

45th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law
October 28-29, 2021 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
October 28-29, 2021 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Oct. 28, 2021

Presiding Officer:

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

7:30 am In Austin Only	<p>Registration Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:20 am	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p>
8:30 am 1.00 hr	<p>Understanding United States Immigration & Nationality Laws</p> <p>Explanations of concepts including unlawful presence, out of status, and nonimmigrant intent as well as the categories for immigrants, nonimmigrants, and citizens.</p> <p>Paul Parsons, Paul Parsons, PC - Austin, TX</p>
9:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>A Beginner's Guide to Litigating Claims for Immigration Benefits</p> <p>When to sue, how to sue, who to sue, and some tricks of the trade.</p> <p>Javier N. Maldonado, Law Office of Javier N. Maldonado, PC - San Antonio, TX Materials By: Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX</p>
10:15 am	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
10:30 am 0.75 hr ethics	<p>It's About Ethics</p> <p>Dual representation of employer/employee, and citizen petitioner/alien spouse are common in immigration. When is it impermissible and what steps does the immigration lawyer take to end it and avoid conflicts? Suborning Perjury: When does the immigration lawyer step across the line and how to avoid it.</p> <p>Feroz Farook Merchant, The Merchant Law Firm - Houston, TX Peter D. Williamson, Chamberlain Hrdlicka White Williams & Aughtry - Houston, TX</p>
11:15 am 1.00 hr	<p>Post-Apocalyptic Business and Worksite Hot Topics</p> <p>Highlights of the most recent updates on such hot button topics as never ending government backlogs (EAD's, EB AOS's, consular NIV/IV interviews), worksite conundrum: in person versus remote verification issues and resurgence of I-9 audits, impact of H-2b and J-1 shortages on universities and industries, PERM based I-140 ability to pay due to COVID economics, and investor issues: (reinstated entrepreneur parole rule, E-2 and EB-5 heartaches).</p> <p>Francisco J. García, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston - Galveston, TX Richard A. Gump Jr., The Law Offices of Richard A. Gump, Jr. P.C. - Dallas, TX Maggie Murphy, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP - Austin, TX</p>

12:15 pm
In Austin Only

Pick up Lunch (Austin)

Included in registration.

Thursday Afternoon, Oct. 28, 2021

Presiding Officer:

Sarah E. Woelk, Casa Marianella Immigration Legal Services - Austin, TX

Luncheon Presentation

12:45 pm
0.75 hr

Politics & Partisanship: The Struggle for Immigration Reform

With the mid-term elections approaching, can Congress agree on any immigration reforms and what more can the administration do on its own?

Benjamin Johnson, American Immigration Lawyers Association - Washington, DC

1:30 pm

15-Minute Break

1:45 pm
1.00 hr

Post-Apocalyptic Hot Topics in Family

What does family unification as a national policy under the new administration mean for practitioners? Where are we now with family based immigration: changes in policies, impact on risk of filing complicated cases, and the latest updates.

Nicolas Chavez, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Fort Worth, TX
Cori A. Hash, Lincoln Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX
George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX

2:45 pm
1.00 hr

Asylum, MPP and Other Border Issues

Dive into updates on what is happening in asylum. Focus on the aftermath of MPP, discuss what is happening on the border, and give updates about processing of cases at the Asylum Office and the Immigration Court.

Brian Manning, Manning Asylum Law - Houston, TX
Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX

3:45 pm

10-Minute Break

3:55 pm
1.00 hr

Recent Developments/Updates on Representing Youth

With a dizzying amount of changes and updates to immigration law over the last couple of years, it can be difficult to keep track. Explore hot topics in representing children and youth, including the impact of Title 42, numbers of youth entering at the border, the ORR reunification process, impacts of the Migrant Protection Protocols program, as well as updates to representing youth in asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases.

