

16TH ANNUAL

CONFERENCE ON STATE AND FEDERAL APPEALS

Earn up to 12.00 Hours of Credit Including 2.00 Hours of Ethics Credit

Specialization Expected for: Civil Appellate Law, Civil Trial Law, Criminal Law, Personal Injury Trial Law



June 1-2, 2006 Four Seasons Hotel Austin, Texas

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THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 1, 2006

Presiding Officer: Dana Livingston Cobb

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

8:45 a.m. .50 hr

The Role of Judge and Jury

What the appellate courts are saying reasonable jurors can and cannot believe.

Hon. Scott A. Brister, Austin

9:15 a.m. .50 hr

Evolving Standards of Evidentiary Review: A Guide to *City of Keller v. Wilson*

The focus of this presentation is the modification of the traditional scope of no-evidence review in preponderance cases, before and after the *City of Keller* decision, together with a critical analysis and simplification of the review process.

Prof. William V. Dorsaneo III, Dallas

9:45 a.m. .50 hr

The Vanishing Jury Trial

The civil jury is under attack as never before, yet it is the very best way to resolve civil disputes. Why then are we trying to skirt the jury system with other forms of dispute resolution and with tort reform? Isn't it time to remember why the Seventh Amendment is a part of the Constitution?

Hon. W. Royal Furgeson, Jr., San Antonio

10:15 a.m. Break

10:35 a.m. 1.00 hr

Jury Charge Perils and Dilemmas

As a practical matter, does broad-form submission still even exist? How do you submit an error-free charge in the aftermath of *Romero, Harris County,* and *Casteel*? A panel of leading experts discusses the practical and substantive difficulties posed by Supreme Court decisions on jury charge issues.

Moderator: Daniel V. Pozza, San Antonio Hon. Tracy Christopher, Houston Timothy Patton, San Antonio Charles R. "Skip" Watson, Jr., Austin

11:35 a.m. .42 hr

Strategic Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law

When findings are permitted or required, and how to procure them. Tactics regarding findings and conclusions: general v. specific; few v. many; appellate effects of a particular strategy.

Russell H. McMains, Corpus Christi

12:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer: Brent M. Rosenthal

1:30 p.m. .42 hr

Top 10 Preservation Issues: Nuts and Bolts

Preservation of error in the trial court—a tale of woe?

Hon. David E. Keltner, Fort Worth

1:55 p.m. .33 hr

For the Record

Explore the fine line on what an appellate court can take judicial notice of and what it can't. Can the court look to web sites? Other courts' records? Scientific studies not in the record? An overview of what is and is not fair game.

Dana Livingston Cobb, Austin Elana S. Einhorn, Austin William R. (Rick) Thompson II, Dallas

2:15 p.m. .83 hr

Short Topics with Courts of Appeals Justices— A User-Friendly Guide to Practicing in Different Courts of Appeals in Texas

Four justices from four different courts of appeals discuss what the courts of appeals have in common, what they don't, and why their way is the best.

Moderator: Daryl L. Moore, Houston Hon. Jane Bland, Houston Hon. Thomas W. Gray, Waco Hon. James T. Worthen, Tyler Hon. Linda R. Yáñez, Edinburg

3:05 p.m. Break

3:25 p.m. .42 hr

Recent Developments in Sovereign Immunity and Government Liability

This topic will look at recent appellate case law governing the hot topics of sovereign immunity, government liability, and the special defenses and issues applicable in appeals by or against government entities or officials.

Philip Durst, Austin

3:50 p.m. .50 hr

Effective Legal Writing: Think Hemingway, Not Faulkner

The focus of this session will be on developing an effective writing style for appellate briefs. Topics to be discussed are writing forceful beginnings and endings, referring to parties understandably, preferring

familiar and concrete words, striving for linguistic rhythm, varying sentence length and structure, using footnotes to avoid clutter, creating argumentative headings, using bullets for lists, achieving a relaxed and conversational tone, avoiding jargon, and ending overparticularization.

Beverly Ray Burlingame, Dallas

4:20 p.m. .50 hr ethics

I'm All Verklempt

Coffee talk about conflicts of interest: avoiding them, curing them, and paying through the nose if you don't.

Kendall M. Gray, Houston

4:50 p.m. .50 hr

Technology Tools and Resources for Appellate Advocates

The discussion will include an examination of court web sites, electronic filing in the appellate courts, electronic briefs, and research and writing tools.

Eric J. Magnuson, Minneapolis, MN

5:20 p.m. Adjourn

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 2, 2006

Presiding Officer: Jeffrey S. Levinger

8:30 a.m. .42 hr

Jury Trials are Being Outsourced: What is an Appellate Lawyer to Do?

