By constitutional provision, each house of the legislature is the judge of its members’ election, qualifications and returns. But what do you do when there’s a challenge to seating a member? Hear from parliamentary officers and legal staff who have navigated these challenges and the various options they considered.

Agenda

7:30 – 8:25 am  Speakers’ Remarks

• Sharon Eubanks, Colorado General Assembly
  Douglas Himes, Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance
  Butch Speer, Louisiana State Legislature

8:25 – 8:45 am  Questions from the Audience
Speaker Bios

Sharon Eubanks, Director, Colorado Office of Legislative Legal Services

Sharon Eubanks is the Director of the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS), the non-partisan, in-house counsel for the Colorado General Assembly. She began her career as a legislative attorney in 1983 and has worked for the OLLS since 1986, primarily in the areas of state and local government, fiscal policy and taxation, infrastructure, school finance, appropriations, ethics, and legislative procedures. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Wyoming and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

Doug Himes, Ethics Counsel, Tennessee House of Representatives

Born in Pennsylvania and raised in Utah, Doug Himes has resided in Tennessee for over thirty years. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lambuth College, a Diploma in Arts (Mediaeval History) from the University of St. Andrews, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. Doug began his career with the Tennessee General Assembly in 1992 as a legislative intern and is currently Ethics Counsel for the Tennessee House of Representatives. With NCSL, Doug has served as chair of the Legal Services Staff Section and staff co-chair of the Redistricting and Elections Task Force.

William M. MaGill, Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives

William M. MaGill is the elected Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives. He has held this position since 2015 and has worked in the Office of the Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives since 2003. He also serves the House of Representatives as the Chief Parliamentarian.

Mr. MaGill has served as the Associate Vice-President of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and currently serves on the Executive Committee as the Elected Principal. He is also a member of the Mason’s Manual Commission.

Mr. MaGill is a 1998 graduate of Mississippi State University and a 2001 graduate of Vermont Law School.

Alfred W. Speer, Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives

Alfred W. Speer is the elected (nine term and soon to be former) Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives, having held this position since March of 1984. He also serves the House of Representatives as its parliamentarian and General Counsel.

Mr. Speer has served as the President of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and as Staff Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He currently serves as Chairman of the Mason’s Manual Commission, a group of his fellow Clerks and Secretaries commissioned to standardize the editing and updating of the premier parliamentary manual for state legislatures.

Mr. Speer is a 1974 graduate of L.S.U. (Phi Kappa Phi) and a 1976 graduate of the Paul M. Hebert School of Law, where he was Order of the Coif and a note contributor to the LSU Law Review. Currently he limits his law practice to representation of the House of Representatives.