

2019

# BENCH BAR CONFERENCE



Travis County  
Family and Civil Courthouse  
- 17th & Guadalupe



Austin Bar Association  
- 300 E. Red

**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE**  
CONNECTING THE BENCH AND THE BAR

**MAY 3, 2019**  
AUSTIN COUNTRY CLUB

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[austinbar.org](http://austinbar.org)

## 2019 BENCH BAR CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

**8 – 9 a.m. REGISTRATION / VENDOR FAIR**

**9 – 9:15 a.m. – Welcome and Introductions** by Austin Bar President Adam Schramek & AYLAs President Jorge Padilla.

**9:15 – 10 a.m. – Everything You’ve Ever Wanted to Know about Practicing in Travis County:** The rules and unwritten etiquette on how to navigate the system successfully.  
*Panel: Warren Vavra, Judge Lora Livingston, Judge Todd Wong; Moderator: Sinead O’Carroll*

**10 – 10:30 a.m. – Judicial B-I-N-G-O:** Chat with judges, fill out a bingo card, and enter to win prizes. *Coordinators: Megan Johnson and James Parker*

**10:30 – 11:15 a.m. – Practice Local:** Understanding Travis County’s local rules, standing orders, uncontested docket, and new submission docket—and suggestions for improvement.  
*Panel: Judge Scott Jenkins, Judge Darlene Byrne, Judge Amy Clark Meachum, Judge Jan Soifer; Moderator: David King*

**11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Ask the Staff Attorneys:** A discussion with staff attorneys from the Travis County District Courts, U.S. District Courts for the Western District of Texas and the Third Court of Appeals. *Panel: Jenny Brannen, Kathryn Baffes, Megan Johnson, and Brent McCabe; Moderator: Andrew Williams*

**12 – 12:30 p.m. – VENDOR FAIR**

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Law and Order / Lunch:** Judge Julie Kocurek and Judge Cliff Brown will discuss details of the crime, investigation, and trial; passage of the Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Courthouse Security Act of 2017; and the future of Judicial Safety.  
*Speakers: Judge Julie Kocurek; Moderator: Amy Meredith*

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – A Peek Behind the Curtain:** Judges share their perspectives on discovery disputes, civility amongst members of the bar, and conversations with jurors, court staff, and other judges. *Panel: Judge Robert Pitman, Judge Cliff Brown, Judge Tim Sulak, and Judge Karin Crump; Moderator: Scott Brutocao*

**2:30 – 3 p.m. – Judicial B-I-N-G-O:** Second chance to chat with judges, fill out a bingo card, and enter to win prizes. *Coordinators: Kimberly Gdula and Rob Frazer*

**3 – 4 p.m. – May It Please the Court:** Oral and written advocacy tips from the bench. *Panel: Chief Justice Jeff Rose, Judge Mark Lane, Judge Tamara Needles, Judge Dustin Howell; Moderator: Stefanie Scott Shah*

**4 – 5:15 p.m. – Happy Hour and Update on the New Travis County Courthouse:** Enjoy an open bar during an interactive discussion on how the design and construction of the new civil and family courthouse will change practice in Travis County. *Panel: Judge Lora Livingston, Judge Eric Shepperd, Judge Andy Hathcock; Moderator: Jessica Mangrum*

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**COST** is \$300 for Austin Bar/AYLA members, \$400 for non-members. Advance payments is required. Space is limited. You are encouraged to register early.

**REGISTER AND PAY WITH CREDIT CARD ONLINE AT AUSTINBAR.ORG**

or, complete registration form found at [austinbar.org](http://austinbar.org), and return it along with a check by Monday, April 22, 2019

**PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.** Requests must be received before April 22, 2019. The committee is interested in awarding scholarships to newly licensed lawyers, solo practitioners, and government/agency lawyers who might not otherwise be able to attend. Email Debbie Kelly at [debbie@austinbar.org](mailto:debbie@austinbar.org) for application.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Due to limited space, only judges, lawyers, and speakers may register. Early registration is encouraged. No cancellations or refunds will be granted after Monday, April 22, 2019.

**REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE** the seminar, course materials, continental breakfast, lunch and happy hour.

**CLE CREDIT:** 7.25 hours of CLE State Bar College and Board of Legal Specialization credit in all areas.

**AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION** may be allowed for expenses of education

**ATTIRE:** Casual. Room temperature may vary. Please consider dressing in layers.