's plate and the moments that must stay human, from difficult family conversations to the calls only a person should make.

Caleb Gardner is a technology strategist and co-founder of 18 Coffees, where he helps organizations successfully navigate digital transformation, AI adoption, and change management. His career spans leadership roles with organizations including President Barack Obama's administration, Bain & Company, and Edelman, as well as consulting for clients such as Bose, Crowe Global, and United Way Worldwide. He also teaches in Loyola University Chicago's Baumhart Scholars MBA program and serves as a faculty affiliate in the Lab for Applied AI, combining research with real-world experience to help leaders implement technology in ways that empower people and drive lasting organizational change.

12:15 –
1:30 PM

Lunch

Foyer

1:30 –
3:00 PM

AI in Practice: Free Your Team for Work That Matters

Cumberland



Caleb Gardner, 18 Coffees

Move from AI strategy to hands-on practice with real, ready-to-use workflows designed for the deathcare profession. Explore how AI can fit into day-to-day operations,

reduce time spent on administrative tasks and routine communications, and free your team to focus more of their time and attention on the families they serve.

What you'll walk away with:

- Practical AI workflows tailored to funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematories.
- Hands-on experience using AI to save time on administrative tasks and routine communications.
- A better understanding of where AI can support your team—and where a person needs to stay in the loop.

3:00 -
3:30 PM

Networking Break

3:30 -
4:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION: When AI Keeps Us Connected: The Promise and Perils of Digital Afterlife

Cumberland

Moderator:

John Bolton, CCE, CCE, CSE, CXE, Park Lawn Corporation, ICCFA President

Panel:

Caleb Gardner, 18 Coffees

Poul Lemasters, Esq., ICCFA General Counsel

Katherine Ivanova, Pantio

Dr. Jason Troyer, Healing Path Cemetery

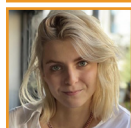
Artificial intelligence is changing how we work—but what happens when it changes how we grieve?

Emerging technologies can use a person's voice, image, memories, messages, and other digital information to create interactive AI avatars that simulate conversations with someone who has died. While these technologies offer new possibilities for remembrance and connection, they also raise complex questions about grief, consent, privacy, ownership, and ethical use.

This multidisciplinary panel will explore the emotional, ethical, legal, and technological implications of AI avatars and consider what these emerging tools could mean for grieving families and the deathcare professionals who serve them.

What you'll walk away with:

- Potential benefits and risks of AI avatars in the grieving and memorialization process.
- Key ethical and legal considerations, including consent, privacy, ownership, and responsible use of a deceased person's digital identity.



- The role deathcare professionals may play in helping families understand and navigate emerging AI-based memorialization technologies.

4:30 -
5:00 PM

Wrap Up & Announcements
Cumberland

- 2026 40 Under 40 Award Winners Recognition
- Educational Foundation Thank You
Gino Merendino

8:00 PM

Ghosts & Gravestones Trolley Tour

Experience Savannah after dark on a 75-minute walking and trolley tour through the city’s haunted history, including stops at the Andrew Low House and Perkins & Sons Ships Chandlery and Warehouse.

Tour Meeting Location:

River Street Depot
301 E. River St., Savannah, GA
Approximately a 15-minute walk from The DeSoto. Look for the “Old Town Trolley Tours” sign.

Group 1 – 8:40 PM Tour

Meet at the River Street Depot by 8:20 PM.

Group 2 – 9:00 PM Tour

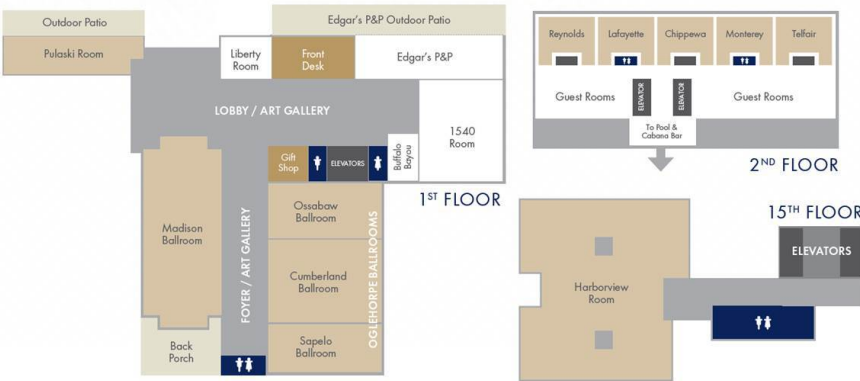
Meet at the River Street Depot by 8:40 PM.

Your assigned tour group and these meeting instructions will be emailed to you prior to the Summit.

Thursday, October 22

Travel Day

Floor Plan



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BLACK DIAMOND



DIAMOND



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PLATINUM



GOLD



REGISTER NOW!

DEADTalks

EVOLVE

PARK MGM LAS VEGAS | LAS VEGAS, NV
JANUARY 26 - 28, 2027



"I think that this is one of the best educational meetings that anyone in this business should be attending. The speakers were all terrific and they make it a fun learning experience."

Diana G., 2026 attendee



Learn more at iccf.com/sales

SAVE THE DATE



**COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER
DENVER, CO | APRIL 14 – 16, 2027**



Learn more at
iccfa.com/annual



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