

39th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law
October 6-7, 2015 • Radisson Hotel and Suites, Austin-Downtown • Austin, TX
October 6-7, 2015 • Live Webcast

Tuesday Morning, October 6, 2015

Presiding Officer:

Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 0.50 hr	What's Going On in Immigration? The New Landscape in Immigration Practice Immigration practice is a fast-changing area of law where practitioners regularly face new challenges. Learn about the latest lawsuits, developments in immigration court practice, new administrative decisions, new enforcement priorities, and new, more complicated forms. Margaret D. Stock, Cascadia Cross Border Law Group LLC - Anchorage, AK
9:00 am 1.00 hr ethics	Disciplinary Issues in Immigration Law A discussion of disciplinary prosecutions and the ethical challenges facing immigration practitioners. Robert W. Alcorn, CPA, Public Member, Supreme Court of Texas Grievance Oversight Committee - Plano, TX James A. Ehler, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas - San Antonio, TX
10:00 am 0.50 hr	Family Detention A brief history of family detention, the current state of affairs, and how you can get involved. Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch, Lincoln-Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am 1.25 hrs 0.75 hr ethics	Minors and Removal A discussion of key issues unique to minors in removal, including unaccompanied minors and asylum, credible and reasonable fear interviews, family detention, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and the Central American Minors program. Moderator: Virginia M. Raymond, Law Office of Virginia Raymond - Austin, TX Panelists: Janet B. Beck, University of Houston Law Center - Houston, TX Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Denise L. Gilman, The University of Texas School of Law Immigration Clinic - Austin, TX

12:00 pm
In Austin Only

Pick Up Lunch

Included in registration.

Tuesday Afternoon, October 6, 2015

Presiding Officer:

Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:20 pm
0.75 hr

Executive Action: Prosecutorial Discretion and Enforcement Priorities

A discussion of pending litigation in the Southern District of Texas, with analysis of the new criteria for prosecutorial discretion.

Ira J. Kurzban, Kurzban, Kurzban, Weinger & Tetzeli, PA - Miami, FL

1:05 pm

Break

1:20 pm
1.00 hr
0.25 hr ethics

Categorical and Divisible: The Knotty Adjectives

The Categorical Method: the final frontier? Come on a legal journey where no one has gone before, from Categorical's inception in 1990 to the present—without being beamed in any way!

Simon M. Azar-Farr, Simon Azar-Farr & Associates - San Antonio, TX

2:20 pm
0.75 hr

Federal Case Law Update

A review of important case decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Nicolas Chavez, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Fort Worth, TX
Javier N. Maldonado, Law Office of Javier N. Maldonado, PC - San Antonio, TX

3:05 pm

Break

3:15 pm
0.50 hr

Waivers in Family and Removal Cases

Tips on presenting some of the most common, but tricky, waiver cases.

Carlos Moctezuma García, García & García, Attorneys at Law P.L.L.C. - McAllen, TX

3:45 pm 1.25 hrs 0.75 hr ethics	<p>Anatomy of a Removal Case</p> <p>An examination of removal proceedings, from initiation of proceedings through the bond process, all the way to the removability phase. Gain insight on presenting the best case possible—from legal strategy to practical considerations.</p> <p>Moderator: George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Joel R. Gonzalez, Cote & Gonzalez PLLC - San Antonio, TX Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX</p>
5:00 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Ask the Experts</p> <p>An interactive opportunity to have top immigration lawyers answer your questions and provide solutions to your ethical quandaries.</p> <p>Moderator: Eugene J. Flynn, Eugene J. Flynn, P.C. - Dallas, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Janet B. Beck, University of Houston Law Center - Houston, TX Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX Margaret D. Stock, Cascadia Cross Border Law Group LLC - Anchorage, AK Ira J. Kurzban, Kurzban, Kurzban, Weinger & Tetzeli, PA - Miami, FL</p>
5:45 pm In Austin Only	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION AND <i>PRO BONO</i> MIXER (5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.)</p> <p>Enjoy refreshments and a networking opportunity with colleagues, conference faculty, and pro bono organization representatives. Edna Yang, American Gateways, Austin, TX, opens with a brief introduction and overview of the current pro bono landscape.</p>

Wednesday Morning, October 7, 2015

Presiding Officer:

