

33rd Annual School Law Conference
February 22-23, 2018 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX
February 22-23, 2018 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Feb. 22, 2018

Presiding Officer:

Julie Leahy, Texas Classroom Teachers Association - Austin, TX

7:30 am In Austin Only	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:35 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:45 am 1.00 hr	Commissioner Decisions Update Hear an update on Commissioner of Education decisions from the past year. Mark P. Tilley, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
9:45 am 0.50 hr	Recent Opinions Issued by the Attorney General Review recent opinions issued by the Texas Attorney General that may affect public schools and school law. Haley Turner, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle P.C. - Austin, TX
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am 1.00 hr	In Case of Emergency: A Legal Toolkit for Disaster Preparedness Disaster is brewing ... What do you do to prepare (if you have time)? And how do you quickly get operations back to normal after it hits? Explore the legal and practical issues of disaster preparedness and recovery from an operations and employment standpoint. Using recent disasters as a guide (wildfires, man-made fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, etc), examine lessons learned and get helpful tips. Merri Schneider-Vogel, Thompson & Horton LLP - Houston, TX Ellen H. Spalding, Rogers, Morris & Grover, L.L.P. - Houston, TX
11:30 am 1.00 hr	Advice From the Inside: Preparing for and Dealing with Student Issues that Follow Catastrophic Events When disaster strikes, school districts serve as a port in the storm for students and the wider-community in crisis. Hear practical advice regarding legal issues to raise and steps to take before, during, and after a catastrophic event to support students, the mission of the school district, and stay #StudentStrong. Justin R. Graham, Katy Independent School District - Katy, TX Stephanie Maher, Humble Independent School District - Humble, TX
12:30 pm In Austin Only	Lunch On Your Own

Thursday Afternoon, Feb. 22, 2018

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1:45 pm 0.50 hr	Immigration Issues Affecting Public School Districts Survey established case law on the service of undocumented students in public schools, and explore several key issues related to the service of undocumented students, including student privacy laws, student documentation requests, and federal immigration enforcement efforts in schools. Juan J. Cruz, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC - Laredo, TX
2:15 pm 0.50 hr	Partners in Education: The Parent/Educator Relationship Teachers and administrators work as partners with parents to ensure a positive educational experience for students. Discuss the pros and cons of informal communications between educators and parents, such as texting and the use of online programs, as well as tips for helping school employees maintain a professional and effective relationship with parents. Andrea Slater Gulley, Amarillo Independent School District - Amarillo, TX
2:45 pm 0.50 hr	An Overview of Unemployment Claims and Appeals Survey unemployment compensation law in Texas and review who can file unemployment claims, the times during which claims can be filed, what the qualification and eligibility criteria are for receiving unemployment benefits, methods for appealing adverse rulings, best strategies for handling claim responses and appeals, and how an employer can qualify for chargeback protection. William T. (Tommy) Simmons, Texas Workforce Commission - Austin, TX
3:15 pm 0.50 hr	Medical Privacy in the Workplace Employees may be required to share private health information with their employers. Explore the various laws that impact the collection and handling of such information, including the ADA, FMLA, workers' compensation, and HIPAA, and the best practices for complying. Jennifer A. Powell, Eichelbaum Wardell Hansen Powell & Mehl, PC - Austin, TX
3:45 pm	Break
4:00 pm 1.00 hr	What Happens in Vegas? What happens when school employees or students engage in immoral or unseemly (noncriminal) conduct off campus? Examine legal issues that may come into play, including board policies, educator codes of ethics, and student codes of conduct. Giana Ortiz, The Ortiz Law Firm - Arlington, TX S. Anthony Safi, Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan, P.C. - El Paso, TX
5:00 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	The Complaints You Won't Hear Teachers call their organizations and attorneys about many issues that don't ever result in grievances. Hear from a teacher attorney about the complaints that the school board/school district won't typically hear, but which are the basis for the majority of calls from unhappy teachers. Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association - Austin, TX

5:30 pm

Adjourn

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Mark P. Tilley, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX

7:30 am
In Austin Only

Conference Room Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 am
0.75 hr

Civil Rights Litigation Update

Get updated on recent developments in Title IX and Section 504/ADA litigation involving schools, and hear about retaliation claims, recent appellate decisions, and liability issues currently on review before appellate courts.

