

44th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law

October 22-23, 2020 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Oct. 22, 2020

Presiding Officer:

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

8:00 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:10 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Federal Court and BIA Update</p> <p>Learn about the latest case decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals and federal courts.</p> <p>Nicolas Chavez, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Fort Worth, TX Imran B. Mirza, Law Office of Imran Mirza, PC - Bellaire, TX</p>
9:10 am	5-Minute Break
9:15 am 0.75 hr	<p>Maintenance of NIV Status for the Future IV/AOS</p> <p>Explore the importance of maintenance of nonimmigrant visa status during permanent residence processing, when possible, and various timing considerations and strategies to keep in mind. The presentation includes a review of, the “Nonimmigrant-intent only” status, and how to proceed with permanent residence from TN, F-1, E-3, etc.; maintaining work visa status during the various stages of permanent resident processing; and how to address the question “What do you mean I need to restrict my travel?”.</p> <p>Francisco J. García, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston - Galveston, TX Maggie Murphy, Jackson Lewis P.C. - Austin, TX</p>
10:00 am	5-Minute Break
10:05 am 0.50 hr	<p>Worksite Compliance in the Age of COVID-19 - Mighty Fine for a Faulty I-9!</p> <p>What are the updates and hot topics in civil and criminal violations you need to know? Hear updates concerning ICE HSI and DOJ IER being back to work in audits and investigations. Also explore the new challenges the I-9 completion with remote hiring and responding to a Notice of Inspection present.</p> <p>Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX</p>
10:35 am	5-Minute Break
10:40 am 1.00 hr 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Civil and Criminal Implications of Enforcement</p> <p>Examine potential exposure to criminal offenses such as harboring, transporting, encouraging aliens, fraud and consequences when advising individual and corporate clients. Explore the challenges of defending immigrants during the horrific COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Rebecca R. Massiatte, JMA Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX Feroz Farook Merchant, The Merchant Law Firm - Houston, TX Miguel Nogueras, Federal Public Defenders Office - McAllen, TX</p>

11:40 am

Break for Lunch - Presentations Resume at 12:05 p.m.

Thursday Afternoon, Oct. 22, 2020

Presiding Officer:

Irene G. Mugambi, Law Office of Irene G. Mugambi P.C. - Dallas, TX

Luncheon Presentation

12:05 pm
0.75 hr

Historic View of Immigration—The Paper Son and Jewish Immigration in the United States

Delve into the unique immigration experience of the paper son and the early Chinese immigration and exclusion from the US and the story of Jewish immigration to Texas.

Harry J. Joe, JMA Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX
Peter D. Williamson, Chamberlain Hrdlicka - Houston, TX

12:50 pm

5-Minute Break

12:55 pm
0.50 hr

Latent Consequences of Fraud and Mistakes

Explore denaturalization, revocation of permanent residence, and other hidden landmines.

Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX

1:25 pm

5-Minute Break

1:30 pm
1.00 hr ethics

Best Practices for Malpractice Avoidance

The best way to avoid malpractice is to recognize the pitfalls that can lead to malpractice situations. Learn to spot these potential situations.

Gene Tausk, The Tausk Law Firm - Houston, TX

2:30 pm

5-Minute Break

2:35 pm
1.00 hr
0.25 hr ethics

Virtual Deportation Hearings

Virtual hearings are the trend. A discussion on the current state of EOIR usage of technology for removal proceedings with particular emphasis on protecting the due process rights of respondents during virtual proceedings.

Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX
George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX

3:35 pm

5-Minute Break

3:40 pm
0.75 hr

Consular Processing Disruption in 2020 - Overview and Strategies

The impact of COVID-19 and the resulting economic downturn has turned the consular processing world upside down. Visa applicants face a suspension of immigrant and nonimmigrant visa processing and travel bans via proclamation in addition to ongoing procedural and adjudication hurdles. Explore these challenges and strategies to navigate the unprecedented changes in 2020 to consular processing as a tool to obtain, maintain, extend, and change status.

Kathleen C. Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX
Kenneth J. Harder, Dunbar Harder, PLLC - Houston, TX

4:25 pm

Adjourn

Friday Morning, Oct. 23, 2020

Presiding Officer:

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

8:30 am
0.75 hr

The Consequences of COVID on Response and Filing Deadlines with USCIS

USCIS expanded the flexibility for responding to USCIS requests and notices that were issued on or after March 1st. While this increased flexibility was well-intentioned, it has not addressed many of the issues facing immigrants in obtaining or maintaining status during COVID. Explore the hurdles faced in responding to Requests for Evidence, Notices of Intent to Deny, Notices of Intent to Revoke, Notices of Intent to Terminate and in filing I-290B motions and appeals while panelists provide practical advice on overcoming these hurdles.

