


**27th Annual Estate Planning, Guardianship and Elder Law Conference
 July 31 - August 1, 2025 • La Cantera Resort & Spa • San Antonio, TX
 July 31 - August 1, 2025 • Live Webcast**

Thursday Morning, July 31, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Christina Lesher, The Law Office of Christina Lesher, PC - Houston, TX

	This agenda is still in development. Updates to topics and speakers will be posted as available.
7:30 am In San Antonio Only	<p>Registration and Exhibit Hall Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p> <p>Thank You to Our Breakfast Sponsor</p> 
In San Antonio Only	<p>Guest Meal Package—\$95</p> <p>Have family members or guests joining you in San Antonio? You can now purchase a guest meal package for each of your guests, that includes Thursday and Friday's continental breakfasts and lunches.</p>
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>How Do We Practice Law?</p> <p>Have you ever wondered how other attorneys handle the practical aspects of managing clients and cases? Do other attorneys store original documents for clients? Are will-reading ceremonies a thing? This presentation discusses survey results from Texas attorneys in this practice area.</p> <p>Dianne Reis, Attorney at Law - Plano, TX</p>
9:15 am 0.50 hr	<p>Case Law Update</p> <p>A review of recent cases affecting the practice of estate planning, guardianship, and elder law in Texas and around the country.</p> <p>Elisa Dillard Rainey, Rainey & Rainey, PLLC - Waco, TX Materials By: Gerry W. Beyer, Texas Tech University School of Law - Lubbock, TX</p>
9:45 am	15-Minute Break

<p>10:00 am 0.50 hr</p>	<p>TRS Beneficiary Designations: Simple Rules, Big Consequences</p> <p>From outdated forms to unintended heirs, TRS beneficiary designations can create surprising pitfalls for your clients. This session covers the essential rules, common mistakes, and smart planning strategies to ensure TRS benefits align with your clients' estate plans.</p> <p>Lindsey James-West, LKJ Financial - Houston, TX</p>
<p>10:30 am 0.75 hr</p>	<p>Medicaid Update</p> <p>Identify and explain recent changes in Medicaid law and policy. Discuss Medicaid advocacy strategies that are "hot," either because they are new or because they are underutilized but work well.</p> <p>H. Clyde Farrell, Farrell & Johnson PLLC - Austin, TX Marilyn G. Miller, Marilyn G. Miller, Attorney at Law - Dripping Springs, TX</p>
<p>11:15 am 0.50 hr</p>	<p>Handling Special Assets in Planning and Administration</p> <p>Explore how to plan for and administer special assets, including minerals, business interests, crypto, cattle, and promissory notes.</p> <p>Adrienne Graves, Graves Law PLLC - Houston, TX</p>
<p>11:45 am In San Antonio Only</p>	<p>30-Minute Break for Lunch and Visit Exhibitors (in San Antonio)</p>

Thursday Afternoon, July 31, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Bryn A. Poland, Mayo & Poland PLLC - Baytown, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

In San Antonio
Only

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12:15 pm 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics 0.50 hr guardianship	<p>Recognizing Potential Incapacity of a Client</p> <p>Discuss how to recognize potential incapacity in clients and the limitations any such incapacity causes. The discussion includes identifying the varying levels of capacity, steps that can be taken to identify capacity, and the types of incapacity a person may suffer from.</p> <p>Moderator: Jessica L.D. Guobadia, Crain Caton & James - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelist: Dr. Christopher Merkl, Houston, TX</p>
1:15 pm	15-Minute Break
1:30 pm 1.00 hr 0.50 hr ethics 1.00 hr guardianship	<p>Alternatives to Guardianship including Supports and Services</p> <p>Hon. Amy Rigby Parsons, Harris County Probate Court #3 - Houston, TX Tara Zinn, Harris County Probate Court #3 - Houston, TX</p>
2:30 pm 0.75 hr	<p>When and How to Enroll in Medicare Parts A, B, C, D</p> <p>This presentation covers when beneficiaries should enroll in Medicare, the differences between Parts A, B, C, and D, and the process and deadlines for enrolling in each.</p> <p>Pi-Yi Mayo, Mayo & Poland PLLC - Baytown, TX</p>
3:15 pm	10-Minute Break
3:25 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Estate Planning for Ranch Owners</p> <p>Tanya E. Feinleib, Langley and Banack, Inc. - San Antonio, TX</p>
3:55 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Pitfalls and Problems with Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals</p> <p>A discussion of the current status of the Texas Supreme Court's proposed rules regarding Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals, the issues presented by LLPs, and some alternative solutions.</p> <p>Ruth-Ann Toups, The Toups Law Firm - Spring, TX</p>
4:25 pm 0.75 hr ethics	<p>Ethics and Practical Uses of AI in Your Law Practice</p> <p>This presentation explores the ethical and practical uses of AI in estate planning, guardianship, and elder law, offering guidance on current AI tools and leveraging AI while upholding professional responsibilities. It examines AI's potential to automate tasks, improve efficiency, and enhance client service while addressing ethical considerations and relevant ABA rules, including billing for AI-related services.</p> <p>Greg Lambert, Jackson Walker LLP - Houston, TX</p>
5:10 pm	Adjourn

Thursday Evening, July 31, 2025

7:30 pm
In San Antonio
Only

Beat the Summer Heat with a Frosty Evening | 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (RSVP Requested)

Join us for a chill evening with after-dinner desserts and cocktails. Families and guests are welcome!

