

40th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law
October 27-28, 2016 • Radisson Hotel and Suites, Austin-Downtown • Austin, TX
October 27-28, 2016 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, October 27, 2016

Presiding Officer:

Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 0.75 hr	Navigating Uncharted Waters: The Impact of the Current Political Debate on Immigration Politics and Policy The current election is unlike any we have seen in modern history, and immigration has been front and center. What does this mean for the politics and policy of immigration, and what are the chances of immigration reform happening in 2017? Benjamin E. Johnson, Executive Director, American Immigration Lawyers Association - Washington, DC
9:15 am 0.75 hr	Naturalization Applying for naturalization could be a time for the USCIS to examine your client's continued claim to lawful permanent resident status. Before you file, find out what hidden dangers to the green card lurk in the shadows. Understand the advantages and obligations of citizenship to discuss with your client and the pitfalls that await you on the Naturalization form. Eugene J. Flynn, Eugene J. Flynn, P.C. - Dallas, TX Iliana N. Holguin, Dunbar, Armendariz, Hegeman & Holguin, PLLC - El Paso, TX
10:00 am 0.50 hr	Adoptions and Immigration Law Justine M. Daly, Law Offices Of Justine M. Daly - San Antonio, TX
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am 1.00 hr	To PERM or Not to PERM: Exploring EB-1, 2, and 3 Lawyering a PERM is a good exercise in jumping to conclusions, pushing your luck, and dodging deadlines. If you don't PERM, be ready to bolster your evidence for "extraordinary, exceptional, outstanding researcher, and/or in the National Interest." Susan Bond, The Law Office of Susan Bond P.C. - Dallas, TX Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX

11:45 am 0.50 hr	Religious Occupations and Vocations: From the R-1 Temporary Work Visa to the EB-4 Special Immigrant Visa, and Everything in Between Hear a discussion of the basics and current adjudication trends. Avalyn Castillo Langemeier, Foster LLP - Houston, TX Rebecca R. Massiatte, JMO Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX
12:15 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch Included in registration.

Thursday Afternoon, October 27, 2016

Presiding Officer:

Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 pm 0.75 hr	The Past Forty Years: Reflections on the Evolution of Immigration Law and Practice Reflecting on the past forty years, hear how the practice of immigration law developed, how immigration law and policy have evolved, and the impact of the UT Law Conference on immigration practice—and what we may see in the forty years ahead! Moderator: Charles C. Foster, Foster LLP - Houston, TX Panelists: Harry Gee Jr., Harry Gee & Associates, PLLC - Houston, TX Harry J. Joe, JMO Firm, PLLC - Dallas, TX Robert A. Shivers, Shivers & Shivers - San Antonio, TX Peter D. Williamson, Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry - Houston, TX
1:20 pm	Break
1:35 pm 0.75 hr	Implications for Immigration Relief After <i>Mathis v. US</i> and <i>Gomez-Perez v. Lynch</i> Learn how to address crimes involving moral turpitude in the Fifth Circuit and whether domestic violence is still considered a crime of moral turpitude. Simon M. Azar-Farr, Simon Azar-Farr & Associates - San Antonio, TX Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX
2:20 pm 1.25 hrs	Removal Proceedings and Relief Break down the process of a bond hearing and master calendar hearing, learn how to get out of removal, how to get prosecutorial discretion, and what relief may be available to your client. Moderator: George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Panelists: Amelia Ruiz Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Lawrence E. Rushton, The Rushton Law Firm - Bellaire, TX

3:35 pm	Break
3:45 pm 0.75 hr	HELP! Alternatives to H-1B There are many other ways you can HELP your clients when they don't hit the H-1B jackpot. Learn the ins and outs and pros and cons of H-2B, H-3, E-1, E-2, E-3, L-1, P-1, 2, and 3, and other categories such as O-1, TN... and even F-1 and (shudder) J-1. Dorothee B. Mitchell, Foster LLP - Austin, TX Linda Rose, Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC - Nashville, TN
4:30 pm 0.50 hr	Documenting and Proving Family Relationships Relationships are the foundation of all family-based immigration cases. Yet, there are cases where documentation proving the relationship is non-existent or hard to find. How do you prove those relationships? Jenna Carl Jabara, Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. - Dallas, TX
5:00 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Ask the Experts Take advantage of an interactive opportunity to have top immigration lawyers answer your questions and provide solutions to your ethical quandaries. Please submit your questions in advance to ConferenceQA@utcle.org or on-site at the conference registration desk. Moderator: Eugene J. Flynn, Eugene J. Flynn, P.C. - Dallas, TX Panelists: Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX Linda Rose, Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC - Nashville, TN Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX
5:30 pm 0.25 hr ethics	Mentoring and Pro Bono Hear a brief overview of the current landscape in Texas and the needs, opportunities, and available resources for <i>pro bono</i> representation. Jenna Carl Jabara, Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. - Dallas, TX
5:45 pm In Austin Only	Adjourn to Reception
	NETWORKING RECEPTION AND PRO BONO MIXER (5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.) Enjoy refreshments and a networking opportunity with colleagues, conference faculty, and <i>pro bono</i> organization representatives.

