



**TEXAS AGGIE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

20th Annual Conference – March 2, 2019

Summary of Presentations

Emerging Issues in Water Law

This presentation will discuss emerging issues in Texas water law with an emphasis on the rights, policy, and law of groundwater ownership and the rise of large-scale commercial groundwater projects in Texas. Matters concerning surface water will also be discussed, including surface water impoundments on private property and commercial development, navigable streams and public access, and Texas water demand and new sources of supply.

Jim Bradbury '88 advises clients on land use and permitting as well as enforcement matters before state authorities, the EPA, and the Department of Justice. He also handles civil litigation that arises out of environmental issues. Jim has a focus on the legal and policy issues relating to water and real property transactions and the environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing production, including surface use rights, eminent domain and pipelines. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M Law School, where he teaches Ag Law.

Cybersecurity for Lawyers: The Interplay Between Cyber Risk and Your Legal Obligations

As the cybersecurity threat landscape continues to grow and evolve, lawyers and their clients continue to face an ever-increasing breadth of legal obligations and complex technical issues in handling and protecting data. The panel will address those challenges and present practical guidance from multiple perspectives for managing risk as well as satisfying legal obligations.

Thomas Arnold '96 is a Manager with CrowdStrike based in Houston, TX. He has over 8 years of information security and consulting experience, specializing in digital forensics and incident response. Mr. Arnold has led incident response engagements for organizations in the defense industrial base, manufacturing, technology, and financial industries. Prior to CrowdStrike, Mr. Arnold worked for Mandiant and the US Federal Government as an engineer and incident response manager.

Special Agent Billy Weaver '97 has over 15 years of experience working in the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Cyber Crimes division. Currently, Agent Weaver focuses on Russian National Security cyber matters. Special Agent Weaver graduated from Texas A&M in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. Prior to joining the FBI, he worked for Compaq Computer as a Systems Software Engineer.

The Moderator, Lynn Sessions '89, is a Partner at BakerHostetler who focuses her practice on privacy and data security. She has handled over 600 data breaches and over 300 regulatory investigations following those breaches. Lynn was also awarded a Burton Distinguished Writing Award at the Library of Congress for her article, "Anatomy of a Healthcare Data Breach" and was named a Trailblazer in Cyber Security by the National Law Journal in 2016.

So Sue Me: An Overview of Texas Anti-SLAPP Law

The Texas Citizens Participation Act is being invoked with greater frequency and in a broader range of cases, from defamation to family law, resulting in interesting and sometimes unexpected outcomes. When does the Act apply? What should a plaintiff know before filing suit? The answers to these questions and others will be presented in a basic overview of the Act, together with some helpful practice tips and precautions.

Andrea Bouressa '02 is a ten-year civil litigation and appellate lawyer practicing in the Frisco office of Scheef & Stone, LLP. Her experience includes contract claims, securities fraud claims, insurance defense, premises liability, business and property ownership disputes, and more, with considerable work in recent years involving the Texas Citizens Participation Act.

Criminal Law Panel: Hot Topics in Criminal Law

This panel discussion will cover "Hot Topics" in criminal law, with both a state and federal level perspective of the topics. The panelists will discuss how the topics are being handled at their respective offices and will likely contain practice pointers for attendees.

The Honorable Julie Renken '92 has been a state prosecutor for 23 years. Eighteen of those years have been as an elected prosecutor both as the Washington County District Attorney (12 years) and the 21st Judicial District Attorney (6 years).

Nick Bunch '01 is an Assistant United States Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas. He presently serves as the Deputy Section Chief over the Economic Crime and Public Corruption section. He graduated from The University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 2005 and Texas A&M University, with a degree in Computer Science, in 2001.

Intersection of Civil Litigation and Bankruptcy Law

Adversary, Removal, Remand and Stay. No these are not dog commands but just some of the strange terms used in the intersection of civil litigation and bankruptcy.

John Akard Jr. is a second generation Aggie, class of '88. He graduated with a BBA-Accounting and then worked for a world famous accounting firm that is no longer discussed in polite company. As an attorney and a CPA, the majority of his practice is assisting small business owners or former small business owners with financial challenges both in and out of bankruptcy.

Junior Just Got Arrested! What to Tell Your Best Clients: Mom & Dad

What do you tell your client, friend, or family member when someone they know gets arrested? What usually happens? How long does it take? What can they expect? From arrest to the 1st court setting, you'll be able to provide meaningful information beyond "call a criminal attorney."