Thomas P. Brandt, Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt & Kutchin, P.C. - Dallas, TX

9:15 am
0.50 hr

Cyberbullying and the Impact of David's Law

Explore new developments to state law on bullying brought about S.B.179, David's Law, and take a look at how cyberbullying and other aspects of bullying cases have been treated by the courts.

Christine Badillo, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle P.C. - Austin, TX

9:45 am
0.50 hr

Navigating the World of SBEC Disciplinary Hearings: Lessons Learned and Practice Tips

With allegations of educator misconduct on the rise, litigating educator disciplinary cases will likely become more common. Review current enforcement trends and sanctions issued by the agency, and get practical tips for litigating disciplinary matters.

Joey W. Moore, Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle P.C. - Austin, TX

10:15 am

Break

10:30 am
0.75 hr

Under Attack! Minimizing the Risk and Mitigating the Impact of Cybercrime

According to the FBI, schools and colleges are the hot new target for sophisticated cybercriminals. These crooks use a combination of new technology and old-fashioned con-artist techniques to steal millions of dollars and put sensitive data at risk. There are legal and practical steps a school can take to prevent and mitigate cybercrime. Learn about the most commonly employed cybercrime techniques and the steps your institution can take to minimize the risk and mitigate the impact of cyber-attacks.

Mari M. McGowan, Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Hullett, P.C. - McKinney, TX
Brett Leatherman, Federal Bureau of Investigation - Dallas, TX

11:15 am
0.50 hr
0.25 hr ethics

Cybersecurity Planning

When (not if) a data breach occurs, will you be ready to respond? Learn the most important steps to take, key considerations, and essential tools to use in developing your incident response plan.

Henson Adams, Haynes and Boone, LLP - San Antonio, TX
Emily Westridge Black, Haynes and Boone, LLP - Austin, TX

11:45 am In Austin Only	Pick Up Lunch Included in registration.
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Friday Afternoon, Feb. 23, 2018

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LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:05 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Dealing with Rogue Board Members When a board member is pursuing interests that are different from the rest of the board it can create inefficiencies and disharmony. Learn how a school district's legal counsel can assist the district and the rest of the board in dealing with board members who are not all on the same page. Miles T. Bradshaw, Karczewski Bradshaw, L.L.P. - Nacogdoches, TX Leslie R. Story, Texas Association of School Boards - Austin, TX
12:35 pm	Break
12:50 pm 0.50 hr	Top 10 Hits of Legal Issues in Special Education in 2017 Service animals, transgender students, and <i>Endrew F.</i> are just a few of the most enlightening developments in special education law for 2017. Hear a Casey Kasem-style countdown covering the most recent and important court cases, due process hearing opinions, and legal developments that every school lawyer needs to know. Explore the latest changes in special education law and provide lessons learned as well as best practice tips you can use to steer your schools in the right direction away from the court room. Dianna D. Bowen, Thompson & Horton LLP - Dallas, TX
1:20 pm 0.50 hr	Copyright Copyright doesn't come up daily in school practice, but when it does it can be befuddling. Take a short primer on copyright educational fair use, plus a discussion of some current school copyright law defensive actions. Carol A. Simpson, Eichelbaum Wardell Hansen Powell & Mehl, P.C. - Plano, TX
1:50 pm 1.00 hr ethics	Ethics Jeopardy: Hollywood Edition Get ethics credit in a fun, interactive, game show format. Refresh your knowledge of the Texas Disciplinary Rules and learn about new ethics opinions through hypotheticals based on your favorite Hollywood movies. Plus, you will be able to use your cell phone or laptop to vote on the best answer to each ethical dilemma, with results displayed in real time. Adam T. Schramek, Norton Rose Fulbright - Austin, TX Co-Author: Nathan Damweber, Norton Rose Fulbright - Austin, TX
2:50 pm	Adjourn