

SEPTEMBER 16–18, 2026

AMERIND TRIBAL RISK & INSURANCE CONVENING

Sheraton Puerto Rico Resort | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



Agenda

Subject to Change, 7/2/26

Tuesday – September 15, 2026

Time	Event
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Attendee Registration
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Move-in

Wednesday – September 16, 2026

Time	Event
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Attendee Registration
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Open
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION Keynote: Christian Wassana Motivational Speaker, Filmmaker and Founder of I Am, I Can, I Will
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Block 1 - Breakout Sessions
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	
Finance	Finance Reimagined: AI, Automation & Innovation Presenter(s): James Davis, Larson & Company, PC

Legal	From Complaint to Closure: A Tribal Insured's Guide to Legal Claims and Litigation Presenter(s): Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC
Technology	Ransomware Preparedness and Recovery Presenters(s): Tokio Marine HCC
Leadership	Wildland Urban Interface Risk in Tribal Communities: Practical Steps to Improve Resilience and Reduce Loss Presenter(s): Donna Settle, Gallagher
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Block 2 - Breakout Sessions
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation
Finance	No Surprises: Preparing for a Successful Audit Presenter(s): James Davis, Larson & Company PC
Human Resources	Anatomy of a Workers' Compensation Claim Presenter(s): Pattie Perez, AMERIND
Legal	Tribal Sovereignty, Preference, and Laws to be aware of when working with a Tribal Nation Presenter(s): Azadeh J. Tavakoli, NNAHRA Foundation
Tribal Development	Tribal Grants - What We See Now and the Future Presenter(s): Felix McGowan
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Block 3 - Breakout Sessions
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	Insurance Market and Risk Trends Affecting Tribes Presenter(s): Derek Wortman, Guy Carpenter
Human Resources	The High Cost of Delayed Reporting in Workers' Compensation Presenter(s): Mike Melchoir, AMERIND & Charles Kolakovich, Tulalip Resort Casino
Leadership	Resilient Leadership Presenter(s): Niki Ramirez, HR Answers
Legal	The Claimant Has a Lawyer; Should You? Managing Liability, Litigation Risk & Escalation Decisions

	Presenter(s): Yanira Chevere, AMERIND and Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC
Tribal Development	From Grant Opportunity to Community Resilience: Building Grant-Ready Tribal Projects for Long-Term Success Presenter(s): Keith Weber, President, The Civicus Group
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	AMERIND Regional Caucus Meetings
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Thursday - September 17, 2026

Time	Event
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Attendee Registration
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	AMERIND Member Business Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Breakout Sessions - Block 4
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	Too Many Risks, Not Enough Resources: How Tribal Communities Decide What to Fix First Presenter(s): Donna Settle, Gallagher
Human Resources	The Hidden Claims File: How HR Decisions Drive Risk and How to Stop the Bleeding Presenter(s): Austin Dingleline, AMERIND
Finance	Human Resources, Banking, Insurance, and Cannabis: How Tribes are Leading in Health and Economic Development During the Historic Rescheduling of Marijuana
Legal	The Do's and Don'ts of Liability: What Every Tribal Leader Needs to Know Presenter(s): Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC
Technology (Panel Session)	From Disruption to Recovery: Business Leaders Share Their Cyber Incident Journeys

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions - Block 5
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	From Crisis to Recovery: The Art and Science of Property Restoration Presenter(s): Patrick Archuleta, Archuleta Restoration
Legal	The Next American Indian Frontier: Indigenous Commerce by Exercising Indigenous Sovereignty Presenter(s): David Kylo, Esq., Kylo Consulting, Joshua Jay Kanassateg, Esq. (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe)
Human Resources	Benefits: High Level Discussion Regarding Common Benefits Specific to Indian Country and Increasing Employee Engagement Presenter(s): Azadeh J. Tavakoli, NNAHRA Foundation
Leadership	Disaster, Recovery and Resilience
Tribal Development (Panel Session)	Energy Sovereignty - Power Independence Panel Moderator: Felix McGowan Panelist: Scott Davis, COLUSA Energy and Kirby Smith, Blue Ocean LLC
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout Session - Block 6
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	When Small Fires Become Big Losses: How Fire Protection Capability Drives Outcomes in Tribal Communities Presenter(s): Donna Settle, Gallagher
Human Resources	From Injury to Recovery and Building a Return-to-Work Program That Actually Works Mike Melchoir, AMERIND and Charles Kolakovich, Tulalip Resort Casino
Legal (Panel Session)	Legal Minds at Work: Insights from the Front Lines of Litigation Panel Moderator: Alan Romero, AMERIND Panelist: Lt. Governor Hershal Gorham, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC
Technology	AI and Emerging Technology Speaker(s): Tokio Marine HCC
Housing	Alternative Funding for Housing Entities Presenter(s): Rudy Soto, National American Indian Housing Council

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Breakout Session - Block 7
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	Inside the Claim: What Every Property Owner Should Know About the Recovery Process Presenter(s): Heather Fellows & George Fellows, AMERIND
Human Resources	The Future of Health Care, Cannabis, and Insurance
Finance	
Leadership	Why Does AMERIND Buy Reinsurance? Presenter(s): Derek Wortman, Guy Carpenter
Housing	New Homeowners Insurance: What You Need to Know and How to Get It
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Move Out
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	AMERIND'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Coca-Cola Music Hall

Friday - September 18, 2026

Time	Event
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions - Block 8
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management	Disaster, Recovery and Resilience (Repeated)
Human Resources	Anatomy of a Workers' Compensation Claim (Repeated) Presenter(s): Pattie Perez, AMERIND
Leadership	Member Retention and Recruitment Plan Presenter(s): Derek Valdo, AMERIND
Housing	
Tribal Development	Tribal Grants - What We See Now and the Future (Repeated) Presenter(s): Felix McGowan, AMERIND
10:30 a.m.	ATRIC Wrap-Up