Tom Nowak '02 is a Criminal Defense practitioner in North Texas. He has tried hundreds of cases as both a state prosecutor and criminal defense lawyer. Tom is Board Certified in Criminal law and has also been named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers.

The Golden Age of Legal Education?

Recent years have been challenging ones for legal education. Stories of distress, decline and even demise now represent the conventional wisdom. As dean of one of the fastest rising law schools in the nation, Bobby Ahdieh will challenge that narrative, and suggest that the current moment is actually one of tremendous *opportunity* – for those law schools prepared to seize it.

Robert B. Ahdieh is the Dean and Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed Dean's Chair at Texas A&M University School of Law. A graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and Yale Law School, Ahdieh served as law clerk on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before his selection for the Honors Program in the Civil Division of the US Department of Justice. Prior to joining the Texas A&M University faculty, Ahdieh was the K.H. Gyr Professor of Law at Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia, where he also served as Associate Dean of Faculty and as Vice Dean.

Accounting for Lawyers

***Accounting for Lawyers* presents a high level overview of accounting principles, terminology, and financial statements. This basic primer on the "language of business" is designed to provide lawyers with a general understanding that can be used in their practice. It is also a nice refresher for those with some exposure to accounting and provides just enough information to make a newbie dangerous...**

Lauren Herrington '02 is a Director in the Forensic Services practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers. She is a self-professed super nerd who loves accounting. Every day, she gets to apply accounting principles to help clients solve problems, mitigate risks, and respond to crises. The thing she misses most about Aggieland is the daily sense of being a small part of something so big (and Wings 'n More).

Megan Utz '16 is an Associate in the Forensic Services practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers. She has experience solving a variety of client problems including troubled audit matters and contract compliance disputes. Her favorite thing about Aggieland is Mugwalls.

Drafting Animal Laws 101

***Drafting Animal Laws 101* takes a look at considerations for drafting legislation that protects animals without impeding animal ownership.**

Elaine Ramesh '90 (PhD, Chemistry) is a registered patent attorney at Flener IP & Business Law in Chicago. An avid equestrian and horse owner herself, Elaine has helped the horse-owning community unite and expand their rights to ride and keep horses in Illinois for many years. She founded the Equestrian Coalition of McHenry County; and chaired the Horsemen's Council of Illinois Legislative Committee. During her tenure as Chair, several new state laws beneficial to horse owners were passed; and bills detrimental to horse owners were defeated.

The Ethics of Practicing in Texas Rural Courts: A Judicial Panel

This year's judicial panel consists of trial judges who preside in rural counties throughout the state. The discussion will relate to considerations lawyers need to be aware of when handling cases in rural counties. They will also discuss general best practices in their courts and ethical considerations/concerns they encounter.

Judge Robert E. Cadena '84 is a state district judge for the 83rd Judicial District of Texas, which encompasses Pecos, Terrell, and Val Verde Counties. Originally appointed in 2013, Judge

Cadena was elected to his first four-year term in 2014, and he recently began serving his second four-year term on January 1, 2019, after he ran unopposed in last year's elections. Prior to becoming a judge, Cadena was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Texas.

Judge Camile DuBose '84 is a state district judge for the 38th Judicial District of Texas, which serves Medina, Uvalde, and Real Counties. Judge Dubose was elected to her current position in 2008. Prior to 2008, she was an Associate Judge of the Child Protection Court of South Texas, where she exclusively handled abuse and neglect cases in an eight county area in southwest Texas. Prior to her judicial service, Judge DuBose was a prosecutor, and she currently serves on the Texas Supreme Court Judicial Commission on Mental Health.

Judge Robert R. Hofmann '92 is a state district judge for the 452nd Judicial District of Texas, in the western Hill County, and he recently completed his 22nd year of public service for the State. Last September, he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to serve as a Jurist in Residence for the Texas Children's Commission and later in the fall was presented with the Texas CASA Judicial Leadership Award for 2018. He works with and holds leadership positions in numerous organizations with missions dedicated to child welfare and foster care.

Justice Scott Field '92 served on the Third Court of Appeals from 2012-2018 and is a Texas Aggie Bar Association Board Member. During his six years at the Court, Justice Field was among the top ten most productive appellate court justices in the State of Texas, including in the top 5 in four of those years. He was in private practice for nearly 20 years prior to his service on the Third Court, and he began his career as a law clerk on the Texas Supreme Court for the Honorable Raul Gonzalez.