

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, September 5

11:30 – 12:45

1. Bankruptcy Practice Tips for Poverty Law Practitioners**ROOM: Omni C**

This session will cover practice tips for Chapter 7 & Chapter 13 bankruptcy practitioners and will answer questions such as: What sections of the code are most useful (and often overlooked)? How do you prepare your client for filing? What are Bankruptcy Judges in Texas seeing that they wish they weren't (or wish they were)? What recent case law should you make sure you know about?

Presenters: Sapna Aiyer, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Amir Befroui, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston)

2. Guardianships 101**ROOM: Omni AB**

This panel presentation will address the nuts and bolts of guardianship law as it is practiced in different regions of the state and in different jurisdictions - from statutory probate courts to rural constitutional county courts. Attendees will learn how to assess a guardianship case including alternatives such as supported decision making agreements and supports and services, and how to prosecute a guardianship case in court from application through closing a case.

Presenters: Julie Balovich, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Alpine); Charlotte Key, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas); Anita Manoharan, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Connie Lawrence, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Lubbock)

3. Employment Law 101**ROOM: Omni D**

This session is a 101 regarding employment law in Texas. The session will mainly focus on the roles the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Texas Work Force Commission play in employment law. The session will explain the entities' roles and processes for employees seeking remedy based on discrimination. The session will discuss common issues an attorney working with low-income clients faces. Best practices and tips for the attorney working with low-income clients will also be explored and discussed.

Presenters: Cornelia Alvarez, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Abilene); Christopher Larson, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas)

4. Immigration Nuts and Bolts**ROOM: Omni EF**

This workshop will provide attendees with the nuts and bolts on the most common forms and petitions for general Family-based Immigration cases such as I-130, I-485, N-400, N-600, DACA, as well as U visas and VAWA petitions through sample petitions and applications and index of exhibits. This session will detail the practical aspect of filing a form/petition and what type of evidence is generally accepted in addition to the realistic wait time for each type of case. The presentation will conclude with a quick Q&A session.

Presenters: Khanh Pham, Boat People SOS (Houston); Manita Thai, Boat People SOS (Houston); Maria Diaz, Boat People SOS (Houston)

5. Domestic Violence Family Law 101 (Part 1)**ROOM: The Oaks** **NOTE – This is a two-part session and will run from 11:30 – 2:15**

This double session will address what family law practitioners need to know when representing a family violence victim in a family law case; it is intended for attorneys with fewer than five years' family law experience. The

presenters will cover what every family violence family law practitioner should consider for her client including best practices, available extraordinary relief, and all types of protective orders.

Presenters: Julia Raney Rodriguez, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Amber VanSchuyver, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Edinburg)

6. Form Automation and Legal Aid: How Document Assembly Tools Can Close the Justice Gap

ROOM: Southpark

This session is a discussion on form automation, how to start, and where to find resources. There are a lot of forms out there for both Attorney and Client/Pro Se use. This will serve as an overview of what is out there, and will give some suggestions on how to add your own content. Part 1 of the session looks at what forms are out there for Texas, Part 2 of the session is a quick overview of various form automation tools (Hot Docs, A2J Author, Guide and File, DocAssembly, LHI, etc.) and how they are used outside of Texas, and Part 3 of the session includes sample case studies from HVL on Pro Se Assisted Forms and Gender Marker Changes.

Presenters: Michael Hofrichter, Houston Volunteer Lawyers (Houston); Chanita Chantaplin-McLelland, Texas Legal Services Center / TexasLawHelp (Austin); Claudia Johnson, LawHelp Interactive (Richland, WA); Jessica Frank, CALI - Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (Gulf Breeze, FL)

1:00 – 2:15

7. Real Estate Law in the Poverty Law Context: Primer on Safeguarding Clients' Only Appreciating Asset

ROOM: Omni C

This session will focus on how to spot factual and legal issues and advocate for clients dealing with mortgage loans by local lenders and wraparound and contract for deed sellers. Participants will also learn about how to have the most impact while litigating individual cases.

Presenters: Veronica Carbajal, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (El Paso); Sascha Rips, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Brownsville); Molly Rogers, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin); Kelsey Snapp, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio)

8. The Second Storm: Insurance Issues for Low-Income Disaster Survivors

ROOM: Omni AB

It is a fact that low-income clients can and do have insurance and that insurance issues are repeatedly named as one of the main hurdles faced by low-income disaster survivors. This panel will discuss some of the common types of insurance policies and coverage seen with a low-income population, the challenges and issues presented after a disaster occurs, and legal aid's role in advocating for these clients versus that of the private bar. It will also look at the special considerations faced by LSC providers.

Presenters: Nicole Worsley Love, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Sandra Brown, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston)

9. The Nuts and Bolts of Recovering Unpaid Wages: An Introduction for Non-Employment Lawyers

ROOM: Omni D

Every year, an estimated \$15 billion in desperately needed income for workers with the lowest wages goes unpaid. Given the widespread nature of the problem, non-payment of wages often goes unreported and government enforcement continues to decline. This session will focus on how to issue spot common situations in which low-income working people are not paid correctly for their labor. After reviewing the "top ten" most common claims that legal aid attorneys are likely to encounter, we will discuss various strategies for recovering unpaid wages under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Texas Minimum Wage Act, the Texas Payday Law, the Texas Property Code, the Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and the Texas Government Code. This session is geared towards legal aid attorneys with all levels of familiarity with employment law.

