

36th Annual Health Law Conference
April 24-25, 2025 • Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria • Houston, TX
April 24-25, 2025 • Live Webcast

Thursday Morning, Apr. 24, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Yvonne K. Puig, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - Austin, TX

7:15 am In Houston Only	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:00 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:10 am 0.75 hr	2025 State and Federal Healthcare Legislative Landscape A discussion on the 2025 election cycle and healthcare regulatory and legislative hot topics at the Texas and Washington, D.C. levels. Freddy Warner, Memorial Hermann Health System - Houston, TX
8:55 am 0.75 hr	Hospital Supplemental Reimbursement in 2025 and Beyond Even in the ever-changing world of hospital supplemental reimbursement, the next few years may be unparalleled. Political desire to save money coupled with bureaucratic obstacles threaten the financial stability of essential healthcare facilities. Discuss proposed (or probable) upcoming changes to the Disproportionate Share Hospital program, the Uncompensated Care program, and the Directed Payment programs. Jamie Richards Whitney, AHCV - Austin, TX
9:40 am 0.75 hr	Provider vs. Payor Disputes Learning from 2024's most impactful cases and the current trends we are seeing in contract negotiation and provider payments. Provide both the litigation and the business impacts of these payor disputes, plus discuss how both the Texas IDR and Federal NSA processes have impacted providers. Carrie Douglas, Bracewell LLP - San Antonio, TX C. Timothy Gary, Crux Strategies, LLC - Brentwood, TN
10:25 am	15-Minute Break
10:40 am 0.75 hr	The Payor/Provider Relationship: Fundamentals, Disputes, and Trends Discuss the complex relationship between payors and providers, including disputes between the parties, what's at stake, and what we're seeing as trends now and going forward. Sara Brinkmann, King & Spalding LLP - Houston, TX Jeff Wurzburg, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - San Antonio, TX

11:25 am 1.00 hr 0.50 hr ethics	Enforcement Trends Across the Healthcare Industry The federal government and various states continue to investigate and litigate healthcare fraud cases across all sectors of the industry. Hear an overview of the latest trends in enforcement, including insight from a leading government attorney, and learn what the new theories and trends mean for 2025 and beyond. James Gillingham, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas - Tyler, TX Wilson G. Jones, Bracewell LLP - Dallas, TX B. Scott McBride, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP - Houston, TX
12:25 pm In Houston Only	Pick Up Lunch Included in registration.

Thursday Afternoon, Apr. 24, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Hal S. Katz, Husch Blackwell LLP - Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:45 pm 0.50 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<i>Loper Bright</i>: Its Impact So Far, and What to Expect Next Almost one year into a <i>Chevron</i> -less world, examine the impact of <i>Loper Bright</i> so far and preview the potential fate of select healthcare regulations in light of the Supreme Court's recent administrative law decisions. Joseph Diedrich, Husch Blackwell LLP - Washington, DC
1:15 pm	15-Minute Break
1:30 pm 0.75 hr	Key Pillars of Healthcare Contracting Cover key pillars in contracting including key terms, standardization, regulatory compliance, data security, financial terms, quality of care considerations/performance metrics, and ongoing monitoring for compliance. Moderator: Christina C. Huston, Wilson Elser - Houston, TX Panelists: Laura McKenzie Holt, Memorial Hermann Health System - Houston, TX Divya Reddy, Houston Methodist - Houston, TX
2:15 pm 0.75 hr	Operational Impact of Significant Cases Take an in-depth look at the key legal developments and significant cases affecting healthcare operations, including credentialing and liability issues, which impact health systems and other providers. The written materials represent a comprehensive annual survey of noteworthy cases from around the country. This presentation was originally scheduled on Friday at 9:00 a.m. Yvonne K. Puig, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - Austin, TX

