Balancing unencumbered legislative deliberations with more open government is an ongoing struggle. Constitutional speech and debate clauses protect legislator—and to a more limited extent, staff—communications. Yet in some cases, the courts have narrowed this legislative privilege. What has happened in recent cases and how are legislatures working to protect the legislative process?

**Agenda**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Speaker’s Remarks

- Eric Silvia, Senate Counsel at Minnesota Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis

  1. Origin of legislative immunity;
  2. What are legislative acts;
  3. What are NOT legislative acts; and
  4. Use of immunity.

2:00 – 2:15 p.m. Questions from the Audience

**Speaker Bio**

**Eric S. Silvia, Senate Counsel, Minnesota**

Eric S. Silvia serves as Senate Counsel in the office of Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis, a nonpartisan office of the Minnesota Senate. Eric is Counsel to the Committee on Taxes and its Tax Reform Division where he specializes in property taxes, local government aid and local development. Eric also studies the doctrine of legislative immunity, and he recently drafted an update to *Legislative Immunity in Minnesota*, a treatise concerning legislative immunity in state legislatures. Prior to joining Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis in 2012, Eric served as an Assistant County Attorney. Eric is a graduate of William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, MN. Eric is licensed in Minnesota and Massachusetts.