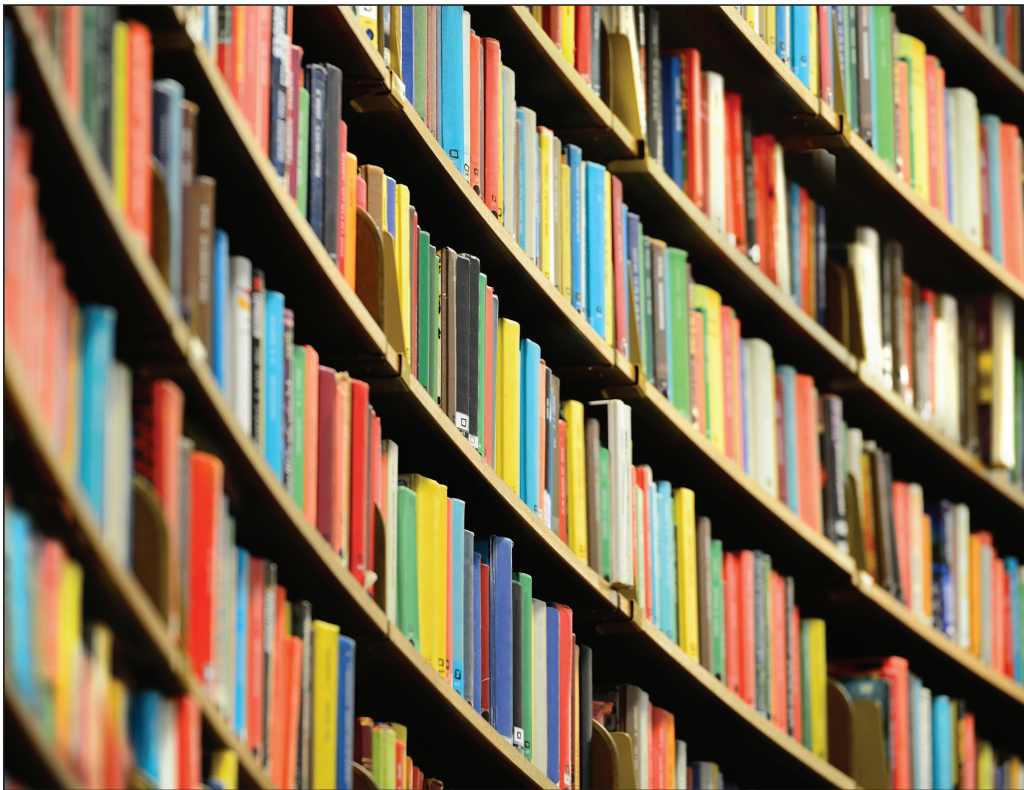


32ND ANNUAL
SCHOOL LAW CONFERENCE



February 23–24, 2017
AT&T Conference Center ■ Austin, Texas

 **Live Webcast February 23–24**

Earn up to 12.50 Hours of Credit Including 2.00 Hours of Ethics Credit

TX Legal Specialization Credit Expected for Administrative Law,
Civil Appellate Law, Civil Trial Law, and Labor and Employment Law

Approved for Continuing Education for School Board Members

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THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 23, 2017

Presiding Officer:

Ellen H. Spalding, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P., Houston, TX

7:30 a.m. Registration Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:25 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

8:30 a.m. 1.00 hr

Commissioner Decisions Update

Hear an update on Commissioner of Education decisions from the past year.

Mark P. Tilley, Texas Association of School Boards, Austin, TX

9:30 a.m. .50 hr

Recent Developments from the Attorney General's Office

Survey the latest Attorney General opinions, open records decisions, and open meetings guidance applicable to Texas schools.

Sierra Del Fisher, Karczewski Bradshaw LLP, Beaumont, TX

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. .75 hr

A Future Look at EEOC Emerging Issues

Hear a succinct overview of issues important to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, including eliminating barriers in recruitment and hiring, protecting vulnerable workers, preventing systemic harassment, wellness initiatives, gender stereotyping, social media, new forms of retaliation and harassment, and other emerging topics in the *Strategic Enforcement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017–2021*.

Joe Bontke, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Houston, TX

11:00 a.m. .75 hr

**T-TESS and T-PESS Update:
A Practicum of Everyday Challenges to These
New Appraisal Systems**

Discuss feedback from respective clients on challenges they face as they navigate these new appraisal systems, and get suggestions for avoiding wasteful days in conflict.

