

34th Annual School Law Conference
February 28 - March 1, 2019 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
February 28 - March 1, 2019 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Feb. 28, 2019

Presiding Officer:

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

7:30 am In Austin Only	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 0.75 hr	Commissioner Decisions Update Hear an update on Commissioner of Education decisions from the past year. Leslie R. Story, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
9:15 am 0.50 hr	Attorney General Update Explore highlights from the various opinions of our Texas attorney general that impact schools, educators, and education. Dennis J. Eichelbaum, Eichelbaum, Wardell, Hansen, Powell & Muñoz, P.C. - Plano, TX
9:45 am 0.50 hr	Reassignments and Mid-Year Changes in Pay Survey the legal and practical considerations around when and how school districts can reassign employees during the school year, including changes to their compensation. Brandon Y. Brim, Brim, Robinett, Cantu & Brim, P.C. - Austin, TX
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am 1.00 hr	Districts of Innovation: Frightening or Freedom Hear a school district general counsel and an attorney for teachers discuss Districts of Innovation and the impact Innovation Plans have had on schools and teachers. Amanda Marie Bigbee, Keller ISD - Keller, TX Julie Leahy, Texas Classroom Teachers Association - Austin, TX
11:30 am 1.00 hr	Complaint Management in the #MeToo Era In a rapidly changing social and legal environment, it can be difficult to know how to best proceed when faced with complaints of sexual harassment. Get practical guidance on managing these complaints in this volatile environment. Cory Rush, Karczewski Bradshaw Spalding - Houston, TX

12:30 pm
In Austin Only

Lunch on Your Own (in Austin)

Thursday Afternoon, Feb. 28, 2019

Presiding Officer:

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

2:00 pm
1.00 hr ethics

Dealing with Vexing Stakeholders

If everyone behaved we would not even need lawyers. But what are a lawyer's ethical obligations when a client or party goes over the line? Examine the unique challenges employees, parents, and school board members can pose.

Janet Sobey Bubert, Underwood Law, P.C. - Fort Worth, TX
Robert A. Schulman, Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein, LLP - San Antonio, TX
Paul Tapp, Association of Texas Professional Educators - Austin, TX

3:00 pm
0.75 hr

The Crossroads: Section 504, the ADA, and Chapter 21

Compare the causes of action for employment discrimination based on disability under Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Chapter 21 of the Texas Labor Code, and survey recent developments in Section 504 student litigation.

S. Anthony Safi, Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan, P.C. - El Paso, TX
Laura O'Leary, Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt and Kutchin - Dallas, TX

3:45 pm

Break

4:00 pm
0.50 hr

Managing Student Protest Logistics

The past year has seen a sharp increase in the number, size, and variety of student protests, and the logistics of these protests can create serious challenges for administrators. Explore ways to balance student protest rights with the practical needs of administration.

Christopher B. Gilbert, Thompson & Horton LLP - Houston, TX

4:30 pm
1.00 hr

Behavioral Threat Assessment: Preventing Threats in Advance

Hear from a panel of experts on effective mental health screening programs and psychological service delivery models aimed at preventing threats in schools.

Cassandra Hulsey, Round Rock ISD - Round Rock, TX
John "JJ" Jones, Texas Department of Public Safety - Austin, TX
Billy U. Philips Jr., Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center - Lubbock, TX

5:30 pm

Adjourn

In Austin Only

Networking Reception (in Austin from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres with program faculty and attendees.

Friday Morning, Mar. 1, 2019

Presiding Officer:

Marney Collins Sims, Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District - Houston, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Conference Room Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am 1.00 hr	What You're Missing: Emerging Issues in Contracts Ensure that your contracts contain mandatory provisions recently prescribed under both Texas and federal law, including language addressing student data privacy, accessibility, Boycott Israel, and provisions required under 2 CFR Part 200 for federally-funded purchases. Also, discuss the rollout of the 2017 AIA design and construction contract forms, and how to best transition your district through the conversion process. Micki Morris, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P. - Houston, TX Coby Wilbanks, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P. - Houston, TX
9:30 am 0.75 hr	Garrity Rights in Investigations Internal and administrative investigations within a public school bring with them unique due process restrictions. Are you prepared? Ellen H. Spalding, Karczewski Bradshaw Spalding - Houston, TX Christopher L. Tritico, Tritico Rainey, PLLC - Houston, TX
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am 0.75 hr	Communication for the Man-Made Crisis In recent years much has been made of the need for effective communication amidst natural disasters. But what happens when the disaster is man-made? From accidents to school shootings, learn how to manage communication when people are the cause. Andrea Slater Gulley, Amarillo Independent School District - Amarillo, TX D. Craig Wood, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle, P.C. - San Antonio, TX
11:15 am 0.50 hr	Community Colleges Texas community colleges are an integral component of the state's education system. Learn about community colleges, the students they serve, the programs they offer, and select legal issues they face. Amy Magee, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
11:45 am In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch (in Austin) Included in registration.

Friday Afternoon, Mar. 1, 2019

Presiding Officer:

Marney Collins Sims, Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District - Houston, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:05 pm 0.75 hr	The View from Washington Get a national perspective on current issues from the Managing Director for Legal Advocacy at the National School Boards Association. Sonja Trainor, National School Boards Association - Alexandria, VA
12:50 pm	Break
1:05 pm 0.50 hr	Special Education Corrective Action Imposed on TEA and Districts The Department of Education has determined that Texas violated the “child find” requirement in I.D.E.A. As a result, Texas is now implementing a corrective action plan. Take a look at the practical implications of this for school districts and school lawyers. Jim Walsh, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle, P.C. - Austin, TX
1:35 pm 1.00 hr ethics	Everyday Strategies for Avoiding Professional Misconduct Explore easy, common sense techniques that you can employ in your law practice to steer clear of legal malpractice, breaches of fiduciary duty, and findings of professional misconduct. A timely and important ethics tune-up that you won’t want to miss. Scott Rothenberg, Law Offices of Scott Rothenberg - Houston, TX
2:35 pm	Adjourn