

**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law**  
**October 21\*, 22-23, 2009 • Marriott Plaza, San Antonio • San Antonio, TX**

**Wednesday Evening, Oct. 21, 2009**

**Presiding Officer:**

**Nancy Taylor Shivers**, Shivers & Shivers - San Antonio, TX

4:00 pm	<b>Registration Opens</b>  <i>Fundamentals of Immigration Law</i>
5:00 pm 1.00 hr	<b>Introduction to U.S. Immigration Law</b>  A framework of family-based and employment-based immigration as of October 2009.  Paul Parsons, Paul Parsons, PC - Austin, TX
6:00 pm 1.25 hrs ethics	<b>Ethical and Professional Practice Issues in the New Immigration Paradigm</b>  Three experienced practitioners discuss the challenges, pitfalls, and vigilance needed to practice ethically and professionally in today's complex and unforgiving immigration environment.  Moderator: Peter D. Williamson, Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Martin - Houston, TX Panelists: Arthur R. Amdur, Amdur Law Office - Houston, TX Panelists: Feroz Farook Merchant, The Merchant Law Firm - Houston, TX
7:15 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>

**Thursday Morning, Oct. 22, 2009**

**Presiding Officer:**

**Daniel M. Kowalski**, Reina, Bates & Kowalski Immigration Law Group - Austin, TX

7:45 am	<b>Registration Opens</b>  Includes continental breakfast.
8:15 am	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
8:30 am 1.25 hrs	<b>Fundamentals of Family-Based Immigration</b>  This session covers the very basics of family immigration law. A comprehensive look at the procedural steps to filing basic family-based petitions. Tips on how to organize the documents, up-to-date filing fees, addresses, and strategies on how to avoid an RFE.  Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates - Dallas, TX

9:45 am 0.50 hr	<p><b>Waivers of Inadmissibility Part I: The Lay of the Land</b></p> <p>Statutory requirements and scope of waivers for nonimmigrants and immigrants inadmissible for fraud, crimes, unlawful presence, and health problems.</p> <p>Moderator: Nancy A. Falgout, Nancy A. Falgout, P.C. - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Jason C. Mills, Law Office of Jason Mills - Fort Worth, TX</p> <p>Panelists: L. Edward Rios, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. - El Paso, TX</p>
10:15 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 am 0.75 hr	<p><b>Waivers Part II: Navigating from 212(c) to 237(a)(1)(H) ... Without Getting Lost</b></p> <p>Practical information on how waivers really work at the consulate, before USCIS, and in immigration court.</p> <p>Moderator: Nancy A. Falgout, Nancy A. Falgout, P.C. - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Jason C. Mills, Law Office of Jason Mills - Fort Worth, TX</p> <p>Panelists: L. Edward Rios, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. - El Paso, TX</p>
11:15 am 1.25 hrs	<p><b>Advanced Issues in Naturalization and Citizenship</b></p> <p>This session covers the general requirements and procedures for naturalization, naturalization for military personnel, naturalization for disabled persons, expedited naturalization, derivative citizenship and the Child Citizenship Act, disputed birth cases, and dual citizenship and loss of citizenship.</p> <p>Richard S. Fischer, The Law Office of Richard S. Fischer - Nacogdoches, TX Margaret D. Stock, US Military Academy, West Point, NY - Anchorage, AK</p>

## Thursday Afternoon, Oct. 22, 2009

### Presiding Officer:

**J. Jay Strimel**, Foster Quan, LLP - Houston, TX

12:30 pm	<p><b>Pick up Box Lunch</b></p> <p>Included in conference registration fee.</p>
	<b>LUNCHEON PRESENTATION</b>
1:00 pm 0.50 hr	<p><b>Fixing a Broken System: The Policies and Politics of Immigration Reform</b></p> <p>Reforming our immigration system is as necessary as it is controversial. Recent legislative efforts have failed, and interim strategies for addressing the symptoms of the broken system have done little to improve things. The speaker discusses the current politics of immigration, the likelihood of legislative reform, and the policy prescriptions needed to fix the broken system.</p> <p>Benjamin E. Johnson, American Immigration Council - Washington, DC</p>

1:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:45 pm 1.50 hrs	<p><b>Adjusting Status for Those Who Have Not Been Inspected or Admitted: T, U and VAWA Alternatives, Updates, and Changes</b></p> <p>This moderated panel discussion addresses the basic eligibility for U Visas, T Visas, and VAWA. Important guidance and practice pointers on the new regulations for the U Visa and U and T adjustment are covered, as well as discussion regarding the upcoming VAWA 4 and potential "fixes" to long term problems for immigrant victims of family violence.</p> <p>Moderator: Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Maurice Y. Hew Jr., Texas Southern University - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Erica Britt Schommer, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid - Weslaco, TX</p>
3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 pm 0.75 hr	<p><b>Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Immigration Considerations for Texas' Foreign-Born Children Who Have Been Abused, Abandoned or Neglected</b></p> <p>Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is an immigration benefit available to children who have been the victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. The panelists discuss the federal and state eligibility requirements and the procedures for applying for SIJS for children who reside in Texas; the special considerations for children who are detained in federal custody; and for children in removal proceedings before an immigration judge.</p> <p>Anne Haenel Chandler, Tahirih Justice Center - Houston, TX Hon. Peter A. Sakai, 225th District Court, Bexar County - San Antonio, TX</p>
4:15 pm 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p><b>Of Counsel—Ask the Experts</b></p> <p>This panel provides an interactive opportunity to have questions answered by some of the experts in the field. Registrants are asked to provide questions in writing in advance or to present questions from the conference floor. Always a "crowd-pleaser" so don't miss this chance to bounce ideas off some of the top immigration lawyers in Texas.</p> <p><b>Ed Rios will sub for Kathleen Walker.</b></p> <p>Moderator: Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Anne Haenel Chandler, Tahirih Justice Center - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Richard S. Fischer, The Law Office of Richard S. Fischer - Nacogdoches, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Paul Parsons, Paul Parsons, PC - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: L. Edward Rios, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. - El Paso, TX</p>
5:15 pm	<b>Adjourn to Reception</b>

