

42nd Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law
October 25-26, 2018 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
October 25-26, 2018 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Oct. 25, 2018

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	What a Difference A Year Makes: Top Ten Changes to the Practice of Immigration Law and What Attorneys Can Do To Protect Clients' Interests. Practicing immigration law now requires maintaining up to the minute vigilance on changes to policy, regulations, procedures, and laws. Focus on the most critical changes in the areas of family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, removal proceedings, and due process for immigrants during the last year and when/how attorneys should challenge adverse changes affecting their clients. Moderator: Laura F. Bachman, ASISTA - Phoenix, AZ Panelist: Kathleen C. Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX Amanda L. Waterhouse, Gonzalez Olivieri, LLC - Houston, TX
9:15 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Everywhere is a "Border:" The Legal Framework at Checkpoints and Ports-of-Entry A unique jurisprudence has developed regarding our borders that is not limited by geography. Discuss the powers that Congress has sought to grant the federal government at the border, within a "reasonable distance" from the border, and at designated ports of entry. Also, examine the constitutional limitations on federal power in these areas, as well as any individual remedies that may exist. Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Jacqueline L. Watson, Walker-Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am 0.75 hr	I-130 Visa Petitions: From the Basics to the Battles Discuss both fundamental and advanced concepts related to I-130 visa petitions. Speakers will offer a variety of legal strategies and hit on some hot topics in this area. Ann K. Miller, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Dallas, TX Marisol L. Pérez, De Mott, McChesney, Curtright & Armendáriz - San Antonio, TX

11:15 am 1.00 hr	<p>PERM and I-140</p> <p>Learn about the latest trends in I-140 adjudication and PERMs, including ideas and practical advice on how to handle the employment-based immigration process in this era of greater scrutiny and restriction.</p> <p>Faye M. Kolly, De Mott, McChesney, Curtright, & Armendáriz LLP - Austin, TX Judy J. Lee, Foster LLP - Houston, TX Maggie Murphy, Jackson Lewis P.C. - Austin, TX</p>
12:15 pm In Austin Only	<p>Pick Up Lunch</p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

Thursday Afternoon, Oct. 25, 2018

Presiding Officer:

Francisco J. García, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston - Galveston, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Gone to Texas: Migration Vital to Growth in the Lone Star State</p> <p>Texas has relied on a large and sustained influx of workers from other states and other countries. These transplants—making up nearly half of the state’s workforce—account for an even larger share of Texas’ growth than their relative numbers. Significantly, this inflow brought the types of workers most in demand. Changes to immigration policy and slowing immigration can disrupt what’s been a key factor sustaining Texas’ growth premium.</p> <p>Pia M. Orrenius, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas - Dallas, TX</p>
1:20 pm	<p>Break</p>
1:35 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Consular Processing: Hidden Grounds for Visa Denial</p> <p>Examine reasons for denial relating to alien smuggling, drug and alcohol abuse, gang membership, and public charge grounds. Discuss how to identify these grounds, as well as employ strategies, to avoid or overcome visa denial.</p> <p>Nicolas Chavez, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Fort Worth, TX Rosemary Vega, University of Houston Law Center, Immigration Clinic - Houston, TX</p>
2:20 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Change of Status/NIVs</p> <p>Hear an overview of recent changes in policies and regulations and the impact of these changes on NIV processing (B1/B2, F-1, H-1B). Discuss how to advise your clients and guide them through lengthy adjudications, avoid overstays, and unlawful presence.</p> <p>Susan Bond, The Law Office of Susan Bond P.C. - Dallas, TX James Devlin Cypert, Gee & Zhang, LLP - Houston, TX</p>
3:05 pm	<p>Break</p>

