

46th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law
September 29-30, 2022 • DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin • Austin, TX
September 29-30, 2022 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning

Presiding Officer:

Jacqueline L. Watson, Walker Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	<p>Registration Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:20 am	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p>
8:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>Acquired Citizenship: If Your Client Has Acquired Citizenship, The Rest of This Conference is MOOT</p> <p>Many professionals are so focused on the familiar business or family immigration topics, that they forget to ask about ancestors. Gain insight to tools and examples of what to look for when interviewing a potential client and how to develop and file a citizenship case.</p> <p>Kathrin Mautino, Kathrin S. Mautino APLC - San Diego, CA</p>
9:15 am 0.75 hr	<p>Naturalization From Easy to Difficult</p> <p>A look at naturalization cases from the very straight-forward to the most common (and uncommon) difficult issues and red flags.</p> <p>Natalie Hansen, Hansen & Taylor, PLLC - Austin, TX Guillermo M. Hernández III, Rivera Hernandez Campos PLLC - San Antonio, TX Kathrin Mautino, Kathrin S. Mautino APLC - San Diego, CA</p>
10:00 am	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
10:15 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Crimmigration</p> <p>Learn how to approach and analyze criminal issues of inadmissibility and deportability. Listen to an overview of the categorical and modified categorical approach, review how to apply the approaches to issues that may arise in your cases, and hear helpful and creative practice pointers.</p> <p>Amelia Ruiz Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Jordan Pollock, Dallas County Public Defender's Office - Dallas, TX</p>
11:15 am 1.00 hr	<p>Federal Case Law Update</p> <p>Learn about the latest case decisions by federal courts.</p> <p>Javier N. Maldonado, Law Office of Javier N. Maldonado, PC - San Antonio, TX Materials By: Imran B. Mirza, Law Office of Imran Mirza, PC - Bellaire, TX</p>

12:15 pm
In Austin Only

Pick up Lunch

Included in registration.

Thursday Afternoon

Presiding Officer:

Sarah E. Woelk, Casa Marianella Immigration Legal Services - Austin, TX

Luncheon Presentation

12:35 pm
1.00 hr

National Policy Updates

Join members of AILA's Executive Committee and Board, as well as AILA's Director of Government Relations to review current regulatory and policy updates as we head into the government's next fiscal year. From DACA - 10 Years Later to Changes in I-9 policy, this panel will review recent changes in immigration policy and what to expect for 2023.

Sharvari (Shev) Dalal-Dheini, American Immigration Lawyers Association - Washington, DC
Maggie Murphy, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP - Austin, TX
Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX
Jacqueline L. Watson, Walker Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX

1:35 pm

15-Minute Break

1:50 pm
1.00 hr
0.25 hr ethics

New Focus on to NIWs

Entrepreneurs and investors may explore the National Interest Waiver category to pursue permanent resident status. Examine the category and review practical considerations in this option.

Ramón E. Curiel, Oliva, Saks, Garcia, Curiel, LLP - San Antonio, TX

2:50 pm
1.00 hr
0.25 hr ethics

Navigating the H-2A and H-2B Filing Process

A discussion on the ever-changing landscape of the H-2A and H-2B filing processes.

Kyle Farmer, Farmer Law PC - Austin, TX
Karen-Lee Pollak, Pollak PLLC - Dallas, TX

3:50 pm

10-Minute Break

4:00 pm
1.00 hr

PERM Labor Certification Updates

This panel will provide practical guidance and updates on PERM drafting trends. Issues discussed will include remote work situations, new SOC codes, good-faith compliance with regard to the Facebook settlement, and relevant BALCA summaries.

