

15th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice

July 25-26, 2019 • Norris Conference Center - CityCentre • Houston, TX

Thursday Morning, July 25, 2019

Presiding Officer:

Hon. H. DeWayne "Cooter" Hale, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas - Dallas, TX

7:30 am	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Case Summaries, Part I Discuss relevant circuit, district, and bankruptcy court decisions focusing on consumer cases from the past year. Examine substantive changes in the case law and discuss cases interpreting bankruptcy rules affecting consumer practice. Hon. Craig A. Gargotta, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas - San Antonio, TX Hon. Eduardo V. Rodriguez, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - McAllen, TX
9:30 am 0.50 hr	Determining Eligibility for a Chapter 13 Discharge What options do you have when the Plan Payments are finished and you determine that your client is not eligible for a discharge? Explore why you might want to file a case even though you know your client is not eligible for a discharge. Mark B. French, Law Office of Mark B. French - Bedford, TX
10:00 am 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Prosecuting and Defending Exceptions to Discharge Review the burden of proof and elements required to discharge debt and defend dischargeability complaints under Section 523 and Section 727. Diane S. Barron, Barron & Barron LLP - Plano, TX Hon. Jeffrey P. Norman, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am 0.50 hr	When the Debtor Defaults on a Plan Survey the options to overcome Default on a Plan, including Motions to Dismiss, Modifications, Hardship Discharges, and other alternatives. Marcos D. Oliva, Oliva Law - McAllen, TX Cristina Rodriguez, Keeling Law Firm - Houston, TX

11:15 am 0.75 hr	<p>Beast of Burden</p> <p>Take a closer look at burdens of proof, production, and presumptions in the Bankruptcy Code. Also, discuss the role of evidence in bankruptcy, including direct and cross-examination and the effective use of proffers.</p> <p>Hon. H. DeWayne "Cooter" Hale, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas - Dallas, TX Emma Persson, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas - Dallas, TX</p>
12:00 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Seeking and Objecting to Creditors' Attorneys Fees</p> <p>How do you get a bankruptcy lawyer to smile for a picture? Just say "Fees!" Review the standards for fee approvals and ensuring a proper prove up and objection.</p> <p>Mark A. Castillo, Curtis Castillo PC - Dallas, TX Lindsay D. Steele, Steele Law Firm, PLLC - Fort Worth, TX</p>
12:30 pm	Lunch On Your Own—Presentations Resume at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday Afternoon, July 25, 2019

Presiding Officer:

Hon. Jeffrey P. Norman, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX

2:00 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Chapter 13 Trustee Panel</p> <p>The Chapter 13 world is always changing. Come hear the latest from your Texas trustees.</p> <p>Moderator: Hon. Douglas D. Dodd, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Louisiana - Baton Rouge, LA Panelists: Pamela A. Bassel, Standing Chapter 13 Trustee - Fort Worth, TX Carey D. Ebert, Chapter 13 Trustee - Plano, TX William E. Heitkamp, Chapter 13 Trustee - Houston, TX Ray Hendren, Chapter 13 Trustee - Waco, TX</p>
2:45 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Accounting for Lawyers</p> <p>Bankruptcy without numbers is like pizza without cheese. Get a brief primer in balance sheets, income statements, and amortization schedules.</p> <p>Hon. Marvin Isgur, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>
3:15 pm	Break
3:30 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Important Old Cases</p> <p>Review old(er) cases of fundamental and/or practical significance that should be kept in every bankruptcy attorney's toolbox.</p> <p>Chris Manuel López, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP - Houston, TX Hon. Edward L. Morris, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas - Dallas, TX Hon. Brenda T. Rhoades, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Texas - Plano, TX</p>

4:15 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Data Mining: Uses and Abuses in Bankruptcy Cases</p> <p>Explore how information gathered from social media and other technology platforms can complicate a bankruptcy case.</p> <p>Michael V. Baumer, Law Office of Michael Baumer - Austin, TX Behrooz P. Vida, The Vida Law Firm - Bedford, TX</p>
5:00 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Bankruptcy Exemptions: A Fresh Start or a Head Start?</p> <p>Hear a timely discussion of selecting the proper bankruptcy exemptions for your clients. Cover such issues as Texas vs Federal, how much is too much, and much more!</p> <p>Hon. Eduardo V. Rodriguez, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - McAllen, TX Jana Smith Whitworth, JS Whitworth Law Firm, PLLC - McAllen, TX</p>
5:30 pm	<p>Adjourn to Reception</p>
	<p>Thursday Networking Reception (5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at a luau-themed reception with program faculty and attendees.</p>

Friday Morning, July 26, 2019

Presiding Officer:

Hon. Brenda T. Rhoades, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Texas - Plano, TX