Laura Flores Bachman, ASISTA - Phoenix, AZ
Irene G. Mugambi, Law Office of Irene G. Mugambi P.C. - Dallas, TX

9:15 am

5-Minute Break

9:20 am
1.00 hr

Public Charge Issues

A review of USCIS and Dept. of State implementation of the new public charge rules and practical advice on meeting the new standards.

Terry Cody, Catholic Charities Archdiocese Galveston-Houston, Cabrini Center - Houston, TX
Charles Wheeler, Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), Inc - Oakland, CA

10:20 am

5-Minute Break

10:25 am
0.75 hr

Issues in Adjustment of Status and Consular Processing

How to obtain the Green Card when the rules keep changing and dealing with COVID-19 delays.

Nancy Taylor Shivers, Shivers & Shivers - San Antonio, TX
Nicole Simon, Landau, Hess, Simon, Choi, & Doebley - Philadelphia, PA

11:10 am

5-Minute Break

11:15 am 1.00 hr	<p>Advanced Protecting Survivors of Crime from Removal</p> <p>Learn how to fight (or, at least, how to not go down without a fight) for your crime victim clients! Explore advanced strategies to protect survivors of crime from removal, including motions to continue and motions to reopen for U/T/VAWA applicants in removal proceedings; cancellation of removal under the special rule for battered spouses and children (“VAWA cancellation”); applications for stays of removal for U/T/VAWA applicants; and advocacy with law enforcement agencies for getting those U and T certifications from the law enforcement perspective.</p> <p>Amelia Ruiz Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Elizabeth "Libby" Hasse, Tahirih Justice Center - Houston, TX</p>
12:15 pm	Break for Lunch - Presentations Resume at 12:40 p.m.

Friday Afternoon, Oct. 23, 2020

Presiding Officer:

Francisco J. García, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston - Galveston, TX

12:40 pm 1.00 hr	<p>The Ever-Evolving World of U.S. Asylum Law: Updates and Practice Pointers on Presenting Affirmative and Defensive Asylum Claims</p> <p>Explore the most recent updates and practical pointers on changes to the ever-changing world of asylum.</p> <p>Cori A. Hash, Lincoln Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX Erica B. Schommer, St. Mary's University School of Law - San Antonio, TX Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX</p>
1:40 pm	5-Minute Break
1:45 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Crimmigration Update</p> <p>A discussion on the latest cases affecting immigrants with criminal convictions and strategies to defeat removability.</p> <p>Javier N. Maldonado, Law Office of Javier N. Maldonado, PC - San Antonio, TX Carlos Moctezuma García, García & García, Attorneys at Law P.L.L.C. - McAllen, TX</p>
2:15 pm	5-Minute Break
2:20 pm 1.25 hrs 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Hot Topics ¿A Ver Que?</p> <p>Learn the latest about USCIS and DOS adjudication trends and processing times for family, humanitarian and employment based cases, including H-1B RFEs, public charge issues, and visa bulletin retrogressions. What is next for DACA, TPS, F-1 OPT and other vulnerable categories under attack by the Trump Administration?</p> <p>Marisol L. Pérez, De Mott, McChesney, Curtright & Armendáriz - San Antonio, TX Nicole Simon, Landau, Hess, Simon, Choi, & Doebley - Philadelphia, PA</p>
3:35 pm	5-Minute Break

3:40 pm
0.75 hr
0.50 hr ethics

Ask the Experts

Take advantage of an interactive opportunity to have top immigration lawyers answer your questions and provide solutions to your ethical quandaries. **Please submit your questions in advance to ConferenceQA@utcle.org.**

Moderator:

Eugene J. Flynn, Eugene J. Flynn, P.C. - Dallas, TX

Panelists:

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

Rebecca R. Massiatte, JMA Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX

Imran B. Mirza, Law Office of Imran Mirza, PC - Bellaire, TX

Nicole Simon, Landau, Hess, Simon, Choi, & Doebley - Philadelphia, PA

Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX

4:25 pm

Adjourn