Presenters: Bill Grigg, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Colleen Mulholland, Equal Justice Center (San Antonio)

10. How to Reduce Fear and Stress for Immigrant Families in these Daunting Times – Family Preparedness is the Key (*Ethics .5 hrs.*)**ROOM: Omni EF**

This information session will discuss documents that should be included in a Family Preparedness Plan. We will share Houston Volunteer Lawyers' Power of Attorney for a Minor and Travel Consent documents. We will also discuss other options to help families keep their children out of CPS and with the caregiver of their choice. The goal of a Family Preparedness Plan is to help parents reduce the stress and anxiety associated with: 1) Who will care for your children? 2) What to do if your children need medical care? 3) Are your children ready to travel in the event of an emergency?

Presenters: Blenda Ruiz, Houston Volunteer Lawyers (Houston); Stephanie Sommerlatte, Houston Volunteer Lawyers (Houston)

11. Domestic Violence Family Law 101 (Part 2)**ROOM: The Oaks** **NOTE – This is a two-part session and will run from 11:30 – 2:15**

This two-part session will address what family law practitioners need to know when representing a family violence victim in a family law case; it is intended for attorneys with fewer than five years' family law experience. The presenters will cover what every family violence family law practitioner should consider for her client including best practices, available extraordinary relief, and all types of protective orders.

Presenters: Julia Raney Rodriguez, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Amber VanSchuyver, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Edinburg)

12. Winning with Finite Resources**ROOM: Southpark**

Finite resources (time, litigation funds, competing firm priorities) can be a recipe for disaster. The purpose of this training is to address this predicament by offering suggestions ranging from broad themes to specific tips to help attorneys shepherd resources without sacrificing results.

Presenters: Kevin Dietz, Dietz Lawrence & Mcgiverin, PLLC (Austin); Carlos Salinas, Thomas Salinas and Londergan (Austin)

2:30 – 3:45**13. How the 2017 Tax Act Affects Your Clients****ROOM: Omni C**

Changes to the Internal Revenue Code in late 2017 did more than change tax rates. Tax benefits for families with children and other dependents were changed, among other provisions affecting low-income workers. The sessions will include a brief overview of tax credits you should know about when representing your client.

Presenters: Polly Bone, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Karyna Lopez, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Elizabeth Molina, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (El Paso)

14. Housekeeping for Title: Homeownership Issues for Repair/Replacement During a Disaster**ROOM: Omni AB**

This session explores some of the tools public interest lawyers use to clear title to property, including removing judgment liens, obtaining affidavits of heirships, and proving ownership of manufactured homes, trailers, and RVs. These are especially necessary when there is a disaster. Many programs require the disaster survivor to have 100% title ownership to receive financial assistance to repair the home. Oftentimes, the legal proceeding may take longer to complete than the program's deadline allows. By anticipating the need in communities prone to disasters and assisting low-income Texans with title "house"keeping, the public interest attorney can help disaster survivors obtain funds needed to repair or replace their homes.

Presenters: Hon. Elizabeth Lockett, Harris County Tax Master (Houston); Michael Rush, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Patricia Tsai, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Hank Bostwick, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio)

15. Medicaid Denials and Fair Hearings: Trending Issues in Access to Healthcare and Resources

ROOM: Omni D

This presentation will cover how to handle your first or your current Medicaid Denial and Fair Hearing case. We'll have a step by step process for taking a case from denial to hearing. We'll also discuss trending issues regarding access to healthcare, resources, and the Medicaid Managed Care system in Texas.

Presenters: Bernadette Segura, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (El Paso); Priscilla Noriega, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Brownsville)

16. How the Heck Do I Sue the Government (and Do I Need To)?

ROOM: Omni EF

Whether your practice involves family, housing, education, immigration or numerous other substantive areas of law, chances are you may at some point need to file either administrative complaints or suits against a governmental entity. This session is intended to provide a broad overview of various legal actions against governmental entities, including state & federal Administrative Procedures Act, Declaratory Judgment Act, Mandamus, Federal Tort Claims Act, Section 1983 litigation, and Bivens suits. Review will include the types of claims that can be brought, barriers such as exhaustion of remedies and qualified/official immunity, and other matters such as standing, statutes of limitation, etc. We will also review non-litigation alternatives to suit.

Presenters: Peter McGraw, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Brownsville); Susan Watson, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Nashville)

17. Divorce and the Entrepreneur - What Family Law Attorneys Need to Know about Business Law

ROOM: The Oaks

Elena's soon to be ex-husband does not hold a steady job. He works on his own as a landscaper, the family vehicle is also the business vehicle. Does Elena have a community property claim to the vehicle? What additional information is needed to make that determination? All too often family law attorneys are confronted with business law issues in a divorce. Whether it is the client or the opponent who is self-employed or owns a small business, it is critical for family law attorneys to understand small business issues to effectively represent their clients.

