Hot Topics in Real Estate 2026

November 6, 2026 – A Virtual CLE Event

Total Credits: 5 General, 1 Dual

The annual Hot Topics in Real Estate, produced in cooperation with the Tennessee Land Title Association, is a staple for Tennessee dirt lawyers. Presented virtually on Friday, Nov. 6, this program is designed to keep you on the cutting edge of developments in your practice. Topics will include legislative and case law updates, fraud, landlord/tenant issues, and a session on the new 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act. Don't miss this yearly favorite!

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CT	**Internal Controls and System Management** *Wire fraud usually starts well before the wire, often with a single compromised email account. This session walks through how today's phishing and business email compromise attacks unfold against title companies and closing attorneys, drawing on real incidents from across the title industry. Attendees will learn the technical controls and system safeguards that help protect against these attacks, from email and account security to device controls and phishing awareness training, and how to tell whether their own office has them in place.* Victor Dennis, Victory Technology
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	**The ROAD to Housing Act: What the New Federal Housing Law Means for Tennessee Real Estate** *Congress enacted the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, the largest federal housing law in decades, in July 2026. This session covers what matters for Tennessee title and real estate practitioners, including the institutional investor purchase ban, manufactured housing reforms, FHA changes, and key implementation deadlines ahead.* Mark Dickemann, American Land Title Association
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	**Break**
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. DUAL	**Compromised Before Closing** *This course explores how modern real estate transactions have become prime targets for cyber fraud, and what that means for professionals responsible for safeguarding funds and clients. Through real-world scenarios and recent case law, participants will examine how fraudsters exploit speed, remote transactions, trust relationships, and evolving technology – including phishing, account takeovers, and MFA fatigue – to infiltrate deals. The program also highlights a critical shift in legal and ethical expectations, where liability increasingly depends on who could have prevented the loss, not just who caused it. Attendees will gain*

practical insights into strengthening processes, identifying vulnerabilities, and adopting defensible practices that align with today's risk landscape.
Sarah Frano, First American Title

12:15 – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch Break**

12:45 – 1:15 p.m. **Politics & Government in Real Estate**
This session will provide a review of bills considered and/or passed as legislation in the 2026 session of the Tennessee General Assembly. It will also include the legislative update and outlook for the 2027 session.
Chuck Welch, Phelps Dunbar

1:15 – 2:15 p.m. **2026 Case Law Update**
An overview of recent case law updates in Tennessee related to real estate and title insurance to provide the practitioner with insight as to current trends or recent changes in Tennessee as it relates to real property.
Al Frazier, Fidelity National Financial Title Group

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Break**

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **ALTA 49 Endorsements: The 2nd Best Way to Mitigate Losses from Deed Fraud**
This session will discuss the scope of the current Deed Fraud epidemic and the Title Industry's response to it. Additionally, it will cover:

- *What the ALTA 49 Endorsements cover, and more importantly, what they don't.*
- *What do they cost, and what are the expected underwriting requirements?*
- *Do they constitute an Opportunity or a Liability for title agency owners?*

Gene McCullough, Title Experts and Management Services

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Tennessee Leasing Law: Residential and Commercial Fundamentals**
This session provides a practical overview of leasing law in Tennessee, covering both residential and commercial leases. Topics include the Tennessee Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, key lease provisions, and common issues that arise for landlords and tenants. Suitable for attorneys new to the practice area as well as those looking for a refresher.
Hannah-Claire Boggess, Chambliss
Melani LaMar, Chambliss