

# EMINENT DOMAIN CONFERENCE

co-sponsored with the



**Harris County  
Attorney's Office**

**March 31, 2010**

South Texas College of Law  
1303 San Jacinto  
Garrett-Townes Hall  
Houston, Texas

**T**his year's Eminent Domain Conference hosted by Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan is designed to provide litigators and other professionals involved in eminent domain proceedings with practical tools and proven techniques they can apply immediately to best serve their clients.

The Planning Committee has included a wide variety of topics that are unique to eminent domain—condemnation litigation, appraisers' issues, floodplain and floodway challenges, the project influence rule, mediation, special commissioners' hearings, courtroom technology, and updates on recent cases and legislation. The attorney's role and the appraiser's assignment will be explained, whether working for the condemning authority or the landowner.

The speakers will discuss some of the greatest challenges they have faced in eminent domain litigation and the valuable lessons learned. Harris County Vince Ryan will provide a candid discussion of a government attorney's ethical obligations and competing client interests.

Join your colleagues for a packed agenda with some new speakers and earn 7 MCLE hours, including 1 hour of legal ethics credit.



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**Wednesday, March 31, 2010**

- 8:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Donald J. Guter, *Dean and President, South Texas College of Law*
  - Lisa L. Dahm, J.D., LL.M.-Health, *Director of CLE and Adjunct Professor, South Texas College of Law*
  - Honorable Vince Ryan, *Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney*

- 8:50 **Introduction and Overview**
- Melissa L. Barloco, *Division Chief, Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney Houston*
  - George Nachtigall, *Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney Houston*

**MORNING SESSION**

- 9:00 **Eminent Domain Do's and Don'ts for Appraisers** .....(1.0 hour)
- Mr. Whitmer will share his knowledge of appraising for eminent domain, highlighting what to do and what not to do.
- Ted Whitmer, MAI, CCIM, *Attorney at Law College Station*

10:00 **Morning Break**

- 10:15 **Who Does the Government Attorney Represent? (Includes .50 hour of legal ethics)** .....(.50 hour)
- Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan will discuss the ethical dilemmas faced by government lawyers and the various interests they are called upon to represent.
- Honorable Vince Ryan, *Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney Houston*

- 10:45 **Navigating the Nuances of an Eminent Domain Case (Includes .50 hour of legal ethics)** .....(1.0 hour)
- Mr. Mosier will explain how to successfully maneuver an eminent domain case and minimize pitfalls.
- Bruce Mosier, *Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney Houston*

11:45 **Lunch Break** (lunch will be provided)

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

- 12:45 **Legislative Alert** .....(.50 hour)
- Ms. Sisk will discuss proposed eminent domain legislation and provide some insight on hot issues.
- Cathy J. Sisk, *Director, Harris County Office of Legislative Relations Houston*

- 1:15 **Case Law Update** .....(.50 hour)
- Ms. Pollard will provide an entertaining briefing of recent eminent domain cases, with a dash of humor.
- Margaret Pollard, *Sullins Johnston Rohrbach & Magers Houston*

- 1:45 **Floodplain and Floodway Development Challenges** .....(1.0 hour)
- Mr. Loethen and Ms. Watson will discern development possibilities in the floodplain and floodway and debunk common myths.
- Mark Loethen, P.E., *City of Houston Houston*
  - Shannon C. Watson, P.E., CFM, *Harris County Public Infrastructure Department Houston*

- 2:45 **Staying on the Cutting Edge of Courtroom Technology** .....(.50 hour)
- Ms. Barloco and Mr. Snyder will demonstrate new ways to use technology in the courtroom.
- Melissa L. Barloco, *Division Chief, Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney Houston*
  - Robert Snyder, *Strategic Presentations, Inc. Houston*

3:15 **Afternoon Break**

- 3:30 **Understanding the Project Influence Rule** .....(1.0 hour)
- Mr. Dominy will explain the project influence rule and how to conduct a project influence study.
- David R. Dominy, MAI, CRE, FRICS, *Integra Realty Resources Corp. Houston*

- 4:30 **The Special Commissioner's Vantage Point** .....(.50 hour)
- Mr. Slovacek will describe the procedures followed during special commissioners' hearings and recommend helpful tips.
- Joe Slovacek, *Hoover Slovacek LLP Houston*

- 5:00 **Keys to Mediation Victory** .....(.50 hour)
- Judge Oliver-Parrott will enlighten us on how she successfully mediates eminent domain cases.
- Hon. Alice Oliver-Parrott, *The Caroline Mediation Center Houston*

5:30 **Adjourn**

Total MCLE Hours: 7.0 hours, 1.0 hour of legal ethics

# Planning Committee

**Honorable Vince Ryan**  
Harris County Attorney

**Melissa L. Barloco, Chair**  
Division Chief  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Jeremy Baker**  
Assistant County Attorney  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Charles Brack**  
Sr. Assistant County Attorney  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Jana Brandt**  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Cynthia Cedillos**  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Bruce Mosier**  
Assistant County Attorney  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**George Nachtigall**  
Deputy Division Chief  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Terence O'Rourke**  
First Assistant County Attorney  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Delandrea Robinson**  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Robert Soard**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Melanie Wooten**  
Office of Vince Ryan,  
Harris County Attorney

**Lisa L. Dahm, J.D., LL.M.**- Health  
Director of Continuing Legal Education and  
Adjunct Professor, South Texas College of Law

**Kimberly Smith**  
Program Administrator  
South Texas College of Law

## To Register

**MAIL** South Texas College of Law  
CLE Department  
1303 San Jacinto, Suite 1115  
Houston, TX 77002-7006

**ONLINE** (Credit card only) [www.stcl.edu/cle/cle.html](http://www.stcl.edu/cle/cle.html)

**PHONE** (Credit card only) (713) 646-1757 or (800) 646-1253

**FAX** (Credit card only) (713) 646-1780

### REGISTRATION

Tuition includes breakfast, lunch, refreshments and course manual. No written confirmations will be sent. Allow one week to process. Confirm your registration at [www.stcl.edu/cle/registrationconfirmation.html](http://www.stcl.edu/cle/registrationconfirmation.html).

### REFUND POLICY

Refunds, less a \$45.00 processing fee, will be given to those who cancel in writing by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2010. No refunds will be granted thereafter.

### ACCREDITATIONS

Accredited by the State Bar of Texas for 7.0 MCLE Hours, including 1.0 Legal Ethics Hour.

Accredited by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Civil Trial Law and Real Estate Trial Law.

### JUDGES

Full-time active Texas court judges and associate judges may attend for a reduced tuition of \$75. Attendance is required. Call Kimberly Smith for more information at (713) 646-1757 or (800) 646-1253.

### PARKING

Fannin Garage, 1112 Clay Street, \$6.00 per day (Early Bird Special: Enter by 9:00 a.m. and pay only \$4.00). Reserved parking for the disabled on floors 5, 7, 9 and 11 near the elevator.

Additional parking available in garages and on surface lots near the law school.

### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

For any special needs as addressed in the Americans with Disabilities Act, call Kimberly Smith at (713) 646-1757 or (800) 646-1253 by February 26, 2010 or as soon thereafter as possible.

## Registration Form

EMINENT DOMAIN CONFERENCE, March 31, 2010

South Texas College of Law

Eminent Domain Conference

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- 1**  \$225 for non-government attendees ( \$250 at the door)  
 \$200 for government employees ( \$225 at the door)

**2** Name:  Mr.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Card No. : \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive e-mail notifications about upcoming CLE courses.

- 3**  American Express  Master Card  Visa

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed (*Payable to South Texas College of Law*) Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_