Presenters: Andrea Harrington, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid - Texas CBAR (Austin)

18. Clean Slate Laws in Texas: An Expunction & Nondisclosure Update

ROOM: Southpark

The 85th Legislature brought about broad changes in expunction and nondisclosure eligibility in Texas. This session will train lawyers on the new laws and processes, provide templates and procedures for easy case management, and create a forum for discussion of current issues.

Presenters: Leslie Ginzel, Beacon Law (Houston); Stephanie Marrone, Beacon Law (Houston)

4:00 – 5:00

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Family Law, Health and Public Benefits, Immigration Law, Consumer and Housing Law, Education and Juvenile Justice, Employment Law, Community Development

5:30

POVERTY LAW SECTION MEETING

THURSDAY, September 6**8:30 – 9:45****19. Pick Your Poison: Payday Loans, Title Loans, & Tax Refund Loans****ROOM: Omni C**

What laws—federal, state, or local—regulate lenders in these transactions? Is there any limit on interest rates? How do these loans trap consumers, and what can consumers do to escape? How have the courts ruled in cases involving these transactions? Can these loans be discharged in a bankruptcy? If so, under what circumstances? How can we counsel clients who have signed up for one of these loans? Do you have to have a paycheck to get a payday loan? Can payday loans lead to criminal charges against the borrower if a check bounces?

Presenter: John Grieger, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Wichita Falls)

20. FEMA - An Advocate's Perspective**ROOM: Omni AB**

Many disaster survivors need financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but encounter obstacles that hinder their recovery. This session will:

- provide a brief overview of FEMA's financial assistance program for individuals and households;
- identify common obstacles and the types of administrative proceedings available to address them;
- explain how FEMA's eligibility decisions have a farther-reaching impact than just the amount of money one receives from FEMA; and
- include insights gained from litigation against FEMA.

Presenters: Tracy Figueroa, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Corpus Christi); Sapna Aiyer, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston)

21. Protected Health Information (PHI): Doing it Wrong? (Ethics 1.15 hrs.)**ROOM: Omni D**

If you come into possession of or intend to share anyone's "Protected Health Information," i.e. medical or mental health records, this session is for you. We'll cover what's meant by "PHI," and include an overview of applicable state and federal law, what attorneys (and their firms) are required to do, specific restrictions for the use, possession, or disclosure of PHI, traps for the unwary, and share some discovery tips (and sample documents) for litigated cases that involve PHI.

Presenter: Rebecca Flanigan, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Corpus Christi)

22. Incorporating Social Work Techniques to Improve Client's Lives (Oh! and Yours Too!)**ROOM: Omni EF**

While we're not social workers, our clients are often in desperate need of them. This session will cover such topics as motivational interviewing techniques, trauma informed care, dealing with secondary trauma as a service provider, and self-care.

Presenters: Stephanie Truong, Beacon Law (Houston); Laura Arguijo, Beacon Law (Houston); Regina Walker, LMSW, Brigid's Hope (Houston)

23. Lawyers Without Borders – A Collaboration Between Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and New Mexico Legal Aid**ROOM: The Oaks**

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT) and New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) have joined forces in a collaboration unique among legal aid service providers. LANWT and NMLA share a 400-mile border with low-income

communities that have legal issues which often involve both states. The two legal aids are collaborating to provide services to this population in several ways: referrals between the organizations, joint legal clinics, and co-counseling where appropriate. The project includes attorneys licensed in both states and is based in the Midland/Odessa offices (LANWT) and Roswell/Hobbs offices (NMLA).

The project has expanded to include LANWT offices in Amarillo, Lubbock and Plainview as well as NMLA attorneys serving Eastern New Mexico including Clovis and Clayton. The dual state project also increases access and representation to low-income communities in historically underserved rural counties along and near the border. The panel will discuss the formation, operation and initiatives of the project.

Presenters: Tom Stutz, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas); Ed Marks, New Mexico Legal Aid (Albuquerque, NM); Patrick McMonigle, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Odessa)

24. Advocacy Strategies to Combat Displacement in Gentrifying Neighborhoods

ROOM: Southpark

This interactive workshop explores community lawyering and policy strategies to help low-income renters and homeowners stay in gentrifying neighborhoods. Using a case study drawn from real cases, we will explore how to assess when a neighborhood is undergoing gentrification and is vulnerable to displacement, and then examine tools and strategies that can be deployed to combat displacement—from advocacy campaigns to implement stronger relocation policies to neighborhood stabilization overlays and preservation of tax credit properties. Participants will be armed with a diverse array of tools and model legal documents they can bring back to their communities.

Presenters: Amelia Adams, Texas Housers (Austin); Jorge Jasso, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas); Supawon Lervisit, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (Dallas); Lauren Loney, University of Texas School of Law (Austin)

10:00 – 11:15

25. What Every Employment, Family, Housing, and Consumer Lawyer Should Know About Credit Reporting

ROOM: Omni AB

This session will discuss the topic of consumer reporting (background screening in employment and housing, credit reporting in consumer and family cases) and how the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act affects employees, housing applicants, clients being represented in divorces, and in any consumer transaction. This is especially important for clients with any type of criminal background. The session will provide an overview of what the law covers, available remedies, and how all legal aid attorneys should be considering the impact of consumer reporting for their clients.

