

26th ANNUAL
**SCHOOL LAW
CONFERENCE**



*Rainy Walk Alone, 36" x 24", oil on canvas, is by Jessica Cook.
For more information, visit www.jessicacook.com.*

March 3–4, 2011
Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark ▪ Austin, Texas

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26TH ANNUAL
SCHOOL LAW CONFERENCE

March 3–4, 2011 • Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark • Austin, Texas

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 3, 2011

Presiding Officer:

Joy S. Baskin, Texas Association of
School Boards, Austin, TX

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

8:45 a.m. .75 hr

First Amendment Update: Student Issues

Developments in First Amendment cases involving public school students, including discipline and religion cases.

Clay T. Grover, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P.,
Houston, TX

9:30 a.m. 1.00 hr

First Amendment Update: Employee Issues

An exploration of the line between school employees' roles as public employees and private citizens.

Michael J. Currie, Texas Classroom Teachers
Association, Austin, TX
Christopher B. Gilbert, Thompson & Horton LLP,
Houston, TX

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. .75 hr

Bullying and Cyberbullying

An update and discussion of the difficult legal and practical issues surrounding bullying, cyberbullying and dating violence.

Todd Aaron Clark, Walsh, Anderson, Brown,
Gallegos and Green, P.C., Austin, TX
Lynn Rossi Scott, Brackett & Ellis, P.C.,
Fort Worth, TX

11:30 a.m. .75 hr

**Portable Pornography and the Cyberbully:
Today's Classroom Criminal**

How should a school district partner with their local prosecutors to handle 21st century criminal conduct in the classroom?

Philip A. Grant, Montgomery County D.A. Office,
Conroe, TX

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

12:15 p.m. Pick Up Box Lunch

Included in conference registration fee.

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:30 p.m. .50 hr

Board Members' Digital Communications

Forget worries about phone calls and emails—these days board members are texting each other at the board table. Is it legal? Is it public information?

Ifeoma Ada Odita, Texas Association of
School Boards, Austin, TX

1:00 p.m. Break

1:15 p.m. .50 hr

Results from the Charter Schools Experiment

It has been 15 years since Texas first recognized open-enrollment charter schools as part of the Texas public school system. A practitioner in both realms discusses the lessons charters and districts can learn from one another.

Robert A. Schulman, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P.,
San Antonio, TX

1:45 p.m. .50 hr

**Texas Election Law and School Districts:
Dos and Don'ts in Trustee Elections**

What are the legal boundaries for school employees and school officials during election season?

Cristen David Feldman, Rusty Hardin & Associates, P.C.,
Houston, TX

2:15 p.m. .75 hr

Grades and Grads

Changes to the "Top Ten Percent" rules, grading policies and local class rank decisions.

David P. Backus, Underwood Law Firm, Lubbock, TX

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. .75 hr

Commissioner and Attorney General Update

An update on recent Commissioner of Education decisions and Attorney General opinions.

Holly M. Claghorn, Texas Association of
School Boards, Austin, TX

4:00 p.m. 1.00 hr ethics

Proposed and New Ethics Rules You Need to Know

An overview of new Texas disciplinary rules, as well as new laws affecting investigations.

Amon Burton, Law Office of Amon Burton,
Austin, TX
Jim Heidelberg, Escamilla, Poneck & Cruz, LLP,
San Antonio, TX

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 2011

Presiding Officer:

Joey W. Moore, Texas State Teachers
Association, Austin, TX

8:00 a.m. Conference Room Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 a.m. .75 hr

Strategies for Addressing Fiscal Shortfalls

A look at the practical effects of financial crisis on school districts—especially small districts—including layoffs, voluntary separation agreements, shared service arrangements and consolidation.

Tracy Hoke, Fort Bend Independent School District,
Sugar Land, TX
Sara Hardner Leon, Powell & Leon, LLP, Austin, TX

9:15 a.m. 1.00 hr

ADAAA: When Theory Meets Reality

A practical look at the give-and-take between employee and employer anticipated by the proposed new federal regulations.

M. Kaye DeWalt, Littler Mendelson P.C., Houston, TX
Jennifer A. Powell, Schwartz & Eichelbaum Wardell
Mehl and Hansen, P.C., Austin, TX

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. 1.00 hr

Tough Student Discipline Situations

The toughest student discipline situations involve far more than Chapter 37. This panel sorts through some true-to-life challenges.

Marquette Maria Maresh, Walsh, Anderson, Brown,
Gallegos and Green, P.C., Austin, TX
Christopher L. Tritico, Essmyer, Tritico & Rainey, L.L.P.,
Houston, TX

11:30 a.m. .50 hr

Reporting Concerns of Child Abuse or Neglect

When, how and what to report—what does CPS do with my information?

Michael Norris, Texas Department of Family and
Protective Services, Austin, TX

KEY DATES

February 23, 2011, 5 p.m.

last day for early registration
add \$50 for registrations received after this time

February 25, 2011, 5 p.m.

last day for full refund

February 28, 2011, 5 p.m.

last day for partial refund
\$50 processing fee applied

March 3, 2011, 8:45 a.m.

Conference begins

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

12:00 p.m. Pick Up Box Lunch

Included in conference registration fee.

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:15 p.m. 1.00 hr ethics

Ethics in Settlement, Mediation and Negotiation

Using real-life scenarios, three experienced practitioners discuss ethical considerations that may arise during negotiations. Topics include authority to settle, confidentiality and conflicts of interest.

Jefferson K. Brim III, Brim, Arnett, Robinett, Conners & McCormick, P.C., Austin, TX

Lisa A. Brown, Thompson & Horton LLP, Houston, TX

S. Anthony Safi, Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan, P.C., El Paso, TX

1:15 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. .75 hr

Overlapping Jurisdictions

Relationships and interactions between school districts and the other political entities with whom they share territory, e.g., interlocal contracts, conflicts of laws.

Arturo G. Michel, Thompson & Horton LLP, Houston, TX

2:15 p.m. .75 hr

SBEC Rules, Chapter 247: Updates and Changes

Discussion of 19 TAC Chapter 247 amendments related to ethical and professional educator conduct.

Richard L. Arnett, Brim, Arnett, Robinett, Conners & McCormick, P.C., Austin, TX

Merle Hoffman Dover, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

3:00 p.m. .75 hr

School District Elections

School districts hold several types of elections which must meet requirements of various state and federal laws. This session focuses on trustee elections using single-member districts which require redistricting after the 2010 U.S. Census under federal law and the Texas Education Code, as well as on tax ratification elections subject to Texas Education Code, Texas Election Code and Texas Tax Code provisions.

Judy C. Brown, Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, P.C., Austin, TX

3:45 p.m. Adjourn

**M
C
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E**

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 13.75 hours, of which 2.00 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit. The University of Texas School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider (#1944).

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REGISTRATION

Includes Course Binder and Thursday and Friday Luncheon Presentations

STANDARD REGISTRATION

☐ Early Registration Fee due by Wednesday, February 23, 2011\$470

☐ Registration Fee after Wednesday, February 23, 2011\$520

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL LAW SECTION

☐ Early Registration Fee due by Wednesday, February 23, 2011\$445

☐ Registration Fee after Wednesday, February 23, 2011\$495

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March 3–4, 2011 ■ Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark ■ Austin, Texas

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March 3–4, 2011

CONFERENCE LOCATION



Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark
4140 Governor's Row
Austin, TX 78744
512-448-2222

Special Room Rate: \$129
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Parking: Complimentary
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