Yvette Changuin, RAICES - San Antonio, TX
Laura Egan, American Bar Association (ABA), Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA) - Houston, TX
Lindsay Gray, VECINA - Austin, TX

4:55 pm	<p>Pro Bono Introduction</p> <p><i>Pro bono</i> 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> <p>Sarah E. Woelk, Casa Marianella Immigration Legal Services - Austin, TX Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX</p>
5:00 pm In Austin Only	<p>Adjourn to Pro Bono Reception</p>
In Austin Only	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION AND PRO BONO MIXER (5:00 p.m. to 6:05 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. 29, 2021

Presiding Officer:

Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch, Lincoln-Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX

8:00 am In Austin Only	<p>Conference Room Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:30 am 1.00 hr	<p>Anatomy of a Niz-Chavez</p> <p><i>Niz-Chavez v. Garland</i>, turning square corners and the evolving riddle of proper immigration notice.</p> <p>Simon M. Azar-Farr, Simon Azar-Farr & Associates - San Antonio, TX</p>
9:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>BIA and Federal Court Update</p> <p>Learn about the latest case decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals and federal courts.</p> <p>Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Jacqueline L. Watson, Walker Gates Vela, PLLC - Austin, TX Materials By: Imran B. Mirza, Law Office of Imran Mirza, PC - Bellaire, TX</p>
10:15 am	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
10:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>Business NIV Solutions - Practical Timing Considerations to Maintain/Extend Status and Consular Processing</p> <p>Discuss strategic timing of processing issues related to premium processing; dependent EAD extensions; NIEs/ travel restrictions; the process to develop strategies for successful consular outcomes; and how to manage client expectations.</p> <p>James D. Prappas, Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC - Houston, TX Philip Eichorn, Foster LLP - Houston, TX</p>

11:15 am
1.00 hr

When All Else Fails . . . Business IV Solutions

Dive into creative solutions to some of the nagging issues practitioners face when processing an employment-based immigrant visa case. Whether it's with the PERM labor certification application, the I-140 petition, adjustment of status, or consular processing, some problems just don't seem to go away. Hear from three highly experienced business immigration attorneys who will share their insights and experiences that lead to case approvals (often without audit!).

Neena Renu Wiora, Gupta and Wiora, P.C. - Addison, TX
Linda Rose, Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC - Nashville, TN
Maggie Murphy, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP - Austin, TX
Materials By:
Lucy Cheung, Goldstein and Cheung LLP - New York, NY
Ellen Krengel, Law Office of Ellen D. Krengel, LTD - Menlo Park, CA
Becki Young, Grossman Young - Silver Spring, MD
Karin Wolman, Law Offices of Karin Wolman - New York, NY

12:15 pm
In Austin Only

Pick up Lunch (Austin)

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Friday Afternoon, Oct. 29, 2021

Presiding Officer:

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

Luncheon Presentation

12:45 pm
0.75 hr ethics

TLAP/Lawyer Wellness

An overview of obstacles to lawyer wellness and examines evidence-based strategies for building or maintaining mental health while engaging in the very demanding practice of law.

Erica Grigg, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program - Austin, TX

1:30 pm

15-Minute Break

1:45 pm
1.00 hr

Family Based Solutions in the midst of COVID-19

Navigating creative solutions to get USCIS to adjudicate and responding to RFEs in Family based petitions.

Maria E. McIntyre, Nayar & McIntyre, LLP - Irving, TX
Irene G. Mugambi, Law Office of Irene G. Mugambi P.C. - Dallas, TX
Lakshmi Nayar, Nayar & McIntyre, LLP - Irving, TX

<p>2:45 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p>Recent Developments in Representing Vulnerable Populations</p> <p>Dive into recent developments in U and T visa petitions affecting immigrant survivors, including USCIS's bona fide determination policy for U visas, representing U and T visa petitioners in removal proceedings, and updates regarding the inclusion of after-acquired family members as derivatives in U and T visa petitions.</p> <p>Amy Cheung, ASISTA Immigration Assistance - Suffield, CT Elise Thompson Harriger, Casa Marianella Immigration Legal Services - Austin, TX</p>
<p>3:30 pm</p>	<p>10-Minute Break</p>
<p>3:40 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p>Consular Processing Post Pandemic</p> <p>The pandemic left the consular corps and visa processing with major backlogs and staffing dilemmas. Finding a consular post to schedule appointments and process National Interest Exceptions is akin to locating the holy grail. Epic delays in appointment availability may endure well beyond the global health crisis. Address strategies and assessments of the current state of consular affairs and visa processing.</p> <p>Kathleen Campbell Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX Kenneth J. Harder, Dunbar Harder, PLLC - Houston, TX</p>
<p>4:25 pm 1.00 hr 0.50 hr ethics</p>	<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: Francisco J. García, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston - Galveston, TX Kathleen Campbell Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX</p>
<p>5:25 pm</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>