Presenter: Carla Sanchez-Adams, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

26. The Changing Immigration Landscape and What it Means for Your Clients

ROOM: Omni EF

This interactive presentation will provide participants an overview of changes the Trump administration has enacted in immigration-related policies and practices. Topics will include updates on ICE enforcement priorities, immigration court dockets, use of public benefits, and the termination of large-scale programs like TPS and DACA. The intended audience is anyone who works with immigrants, particularly those who may not practice immigration law directly, but want to know more about the substance behind the constant drumbeat of immigration headlines in the news cycle.

Presenters: Alexandra Minnaar, RAICES (Austin); Julie Flanders, (Austin)

27. Tech Tips for the Typical User**ROOM: The Oaks**

A discussion of various technology tips and suggestions for the non-techie. Presented in a rapid fire format, we'll run through a wide variety of things that could make every day work by a legal aid attorney easier. Covering things from tech training and resource opportunities to productivity and security tools, this session will give the typical user a base from which to find tech tools and implement them in their regular practice.

Presenters: Michael Hofrichter, Houston Volunteer Lawyers (Houston); Carlton Whitmore, Disability Rights Texas (Austin)

28. Public Housing and RAD Conversions**ROOM: Southpark**

We will provide participants with a basic overview of current issues facing public housing programs with emphasis on Rental Assistance Demonstration ("RAD") conversions. Speakers will discuss their own RAD experiences, take audience questions, and explain the program's benefits in ensuring safe public housing.

Presenters: Velimir Rasic, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Carmen Ilene Garcia, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Adam Pirtle, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (Forth Worth); Alexandra Eber, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Fort Worth)

11:30 – 1:00**29. LUNCH KEYNOTE – Guest Speaker, John Pollock****(ROOM: OMNI CD)****NOTE – Registration is required to attend.**

The movement for a right to counsel in civil cases has reached a watershed moment: several cities have established a right to counsel for evictions, 150 state-level bills were filed last year that addressed the civil right to counsel in one way or another, and right to counsel litigation is pending in states all over the country on subjects ranging from fees/fines incarceration to guardianship of adults to adoptions. This session will take a look at the history of the movement, the rights to counsel that generally already exist, and the most exciting efforts to expand it.

John Pollock serves as a Staff Attorney for the Public Justice Center, where he serves as the Coordinator of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel.

1:15 – 2:30**30. Updates in Landlord/Tenant Law****ROOM: Omni AB**

This presentation will cover recent developments in landlord-tenant law, including new case law and statutory changes that affect low-income tenants. The intent of the discussion is to give advocates working in this area additional tools with which to empower tenants and keep low-income renters from being homeless.

Presenter: Nelson Mock, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

31. Public Benefits Pitfalls for Non-Benefits Attorneys and Emerging Policy Changes on Public Charge**ROOM: Omni EF**

When working with an indigent client population, Public Benefits will emerge as part of the case in some fashion. This session will address questions the non-Public Benefits attorney should consider, from intake to settlement/monetary award. The practice areas we will look at more closely are Immigration, Education, Farmworker, and Employment.

Presenter: Priscilla Noriega, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Brownsville)

32. Toolkit for Common Legal Issues Involving Veterans: VA Benefits, Records Corrections, and Expunction/Non-Disclosure**ROOM: The Oaks**

This presentation will address resources for the new veterans law practitioner, organized by common client questions, with accompanying interview guides and initial resources to bring to the interview, and recommended resources for post-interview research. Substantive topics addressed will be VA Disability Benefits, VA Education Benefits, Expunctions and Non-Disclosures, Records Corrections, and VA Medical Care.

Presenters: Alec Lawton, South Texas College of Law (Houston); Kimberly Ashworth, South Texas College of Law Houston (Houston)

33. Zoning and Land Use as Community Development and Fair Housing Issues**ROOM: Southpark**

Zoning and land use policies shape neighborhoods and communities for better and for worse. Decisions regarding what can be built and where have profound implications for a community's health, safety and welfare. Low-income communities of color, who have historically been left out of these decisions, are disproportionately burdened by undesirable and noxious land uses as compared to their more affluent and Caucasian counterparts. Certain zoning regulations such as minimum lot size and other density restrictions even have the direct effect of contributing to racial segregation and exacerbating the concentration of poverty.

This panel will provide an introduction to land use and zoning regulations, their effect on low-income communities of color, and ways in which communities can fight back. Panelists will share challenges and successes of representing clients in land use and zoning matters. Participants will learn how to empower low-income community groups to meaningfully engage in land use and zoning processes and legal strategies for challenging discriminatory policies and decisions.

