

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual School Law Conference**  
**March 3-4, 2011 • Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark • Austin, TX**

**Thursday Morning, Mar. 3, 2011**

**Presiding Officer:**

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

8:00 am	<b>Registration Opens</b>  Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
8:45 am 0.75 hr	<b>First Amendment Update: Student Issues</b>  Developments in First Amendment cases involving public school students, including discipline and religion cases.  Ellen H. Spalding, Rogers Morris & Grover - Houston, TX
9:30 am 1.00 hr	<b>First Amendment Update: Employee Issues</b>  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 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am 0.75 hr	<b>Bullying and Cyberbullying</b>  An update and discussion of the difficult legal and practical issues surrounding bullying, cyberbullying and dating violence.  Todd Aaron Clark, Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C. - Austin, TX Lynn Rossi Scott, Brackett & Ellis - Fort Worth, TX
11:30 am 0.75 hr	<b>Portable Pornography and the Cyberbully: Today's Classroom Criminal</b>  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, Mar. 3, 2011**

**Presiding Officer:**

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

	<b>Luncheon Presentation</b>
12:15 pm	<b>Pick up Box Lunch</b>  Included in conference registration fee.
12:30 pm 0.50 hr	<b>Board Members' Digital Communications</b>  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 Odita, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
1:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:15 pm 0.50 hr	<b>Results from the Charter Schools Experiment</b>  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 pm 0.50 hr	<b>Texas Election Law and School Districts: Dos and Don'ts in Trustee Elections</b>  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 pm 0.75 hr	<b>Grades and Grads</b>  Changes to the "Top Ten Percent" rules, grading policies and local class rank decisions.  David P. Backus, Underwood Law Firm - Lubbock, TX
3:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:15 pm 0.75 hr	<b>Commissioner and Attorney General Update</b>  An update on recent Commissioner of Education decisions and Attorney General opinions.  Holly M. Claghorn, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
4:00 pm 1.00 hr ethics	<b>Proposed and New Ethics Rules You Need to Know</b>  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 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>

## Friday Morning, Mar. 4, 2011

### Presiding Officer:

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

8:00 am	<b>Conference Room Opens</b>  Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am 0.75 hr	<b>Strategies for Addressing Fiscal Shortfalls</b>  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 ISD - Sugar Land, TX Sara Hardner Leon, Powell & Leon, LLP - Austin, TX
9:15 am 1.00 hr	<b>ADAAA: When Theory Meets Reality</b>  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 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 am 1.00 hr	<b>Tough Student Discipline Situations</b>  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, Tritico Rainey, PLLC - Houston, TX
11:30 am 0.50 hr	<b>Reporting Concerns of Child Abuse or Neglect</b>  When, how and what to report—what does CPS do with my information?  Michael Norris, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services - Austin, TX

## Friday Afternoon, Mar. 4, 2011

### Presiding Officer:

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

12:00 pm	<b>Pick up Box Lunch</b>  Included in conference registration fee.
	<b>Luncheon Presentation</b>

12:15 pm 1.00 hr ethics	<p><b>Ethics in Settlement, Mediation and Negotiation</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Panelists: Jefferson K. Brim III, Brim, Arnett, Robinett, Conners &amp; McCormick, P.C. - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Lisa A. Brown, Thompson &amp; Horton LLP - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: S. Anthony Safi, Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson &amp; Galatzan, P.C. - El Paso, TX</p>
1:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:30 pm 0.75 hr	<p><b>Overlapping Jurisdictions</b></p> <p>Relationships and interactions between school districts and the other political entities with whom they share territory, e.g., interlocal contracts, conflicts of laws.</p> <p>Arturo G. Michel, Thompson &amp; Horton LLP - Houston, TX</p>
2:15 pm 0.75 hr	<p><b>SBEC Rules, Chapter 247: Updates and Changes</b></p> <p>Discussion of 19 TAC Chapter 247 amendments related to ethical and professional educator conduct.</p> <p>Richard L. Arnett, Brim, Arnett, Robinett, Conners &amp; McCormick, P.C. - Austin, TX Merle Hoffman Dover, Texas Education Agency - Austin, TX</p>
3:00 pm 0.75 hr	<p><b>School District Elections</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Judy C. Brown, Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, P.C. - Austin, TX</p>
3:45 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>