A how-to guide for appellate practice in arbitration, bankruptcy, and intellectual property matters.

Nina Cortell, Dallas Paper by: Christopher D. Kratovil, Dallas Debra J. McComas, Dallas Benjamin L. Mesches, Dallas

8:55 a.m. .50 hr

Supreme Court of Texas Internal Operating Procedures

How petitions for review, mandamus petitions, and other significant fillings and submissions are acted on behind the scenes. Important procedures, timelines, and tricks of the trade that you won't find in the appellate rules.

Moderator: Douglas W. Alexander, Austin Elizabeth V. Rodd, Austin Andrew Weber, Austin 9:25 a.m. .33 hr

What Issues are Important to the Jurisprudence of the State?

Insight into the "issues presented" in Texas Supreme Court cases. The author conducted a study of cases granted by the Court in recent years and how issues are being presented to the Court, the type of issues being raised, and how they compare to the issues actually resolved by the Court. Included in the written material is an update of the paper, "What is Important to the Jurisprudence of the State?"

Kurt Kuhn, Austin

9:45 a.m.

.50 hr

Texas Supreme Court Update

A review of recent decisions and rule changes from the Texas Supreme Court.

Hon. Paul W. Green, Austin

10:15 a.m.

Break

10:35 a.m.

.50 hr ethics

Free Speech for Judges and Fair Appeals for Litigants: Appellate Recusal in a Post-*White* World

For almost a century, states have promulgated codes regulating judicial conduct, restricting political, charitable, and business activities by sitting judges. In recent years, many of these restrictions have been successfully challenged in court, particularly when they restrict political speech by elected judges. What are the implications for the bench and bar as judges begin to act like, and be regarded as, ordinary politicians?

Hon. Thomas R. Phillips, Austin

11:05 a.m.

.83 hr

Supreme Court Panel

A panel of Texas Supreme Court justices will answer frequently asked questions about practice before the court.

Moderator: David M. Gunn, Houston Hon. Wallace B. Jefferson, Austin Hon. Nathan L. Hecht, Austin

Hon. Philip W. "Phil" Johnson, Austin

Han Dan D Willatt Avatin

Hon. Don R. Willett, Austin

11:55 a.m. Lunch with the Judiciary

A unique opportunity to meet and discuss issues with members of the judiciary. Please select "Sponsored Lunch with the Judiciary" on the registration form if you plan to attend (additional fee).

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer: Jeffrey S. Levinger

1:25 p.m.

.50 hr

US Supreme Court Update

It's a new era with a new chief justice. Find out how the first year of the Roberts' Court shapes up.

William J. Boyce, Houston

1:55 p.m.

.42 hr

State of the 5th Circuit

The Fifth Circuit—a newcomer's view.

Hon. Priscilla R. Owen, Austin

2:20 p.m.

.42 hr

5th Circuit Update

A summary of recent Fifth Circuit civil decisions in the areas of jurisdiction and trial and appellate procedure.

Macey Reasoner Stokes, Houston

2:45 p.m.

.33 hr

5th Circuit Statistical Trends—Civil Cases

A statistical analysis of the 5th Circuit decisions and trends in civil cases during 2005.

Gwen J. Samora, Houston

3:05 p.m. Break

3:25 p.m.

.50 hr ethics

Confidentiality, Attorney/Client Privilege, and the Electronic Age

It can be quick and painful.

Thomas H. Watkins, Austin

3:55 p.m.

.50 hr ethics

Ethics of Fee Arrangements and Billings

When are attorney's fees reasonable under Tex. R. Disc. Conduct 1.04 and the common law? A look at recently decided and pending cases.

Scott Rothenberg, Bellaire

4:25 p.m. Adjourn

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AUSTIN June 1-2, 2006 **CONFERENCE LOCATION**



Four Seasons Hotel 98 San Jacinto

Austin, Texas 78701 512-685-8100

\$199 (subject to availability) good through May 10, 2006

> Parking: \$6 self-parking; \$10 valet (subject to change)

KEY DATES

Registration & Cancellation

May 24, 2006-5 p.m. last day for early registration add \$50 for registrations received after this time

> May 26, 2006-5 p.m. last day for full refund

May 30, 2006-5 p.m. last day for partial refunds \$50 processing fee applied

June 1, 2006-8:45 a.m. conference begins

ABOUT THE COVER



"Moralkeule," collage (acrylic on grocery store bags) is by Philip Durst. For more information, contact him at 512-474-6200.

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This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education C credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 12.00 hours, of which 2.00 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/ professional responsibility credit.

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