Presenters: Patrick Banis, Department of Housing & Urban Development (Ft. Worth); Stephanie Champion, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas); Rachel Cohen-Miller, Disability Rights Texas (Dallas); Christopher McGreal, Disability Rights Texas (Dallas); Stephanie Trinh, City of Austin (Austin)

2:45 – 4:00**34. Defending Federal Housing Evictions****ROOM: Omni C**

This session will discuss the eviction requirements relating to the various federal housing programs, with a primary focus on defenses to prevent eviction and to avoid homelessness.

Presenter: Fred Fuchs, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

35. Disasters: Consumer Protection, Employment, and Immigration Issues**ROOM: Omni AB**

A variety of legal issues arise after disasters. This session will focus on what consumer, employment, and immigration attorneys should be prepared to address in order to help disaster survivors recover. Consumers often face problems such as identity theft and contractor and home repair fraud, as well as challenges providing bureaucracies like FEMA with supporting documents to obtain assistance. Workers may need help accessing disaster unemployment benefits, recovering unpaid wages for post-disaster clean-up and reconstruction work, or redressing a wrongful termination for complying with an evacuation order. Immigrants are an especially vulnerable population during natural disasters, and are less likely to access assistance and obtain benefits – even when they are entitled to them. This is because of a myriad of barriers, such as fear of police and deportation,

cultural obstacles, limited English proficiency, re-traumatization, insufficient understanding of systems, and economic barriers – all of this worsened by national anti-immigrant sentiment and SB4.

Presenters: Tracy Figueroa, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Corpus Christi); Sapna Aiyer, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Katy Youker, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Brownsville); Andrea Guttin, Houston Immigration Services (Houston)

36. Psychiatric Advance Directives: Self-Determination and Advocacy Tools for Persons with Serious Mental Illness

ROOM: Omni D

In Texas, a person with a psychiatric illness can state their preferences regarding treatment and no treatment in a hospital setting in a legal document entitled a "Declaration for Mental Health Treatment" which is binding under certain circumstances. DMHTs are very rarely used. Individuals with psychiatric illnesses do not know about them and how they can help them; practitioners don't know how to advise people how to use them. But these documents can be an important tool for advocacy for persons with serious mental illness. This session will explain how psychiatric advance directives work under Texas law and will provide some ideas for how to do outreach and set up a legal clinic to help people who need them get access to these important documents and learn their rights.

Presenters: Julie Balovich, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Alpine); Wesley Hartman, University of Texas School of Law (Austin); Laurie Hallmark, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Beeville); Aaryce Hayes, Disability Rights Texas (Austin)

37. How to Help Youth and Young Adults Succeed When Their Parents Have Failed (Ethics .5 hrs.)

ROOM: Omni EF

Foster youth and other youth and young adults who lack parental support face a host of legal issues and barriers as they transition to adulthood. The session will cover tips for successfully working with this population, an overview of the benefits and resources available to current and former foster youth and other at-risk youth, and strategies for addressing some of the common legal barriers they experience, including inability to obtain identification documents, accessing public benefits, criminal records, unresolved class C misdemeanors, removal of disabilities of minority (emancipation), school enrollment, financial aid for college and more.

Presenters: Mary Christine Reed, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin); Sarah Worthington, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin); Lourdes "Lulu" Portillo, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

38. Getting Veterans 100%: Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU)

ROOM: The Oaks

Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU) is a benefit for veterans with a service-connected injury who cannot obtain "substantial gainful employment." It allows for a veteran to be paid at a 100% rating, even if they are rated at less than a 100%. This allows advocates to obtain a 100% rating for conditions that may not normally warrant 100% or total schedular disability. TDIU also allows veterans to be paid at 100% while other claims are being resolved. Lastly, TDIU may also be quicker than the normal appeal process for schedular ratings.

Presenter: Michael Shippey, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (El Paso)

39. Engaging Communities: The Importance and Challenges of Community Outreach in Nonprofit Legal Services

ROOM: Southpark

This session will discuss the work that outreach and community education plays in engaging target client populations in nonprofit/public interest law. This will include a discussion led by a panel of employees from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid whose primary focus is doing community outreach and education along the Texas Border, including know your rights presentations and informational sessions in diverse practice areas such as housing, environmental justice, LGBTQ+ issues, employment, farmworker rights, colonias issues, and

immigration. This outreach includes working with community organizations, schools, support groups, religious institutions, and neighborhoods in rural areas sometimes scattered over large practice areas.

Panelists will discuss the importance of this work in bringing clients into legal services, the ways in which they work with attorneys to do this outreach, effective strategies for community outreach, and challenges they face in working with impoverished communities.

Presenters: Gabriel Sanchez, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Edinburg); Marlene Chavez, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Mercedes); Myrna Ibarra, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Mercedes); Alan Dicker, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (El Paso)

4:15 – 5:30

40. You are Not Judgment Proof: Defending Collection Actions from Start to Finish

ROOM: Omni C

Debt Collection in the US is a multi-billion dollar industry built on the assumption that the Defendant will not appear and default. While Texas is a non-wage garnishment state, default judgment against a person can have serious future consequences for that person as no one is 100% judgment proof. This session will give you everything you need to defend collection actions and teach you the how and why. From Verified Answers of Denial, defending against the dreaded "Account Stated" cause of action, getting the TRCP 500.9(a) pre-trial discovery order signed in a JP Court action, evaluating tendered discovery to prepare for motion for summary judgment, and conducting the final hearing. You will leave with the tools and information needed to defend a collection action to assist clients in financial distress.

