



California Retail Law Summit Recap

The California Retail Law Summit, hosted by the California Retailers Association (CRA) and the National Retail Federation (NRF), brought together retail leaders, legal experts, and policymakers for a three-day deep dive into California's ever-evolving legal and regulatory landscape. Held at the Meritage Resort in Napa, the summit opened with a welcome dinner in the resort's wine cave, offering attendees a rare opportunity to connect directly with members of the California Legislature in a relaxed, personal setting. This intimate environment fostered open dialogue and laid the groundwork for productive conversations throughout the event.

Panel discussions covered a wide range of timely topics, including environmental compliance (SB 54, SB 707, SB 253, SB 261, AB 1305), PFAS and greenwashing risks, dynamic pricing, and privacy and AI regulation. Assemblymembers Josh Hoover and Tina McKinnor joined Doug Kobold of the California Product Stewardship Council to discuss EPR laws, while Senator Roger Niello and Assemblymember Chris Ward weighed in on pricing transparency. Legal experts such as Trent Norris (Hogan Lovells), Stephanie Sheridan (Benesch), and Tom Kemp (California Privacy Protection Agency) provided practical guidance on litigation trends and compliance strategies. A standout lunch conversation with CalRecycle Director Zoe Heller and CRA President Rachel Michelin highlighted opportunities for collaboration on sustainability.

Workforce mandates and employment law were also front and center, with Rachel Conn (Conn Maciel Carey LLP) and Assemblymembers Ali Macedo, David Tangipa, and José Luis Solache Jr. discussing SB 553 and heat illness standards. Experts from Hunton Andrews Kurth and Nordstrom shared strategies for navigating California's labor environment, while Ashley Hoffman (CalChamber) and Sarah Boot (Boot Advocacy) led a session on PAGA and CIPA reforms. The summit concluded with a candid panel featuring attorney-legislators, Assemblymembers Nick Schultz and Diane Papan, who shared how their legal backgrounds shape their approach to policymaking.

Throughout the event, attendees engaged in meaningful discussions, built valuable relationships, and left better equipped to navigate California's complex legal retail environment. We're proud to have hosted such an engaging and impactful event and thank all those who were able to attend.