



WE'RE OFF TO THE CREDIT RACES!

2026 REGIONAL MEETINGS CHICAGO: WINDY CITY WINNER

Meeting Agenda

The Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Boulevard
Itasca, IL 60143

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2026

PRICING:
\$199 members
(Two coupons per company are valid)
\$398 nonmembers

THURSDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2026

CHICAGO SPEAKERS

- *Conrad Ragan, Director, Corporate Restructuring, Alvarez & Marsal*
- *Rich Newman, Managing Director, UCC Practice Co-Chair, Alvarez & Marsal*
- *Staci Cima, CCE, Director of Credit, Echo Electric*
- *Brittany Acone CBA, CICP, Seaboard International Forest Products*
- *Erica White, CCE, Ferguson*
- *Caroline Perkins, CCE, Mickey Thompson Tires*
- *Thomas Fawkes, Partner, Tucker Ellis LLP*
- *Brian Jackiw, Partner, Tucker Ellis LLP*

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POST TIME: Thursday, April 23rd, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CT



9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Opening Remarks – Phil Lattanzio

**9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Risk Profile Deep Dive: Key Trends Shaping Future Outlook**

Conrad Ragan, Director, Corporate Restructuring, Alvarez & Marsal; Rich Newman, Managing Director, UCC Practice Co-Chair, Alvarez & Marsal

As economic volatility persists and pressure mounts across supply chains, credit, and consumer sentiment, understanding your risk exposure in real time is more critical than ever. In this session, experts from Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) will dissect the evolving 2026 risk landscape — highlighting the macroeconomic signals, sector-specific stress points, and behavioral shifts that should be on every finance leader's radar.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Break

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Change Management with a Technology Twist**
Staci Cima, CCE, Director of Credit, Echo Electric

Change is inevitable—but success is not. In today's fast moving business environment, organizations are under constant pressure to transform while keeping operations running, cash flowing, and people engaged. This session explores what change management really looks like when technology and automation are introduced into mission critical functions like credit, order to cash, and finance. Drawing on real world experiences, this session goes beyond theory to address the human, operational, and technological realities of transformation. Attendees will hear practical "war stories" that highlight why even well planned initiatives can struggle—and what separates successful change from stalled adoption. The discussion will cover common barriers such as fear, resistance, communication overload, and competing priorities, as well as proven strategies to overcome them.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Strategic Credit Leadership: Claiming Your Seat with the C-Suite

Brittany Acone CBA, CICP, Seaboard International Forest Products; Erica White, CCE, Ferguson; Caroline Perkins, CCE, Mickey Thompson Tires

We will explore why credit teams deserve a strategic voice along the C-Suite and how their insights directly influence growth, risk management, and long-term profitability. The presenters will walk through practical steps credit managers can take to elevate their role – from leveraging data to demonstrate impact, to building cross-functional partnerships that position credit as a proactive business driver. Together, we'll outline a clear path for transforming credit from a back-office function into a strategic powerhouse.

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Understanding State Laws: Must-Have Tools and Resources for Credit Managers

Thomas Fawkes, Partner, Tucker Ellis LLP; Brian Jackiv, Partner, Tucker Ellis LLP

In the ever-evolving landscape of credit management, staying informed about state laws is crucial for compliance and effective decision-making. This session offers credit managers valuable and essential tools and resources tailored to understanding state-specific regulations. Whether you're managing collections, assessing risk, or ensuring compliance, you will be equipped with the expertise and knowledge to make informed choices that align with legal requirements and best practices in credit management.

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting and Reception

CEU points and CCE recertification points are available for all educational sessions. While registering online, you will have the opportunity to choose your payment method. We are happy to take a credit card online or invoice you. You will also have the opportunity to apply coupons as allowed.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be received in writing, via email or mail no later than two weeks prior to the meeting date to qualify for a full refund.

Cancellations received later than two weeks prior to the meeting date DO NOT qualify for a refund of registration fees. Substitutions are allowed. Sorry, phone cancellations cannot be honored.