Presenters: Paige Hoyt, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (Denton); Biju Pillai, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Denton); Dominic J. Ribauda, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Denton)

41. Spotting and Addressing Community Development Issues in Disaster Assistance

ROOM: Omni AB

This panel will discuss how legal services advocates can identify and address community development issues during the preparation, response, and recovery phases of disaster assistance. We will discuss strategies for building your team's capacity, responding to environmental justice emergencies, and advocating for equity in long term housing recovery.

Presenters: Rachel Zummo, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin); Becky Moseley, Legal Access Division, SBOT (Austin); Amy Dinn, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Maddie Sloan, Texas Appleseed (Austin)

42. SNAP Overpayments: Administrative Disqualification Hearings and Possible Criminal Consequences

ROOM: Omni D

What leads to SNAP overpayments? How does a low-income person who needs SNAP even pay the large amount the agency says they were overpaid? How does the person dispute the claim? What if the agency is claiming fraud? This session will highlight the common situations that lead to these SNAP Overpayments and will address strategies to help the client facing an Administrative Disqualification Hearing and, potentially, criminal charges.

Presenter: Renee Treviño, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio)

43. How to Serve a Respondent in Mexico (Ethics .25 hrs.)

ROOM: Omni EF

As both immigration enforcement and deportations increase, legal services attorneys are seeing an increasing number of cases that involve Mexican respondents/defendants. Many are at a loss on knowing how to serve

these respondents and are unaware that they may obtain void judgments if the respondents are served incorrectly.

Presenters: Pamela Brown, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Mercedes); Maria Jose Vallejo, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

44. Don't Back Down: How to Challenge Interlocutory Orders In Family Cases

ROOM: The Oaks

This session will explore the various kinds of interlocutory orders that can and should be challenged, focusing primarily on family cases. We will discuss denials of pleas to the jurisdiction, orders to pay costs, venue rulings, and temporary orders. We will also discuss the procedures for challenging these orders in the trial and appellate courts.

Presenters: Amanda Chisholm, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Alpine); Julia Raney Rodriguez, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio)

45. Ground Zero: "On-the-Spot" Assistance to Pro Se Litigants

ROOM: Southpark

Our Legal Aid Pro Se Assistance (LAPSA) office is located at the Courthouse. We want to share what we have learned about providing legal representation to "walk-in" pro se litigants as they attempt to navigate the judicial system.

Presenters: Renie McClellan, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas); Tom Stutz, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas)

6:00 -7:00 **CONFERENCE RECEPTION** - Network with conference attendees and enjoy light hor d'ourves

FRIDAY, September 7

8:30 – 9:45

46. Fighting Fraud: Suing Fraudulent Notarios and Tax-Return Preparers *(Ethics .5 hrs.)*

ROOM: Omni C

A dynamic program that includes an introduction on the problem of fraudulent notarios, tax-return preparers, and other document "preparation" for family, disaster, etc., the damage it inflicts on low-income individuals, particularly those from Latin countries, and the tools to fight them, including the DTPA and Notary Act.

Presenters: Jessie Campbell, Houston Volunteer Lawyers (Houston); Mark Steiner, South Texas College of Law Houston (Houston); Jill Campbell, BakerRipley (Houston)

47. Justice Starts at Home: Understanding Social & Economic Justice Through the Lens of the Zip Code

ROOM: Omni AB

Home is where our story begins... Unfortunately, for too many Texans, where you live can inhibit your ability to access good schools, jobs, and financial institutions, determine how often you encounter police and in what capacity, and even whether you have access to physical safety and good health. Over the last two decades, Texas Appleseed has worked to expose and reform systemic inequities in the state's educational, financial, housing, and legal systems. Although our programmatic areas are diverse, they share common threads. In particular, we see the impact of "zip code is destiny" on outcomes across all of the areas in which we work: access to education, access to fair financial services, involvement in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, foster care system, and youth homelessness.

In this session, several of our programmatic directors will join together to lead a discussion about:

- (1) How zip code has “traditionally” been destiny and what that looks like in Texas communities;
- (2) How legal practitioners can think about the way that their practice and focus intersects with others;
- (3) How efforts to “affirmatively further fair housing,” as provided for in the Fair Housing Act of 1968, can link racial and economic justice issues and advance broader community goals; and
- (4) How the Fair Housing Act may provide a legal hook for addressing these issues.

This session will be particularly timely given that this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Unfortunately, it is also timely because we are seeing the rollback of civil rights enforcement and numerous rules protecting us from everything from payday lending abuses to environmental hazards. Pulling our work out of silos and thinking about how to work across systemic issues and in broader coalitions is the way forward, and this session will give attendees the opportunity to contemplate and discuss the issue and the implications for doing so on other systems.