Heather L. Frayre, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX
Maggie Murphy, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP - Austin, TX
Paige L. Taylor, Fragomen Del Ray Bernsen & Loewy, LLP - Dallas, TX

5:00 pm 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Site Visits and Audits</p> <p>Discuss the use of site visits and audits for compliance reviews by USCIS and how best practices to prepare for the possibility. Review a top ten best practices list to apply before filing applications and petitions.</p> <p>Kathleen Campbell Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX</p>
5:30 pm	<p>Pro Bono Introduction</p>
5:40 pm In Austin Only	<p>Adjourn to Pro Bono Reception</p>
In Austin Only	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION AND PRO BONO MIXER</p> <p>Enjoy refreshments and a networking opportunity with colleagues, conference faculty, and <i>pro bono</i> organization representatives.</p>

Friday Morning

Presiding Officer:

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

8:00 am In Austin Only	<p>Conference Room Opens</p>
8:30 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Key I-9 Audit and Compliance Issues - Mistakes to Avoid</p> <p>You can save your client \$\$ by knowing the key mistakes they are likely to make. Common mistakes of note include: transitioning from temporary remote verification to secondary in person tactile examination of documents, automatic extensions of certain documents, pre-hire questions, citizenship discrimination or document abuse violations of DOJ Immigrant and Employee Rights Section (IER) laws, and E-Verify issues.</p> <p>Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX Kathleen Campbell Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX</p>
9:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>ECAS Webex and You</p> <p>This session covers the basics of navigating immigration court through the ECAS system. Tips on how to get the most out of all ECAS capabilities and hints on how to get old cases uploaded into the ECAS system.</p> <p>George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX</p>
10:15 am	<p>15-Minute Break</p>

<p>10:30 am 0.75 hr</p>	<p>OPT and STEM</p> <p>This session will cover basic eligibility and application requirements for 12-month OPT and STEM OPT, as well as school official, student and employer responsibilities during STEM extensions.</p> <p>Martin Valko, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Dallas, TX David Ware, Ware Immigration - Metairie, LA</p>
<p>11:15 am 0.75 hr 0.50 hr ethics</p>	<p>Difficult Clients and Our Difficult Practice</p> <p>How do we safely and ethically handle difficult clients and protect ourselves and our staff in our politically-charged practices?</p> <p>Amanda M. Kates, State Bar of Texas - Austin, TX</p>
<p>12:00 pm In Austin Only</p>	<p>Pick up Lunch</p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

Friday Afternoon

Presiding Officer:

Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX

Luncheon Presentation

<p>12:20 pm 0.50 hr ethics</p>	<p>Mental Health in Light of Difficult Clients and Difficult Practices</p> <p>How to develop Posttraumatic Growth and be psychologically and emotionally strong when working in the ongoing stress of working with trauma survivors. Review self-care and maintaining balance both professionally and personally.</p> <p>Bernadette Hassan Solórzano, Our Lady of the Lake University Community Counseling Service - San Antonio, TX</p>
<p>12:50 pm</p>	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
<p>1:05 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics</p>	<p>PD in a Nutshell</p> <p>A quick guide to the current state of DHS prosecutorial discretion, how to request PD, and what happens after PD is granted.</p> <p>Robert W. Armstrong Jr., Armstrong Legal Law Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX</p>

1:35 pm
1.00 hr

Asylum

Review major updates and changes to asylum law and process under the first two years of the Biden Administration. Topics will include updates on the implementation of the new Interim Final Rule on asylum processing, the status of MPP and Title 42, major caselaw changes in the 5th Circuit, and affirmative asylum processing through the Houston Asylum Office.

Zoe Bowman, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center - El Paso, TX
Robert Painter, American Gateways - Austin, TX
Luis Rios, ProBAR - Harlingen, TX

2:35 pm
0.75 hr
0.25 hr ethics

Humanitarian Practice & Procedures Updates

The panel will discuss updates to policy, procedure, and reality for DACA, TPS, Parole, SIJS and U & T visas. This will include bona fide determinations (BFD) for U visas, work authorization eligibility for SIJS, and the benefits or not of advance parole for DACA and TPS.

Sarah Vidal, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX
Jacqueline L. Watson, Walker Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX
Materials By:
Rosemary Vega, University of Houston Law Center, Immigration Clinic - Houston, TX

3:20 pm

Adjourn