

20th Annual Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar
September 15-16, 2025 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
September 15-16, 2025 • Live Webcast

Monday Morning, Sep. 15, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Sara J. Ferris, Office of the Attorney General - Austin, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 0.50 hr	Case Law Update: Part I Examine significant administrative law cases issued during the last year. Laurie Ratliff, Laurie Ratliff LLC - Austin, TX
9:00 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Practical Tips for Navigating Texas Open Records and Meetings Laws Discuss practical tips through interactive scenarios for navigating the Texas Public Information Act and the Texas Open Meetings Act. Rosalind L. Hunt, Office of the Attorney General - Austin, TX Katherine "Missy" Minter, Austin, TX
10:00 am	15-Minute Break
10:15 am 0.50 hr	Legislative Update A focus on select bills enacted by the 89th Texas Legislature that impact administrative law practitioners. Katherine Farrell, Teacher Retirement System of Texas - Austin, TX Kristen L. Worman, Texas Historical Commission - Austin, TX
10:45 am 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Readable Legal Writing Draw on empirical research to identify ten strategies for making legal writing more concise, readable, and interesting. Those strategies include plainer prose, clearer transitions, and better use of narrative techniques. Look at examples of the ten strategies and consider straightforward ways to integrate them into our own writing. Kayla Oliver, The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, TX
11:15 am 1.00 hr	A Presentation on the "Founders Constitution" Hon. Kristofer S. Monson, State Office of Administrative Hearings - Austin, TX

12:15 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch (in Austin) Included in registration.
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Monday Afternoon, Sep. 15, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Katherine Farrell, Teacher Retirement System of Texas - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:45 pm 0.50 hr	The Sunset Process in a Time of Change A review of the Sunset bills and bills focusing on increased governmental oversight. Steven Ogle, Office of the Attorney General - Austin, TX
1:15 pm	15-Minute Break
1:30 pm	Pro Bono Award Presentation
1:40 pm 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Volunteer Legal Services: The Power of Pro Bono Hear about how Volunteer Legal Services makes it easy for you to do life-changing pro bono work. Alisa De Luna, Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas - Austin, TX Carl Guthrie, Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas - Austin, TX Matt Johnston, Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas - Austin, TX Susanne Pringle, Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas - Austin, TX
2:40 pm 0.50 hr	Hot Topics in Licensing Franklin Hopkins, Germer Beaman & Brown PLLC - Austin, TX
3:10 pm	15-Minute Break
3:25 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Mediation SOAH Learn how the SOAH Mediation Program works and gain tips for how to successfully mediate disputes at SOAH. Hon. Holly Vandrovec, State Office of Administrative Hearings - Austin, TX
3:55 pm 1.00 hr	District Court Judges Panel Moderator: H. Carl Myers, Office of the Attorney General - Austin, TX Panelists: Hon. Maria Cantú Hexsel, 53rd Civil District Court - Austin, TX Hon. Jessica L. Mangrum, 200th Civil District Court - Austin, TX Hon. Catherine A. Mauzy, 419th Civil District Court - Austin, TX Hon. Jan Soifer, 345th Civil District Court - Austin, TX

4:55 pm	Adjourn
In Austin Only	Networking Reception (in Austin from 4:55 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres with program faculty and attendees.

Tuesday Morning, Sep. 16, 2025

8:00 am In Austin Only	Conference Room Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:30 am 0.50 hr	Case Law Update: Part II Examine significant administrative law cases issued during the last year. Laurie Ratliff, Laurie Ratliff LLC - Austin, TX
9:00 am 1.00 hr ethics	Emotionally Healthy Lawyering: How to Disagree without being Disagreeable This presentation provides 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. Michelle Fontenot, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program - Austin, TX
10:00 am	15-Minute Break
10:15 am 1.00 hr	Transitioning from Government to Private Practice Leaving public service for the private sector involves unique challenges and considerations. These former state agency employees provide useful guidance and insights for those considering such a move. Moderator: Craig R. Bennett, Jackson Walker LLP - Austin, TX Panelists: Casey A. Bell, Troutman Pepper Locke LLP - Austin, TX Wendy K. L. Harvel, Spencer Fane - Austin, TX Travis E. Vickery, McGinnis Lochridge - Austin, TX
11:15 am 0.75 hr	Fifteenth Court of Appeals Panel From the Top: Observations from the Fifteenth Court of Appeals' Justices leading the Court's initial term. Moderator: Kellie E. Billings-Ray, Office of the Attorney General - Austin, TX Panelists: Hon. Scott A. Brister, Fifteenth Court of Appeals - Austin, TX Hon. Scott K. Field, Fifteenth Court of Appeals - Austin, TX Hon. April Farris, Fifteenth Court of Appeals - Austin, TX

12:00 pm In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch (in Austin) Included in registration.
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Tuesday Afternoon, Sep. 16, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Natasha J. Martin, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:30 pm 0.75 hr	Texas Water Two-Step: TCEQ's and TWDB's Role in its Development, Protection, and Conservation The chairwomen of these two agencies provide their insights regarding the roles of both agencies in the development, protection, and conservation of the state's water supplies, including impacts of new legislation and federal regulations, threats to our water supplies, impacts of aging infrastructure, and more. Moderator: Emily Willms Rogers, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP - Austin, TX Panelists: Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) - Austin, TX L'Oreal Stepney, Chairwoman, Texas Water Development Board - Austin, TX
1:15 pm	15-Minute Break
1:30 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Privacy and Emerging Technologies: AI in Administrative Law As state and federal administrative agencies increasingly adopt artificial intelligence, automated decision-making tools, predictive analytics, and machine learning systems, new challenges relating to privacy, transparency, and regulatory compliance have emerged. Administrative lawyers—whether representing governmental entities or regulated clients—must be prepared to carefully navigate the evolving legal landscape created by these technologies. Slade S. Cutter, Wittliff Cutter, PLLC - Austin, TX
2:00 pm 0.50 hr	Data Privacy: Agency View Provide an overview of the privacy and technology regulatory landscape in Texas and provide practical tips for interfacing with regulators at both the state and federal level. Tyler Bridegan, Office of the Attorney General - Houston, TX
2:30 pm 1.00 hr	Effective Written Interrogatories in Administrative Proceedings Advanced tactics and best practices for sending and responding to written interrogatories in administrative proceedings. Johnathan Stone, Office of the Attorney General - Austin, TX

3:30 pm
0.50 hr

Storytelling in Advocacy

Reflections on the use of stories to teach and persuade decision-makers.

Matthew C. Powers, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody - Austin, TX

4:00 pm

Adjourn