Presenters: Madison Sloan, Texas Appleseed (Austin); Morgan Craven, Texas Appleseed (Austin); Mary Schmid Mergler, Texas Appleseed (Austin), Ann Baddour, Texas Appleseed (Austin); Ellen Stone, Texas Appleseed (Austin)

48. Texas Indigent Health Care

ROOM: Omni D

Description of eligibility requirements and benefits availability for indigent health care in Texas, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Federally Qualified Health Care clinics, with focus on County Indigent Health Care, Hospital Districts and Public Hospitals.

Presenters: Jeff Larsen, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Susan Schoppa, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas)

49. Sexting and Cyberbullying: Redefining Dating Violence and the Legal Remedies for Teens

ROOM: Omni EF

Teen dating violence and bullying do not just encompass physical harm; abusers are using today’s communication tools including social media, websites, and smartphones to inflict verbal and emotional abuse digitally. As awareness of this issue grows, the law is evolving to provide greater protection for young people who experience dating violence, sexting, and cyberbullying. This presentation will explore the effects of these crimes on teens and the legal options to help keep them safe.

Presenter: Bronwyn Blake, Texas Advocacy Project (Austin)

50. The Victims Information Privacy Act: What You Need to Know

ROOM: The Oaks

On Sept. 1, 2017, the Victim's Information Privacy Act (VIPA) became law, creating a privilege for information shared by a victim with domestic violence programs. This session will explain the new law and the legal remedies available to protect a victim's information.

Presenters: Maricarmen Garza, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Houston); Molly Voyles, Texas Council on Family Violence (Austin)

51. Challenging Environmental Agency Decisions in State Court

ROOM: Southpark

Panelists will discuss how to effectively challenge decisions made by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in state court. Panelists will also briefly cover some of the other advocacy options after TCEQ administrative proceedings have concluded, including petitioning the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Presenters: Colin Cox, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Amy Dinn, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); David Frederick, Frederick, Perales, Allmon & Rockwell, PC (Austin); Erin Gaines, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

10:00 – 11:15

52. Fighting Civil Forfeiture Actions – A Two Front War**ROOM: Omni C**

The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 59 creates a civil cause of action that allows law enforcement to seize money and property that has been involved in the commission of serious crime. This controversial statute has taken a disproportionate toll on the State's racial minorities and poorest citizens. It has also seen its share of abuse by law enforcement. This presentation explores techniques for defending civil forfeiture law suits in State courts while, on a second front, bringing civil rights lawsuits in State and federal courts for unlawful traffic stops, illegal searches and seizures, and lengthy detentions that are often incident to police forfeiture activity.

Presenters: Timothy Garrigan, Lone Star Legal Aid (Nacogdoches); David Guillory, Lone Star Legal Aid (Nacogdoches)

53. Litigating against Landlords after Harvey: Landlord-Tenant Advocacy**ROOM: Omni AB**

After Hurricane Harvey, renters faced numerous practical and legal challenges to maintain their housing. This presentation will discuss how legal aid organizations litigated against landlords after Harvey to enforce tenant rights against landlords, including in public housing. It will discuss the statutory provisions in play, the methods by which such provisions can be enforced, and the pitfalls in such litigation. In particular, the presentation will discuss the equitable lawsuits Lone Star Legal Aid filed on behalf of tenants after Harvey devastated much of their service area.

Presenters: Rich Tomlinson, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Mark Grandich, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Tai Ho, Lone Star Legal Aid (Beaumont); Becky Moseley, Legal Access Division, SBOT (Austin); Nelson Mock, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

54. The Probate Toolkit**ROOM: Omni D**

The probate cases we see can range from simple, small estates, to complex contested litigation. Often times our probate cases also have other areas of law involved such as family law, real estate, and tax issues. The goal of most poverty attorneys is to determine the most significant issues our client is facing and finding the most effective tools to accomplish the client's goals. Our workshop will arm poverty lawyers with the tools needed to identify probate issues and the best tools to use to assist the client.

During our session we will discuss some common issues found in most probate cases, such as how to identify when an administration is necessary, when to use a small estate affidavit, and ways to collect child support from a decedent's estate. In addition, we will cover some new updates to the Estates Code including changes to the adverse possession statute for co-tenant heirs and new tools for heirs to obtain information from financial institutions for an intestate estate. Judge Warren will also share her top blind spots for attorneys practicing in probate court. Our session will also include common forms attorneys will need to assist clients with some of the most common probate issues.

Presenters: Charlotte Key, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas); Hon. Ingrid M. Warren, Presiding Judge of Probate Court #2 in Dallas County (Dallas)

55. Time to Support Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Workplace**ROOM: Omni EF**

In our current culture, looking at workplace safety and treatment of employees as well as responses to victimization experienced by employees is at the forefront of media attention and conversations. These conversations and the inclusion of survivor voice and perspective are integral to creating an employment landscape where all are safe and survivors of domestic and sexual violence can thrive.

This workshop explores the intersection of economic stability, survivor protections in the workplace, and workplace responses to violence. It will identify existing state and federal law and model policies and discuss best practices on how to assist survivors in accessing protections and systems. Participants will gain helpful approaches and tools for reducing negative impacts of victimization both within and outside of the workplace on survivor employment and well-being. We'll highlight resources, collaborations, and outreach efforts with local domestic violence and sexual assault organizations that may promote impactful and comprehensive civil legal services to survivors.

