

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## AI, DATA AND STABLECOINS

**CHICAGO**  
**JUNE 18, 2026**

### TIME (CDT)

### DRAFT AGENDA FOR JUNE 18TH

8:00 – 8:45 AM

#### REGISTRATION OPENS

(Coffee and Tea Served)

8:45 – 9:00 AM

#### WELCOME

**Erik Vander Kolk**  
*CEO*  
*Banking Exchange*

9:00 – 9:40 AM

#### PANEL: THE INTERSECTION OF AI, DATA, AND BUSINESS STRATEGY

Panelists include:

**Jamie Warder**  
*Chief Information and Digital Officer*  
*Alliant Credit Union*  
*Board Member*  
*Titan AI*

**Abigail Doolittle**  
*Head of Enterprise AI and Analytics*  
*KeyBank*

**Olga Kupriyanova**  
*Director, AI and Data Engineering*  
*ISG*

9:40 – 10:10 AM

#### KEYNOTE: AI AND THE DAWN OF PROGRAMMABLE BANKING

With the rise of AI-driven automation and real-time data flows, financial institutions must be prepared to interact directly with the AI agents and proprietary software programs that their commercial clients have already embedded within their organizations. This session will dive into how financial institutions can prepare and manage this coming wave of change.

Speaker:

**Girish Mutreja**  
*President & Co-Founder*  
*Paywhere*

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10:10 – 10:50 AM

**PANEL: THE AI JOURNEY — ADVANCING FROM PILOTS TO ADOPTION**

As financial institutions start to embed AI into their daily work, which use cases are getting the green light to scale across the organization? From an operational perspective, what steps are involved in the process? What hurdles became apparent along the way and how were those resolved? How did executives choose which projects to move forward with? Which ones did not make the cut and why?

**Moderator:**

**Xiaochen Zhang**  
*Founder and Executive Director*  
**AI 2030**

**Panelists include:**

**Tiffany Gradzki**  
*VP, Digital Assets and Financial Markets, North America*  
**Northern Trust**

**Anitha Yeddula**  
*Senior Director of Application Development*  
**Capital One**

10:50 – 11:10 AM

**COFFEE BREAK**

11:10 – 11:40 AM

**KEYNOTE: PAYMENT MODERNIZATION: PREPARING FOR STABLECOINS**

Instead of the “what” and “why,” this session is all about the “how.” While banks and credit unions are debating whether to support new payment types, they are still running siloed infrastructure across RTP, FedNow, ACH, wires, Zelle — and soon, digital assets, including stablecoins and tokenized deposits. But that approach isn’t efficient or sustainable. So what steps do financial institutions need to take to be ready to adopt new rails and technologies? Here are key strategic decisions that leaders must evaluate to simplify complexity and prepare for the future.

**Speaker:**

**Paul Steinbrecher**  
*Director of Payments Consulting*  
**Alacriti**

11:40 – 12:20 PM

**PANEL: STABLECOIN STRATEGIES — WHAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE UP TO****Panelists include:**

**Myles Harrison**  
*Chief Product Officer*  
**AMINA Bank**

**Sara Krople**  
*Partner, Audit & Assurance*  
**Crowe**

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**JUNE 18, 2026****TIME (CDT)****DRAFT AGENDA FOR JUNE 18TH (CONTINUED)****12:20 – 1:05 PM****LUNCH****1:05 – 1:45 PM****PANEL: MANAGING RISK IN AN AI WORLD****Panelists include:****Meera Das***Managing Vice President, AML Risk Modeling and Advanced Data Insights  
Capital One***Sumeet Abichandani***BSA/AML & Sanctions Compliance Officer  
Mercury***Alicia Mahoney***Principal Payment Strategist  
First Tech Federal Credit Union***Aimee Marva***Senior Director, AML Analytics and Operations  
Ally***1:45 – 2:30 PM****PANEL: THE EVOLUTION OF PAYMENTS: MODERNIZATION, OPTIMIZATION & INSTANT ACCESS**

As commercial clients and businesses demand faster access to funds, greater visibility into liquidity, and seamless digital experiences, the payments landscape continues to undergo a fundamental transformation. From real-time and instant payments to embedded banking and intelligent payment orchestration, financial institutions and their commercial clients are rethinking how payments can become a strategic driver of growth, efficiency and client value. This executive-level discussion will explore how banks and their commercial clients are modernizing payment strategies to improve working capital, accelerate liquidity, enhance the client experience, and strengthen risk and fraud mitigation in an increasingly real-time environment.

**Moderator:****Kathryn Albright***EVP, Head of Treasury Management, Global Payments & Deposits  
Columbia Bank***Panelists:****Katherine Weislogel***Head of Commercial Payments Client Success  
Fifth Third Bank***Dhiren Patel***SVP, Head of Liquidity Solutions, Institutional Client Group, CRE & Impact Finance  
U.S. Bank***Adam Keen***Director in the Financial Services Practice  
West Monroe*

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2:30 – 3:00 PM

**KEYNOTE: THE FASTEST PATH TO DIGITAL ASSETS: HOW BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS CAN ACTIVATE STABLECOIN PAYMENTS AND TOKENIZATION WITH CORE PROVIDERS**

Stablecoins and tokenized deposits are moving from pilot to production — but the regional and community banks and credit unions launching the fastest aren't the ones that built from scratch. They're the ones activating services through their existing core banking partners. This session is about the embedded partnership model, which is compressing what used to be a 12-month buildout into weeks, and examines what that means for financial institutions ready to compete on next-generation payment rails.

**Speaker:**

**Brandon Goodwyn**  
*VP of Partnerships*  
*Fireblocks*

3:00 – 3:45 PM

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

Grab a coffee and a snack and join the peer roundtable discussion on the topic of your choice.

**Topics include:** 1) Stablecoins 2) Risk 3) Data 4) AI 5) Payments 6) Managing Fintechs and other 3rd parties

3:45 – 3:55 PM

**BRIEFING ON FINTECH RISK**

This briefing will use a SWOT framework to evaluate bank-fintech partnerships in today's shifting environment. In addition to partnership opportunities and governance/control challenges, it will address emerging threats from regulatory and policy changes that could allow fintechs and digital asset firms more direct access to payment infrastructure or chartering pathways, potentially changing the economics and strategic relevance of traditional bank sponsorship models.

**Speaker:**

**Clayton Mitchell**  
*Managing Principal, Fintech*  
*Crowe*

3:55 – 4:35 PM

**PANEL: MANAGING FINTECH RELATIONSHIPS****Panelists include:**

**Fariba Akrami**  
*SVP, North American Head of Fintech and Digital Payments AML*  
*Citi*

**Steve Hopwood**  
*SVP, Financial Products Leader*  
*Synchrony*

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Speaker:

4:35 – 4:55 PM

### EXECUTIVE KEYNOTE

Speaker:

**Fariba Akrami**

*SVP, North American Head of Fintech and Digital Payments AML  
Citi*

4:55 – 5:00 PM

### CLOSING REMARKS

Speaker:

**Erik Van der Kolk**

*CEO  
Banking Exchange*

Speaker:

5:00 PM

### MIXER / NETWORKING

Please hang out and keep the conversation going. Drinks will be served.

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## PARTNERS

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**FINASTRA**

Alacriti

 Fireblocks

 Paywhere



Crowe

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