7:30 am	<p>Conference Room Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:00 am 1.00 hr	<p>Breakfast Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Judges and trustees from each of Texas's four judicial districts and two from Louisiana meet with attendees and moderate a discussion on problems of local concern.</p>
9:00 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Case Summaries, Part II</p> <p>Continue the discussion of relevant circuit, district, and bankruptcy court decisions focusing on consumer cases from the past year, and examine substantive changes in the case law and discuss cases interpreting bankruptcy rules affecting consumer practice.</p> <p>Hon. H. DeWayne "Cooter" Hale, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas - Dallas, TX Hon. Marvin Isgur, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX Kiran Vakamudi, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>

10:00 am 0.50 hr ethics	<p>When You Really, Really Mess Up: Some Practical Ideas for Fixing, or at Least Mitigating, Common Bankruptcy Practitioner Errors</p> <p>Everyone makes mistakes: how you deal with them can mean the difference between fixing them and malpractice. A debtor's attorney and creditor's attorney discuss common mistakes and how to cure or mitigate the damage they can cause.</p> <p>Théda W. Page, The Page Law Firm - Frisco, TX Stephen G. Wilcox, Wilcox Law PLLC - Arlington, TX</p>
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Red Flags Everywhere!: Chapter 7 Trustee Panel</p> <p>Hear Chapter 7 trustees from each Texas district discuss some of the red flags you may encounter in family, small business, exemption, creditor meeting, and intangible property cases.</p> <p>Moderator: Hon. Edward L. Morris, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas - Dallas, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Christopher R. Murray, Jones Murray & Beatty LLP - Houston, TX Jose C. Rodriguez, Chapter 7 Trustee - San Antonio, TX Daniel J. "Corky" Sherman, Sherman & Yaquinto - Dallas, TX Mark A. Weisbart, Law Office of Mark A. Weisbart - Dallas, TX</p>
11:30 am 0.50 hr	<p>Dirt for Debt</p> <p>Get information on the process of transferring real property Pre- and Post-Confirmation in a Chapter 13 case.</p> <p>Marquise Bryant, Attorney at Law - Houston, TX Hon. Jeffrey P. Norman, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>
12:00 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Returning Repossessed Property and Retaining Creditor Abandoned Property</p> <p>The Bankruptcy Code authorizes abandonment of property that is burdensome or of inconsequential value to the estate; and Chapter 13 Plans may surrender property. Lawyers and their clients (both debtors and creditors) must plan for the disposition of real or personal property leaving the debtor's control or the bankruptcy estate for these and other reasons, including stay relief and the court's refusal to approve a reaffirmation agreement.</p> <p>Hon. Douglas D. Dodd, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Louisiana - Baton Rouge, LA Brendon Singh, Corral Tran Singh LLP - Houston, TX</p>
12:30 pm	<p>Pick Up Lunch</p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

Friday Afternoon, July 26, 2019

Presiding Officer:

Hon. Craig A. Gargotta, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas - San Antonio, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:50 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Judge Jones on Evidence</p> <p>The rules of evidence play an important role in the consumer bankruptcy process, most notably in the treatment of mortgage-related documents. Review how the rules apply to the introduction of these documents, objections to their introduction, and how the rules may assist you in overcoming objections.</p> <p>Hon. David R. Jones, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>
1:35 pm	<p>Break</p>
1:50 pm 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Just How Far can Bankruptcy Pre-Planning Go?: <i>Husky</i> and Beyond</p> <p>Join a robust discussion of how much is too much. Hear best practices for pre-bankruptcy planning and review cases that have interpreted <i>Husky</i>, and walk away well-prepared to avoid any pitfalls that may come your way.</p> <p>Christy Lingafelter Heimer, Heimer Law Offices P.C. - Austin, TX Hon. Eduardo V. Rodriguez, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - McAllen, TX</p>
2:20 pm 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Open Forum Judicial Panel</p> <p>Hear a panel of seasoned judges respond to your frequently—and sometimes infrequently—asked questions.</p> <p>Moderator: Michael V. Baumer, Law Office of Michael Baumer - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Hon. Marvin Isgur, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX Chris Manuel López, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP - Houston, TX Hon. Jeffrey P. Norman, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX Hon. Brenda T. Rhoades, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Texas - Plano, TX</p>
3:20 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>
3:45 pm	<p>Pro Bono Clinic</p> <p>Join UT Law CLE, Lone Star Legal Aid, and the Bankruptcy Law Section of the State Bar of Texas for a <i>pro bono</i> clinic following the conference on Friday, July 26 from 3:45 – 5:15 p.m. Attendees are given a brief orientation to the process and paired with a client in need of legal services. Attendees also receive a free one-year subscription to UT Law CLE's eLibrary in thanks for their efforts.</p>