Presenters: Colleen Mulholland, Equal Justice Center (San Antonio), Mona Muro, Texas Council on Family Violence (Austin); Krista Del Gallo, Texas Council on Family Violence (Austin)

56. When Your Family Law Case Collides with CPS

ROOM: The Oaks

This session will provide a basic overview of a CPS investigation from start to finish. Topics will include an introduction to CPS abbreviations, how each stage of investigation affects a family law case, and Do's and Don'ts when working with CPS.

Presenters: Amber Tilley, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Fort Worth); Norma Bazán, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Fort Worth)

57. Inclusive Mobility by Design: Linking Transportation, Accessibility, and Public Health and Safety Outcomes

ROOM: Southpark

Longtime poverty lawyers and policy advocates know that winning the war on poverty cannot rely on legal victories and legislation alone. Rather, landmark laws like the Fair Housing Act (FHA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) provide a framework for implementation. Real progress requires public understanding and commitment at the local level.

Speakers will discuss the transportation and public health scorecard they developed with community based groups and intermediary groups, as well as efforts to educate the public and practitioners about their findings through media advocacy and outreach to agency stakeholders. The Inclusive Mobility by Design scorecard takes a look at state and local transportation practices, including the development of ADA Transition Plans and Access Coordination Plans, and whether these efforts are improving accessibility, social inclusion, and public health outcomes.

Presenters: Sean Jackson, Disability Rights Texas (Houston); Nancy Jakowitsch, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (Fort Worth)

11:30 – 12:45

58. Avoiding Pitfalls in Representing Groups (*Ethics .5 hrs.*)

ROOM: Omni C

Having a group client presents questions that can be difficult to navigate. Who is your client? What happens if members of the group have conflicts or don't agree on a single course of action? How do you ensure that the group has given you authority to take a particular course of action? How do you deal with confidentiality and privilege questions when asked for information from other members of the group? Join our roundtable discussion of these issues with attorneys who have experience representing a wide variety of groups and have grappled with these very issues.

Presenters: Andrea Harrington, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid - Texas CBAR (Austin); D'Ann Johnson, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid - Texas CBAR (Austin); Erin Gaines, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

59. Taking Charge in Poverty Law Litigation: Using Discovery Effectively (Ethics .5 hrs.)**ROOM: Omni AB**

Discovery is an important part of poverty litigation, too often overlooked or utilized with limited effect. In this presentation, the panelists will discuss the types of discovery permitted by the rules, discovery concerning experts, discovery from non-parties, electronically stored information (ESI), social media, the scope of and limitations on discovery, objections, protective orders, motions to compel, motions for sanctions, and how to conduct discovery on a legal-aid budget. The panelists will also provide insights into how to get the most out of your discovery requests and your discovery responses.

Presenters: Tom Stutz, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Fort Worth); John Hasley, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Fort Worth); Claudia Cano, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Dallas)

60. Social Security Benefits: Denials, Cessations, and ALJ Hearing Strategies**ROOM: Omni D**

This session will address the ALJ hearing process for Social Security cases and strategies for cases involving denials and cessations based on disability, residency, failure to establish familial relationship, and other common reasons.

Presenters: Renee Treviño, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio); Jerad Nicholson, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin)

61. Thinking Outside the Case: When and Why to Use Media to Help Clients and Causes**ROOM: Omni EF**

A panel of communications directors who work for Texas-based legal service providers will offer their insights on using media to assist in case work and strategic advocacy. Using actual case examples, panel members will discuss the importance of creating and implementing strategic, goal-oriented media campaigns; do's and don'ts of dealing with the media; and how traditional and digital media can help advocates advance their legal objectives in both individual and systemic cases. Members also will provide interviewing tips, including focusing your message and answering difficult questions.

Presenters: Shelby Jean, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Fort Worth); Nancy Nusser, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (Austin); Clarissa Ayala, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston)

62. Military Personnel and Veterans and Child Support Issues: Calculation to Enforcement and Modification of SAPCR**ROOM: The Oaks**

This session includes an overview of how to read leave and earnings statements, what can be included in income, how to fight enforcement against a disabled veteran, hidden benefits your veteran may be entitled to, and modification issues.

Presenters: Lynn Rodriguez, Texas A&M School of Law (Fort Worth); Karon Rowden, Texas A&M School of Law (Fort Worth)

63. Using Nuisance Lawsuits to Address Quality of Life Issues in our Client's Communities: Challenges and Strategies**ROOM: Southpark**

Discussion of the use of nuisance to address issues as varied as crime and environmental hazards in low-income neighborhoods, challenges and potential solutions. Overview of basic elements of nuisance claims, recent case law, and educating clients and communities to effectively document nuisance conditions.

Presenters: Rodrigo Cantu, Lone Star Legal Aid (Houston); Amy Johnson (Portland, OR); Kelsey Ciluffo, Act for Justice (Richardson), Mark Oualine, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (Lubbock)