

2026 Midwest Deal Summit

May 27-28, 2026 | Chicago, IL



AGENDA 25 MAY 2026

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

- 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Conference Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Open Meeting Networking with Lunch**
Plan ahead and make the most of your time! Use the Conference App to schedule meetings and connect at designated networking tables. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and a light lunch while building meaningful relationships that matter.
- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **DEALINX - A Unique Deal Sourcing Event with Lunch**
DealInX is our industry's premier deal sourcing event facilitating pre-arranged, one-one-one meetings between investment bankers and fund managers. Using SBIA's successful pre-screening model, both sell-side and buy-side investment bankers are welcome to participate. This is the most efficient opportunity to find and begin your next deal. A light lunch will be available.
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **WINC Color Style Consultation**
Join us for a curated lunch and an engaging style consultation led by Katie Schuppler, founder of KS Style Consulting. In this interactive 90-minute presentation, Katie will share practical, confidence-building guidance on personal style and color, designed to help attendees refine their professional presence with ease. Participants will enjoy lunch while gaining expert insights—and have the opportunity to purchase custom color swatches tailored to them. This session offers a smart blend of learning, networking, and personal investment in looking and feeling your best. *(By invitation and with registration, please.)*
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Welcome, Sponsor Recognition and Association Update**
A warm welcome and special thanks to our sponsors from the regional Council Chair.
Brian Boorstein, Co-Founder & Partner, Granite Creek Capital Partners Midwest Regional Council Chair
Brett Palmer, President, Small Business Investor Alliance
- 2:45 – 3:30 p.m. **Inside the SBIC Program: Licensing, Portfolio Management and Oversight**
News and updates from key OII department chiefs. A candid discussion led by the OII's Associate Administrator.
Josh Carter, Associate Administrator, Moderator
Michael Donadieu, Director of Examinations
Paul Salgado, Director of Portfolio Management
Art Spivey, Director of Licensing and Operations
Office of Investment and Innovation, U.S. Small Business Administration

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- 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Networking Break**
Refuel during this intermission between sessions.
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Policy Impacting Private Equity and Venture Investing: Current and Prospective**
Private equity continues to operate in a fast-moving policy environment. In this session, Carta's Policy Counsel—whose background includes years of shaping Federal financial and capital-markets policy on Capitol Hill—will break down the latest legislative and regulatory shifts you need to know.
Holli Heiles Pandol, Senior Counsel & Head of Policy, Carta
Tonnie Wybensinger, Chief Advocacy Officer, Small Business Investor Alliance
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Life is Better with Beer – Networking Reception**
Savor a mix of Midwest brews and delicious hors d'oeuvres while catching up with colleagues, sparking new conversations and finding new deals.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

- 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Conference Registration**
- 7:00 –9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast**
Begin your day with a hearty breakfast and enjoy connecting with your fellow colleagues.
- 7:20 – 11:20 a.m. **DEALINX - A Unique Deal Sourcing Event**
DeaLinx is our industry's premier deal sourcing event facilitating pre-arranged, one-one-one meetings between investment bankers and fund managers. Using SBIA's successful pre-screening model, both sell-side and buy-side investment bankers are welcome to participate. This is the most efficient opportunity to find and begin your next deal.
- 7:20 – 11:20 a.m. **Open Meeting Networking**
Plan ahead and make the most of your time! Use the Conference App to schedule meetings and connect at designated networking tables.
- 7:30 –9:00 a.m. **Lawyers and Accountants Policy Breakfast**
Policy-talk for our industry's lawyers and accountants.
Justin Pelletier, Head of Government Relations, Small Business Investor Alliance
Art Spivey, Director of Licensing and Operations, Office of Investment and Innovation, U.S. Small Business Administration
(By invitation, please.)

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- 9:00 – 9:05 a.m. **Welcome Back**
*Brian Boorstein, Co-Founder & Partner, Granite Creek Capital Partners
Midwest Regional Council Chair*
- 9:05 – 10:00 a.m. **And the Survey Says—Independent Sponsor Performance Returns Highlights**
A data-driven look at the Independent Sponsor model, featuring highlights from a groundbreaking study that quantifies performance metrics and tracks the growth of this expanding asset class.
*Stephanie McAlaine, Executive Director, Independent Sponsor Forum, Moderator
Max DeZara, Founder and Managing Partner, Akoya Capital
Grant Kornman, Partner, Align Collaborate*
- 10:00-10:45 a.m. **Networking Break**
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. **Today’s Market: Optimism and Confidence Fuels Some Momentum**
A clear-eyed conversation about today’s deal environment — from frothy market dynamics and emerging friction points to the segments proving more resilient, including how LMM and MM activity are diverging. The session will unpack where deals are stalling, how teams are overcoming execution challenges, and what it now takes to get transactions across the finish line. The discussion will assess the influence of private credit — distinguishing real impacts from perceived ones — and what these forces signal for the evolving deal landscape.
*Erik Dykema, Partner, Lineage Capital LLC, Moderator
Ron Miller, Managing Director and Head, CIBC U.S. Middle Market Investment Banking
Jim Owen, Managing Director, BaseRock Partners
Rob von Furth, Managing Director, Armory Securities LLC
Brooke Wahl, Managing Director, HNS Partners*
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Networking Luncheon**
No formalities, just valuable networking with colleagues and enjoying a light lunch.
- 1:00 p.m. **Conference Adjourns**