Mona Gupta, Gupta & Wiora, P.C. - Dallas, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	<p>Conference Room Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:00 am 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Immigration Case Management and Ethics</p> <p>An immigration practice involves much more than filling out forms. Explore the ethical and practical issues that practitioners should prepare for.</p> <p>Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Jacqueline L. Watson, Law Office of Thomas Esparza, Jr., P.C. - Austin, TX</p>
8:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>Non-Immigrant Visas: H-1B versus The World</p> <p>Survey the global landscape of work visa options, including pros and cons for each, and identify the territorial land mines trending in USCIS's Requests for Additional Evidence in the context of work visas.</p> <p>William D. Fong, Fong & Associates, L.L.P. - Houston, TX Rebecca R. Massiatte, JMO Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX</p>

9:15 am 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Investment-Based Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Visas Investing in the U.S. provides the basis for obtaining both nonimmigrant and immigrant visas. Explore the E-2 treaty investor nonimmigrant visa and the EB-5 investment immigration green card option. Ron Klasko, Klasko Immigration Law Partners, LLP - Philadelphia, PA
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am 0.75 hr	Top Ten Considerations of Processing a PERM Labor Certification Case A succinct and fundamental overview of the permanent residence process involving PERM labor certification. Consider prevalent issues faced by petitioners, including current trends related to PERM recruitment and other special issues, and learn best practices, compliance measures, and strategies to best navigate the PERM process. Helene N. Dang, Foster LLP - Houston, TX
11:00 am 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Worksite Compliance 2015 Understand how to manage verification compliance strategies and negotiate settlements in the minefield of interagency audits by ICE/HSI, OSC, and USCIS/Verification.. Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX Oscar J. Mendoza, Acuña, Lane, Valdez & Associates, PLLC - Irving, TX
11:45 am 0.50 hr	Hot Topics in Employment-Based Immigration A look at other hot issues in employment-based immigration, including H-2B hijinks and the latest in processing for temporary labor; recent E-Verify monitoring activities and RIDE updates; STEM extensions, H-4 employment authorization documents, and clarifying the myths about who qualifies; and more. Maggie Murphy, Jackson Lewis P.C. - Austin, TX
12:15 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch Included in registration.

Wednesday Afternoon, October 7, 2015

Presiding Officer:

Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 pm 0.50 hr	Texas Board Certification in Immigration and Nationality Law: What You Need to Know The attorney certification process in Texas, including the historical background, goals, requirements, procedures, and benefits of certification. Gary W. McNeil, Texas Board of Legal Specialization - Austin, TX
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1:05 pm	Break
1:20 pm 0.75 hr	Developments in Naturalization and Military Immigration Issues A look at the challenges posed by the new N-400 form, as well as military-related immigration issues such as Parole-in-Place and MAVNI (Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest). Margaret D. Stock, Cascadia Cross Border Law Group LLC - Anchorage, AK
2:05 pm 0.75 hr	Do Intercountry Adoptions Still Exist? New Regulations, Procedures, and Mandatory Requirements Understand the essential issues in intercountry adoptions, including the basic assumptions (that should not always be assumed), the Hague Convention and when it applies and does not apply, requirements for adoptions abroad and in the U.S. (and issues of Habitual Residence), and when adoption must be voided, vacated, or annulled. Plus, gain insight for dealing with “out of the box” cases, including challenging negative decisions and appealing to the AAO and Federal Court, as well as Section 502(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act. Heidi Bruegel Cox, Gladney Center for Adoption - Fort Worth, TX Irene Steffas, Steffas & Associates, P.C. - Marietta, GA
2:50 pm 0.75 hr	Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers (I601As) Recent trends, common pitfalls, and what to expect from the government in a provisional waiver case, from I-130 filing to visa issuance at the consulate. Laurel Scott, Scott and Associates, Attorneys at Law, PLLC - Houston, TX
3:35 pm	Break
3:45 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	“Happily Never After” Review the consequences of divorce on marriage-based I-130 and I-751 petitions, and explore in depth documenting bona fide marriages, marriage fraud, litigating I-751 denials in removal proceedings, and conflicts of interest. Maria E. McIntyre, Nayar & McIntyre, LLP - Dallas, TX Lakshmi Nayar, Nayar & McIntyre, LLP - Dallas, TX
4:30 pm 0.50 hr	Immigration Remedies for Vulnerable Populations: U Visas and T Visas Learn how to identify potential U and T visa applicants and review the process for applying for these forms of relief, including how to apply for derivative family members, how to deal with the current U visa wait list, and how to effectively use humanitarian parole for vulnerable populations. Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX
5:00 pm	Adjourn