Jefferson K. Brim III, Brim, Robinett, Cantu & Brim, P.C., Austin, TX
Merri Schneider-Vogel, Thompson & Horton LLP, Houston, TX

11:45 a.m. .50 hr

Collision of Individual Rights

Student speech, service animals in classrooms, and managing dangerous behaviors—learn to navigate the contentious intersection of individual rights in the school setting.

Eric G. Rodriguez, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle, P.C., San Antonio, TX

12:15 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer:

Ellen H. Spalding, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P., Houston, TX

1:30 p.m. .50 hr

Best Practices for Working with Transgender Students

Gain practical guidance for working with students, staff, school boards, and community members on the multi-faceted issues related to transgender students.

Marney Collins Sims, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, Houston, TX

2:00 p.m. .50 hr

**There Is No Escaping Special Education
Issues for the School District Attorney**

Discuss the vocabulary, issues, regulations, and key cases about which all school attorneys should be aware.

Jim Walsh, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle, P.C., Austin, TX

2:30 p.m. .50 hr

FLSA Update

Take a look at the Department of Labor's recent changes to the overtime regulations and their expected impact. Explore how school districts frequently run afoul of the FLSA, practical tips to minimize liability exposure, and creative options available to school districts under the statute.

Caitlin Holland Sewell, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P., Houston, TX

3:00 p.m. .50 hr

EEOC: Arrested Developments

Hear an overview of the EEOC's *Enforcement Guidance on Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII*. Learn how the guidance affects hiring decisions and how school districts can ensure they stay on the right side of the law.

Leah Robertson, Midland ISD, Midland, TX

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. .50 hr

**The Importance of the Exhaustion of
Administrative Remedies Doctrine**

Gain insight into the exhaustion of administrative remedies doctrine, including its exceptions and application during the grievance process and state court litigation.

Juan J. Cruz, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC, Laredo, TX

4:15 p.m. .50 hr

Financing, Purchasing and Selling Property

Real estate transactions can trigger unique procedural and legal requirements for school districts and charter schools. Review requirements, best practices, and pitfalls of which every school lawyer should be aware when financing, purchasing, or selling real property interests.

Michelle Regal Morris, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P., Houston, TX

4:45 p.m. .75 hr ethics

Navigating through the SBEC Educator's Code of Ethics

Survey the provisions of Texas Administrative Code § 247.2, including disciplinary proceedings and sanctions and a review of recent cases.

Augustin Rivera Jr., Del Mar College District, Corpus Christi, TX

5:30 p.m. Adjourn

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 24, 2017

Presiding Officer:

Fred A. Stormer III, Underwood Law Firm, P.C., Amarillo, TX

7:30 a.m. Conference Room Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 a.m. .75 hr

Teachers Say The Darnedest Things—Again

Hear a school district attorney's and a school employee attorney's perspectives on the First Amendment line between school employees' speech as public employees and private citizens.

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

9:15 a.m. .75 hr | .50 hr ethics

Conducting School Investigations That Result in Useable Findings, On Time, and Within Budget

Learn tips and best practices in conducting investigations, including evidentiary issues, information gathering, and reporting. Also, review ethics considerations, including privilege, conflicts, and more.

Giana Ortiz, The Ortiz Law Firm, Arlington, TX
Corey E. Tanner, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., Austin, TX
Ronnie Paiz Garcia, Underwood, Lubbock, TX

10:00 a.m. .50 hr

Cameras in the Classroom

Review the new Texas Education Code provision requiring the installation and operation of cameras in certain self-contained special education classrooms. Discuss the relevant Commissioner's rules and recent Attorney General opinion, gain practical application tips, and understand FERPA implications.

Nona C. Matthews, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle, P.C., Irving, TX

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. .75 hr

Settlement Agreements for the 21st Century

Explore whether it is time to update and rethink how settlement agreements are written. An employer and an employee lawyer share their thoughts on resolving conflicts and how improvements may be made.

Kevin F. Lungwitz, The Lungwitz Law Firm, P.C., Austin, TX
Lisa R. McBride, Thompson & Horton LLP, Houston, TX

11:30 a.m. .50 hr

Discrimination and Student Discipline

Schools are increasingly focused on maintaining safe school environments while avoiding any illegal discrimination or claims of illegal discrimination. Discuss alternative discipline techniques, the role of the Campus Behavior Coordinator, and other methods of using student discipline data to achieve optimal environments.

