

# 2012 MASTERING THE ART OF COLLECTING DEBTS AND JUDGMENTS



October 11–12, 2012
AT&T Conference Center • Austin, Texas

Earn up to 13.00 Hours of Credit Including 3.00 Hours of Ethics Credit

Specialization Credit Approved for Bankruptcy Law, Civil Trial Law and Consumer Law

15.50 Hours of CPE Credit for TX Accountants

#### 2012 MASTERING THE ART OF

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#### THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 11, 2012

#### **Presiding Officer:**

Donna Brown, Donna Brown, P.C., Austin, TX

**8:00 a.m.** Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.

8:50 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

9:00 a.m. .75 hr

### Collection Trends and Social Media as a Collection Tool

A look at the current trends and issues facing credit and collection professionals and companies in today's environment and what this means for collections. Includes discussion on utilizing social media in collections and the positive and negative impact it can have.

Toni D. Drake, TRM Financial Services, Inc., Midland, TX Lynnette R. Warman, Hunton & Williams LLP, Dallas. TX

9:45 a.m. .50 hr

# New Legislation and Court Rules Affecting Collections Attorneys

The last legislative session was very busy. Hear the most important changes to several of the statutes, rules and regulations that impact your debt collection practice.

Matias E. Garcia, Barnett & Garcia, PLLC, Austin, TX

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. 1.00 hr

#### Pre-Suit Investigation Including Working Effectively with Investigators

An examination of the pre-litigation steps the attorney should take to increase the likelihood of collection, including gathering the file, retaining an investigator to identify and gather intelligence regarding the debtor (i.e. identify assets, multiply defendants), selecting jurisdiction and venue, assessing damages and evaluating defenses.

Gerald A. Colca, Gerald Colca & Associates, Pearland, TX

Stuart R. Schwartz, ScottHulse, P.C., El Paso, TX

11:30 a.m.

.75 hr

#### How Best to Utilize Services of Your Process Sever and What to Expect

A discussion of the realities of process serving and how an attorney can best work with his or her process server, including recent changes, proper service of process, serving the evading individual and entity, hazards and communicating with your process server.

Mark P. Blenden, Blenden Roth Law Firm, Dallas, TX Jon H. Snyder, Capitol Process Service, Austin, TX

**12:15 p.m.** Break for Buffet Lunch Included in conference registration fee.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON

#### **Presiding Officer:**

Matias E. Garcia, Barnett & Garcia, PLLC, Austin, TX

#### **LUNCHEON PRESENTATION**

12:35 p.m. .75 hr

#### **Expedited Rules and Rule-Making**

An insider's view of the Texas Supreme Court's rulemaking process, with a focus on the new rules for expedited trials.

Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips, Retired, Baker Botts L.L.P., Austin, TX

1:20 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. .50 hr

#### Causes of Action: Pleading and Proof

Common creditor causes of action in Texas, including sworn account, account stated, money had and received, quantum meruit, promissory note and guaranty.

David W. Roth, Blenden Roth Law Firm, Dallas, TX

2:00 p.m. .75 hr

#### Strategies for Defending against Counter-Claims and Affirmative Defenses

Tips and tactics to avoid common pitfalls.

Morgan M. Matson, Barnett & Garcia, PLLC, San Antonio, TX

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m.

.50 hr

#### Summary Judgment Evidence and Affidavit Toolkit

This session covers drafting the perfect affidavit, responding to custodian of records and ownership issues, and other useful summary judgment proof, as well as dealing with counter-affidavits.

Bruce A. Atkins, Attorney at Law, Houston, TX

3:30 p.m. .75 hr including .25 hr ethics

### Trends, Traps and Best Practices Involving Consumer Collections

Ten things you must know to survive and prosper in today's consumer collection arena.

Michael J. Scott, Law Office of Michael Scott, Carrollton, TX

4:15 p.m.

.75 hr ethics

### Top Ten Traps to Avoid as a Collections Litigator/Trial Attorney

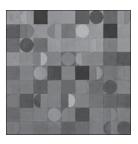
Tips to prepare for trial confidently and to avoid the nightmares.

Adjourn

Patrick J. Dyer, Law Office of Patrick J. Dyer, Missouri City, TX

5:00 p.m.

#### **ABOUT THE COVER**



Sudoku #14, 14" x 14", ink on paper, is by Susan Barnett. For more information, visit www.conduitgallery.com or call 214-939-0064.

#### FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 12, 2012

#### **Presiding Officer:**

Matias E. Garcia, Barnett & Garcia, PLLC, Austin, TX

**8:00 a.m.** Conference Room Opens Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 a.m. .75 hr

### State Court Exemptions and Other Property Issues

A review of what property can be reached by a judgment creditor—the usual and unusual: partnership and other business interests, spousal property and intangibles.

Kathleen A. Hurren, Attorney at Law, San Antonio, TX

9:15 a.m. 1.00 hr

#### **Post-Judgment Remedies**

Collecting your judgments using abstracts, executions, garnishments, turnovers and charging orders, with a special presentation by a deputy constable on success with writs of execution.

Donna Brown, Donna Brown, P.C., Austin, TX Vincent P. Dodd, Office of Constable Precinct 2, Austin, TX

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. .75 hr

#### **Turnover Receiverships**

The turnover receivership is a cost-effective way to collect large and small judgments. Learn how it works and how to use this powerful, flexible collection tool.

