

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS BENCH BAR CONFERENCE

November 14, 2024



THE BALLROOM AT
BAYOU PLACE

500 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

MCLE Course No. 174252485
6.5 hours (1.5 Ethics)

8:00 a.m. CHECK-IN AND LIGHT BREAKFAST

Foyer, Ballroom at Bayou Place

9:00 a.m. WELCOME

Hon. Randy Crane, Chief U.S. District Judge
Andrew Gould, President, Federal Bar Association, Southern District of Texas Chapter

9:15 a.m. Professionalism in a Contentious World

Lynne Liberato, Haynes & Boone LLP
(Moderator)

Hon. David S. Morales, U.S. District Judge
Hon. Drew Tipton, U.S. District Judge
Paul Yetter, Yetter Coleman LLP

A panel of district judges and practitioners explore professionalism with a focus on the implications of today's contentious environment. They will offer insights on how to get along with difficult opposing counsel—and the benefits of maintaining a good relationship with the other side—while still zealously representing your clients.

CLE: 1.0 hours (0.5 Ethics)

10:15 a.m. Building a Plane Mid-Flight: The Rapid Integration of AI in the Legal Field

Aaron Levine, Polsinelli PC (Moderator)
Laura Alaniz, Spencer Fane LLP
Vanessah Pace, Intellectual Property Lawyer
Dov Preminger, Preminger PLLC

A panel of practitioners will explore the evolving role of generative AI in legal practice, focusing on its use by lawyers and clients alike. The presentation will also address best practices for integrating AI tools responsibly into lawyers' daily practices, while highlighting important ethical considerations.

CLE: 0.75 hours (0.5 Ethics)

11:00 a.m. BREAK

11:15 a.m. Inside the Courtroom: The Magistrate Judge's Perspective

Hon. Peter Bray, U.S. Magistrate Judge
(Moderator)

Hon. Diana Song Quiroga, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Hon. Christina Bryan, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Hon. Yvonne Ho, U.S. Magistrate Judge

A panel of magistrate judges discuss their powers and duties under 28 U.S.C. §§ 631 and 636, as well as provide insight on how magistrate judges are selected and what experience is needed for the role. The panel will give practice pointers, including strategies on when to file a dispositive motion, how to practice efficiently before the court, and both how and why to consent to proceedings before a magistrate judge.

CLE: 1.0 hours

12:15 p.m. LUNCH AND NETWORKING

1:00 p.m. FIRST BREAKOUT SESSION: Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit Update

CIVIL

Hon. Priscilla Richman, U.S. Circuit Judge
(Moderator)

Eva Guzman, Wright Close & Barger LLP

Connie Pfeiffer, Yetter Coleman LLP

Macey Reasoner Stokes, Baker Botts LLP

CRIMINAL

Hon. John A. Kazen, U.S. District Judge
(Moderator)

Timothy Crooks, Esq.

Anna E. Kalluri, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Matthew Wright, Assistant Federal Public Defender

Led by jurists, these panels of appellate attorneys will discuss notable Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit cases that civil and criminal practitioners need to know about for their practice.

CLE: 1.0 hours

2:00 p.m. SECOND BREAKOUT SESSION

CIVIL: The General Counsel's View

Gregg Costa, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
(Moderator)

R. Mick Cantu, Houston Methodist, Executive
Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and
Business and Strategic Development Officer

Monica Karuturi, CenterPoint Energy,
Executive Vice President and General Counsel

R. Hewitt Pate, Chevron Corporation, Vice
President and General Counsel

A panel of general counsel for prominent
Houston companies will discuss navigating
legal and economic challenges, managing a
legal department, and the importance of the
rule of law to business.

CLE: 1.0 hours

**CRIMINAL: A Conversation with the U.S.
Attorney and Federal Public Defender**

Hon. Randy Crane, Chief U.S. District Judge
(Moderator)

Alamdard Hamdani, United States Attorney

Scott Martin, Chief of Appeals, Office of the
Federal Public Defender

Chief Judge Randy Crane leads the U.S.
Attorney and Federal Public Defender in a
wide-ranging conversation about managing
their respective offices, which span across
the district. Other topics include their offices'
working relationship with one another, as well
with the federal judiciary, and common
ethical issues in criminal prosecution and
defense.

CLE: 1.0 hours (0.5 Ethics)

3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:15 p.m. Connecting with Juries

Hon. Jeff Brown, U.S. District Judge
(Moderator)

Hon. Nelva Gonzales Ramos, U.S. District
Judge

Dan Cogdell, Cogdell Law Firm

Randy Sorrels, Sorrels Law

A panel of district judges and trial lawyers
will discuss successful and unsuccessful
strategies used during trial to connect with
juries. The panelists will discuss best
practices for voir dire, opening statements,
witness testimony, and closing arguments.

CLE: 0.75 hours

**4:00 p.m. What Works: Effective Presentation
Techniques and Use of Technology**

Hon. Mitchel Neurock, U.S. Magistrate Judge
(Moderator)

Hon. Alfred H. Bennett, U.S. District Judge

Hon. Ignacio Torteya, U.S. Magistrate Judge

This panel of district and magistrate judges will
discuss effective presentation strategies for
hearings and trial, in both civil and criminal
cases. Among other things, the panelists will
discuss how to best use technology to assist
the Court; when technology is not needed; and
what the newer generation of judges finds
helpful and effective.

CLE: 1.0 hours

5:00 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Randy Crane, Chief U.S. District Judge

5:15 p.m. RECEPTION

Foyer, Ballroom at Bayou Place

6:30 p.m. ADJOURN

View Panelists' Biographies:

<https://bit.ly/SDTX2024>



THERE WILL BE NO ONSITE REGISTRATION THE DAY OF THE CONFERENCE.

Attendees must be admitted to practice before the Southern District of Texas or have a pending application to practice.

FEES:

\$225 Non-FBA Members

\$150 FBA Members

\$100 Government and Non-Profit Attorneys

MCLE: 174252485 (6.5 hours, 1.5 ethics)



(Link to State Bar MCLE)

United States District and Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas

<u>District Judges</u>	<u>Senior District Judges</u>	<u>Bankruptcy Judges</u>	<u>Magistrate Judges</u>
Randy Crane, <i>Chief</i> Ricardo H. Hinojosa Lee H. Rosenthal Keith P. Ellison Andrew S. Hanen Diana Saldaña Nelva Gonzales Ramos Marina Garcia Marmolejo Alfred H. Bennett George C. Hanks, Jr. Rolando Olvera Fernando Rodriguez, Jr. David S. Morales Jeff V. Brown Charles R. Eskridge Drew B. Tipton John A. Kazen	David Hittner Kenneth M. Hoyt Sim Lake John D. Rainey Ewing Werlein, Jr. Janis Graham Jack Micaela Alvarez Gray Miller	Eduardo Rodriguez, <i>Chief</i> Marvin P. Isgur Jeffrey Norman Christopher López Alfredo R. Pérez	James Scott Hacker Diana Song Quiroga Jason B. Libby Ignacio Torteya, III Dena Hanovice Palermo Christina A. Bryan Andrew Edison Juan F. Alanis Peter J. Bray Julie K. Hampton Christopher dos Santos Nadia Medrano Mitchel Neurock Yvonne Y. Ho Karen Betancourt Richard W. Bennett