## Friday Morning, Oct. 23, 2009

### Presiding Officer:

**Thomas Esparza Jr.**, Attorney at Law - Austin, TX

8:00 am	<b>Conference Room Opens</b>  Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am 1.50 hrs	<b>Employment-Based Strategies in an Economic Downturn</b>  A how-to for payroll management, navigation of the myriad of choices of temporary and permanent visas, rescue of temporary and permanent visas during a company layoff, and a primer on priority dates to plan for the long term.  Moderator: Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX Panelists: Judy J. Lee, Foster Quan, LLP - Houston, TX Panelists: Cynthia Fuller Leigh, Hines & Leigh, P.C. - Austin, TX
10:00 am 0.50 hr	<b>Employer-Sponsored Immigrant Visas Via Labor Certification</b>  Obtaining employer-sponsored immigrant visas is challenging for employers and employees with ever-changing regulations and a slow economy. Deciding when <i>and</i> if to proceed with an application for labor certification requires careful disclosures to the employer from the outset and a clear understanding of WHO is the client.  Nancy Taylor Shivers, Shivers & Shivers - San Antonio, TX
10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am 0.75 hr	<b>Maintenance of Status</b>  Priority dates and effects of visa retrogression, with special focus on China and India. Consequences of and strategies for curing status violations. Strategies for maintaining status and occupational mobility, both in the H1B and permanent contexts will be explored with special reference to the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act.  This session has moved to 8:30 AM. The rest of the Friday program will follow in the originally scheduled order.  Gary E. Endelman, BP America, Inc. - Houston, TX Harry J. Joe, Jackson Lewis LLP - Dallas, TX
11:30 am 1.00 hr	<b>Where Oh Where — Here or There? AOS vs. CP</b>  We are often asked "Now that an immigrant visa is finally available, how do I get a green card?" The short answer is that the client can either apply here or go there. We delve into the pros and cons of staying or going and how the process can be expedited. Hot topics such as qualifying under CSPA, grandfathering, and cross chargeability are addressed.  M. Elizabeth "Liz" Cedillo-Pereira, Cedillo-Pereira & Cedillo, PLLC - Dallas, TX Mona Gupta, Gupta & Wiora, P.C. - Addison, TX

## Friday Afternoon, Oct. 23, 2009

### Presiding Officer:

Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX

12:30 pm	<b>Pick up Box Lunch</b>  Included in conference registration fee.
	<b>LUNCHEON PRESENTATION</b>
12:45 pm 0.75 hr ethics	<b>Access to Justice Update in Texas: Impact on Representation for Immigrants</b>  An overview of the state of access to justice for low-income Texans, with an emphasis on the impact to immigrants and the programs that serve them.  Betty Balli Torres, Texas Access to Justice Foundation - Austin, TX
1:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:45 pm 0.50 hr	<b>Travel Issues for Non-US Citizens</b>  What to tell a client planning a trip out of the United States—what to do and what to expect.  J. Jay Strimel, Foster Quan, LLP - Houston, TX
2:15 pm 1.25 hrs	<b>Issues in Removal Proceedings</b>  A discussion of the process and procedure of removal proceedings in the Immigration Court including the anatomy of a removal proceeding, burdens of proof, and relief in removal proceedings.  Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates - Dallas, TX
3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:45 pm 0.50 hr	<b>E-Verify and More: Employment Verification in the Digital Age</b>  The presentation provides a detailed look at the E-Verify program, the executive order requiring mandatory E-Verify participation for federal contractors, and an update on recent enforcement initiatives related to corporate immigration compliance.  Michael James Golden, Boulette & Golden LLP - Austin, TX
4:15 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<b>Of Counsel—Ask the Experts</b>  This panel provides an interactive opportunity to have questions answered by some of the experts in the field. Registrants are asked to provide questions in writing in advance or to present questions from the conference floor. Always a "crowd-pleaser" so don't miss this chance to bounce ideas off some of the top immigration lawyers in Texas.  Moderator: Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX Panelists: Harry Gee Jr., Law Office of Harry Gee, Jr. & Associates - Houston, TX Panelists: Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX Panelists: Harry J. Joe, Jackson Lewis LLP - Dallas, TX Panelists: Nancy Taylor Shivers, Shivers & Shivers - San Antonio, TX

5:00 pm

**Adjourn**

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