#### Moderator:

R. David Fritsche, Law Offices of R. David Fritsche, San Antonio, TX

#### **Panelists**

Mike Bernstein, Michael S. Bernstein, P.C., Garland, TX Hon. Mark Ben Greenberg, County Court at Law #5, Dallas, TX

Peter E. Pratt Jr., Pratt & Malone, P.C., Houston, TX

11:15 a.m. .75 hr ethics

#### A Collection Lawyer's Guide to Arbitration

A practical guide to surviving the arbitration of a collections case, from drafting arbitration clauses to the award.

Daniel J. Goldberg, Ross, Banks, May, Cron, and Cavin, P.C., Houston, TX **12:00 p.m. Break for Box Lunch** Included in conference registration fee.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

#### **Presiding Officer:**

Donna Brown, Donna Brown, P.C., Austin, TX

#### **LUNCHEON PRESENTATION**

12:15 p.m. 1.00 hr including .25 hr ethics

# Representing the Unsecured Creditor in a Commercial Bankruptcy

A primer on reclamation rights, whether to spend money to attend the 341, advising your client on whether to serve on the creditor's committee, administrative claims vs. regular claims, evaluating the plan, pursuing debtors on post plan defaults, defending preferences and advising on issues related to involuntary bankruptcies.

#### Moderator:

Donna Brown, Donna Brown, P.C., Austin, TX

#### Panelists:

James V. Hoeffner, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody, Austin, TX

Stephen W. Lemmon, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P., Austin, TX

1:15 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. .75 hr

### Exemption and Discharge Litigation/Issues: Consumer-Oriented

Homestead exemptions after the 2005 Bankruptcy Code amendments, including which debts survive bankruptcy.

Michael V. Baumer, Attorney at Law, Austin, TX

2:15 p.m. 1.00 hr ethics

### Ethics for Collections Attorneys and Their Staff

A discussion of problems with advertising, communicating with debtors, fee contracts, conflicts of interest, handling money, supervising staff and other ethical issues.

John Mayer, Ross, Banks, May, Cron, and Cavin, P.C., Houston, TX

Jonathan E. Smaby, Texas Center for Legal Ethics, Austin, TX

3:15 p.m. Adjourn

### REASONS TO ATTEND MASTERING THE ART OF COLLECTING DEBTS AND JUDGMENTS

Don't miss this program if you are interested in learning how to:

- evaluate cases for collectability for both collection cases and other litigation, including the use of investigators and social media tools
- master service of process from the legal and the practical standpoint
- draft pleadings, gather proof and litigate the collections case
- evaluate when to settle and when to fight counterclaims
- answer key questions on representing the unsecured creditor in a commercial bankruptcy
- recognize and avoid ethical problems when collecting a debt
- survive the arbitration of a collections case
- utilize post-judgment collection remedies to turn judgments into cash
- keep up with current trends and new legislation affecting the creditor's rights industry
- master the art of collecting debts and judgments

www.utcle.org/conferences/CD12

The program was well presented with excellent topics.

Knowledgeable speakers, good written materials and nice varied topics.

Informative. Good, practical advice on the areas of collections.

A very good program, good speakers, and timely topics. I liked the diversity of topics and speakers.

Good topics, very relevant to my practice area

I was really impressed with the quality of speakers and materials

#### **CONFERENCE FACULTY**

BRUCE A. ATKINS Attorney at Law Houston, TX

MICHAEL V. BAUMER Attorney at Law Austin, TX

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Houston, TX

HON. MARK BEN GREENBERG County Court at Law #5

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Houston, TX

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Baker Botts L.L.P. Austin, TX

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MICHAEL J. SCOTT Law Office of Michael Scott

Carrollton, TX

JONATHAN E. SMABY Texas Center for Legal Ethics

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JON H. SNYDER Capitol Process Service

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# Register online: www.utcle.org

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The University of Texas School of Law Attn. Registration P.O. Box 7759 Austin, TX 78713-7759

**Or fax to:** 512-475-6876

Questions? Call us at 512-475-6700

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STANDARD REGISTRATION Includes Printed Course Binder ONLY and Thursday at	nd Friday	Luncheon Presentations	
☐ Early Registration Fee due by Wednesday, Octob	er 3, 2012	)	\$445
☐ Registration Fee after Wednesday, October 3	3, 2012		\$495
Includes Electronic Materials on USB Key ONLY and T ☐ Early Registration Fee due by Wednesday, October ☐ Registration Fee after Wednesday, October 3  CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA	er 3, 2012	)	\$440
Allow 3–5 weeks from the conference date for delivery.			
Course Binder WITHOUT Conference Registratio Note: Conference Registration includes Course Binder.	n		\$225
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#### **AUSTIN**

October 11-12, 2012

#### **CONFERENCE LOCATION**



#### AT&T Conference Center

The University of Texas 1900 University Avenue Austin, TX 78705 512-404-3600

#### Special Room Rate: \$169

good through September 10, 2012 (subject to availability)

Parking: Free daily Self-Parking at UT Garages. Separate fees apply for Valet and Overnight parking.

#### **KEY DATES**

#### October 3, 2012

last day for early registration add \$50 for registrations received after this time

> October 5, 2012 last day for full refund

October 8, 2012

last day for partial refund \$50 processing fee applied

October 11, 2012, 8:50 a.m.

Conference begins

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 13.00 hours, of which 3.00 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit. The University of Texas School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider (#1944), and an Oklahoma Bar Association MCLE presumptively-approved provider (#169).

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