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Friday Morning, Aug. 1, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Benecia Flores, Petrosewicz Law Firm, P.C. - Richmond, TX

7:30 am
In San Antonio
Only

Conference Room and Exhibit Hall Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

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8:00 am
0.75 hr

Medicaid Asset Protection Trusts

Learn how Medicaid Asset Protection Trusts can be strategically utilized to help your clients qualify for long-term care benefits while preserving assets and avoiding trust-busting traps.

Lisa Shoalmire, Ross & Shoalmire PLLC - Texarkana, TX

8:45 am
0.75 hr
0.75 hr
guardianship

A Toolkit for Contested Guardianships

This session provides you with guidance, forms, and strategy considerations to help you be successful in your next contested guardianship case.

Christopher C. Burt, BoyarMiller - Houston, TX

9:30 am
0.50 hr

Ask an HHSC Representative

Gain insight on a variety of topics including the processing of client applications, utilizing the 211-call system, setting up an online account on yourtexasbenefits.com and the loading of large attachments.

Leslea Tate Pickle, Texas Health and Human Services Commission - Austin, TX

10:00 am

15-Minute Break

<p>10:15 am 0.75 hr 0.50 hr guardianship</p>	<p>The Four-Step Process for Sale of Property</p> <p>Whether Guardianship, Dependent Administration or Sale of a Ward’s (Minor’s) property without Guardianship, there are legislative requirements and title underwriter requirements in relation to the documents that have to be filed with the courts to obtain permission to sell real property owned. Discuss applications, time limitations, verified accountings, reasons for selling and Deeding requirements.</p> <p>Thad Barreneche, Title Resources Guaranty - Dallas, TX Pam Keever, Keever & Wiesenthal and American Title Company of Houston - Houston, TX Tonya Knauth, Attorney at Law - Houston, TX</p>
<p>11:00 am 0.50 hr 0.25 hr guardianship</p>	<p>Working with Adult Protective Services</p> <p>Elder Law, Guardianship and Estate Planning attorneys frequently encounter family members who are either alleged victims or alleged perpetrators of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. This session provides attorneys with a framework of reference for how Texas Adult Protective Services performs its investigations and recommendations on how to best accomplish successful outcomes when confronted with an APS investigation.</p> <p>Terry W. Hammond, Kemp Smith, LLP - El Paso, TX Laura Palmquist, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services - Austin, TX</p>
<p>11:30 am In San Antonio Only</p>	<p>30-Minute Break for Lunch and Visit Exhibitors (in San Antonio)</p>

Friday Afternoon, Aug. 1, 2025

Presiding Officer:
Wesley E. Wright, Wright Abshire, Attorneys P.C. - Bellaire, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

<p>In San Antonio Only</p>	<p>Thank You to Our Luncheon Sponsor</p> 
<p>12:00 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p>Legislative Update</p> <p>Update on new legislation impacting estate planning, guardianships, trusts and related practice areas.</p> <p>Lauren Davis Hunt, Osborne, Helman, Scott, Knisely & Stanton L.L.P. - Austin, TX</p>
<p>12:45 pm</p>	<p>30-Minute Break and Vendor Announcements</p>

1:15 pm 1.00 hr 1.00 hr guardianship	<p>Representing Proposed Wards: How Disorganized is Legally Disorganized?</p> <p>Hear strategies to employ when your proposed ward has capacity (or partial capacity) and ways to work with the applicant's attorney to protect the rights of your proposed ward.</p> <p>Lauren Olson, Leu, Peirce, & Olson, PLLC - Plano, TX Kathleen Schultz Wiesenthal, Keever & Wiesenthal - Houston, TX</p>
2:15 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Drafting in Uncertain Times</p>
3:00 pm	<p>10-Minute Break</p>
3:10 pm 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>SECURE Act Final Regulations: Planning For Distribution of Retirement Assets</p> <p>Discuss notable provisions in the SECURE Act Final Regulations relating to retirement assets from an estate planning perspective. In particular, evaluate naming trusts as beneficiaries of retirement assets.</p> <p>Karen S. Gerstner, Karen S. Gerstner & Associates, P.C. - Houston, TX</p>
4:10 pm 0.75 hr 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Protecting the Client and Their Plan from Interlopers and Do-Gooders</p> <p>Bernard E. ("Barney") Jones, Attorney at Law - Houston, TX Sarah Patel Pacheco, Jackson Walker LLP - Houston, TX</p>
4:55 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>