

47th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law
November 2-3, 2023 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
November 2-3, 2023 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Nov. 2, 2023

Presiding Officer:

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

7:30 am	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 1.00 hr	Understanding United States Immigration and Nationality Laws Explanations of concepts including unlawful presence, out of status and nonimmigrant intent as well as categories such as nonimmigrants, immigrants and citizens. Paul Parsons, Paul Parsons, PC - Austin, TX
9:30 am 1.00 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Naturalization (and Denaturalization) Issue Spotting Many individuals believe that once they have the naturalization certificate in their hand, they cannot be removed from the United States. While that is true for most people, those who had a flaw in their permanent residence process may not be able to naturalize, and may risk being placed in removal proceedings. Some who are naturalized by accident or fraud (including some unexpected issues) may find themselves in denaturalization proceedings later. Hear a discussion on common issues and how to evaluate a client's case to determine whether a client can—or should—file for naturalization, as well as the risk of denaturalization in the future. Kathrin S. Mautino, Kathrin S. Mautino APLC - San Diego, CA
10:30 am	15-Minute Break
10:45 am 0.50 hr	Mock Naturalization Interview A mock naturalization interview with USCIS based on an applicant's status as a lawful permanent resident for over five years. Hear an analysis and critique of the interview. Miriam Garza-Lee, Chavez & Valko, LLP - Fort Worth, TX Sandra A. Posada, JLW Immigration Law Group - Austin, TX
11:15 am 0.75 hr	237(a)(1)(H) and Other forms of Relief for LPRs Waivers of removeability and other defenses to attempts to deport your client. Richard S. Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX

12:00 pm 0.50 hr	Maintenance of LPR Status, Here and Abroad Everything you need to know about maintaining lawful permanent residency. In thirty minutes or less. Leslie Giron Kirby, Giron Kirby Law Group - Houston, TX Materials By: Michael A. Dominguez, Waterhouse Dominguez & Strom, PLLC - Houston, TX
12:30 pm In Austin Only	Pick up Lunch (in Austin)

Thursday Afternoon, Nov. 2, 2023

Presiding Officer:

Jacqueline L. Watson, JLW Immigration Law Group - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:50 pm 0.75 hr ethics	Proposed Texas Supreme Court Paraprofession Licensing Update Update on the Texas Supreme Court's proposals to license non-attorneys to practice law in limited areas and to allow for non-attorneys to have equity interests in certain legal service providers. Teresa Coles-Davila, Law Offices Of Teresa Coles-Davila - San Antonio, TX Roy Petty, Roy Petty & Associates, PLLC - Dallas, TX
1:35 pm	15-Minute Break
1:50 pm 1.00 hr	Case Law Updates: The Good, the Bad, and the ... Ugly Precedential case law updates spanning 2022 to 2023, with a focus on decisions positive for noncitizens where possible! Hear a discussion on Supreme Court updates, as well as interesting precedent from the Fifth Circuit, other Circuits, and BIA. Topics will include asylum, crimmigration, and more! Kevin A. Gregg, Kurzban Kurzban Tetzeli and Pratt P.A. - San Diego, CA Jonathan Levy, American Gateways - Austin, TX
2:50 pm 0.75 hr 0.50 hr ethics	Matter of Fernandes: Non-Compliant and Knotty NTAs The BIA's attempt to save a sinking ship. Simon M. Azar-Farr, Simon Azar-Farr & Associates - San Antonio, TX
3:35 pm	10-Minute Break
3:45 pm 0.75 hr 0.50 hr ethics	Crimmigration Learn how to approach and analyze criminal issues of inadmissibility and deportability, hear an overview of the categorical and modified categorical approach, discuss how to apply the approaches to issues that may arise in your cases, and obtain helpful and creative practice pointers. Amelia Ruiz Fischer, Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law - Nacogdoches, TX Jordan Pollock, Dallas County Public Defender's Office - Dallas, TX

4:30 pm 0.75 hr 0.50 hr ethics	<p>Prosecutorial Discretion and You</p> <p>A discussion on the current state of prosecutorial discretion including the reinstatement of the Mayorkas Enforcement Memo and the Doyle Memo. Explore best practices for obtaining PD and the changes to PD after reinstatement of the Mayorkas Memo.</p> <p>George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Carlo Zayas, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor - Houston, TX</p>
5:15 pm In Austin Only	<p>Adjourn to Pro Bono Reception</p>
5:30 pm In Austin Only	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION AND <i>PRO BONO</i> MIXER (5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Enjoy refreshments and a networking opportunity with colleagues, conference faculty, and pro bono organization representatives.</p>