Lynn Rossi Scott, Brackett & Ellis, P.C., Fort Worth, TX

12:00 p.m. Pick Up Lunch

Included in registration.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

29TH ANNUAL
HEALTH LAW CONFERENCE
APRIL 5–7, 2017 ■ HOUSTON, TEXAS

LAND USE FUNDAMENTALS
LAND USE CONFERENCE
APRIL 5, 6–7, 2017 ■ AUSTIN, TEXAS

43RD ANNUAL ERNEST E. SMITH
OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LAW
FUNDAMENTALS & INSTITUTE
APRIL 13–14, 2017 ■ HOUSTON, TEXAS

2017 ROBERT O. DAWSON
CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL APPEALS
MAY 10–12, 2017 ■ AUSTIN, TEXAS

utcle.org/conferences

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer:

Fred A. Stormer III, Underwood Law Firm, P.C., Amarillo, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:20 p.m. .75 hr

Every Student Succeeds Act Update

Hear an overview of the new federal law and an explanation of the major changes that impact Texas school districts, including the latest updates from the Department of Education and the Texas Education Agency regarding transitions and key state decisions.

Jasmine Wightman, Texas Association of School Boards, Inc, Austin, TX

1:05 p.m. Break

1:20 p.m. .50 hr

Reasonable Accommodations: A Discussion of Logistics and Practical Implications

Get practical tips on handling accommodation requests, including tips for working with health care providers, from the perspective of a former General Counsel turned Human Resources Administrator.

Cynthia Rincón, Fort Worth ISD, Fort Worth, TX

1:50 p.m. .75 hr ethics

Conflicts, Ethics and Slippery Slopes

Taxpayer, parent, spouse, school board member—a school lawyer can hold many roles. Examine the potential conflicts of interest that can arise for school law attorneys.

Amanda Moore, Texas State Teachers Association, Austin, TX
Janet Sobey Bubert, Underwood Law, P.C., Fort Worth, TX

2:35 p.m. Adjourn

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This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 12.50 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), and an Oklahoma Bar Association MCLE presumptively-approved provider (#179).

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HOW TO REGISTER

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Austin, TX 78713-7759

Fax:
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Questions? 512.475.6700

*Dietary requirements or Accessibility needs?
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Select Registration Type

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- School District Employee registration by February 15 \$395
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AUSTIN

February 23–24, 2017

CONFERENCE LOCATION



AT&T Conference Center

The University of Texas at Austin
 1900 University Avenue
 Austin, TX
 877.744.8822 (reservations)

Special Room Rate: \$185

good through February 8, 2017
 reference "2017 School Law Conference"
 (subject to availability)

Parking:

Free daily self-parking at UT garages.
 Separate fees apply for valet and
 overnight parking.

KEY DATES

February 15, 2017

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

February 17, 2017

last day for cancellation (full refund)

February 20, 2017

last day for cancellation (partial refund)
 \$50 processing fee applied

February 23, 2017, 8:25 a.m.

Conference begins

REASONS TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL LAW CONFERENCE

UT Law's **32nd Annual School Law Conference** is the definitive program for school administrators, school board members, education professionals, and the legal counsel who represent them. Presentations offer in-depth, practical discussion of the legal and regulatory issues affecting schools and school districts and provide a must-have set of materials and resources. 2017 highlights include:

- Take a deep dive in to T-TESS and T-PESS practicalities with **Jefferson K. Brim III**, Brim, Robinett, Cantu & Brim, P.C., Austin, TX and **Merri Schneider-Vogel**, Thompson & Horton LLP, Houston, TX.
- Hear practical guidance for working with students, staff, school boards, and community members on the multi-faceted issues related to transgender students.
- Get the latest on *Cameras in the Classroom* with **Nona C. Matthews**, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle, P.C., Irving, TX.
- Explore the line between school employees' speech as public employees and private citizens.
- Gain practical tips on reasonable accommodations from a former general counsel turned human resources administrator.
- Review recent Commissioner of Education decisions, and hear the latest developments from the Attorney General's Office.
- Learn to navigate the contentious intersection of individual rights relating to student speech, dangerous behavior, and service animals in the school setting.
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