

39th Annual School Law Conference
February 15-16, 2024 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
February 15-16, 2024 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Feb. 15, 2024

Presiding Officer:

Giana Ortiz, The Ortiz Law Firm - Arlington, 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. Mark P. Tilley, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
9:15 am 0.50 hr	Title IX Update: Here We Go Again The latest developments in Title IX regulations, caselaw, and best practices for K-12 and higher ed. Allen M. Keller, Schulman, Lopez Hoffer & Adelstein, LLP - San Antonio, TX
9:45 am 0.75 hr	Legislative Update After a regular legislative session and multiple special sessions, hear the latest information on major updates to the Texas Education Code and related regulations. Danny Stockton, Plano ISD - Plano, TX
10:30 am	15-Minute Break
10:45 am 0.50 hr	Student Issues: Vaping Examining the impact of recent Texas legislation on student disciplinary actions related to vaping, this presentation offers legal professionals an in-depth look into the evolving landscape of student rights, school policies, and the implications for future legal proceedings. D'Ann Bey, Lewisville ISD - Lewisville, TX Cynthia Rincon, O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo, PC

11:15 am 0.75 hr	TEA Certification Sanctions The report, the flag, the investigation, and the hearing. Moderator: Karl Tiger Hanner, Attorney at Law - Austin, TX Panelists: Daniel Berumen, Texas Education Agency - Austin, TX Tina Farrell, Texas Education Agency - Austin, TX Sarah C. Wolfe, Texas Education Agency - Austin, TX
12:00 pm 0.50 hr	To Search or Not to Search, that is the question! Student and Personnel Issues: Fourth Amendment Update Review recent relevant case law regarding Fourth Amendment issues. Erica Graham, Houston ISD - Houston, TX
12:30 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch (in Austin) Included in registration.

Thursday Afternoon, Feb. 15, 2024

Presiding Officer:

Giana Ortiz, The Ortiz Law Firm - Arlington, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

1:00 pm 0.50 hr	Safety and Texas Schools: Their Future Depends on What We Do Today An overview of the Office of School Safety and Security, the work being done by the Office, and Texas Education Agency's role in school safety. John Scott, Texas Education Agency - Austin, TX
1:30 pm	15-Minute Break
1:45 pm 1.00 hr	School Safety in a New World Discuss recent legislative changes impacting school safety, implementation, and lessons learned to date, and hear practical advice and suggestions as school districts work to comply fully with the legislation and cooperate with multiple involved agencies and their respective guidance. Ken Culbreath, Region 4 ESC - Houston, TX Ellen H. Spalding, Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois - Houston, TX
2:45 pm 1.00 hr ethics	Ted Lasso and Lawyer Ethics What can a fictional soccer coach, goldfish, and biscuits teach us about attorney ethics? Lace up your cleats and find out. Christie L. Hobbs, Northwest ISD - Fort Worth, TX

3:45 pm	Adjourn
In Austin Only	Networking Reception (in Austin from 3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres with program faculty and attendees.

Friday Morning, Feb. 16, 2024

Presiding Officer:

Cory Rush, Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois - Houston, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Conference Room Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am 0.50 hr	Elections: Do's and Don'ts Discuss relevant restrictions for entities holding elections and strategies that may be employed to successfully navigate these restrictions. Ben Morse, Leon Alcala, PLLC - Austin, TX
9:00 am 0.75 hr	Student/Parent Lawyer: Top 10 Things to Know Tips and best practices from the student and parent attorney perspective. Luke Williams, Barnett Howard & Williams PLLC - Fort Worth, TX
9:45 am 0.75 hr	House Bill 3 and Its Impact on Students with Disabilities Discuss the new security requirements under House Bill 3 and the potential disproportionate impact on students with disabilities. Focus on proactive steps for school staff to include parents in discipline procedures and strategies to avoid police involvement in classroom management. Olivia Lee, Disability Rights Texas - Austin, TX Colleen Potts, Disability Rights Texas - Lubbock, TX
10:30 am	15-Minute Break
10:45 am 0.50 hr	New Protections for Pregnant and Parenting Employees Within the last year, two new federal laws have gone into effect enhancing the rights and protections of pregnant and parenting employees. Hear an overview of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA), which requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations, and the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act (PUMP Act) which expands employees' rights to express milk at work. Amber King, Thompson & Horton LLP - Austin, TX

11:15 am 0.50 hr	School District Personnel Records: PIA Exceptions to Disclosure A review of the types of information that can and cannot be withheld from disclosure in school district employment records under the Texas Public Information Act. Leah Wingerson, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Kyle & Robinson, P.C. - Irving, TX
11:45 am 0.50 hr	Employment Case Law Update Review the Fifth Circuit's en banc opinion in <i>Hamilton v. Dallas County</i> and the effect <i>Hamilton</i> is already having in employment cases involving school districts. Also, discuss other recent employment cases of relevance to schools and their personnel. Thomas P. Brandt, Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt & Kutchin, P.C. - Dallas, TX
12:15 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch (in Austin) Included in registration.

Friday Afternoon, Feb. 16, 2024

Presiding Officer:

Cory Rush, Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois - Houston, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:45 pm 0.50 hr	Reading from the Same Page: Recent Updates to Dyslexia Services and the Dyslexia Handbook A review of recent changes to the law governing the education of students with dyslexia and implications for Texas school districts. Myra S. Chickering, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P. - Houston, TX
1:15 pm	15-Minute Break
1:30 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Artificial Intelligence in Schools: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Legal and practical issues with ChatGPT and other forms of AI in the classroom. Wesley L. Nute, Jr., Eichelbaum, Wardell, Hansen, Powell & Muñoz, P.C. - Plano, TX
2:15 pm 0.50 hr ethics	Social Media, Ethics, and TMI: Why you won't be ROFL Refresher on maintaining client confidences and other rules of professional conduct in a world influenced by social media. Priscilla de Mata, Ysleta ISD - El Paso, TX

2:45 pm 1.00 hr 0.75 hr ethics	<p>Representation of School Boards and Administrators in Challenging Times</p> <p>Explore the ethical and practical challenges faced by school lawyers when school boards and their communities are divided due to ideological, political, social, and interpersonal conflicts. Examine the fundamental ethical issues of duty, loyalty, and confidentiality. Hear practical advice about staying above the fray and offering clients high quality service during times of discord.</p> <p>Joy S. Baskin, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX Jarod Russell, Underwood Law Firm, P.C. - Amarillo, TX Jim Walsh, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Kyle & Robinson, P.C. - Austin, TX</p>
3:45 pm	Adjourn