3:15 pm 1.00 hr 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Anatomy of Immigration Fraud + Waivers and Other Remedies</p> <p>Using REAL case studies, identify the immigration fraud issues you should be aware of and the potential pitfalls. Explore what fraud actually looks like in an immigration case, strategies for successful waivers, as well as for avoiding a finding of fraud.</p> <p>Patrick K. O'Rourke, Gee & Zhang, LLP - Houston, TX Jennifer Walker Gates, Walker Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX</p>
4:15 pm 0.75 hr ethics	<p>Pitfalls for Zealous Attorneys: Fraud and Misrepresentation</p> <p>Make note of how lawyers can zealously represent clients and still avoid ethical pitfalls that can result in sanctions, discipline, and disqualification. This discussion will include court decisions highlighting lawyers' mistakes that have resulted in serious consequences—what to do and, more importantly, what not to do!</p> <p>Charles Herring Jr., Herring & Panzer, L.L.P. - Austin, TX Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX</p>
5:00 pm 0.75 hr 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Ask the Experts</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Moderator: Eugene J. Flynn, Eugene J. Flynn, P.C. - Dallas, TX Panelists: Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch, Lincoln-Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX Irene G. Mugambi, Law Office of Irene G. Mugambi P.C. - Dallas, TX Maggie Murphy, Jackson Lewis P.C. - Austin, TX</p>
5:45 pm	<p>Pro Bono Introduction</p> <p>Pro bono work doesn't just serve the community. Explore ways to integrate pro bono service into your practice, and learn how it can benefit you as well.</p>
5:55 pm In Austin Only	<p>Adjourn to Networking Reception and <i>Pro Bono</i> Mixer</p>
	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION AND <i>PRO BONO</i> MIXER (5:55 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)</p> <p>Enjoy refreshments and a networking opportunity with colleagues, conference faculty, and <i>pro bono</i> organization representatives.</p>

Friday Morning, Oct. 26, 2018

Presiding Officer:

Vanna Slaughter, Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs - Dallas, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	<p>Conference Room Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
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8:00 am 1.00 hr 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Case Strategy, Planning, and Documentation</p> <p>Examine the fundamentals of “smart lawyering” using the right questions, searches, and documentation in filing for benefits in light of the changing immigration landscape. Discuss the memos released by USCIS within the past year and their impact on filing for immigration benefits.</p> <p>Mona Gupta, Gupta & Wiora, P.C. - Dallas, TX George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX</p>
9:00 am 0.75 hr	<p>Asylum Update</p> <p>The Trump administration is working to redefine “refugee” so that very few will qualify. Analyze the administration's policies and what it could mean for the future of asylum cases.</p> <p>Paul Steven Zoltan, Law Office Of Paul S. Zoltan - Dallas, TX</p>
9:45 am 0.75 hr	<p>VAWA and SIJ Updates</p> <p>Hear an overview of VAWA including adjustment, with a focus on hypothetical cases. Then get an overview of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, an update on recent trends and issues, and tips for a positive adjudication from USCIS.</p> <p>Dalia Castillo-Granados, Children's Immigration Law Academy - Houston, TX Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch, Lincoln-Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX</p>
10:30 am	<p>Break</p>
10:45 am 1.25 hrs	<p>Minesweeping: Issues in Adjustment of Status</p> <p>Brush up on how to identify and defuse current dangerous issues related to applications for adjustment of status for employment-based beneficiaries, Special Immigrant Juveniles, asylees and refugees, VAWA grantees, U-Visa holders, and others.</p> <p>Lori Torgerson Chesser, Davis Brown Law Firm - Des Moines, IA Amelia Ruiz Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX</p>
12:00 pm In Austin Only	<p>Pick Up Lunch</p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

Friday Afternoon, Oct. 26, 2018

Presiding Officer:

Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:20 pm 0.75 hr	Hot Topics in Removal Hear an overview of the top 2018 asylum cases in light of Matter of A-C-M and Matter of Neguisse. Hon. David Ayala, Law Office of Ayala & Acosta, PLLC - McAllen, TX
1:05 pm	Break
1:15 pm 1.00 hr	Case Law Update Review important cases and hot topics from the Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit, and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Javier N. Maldonado, Law Office of Javier N. Maldonado, PC - San Antonio, TX Imran B. Mirza, Law Office of Imran Mirza, PC - Bellaire, TX
2:15 pm 1.25 hrs 0.75 hr ethics	Hot Topics and Emerging Issues in ICE Audits and USCIS/FDNS Investigations Worksite enforcement—encompassing ICE audits and USCIS/FDNS investigations—is on the rise. Discuss the continually changing policies and practices that are resulting in enhanced penalties, removal of employees, criminal and civil fraud cases, and Immigrant and Employee Rights division and debarment issues. Lori Torgerson Chesser, Davis Brown Law Firm - Des Moines, IA Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX
3:30 pm 0.50 hr	Motions to Reopen Breathing new life into an old case is sometimes the only way to move forward. Explore the various types of motions to reopen and their requirements. Jodi M. Goodwin, Law Office of Jodi Goodwin - Harlingen, TX
4:00 pm	Adjourn