Friday Morning, October 28, 2016

Presiding Officer:

Mona Gupta, Gupta & Wiora, P.C. - Dallas, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Conference Room Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am 0.75 hr ethics	Current Disciplinary Issues in Immigration Law Explore current ethical/disciplinary problems in immigration law, including recent sanctions issued, IOLTA accounting, and advertising issues; as well as an opportunity to ask your questions during Q&A. Robert W. Alcorn, CPA, Public Member, Supreme Court of Texas Grievance Oversight Committee - Dallas, TX Marie A. Haspil, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas - San Antonio, TX
9:15 am 0.75 hr	Honey, I Shrank the Company: Immigration Consequences of Downsizing, Rightsizing, and Similar RIFs No matter what euphemism or jargon they employ, employers are often forced to make changes in response to tough economic times. Explore how attorneys can help their clients safely navigate the immigration consequences of those changes, including managing the impact on nonimmigrant employees in addition to those in the immigrant process, wage issues, notifying the government of changes in employment, and strategies to assist individuals who may wish to remain in the U.S. James Devlin Cypert, Harry Gee & Associates, PLLC - Houston, TX Francisco J. García, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston - Galveston, TX
10:00 am 0.50 hr	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Hear an overview of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, including state court procedure, affirmative and removal cases, tips on how to avoid RFEs and NOIDs, and the EB-4 backlog. Alexandra E. Minnaar, RAICES - Austin, TX Megan Sheffield, Equal Justice Center - Austin, TX
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am 0.75 hr	Overcoming or Preventing Marriage Fraud Findings Understand the consequences of marriage fraud on family-based petitions, conditional residency, and naturalization applications, and strategies on how to challenge or prevent unwarranted marriage fraud findings. Nicolas Chavez, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Fort Worth, TX Irene G. Mugambi, Law Office of Irene G. Mugambi P.C. - Dallas, TX
11:30 am 0.50 hr	Motions to Reopen (MTRs) after <i>Mata</i> <i>Mata</i> decided that the courts of appeals hold jurisdiction over all motions to reopen filed by aliens. Learn about the decision that overturns <i>Ramos-Bonilla v. Mukasey</i> , potentially providing for judicial review of BIA denials of requests for equitable tolling of the motion to reopen deadline, and affecting other jurisdictional issues including the departure bar. Alexandre I. Afanassiev, Quan Law Group, PLLC - Houston, TX
12:00 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch Included in registration.

Friday Afternoon, October 28, 2016

Presiding Officer:

Jacqueline L. Watson, Walker-Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:20 pm 0.75 hr	Protecting Children Hear dialogue on current children's immigration issues, including a discussion of the factors that have led children and their parents to arrive in the United States, the protections that may be available to them, and the need for expanding immigration legal representation. Get an update on family detention, litigation relating to the <i>Flores</i> Settlement Agreement, and other immigration policies impacting accompanied and unaccompanied children. Denise L. Gilman, The University of Texas School of Law Immigration Clinic - Austin, TX Elissa Steglich, The University of Texas School of Law Immigration Clinic - Austin, TX
1:05 pm	Break
1:20 pm 0.50 hr ethics	Taking Care of Ourselves: Lessons in Work-Life Balance and Self-Care In a high-stress profession, everyone is vulnerable to destructive habits harmful to ourselves and our clients. Hear a candid discussion about the reality of risk to the profession and anecdotal tips for changing the statistics. Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX Yasmin Yavar, Children's Immigration Law Academy, American Bar Association - Houston, TX
1:50 pm 0.50 hr ethics	All You Need Is Love! Camaraderie and Professionalism Be courteous, respectful, and civil—and do try to get along with your colleagues. Simon M. Azar-Farr, Simon Azar-Farr & Associates - San Antonio, TX
2:20 pm 0.75 hr	¿Habla Cubano? Record numbers of Cubans are arriving at the Texas border with Mexico, as renewed diplomatic relations with Cuba portend the elimination of the Cuban Adjustment Act. Discover the special forms of relief available to Cubans, including public benefits, employment authorization, family reunification opportunities, and special adjustment of status application procedures. George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Vanna Slaughter, Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. - Dallas, TX
3:05 pm 0.75 hr	Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and Convention Against Torture (CAT) Get an overview of asylum, withholding of removal, and relief under the Convention against Torture (CAT), from the perspective of a <i>pro bono</i> attorney. The discussion includes working with individuals in detention and how to work in a trauma-informed manner when representing asylum seekers. Jeanie McClellan, Attorney at Law - Austin, TX Robert Painter, American Gateways - Austin, TX
3:50 pm	Adjourn