3:00 pm 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	<p>Deconstructing the Physician Employment Agreement</p> <p>An overview of significant terms that frequently arise in negotiating physician employment agreements. Provide perspectives from both the employer and physician's counsel on use of restrictive covenants, payment for tail coverage, termination rights, hearing rights, and other terms that are frequently the subject of negotiation.</p> <p>Jeff H. Frost, Jackson Walker - Austin, TX Frankie S. Louis, Baylor College of Medicine - Houston, TX David Stockel, Texas Children's Hospital - Houston, TX</p>
3:45 pm	15-Minute Break
4:00 pm 0.75 hr	<p>When the World Turns Upside Down: Dealing With a Survey Gone Wrong and the Aftermath</p> <p>Give valuable information on dealing with hospital and nursing facility surveys that are not going well and providing understanding and tips for the regulatory requirements that follow, particularly with a finding of Immediate Jeopardy. Cover interacting with surveyors, drafting and submitting an acceptable Plan of Removal to lift a finding of Immediate Jeopardy, understanding and responding to the Statement of Deficiencies, recognizing possible sanctions and rights of appeal and strategizing how to address the OIG's demand for damages if they arise. This is an in-depth session with lots of examples and tips.</p> <p>Kathy L. Poppitt, King & Spalding - Austin, TX Hilary H. Young, Reed, Claymon, Meeker, Krienke & Spurck, PLLC - Austin, TX</p>
4:45 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Responding to Challenging Patient Behavior</p> <p>From workplace violence to behavioral health crises, challenging patient behaviors pose a variety of operational, safety, and legal risks to healthcare institutions and their personnel. Discuss some of the most common categories of challenging patient behaviors, review the legal and regulatory framework within which providers and staff may engage them, and suggest some practical strategies to mitigate legal and safety risks across inpatient and outpatient environments.</p> <p>Brad Nitschke, Parkland Health - Dallas, TX</p>
5:30 pm	Adjourn
In Houston Only	<p>Networking Reception (from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres with program faculty and attendees.</p> <p>Thank You to Our Sponsor</p> <p> Seyfarth</p>

Friday Morning, Apr. 25, 2025

Presiding Officer:

Kathy L. Poppitt, King & Spalding - Austin, TX

In-House Counsel Hot Topics (Limited to in-house counsel only)

7:00 am In Houston Only 1.50 hrs	<p>In-House Counsel Hot Topics (<i>Limited to in-house counsel only</i>)</p> <p><i>Limited to in-house counsel only.</i> Participate in an interactive discussion and sharing among in-house counsel panelists and participants. Hear about hot topics for in-house counsel, including updates on state and federal legislation, legal operational matters, and health law regulatory and enforcement matters.</p> <p>This presentation will not be recorded or broadcast via the live webcast. It will only be available to those in-house counsel who attend in person.</p> <p>Moderator: Steve Wohleb, Texas Hospital Association - Austin, TX Panelists: Afsheen Davis, Texas Children's Hospital - Houston, TX Jennifer Schroeder, Texas Health Resources - Arlington, TX Omar Villa, El Paso County Hospital District - El Paso, TX</p>
8:30 am In Houston Only	In-House Counsel Hot Topics Adjourns
8:30 am In Houston Only	<p>Conference Room Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
9:00 am 1.00 hr	<p>The Developing AI Landscape: from RAGs to Regs</p> <p>Provide an overview of AI terminology and applications in the health care industry and address the current regulatory and statutory landscape in Texas, nationally, and internationally. Additionally, discuss predictions for what is on the horizon in this developing area.</p> <p>This presentation was originally scheduled on Thursday at 2:15 p.m.</p> <p>Moderator: Jennifer L. Rangel, Holland & Knight LLP - Austin, TX Panelists: Charles Dunham IV, Greenberg Traurig, LLP - Houston, TX George R. Gooch, Amazon Web Services - Austin, TX</p>
10:00 am 0.75 hr	<p>The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Cybersecurity</p> <p>Cybersecurity continues to presents itself as a significant obstacle for the health care industry, both in terms of compliance and operational aspects. To combat this constantly evolving threat, it is imperative to establish a robust cybersecurity program that encompasses prevention, detection, and mitigation strategies. Delve into the legal considerations and optimal approaches for implementing internal controls and best practices, thereby safeguarding your organization against potential data breaches.</p> <p>Lynn Sessions, Baker & Hostetler LLP - Houston, TX</p>
10:45 am	15-Minute Break

11:00 am 1.00 hr	<p>Hospital Operational Changes: Feats of Endurance</p> <p>Hospitals are operating in an environment of rapid political, social, technological and health policy changes. While navigating this reality, hospitals still must meet their core responsibilities as healthcare providers and employers. Explore the opportunities and challenges that hospitals face due to these current conditions.</p> <p>Alice Marcee, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children - Dallas, TX Hailey Mullican, UT Health San Antonio - San Antonio, TX Jennifer Schroeder, Texas Health Resources - Arlington, TX</p>
12:00 pm 1.00 hr ethics	<p>Maintaining Your Ethics in Trying Times: One Lawyer's Tale</p> <p>Lawyers know that hard cases make bad law. Likewise, maintaining your professional ethics in a difficult situation is very different than day-to-day practice. Hear ethical perspectives and lessons learned from serving as a local elected official and a defendant in lengthy litigation while still practicing as a health lawyer.</p> <p>Leah Stewart, Reed, Claymon, Meeker, Krienke & Spurck, PLLC - Austin, TX</p>
1:00 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>