Friday Morning, Nov. 3, 2023

Presiding Officer:

Edna Yang, American Gateways - Austin, TX

8:00 am In Austin Only	<p>Conference Room Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:30 am 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Family Immigration Isn't Always Easy</p> <p>Just like actual families, family-based cases can get messy. Discuss some of the complexities involved in family-based cases such as complicated 245i derivative questions, bogus RFEs, marriage fraud findings, waivers, CSPA and other messy issues your clients might present to you.</p> <p>Irene G. Mugambi, Law Office of Irene G. Mugambi P.C. - Dallas, TX Krystal Gómez, Lincoln-Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX</p>
9:15 am 0.75 hr	<p>Pulling an Adjustment Out of Your Hat</p> <p>Is all hope lost when a potential client entered the United States without inspection? NO! Explore many of the old, overlooked and forgotten tools that can be used to advance a client's immigration. Topics include Western Hemisphere Priority Dates, CSPA, 245(i), Military PIP and travel on an advance parole for TPS and DACA applicants.</p> <p>Kathrin S. Mautino, Kathrin S. Mautino APLC - San Diego, CA</p>
10:00 am	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
10:15 am 1.00 hr	<p>A to Z's of Consular Processing</p> <p>Current trends, timelines, pitfalls, tips and strategies involving consular operations, including both NIV and IV.</p> <p>Melle Fabian, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP - Austin, TX Rosemary Vega, Law Office of Rosemary Vega PLLC - Houston, TX</p>

11:15 am 0.75 hr	<p>Affidavits of Support</p> <p>Examine when affidavits of support are required, what the exemptions and exceptions to providing an affidavit of support are, what documents are required, and how to document that the required documents do not exist.</p> <p>Terry Cody, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance - Houston, TX</p>
12:00 pm In Austin Only	<p>Pick up Lunch (in Austin)</p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

Friday Afternoon, Nov. 3, 2023

Presiding Officer:

Cori A. Hash, Lincoln Goldfinch Law - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:20 pm 1.00 hr	<p>Ask the Experts</p> <p>Hear a panel of seasoned experts respond to your frequently—and sometimes infrequently—asked questions in immigration and nationality law. Please submit your questions in advance to ConferenceQA@utcle.org.</p> <p>Kathrin S. Mautino, Kathrin S. Mautino APLC - San Diego, CA Paul Parsons, Paul Parsons, PC - Austin, TX George Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C. - Dallas, TX</p>
1:20 pm	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
1:35 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Are You Work Authorized? Complex Immigration Status Puzzles for Employers</p> <p>Employers are often faced with complex immigration status issues when they are trying to onboard new employees and complete the required Form I-9. If they fail to accept certain qualifying documentation, they can be subject to penalties for discrimination. This panel will address common difficult status issues employers should know.</p> <p>Kathleen Campbell Walker, Dickinson Wright PLLC - El Paso, TX Leigh Ganchan, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. - Houston, TX</p>
2:20 pm 1.00 hr	<p>Humanitarian Relief & Border Issues</p> <p>What's happening at the border? How can my client's family members enter the US? What happens when there's so much bad luck? Learn about best practices to help those trying to navigate the shifting laws and policies at the border. Topics include Asylum under the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways, Survivor visas, SIJS, Parole (Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, Venezuelan/Humanitarian/Family Reunification), CBP One, Operation Lone Star, Family Expedited Removal Management, and more!</p> <p>Laura Peña, American Bar Association ProBAR - Brownsville, TX Carolina Rivera, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) - Dallas, TX</p>

3:20 pm	10-Minute Break
3:30 pm 1.00 hr	Asylum Updates Hear updates on how the asylum ban and new expedited removal regulations are impacting people on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, and discuss recent case law effecting asylum seekers in the Fifth Circuit. Zoe Bowman, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center - El Paso, TX Erica B. Schommer, St. Mary's University School of Law - San Antonio, TX
4:30 pm 0.50 hr	The Continuing Litigation Over DACA An explanation of the current status of the litigation over DACA's legality, the courtroom arguments for and against DACA, how the DACA litigation fits into trends at the U.S. Supreme Court and what DACA recipients can expect to happen next. Nina Perales, MALDEF - San Antonio, TX
5:00 pm	Adjourn