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## The Persistent Driver Shortage: Innovative Ideas and Legal Issues Every Carrier Should Know About

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January 22, 2026

Transportation Lawyers Association Regional Seminar

The 2026 Chicago Regional program features timely topics that are of interest to attorneys practicing all modes of transportation law. Topics have been chosen based on suggestions received from past attendees as well as recent developments in the law that affect the transportation industry and the practices of all transportation lawyers.

We invite you to attend the educational program listed below where Shareholder and Transportation, Logistics & Supplies Practice Group Lead Christopher Merrick will be a moderator.

### The Persistent Driver Shortage: Innovative Ideas and Legal Issues Every Carrier Should Know About

#### ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

The American Trucking Association estimates that the trucking industry has a shortage of approximately 60,000 - 80,000 qualified drivers. It predicts that the shortage could surpass 160,000 by the end of the decade. This panel will explore differing opinions on the causes (and even existence) of the shortage, as well as emerging legal and regulatory issues that impact driver recruitment and retention. The panel will also include a discussion of best practices and technologies that help get drivers seated and keep them happy.

#### SPEAKERS

Moderator: **Christopher Merrick**, Shareholder and Transportation, Logistics & Supplies Practice Group Lead, Flaster Greenberg

- **Andrew Poliakoff**, Executive Director, Commercial Vehicle Training Association, Alexandria, VA
- **Matthew Leffler**, Managing Partner of Armchair Attorney, LLC, Adjunct Professor of Supply Chain Law at Michigan State University, and host of the Armchair Attorney podcast, Saint Charles, Illinois
- **Steve Keppler**, Scopelitis Transportation Consulting, Arlington, VA

#### TIME & DATE

Friday, January 23 | 1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Learn more about this conference and/or register here.

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**ATTORNEYS MENTIONED**

Christopher Merrick