



Spring 2024
30th Annual Law Review Ethics Symposium:
Lawyer as an Advocate

Presented by:
South Texas Law Review & South Texas College of Law Houston
9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Garrett-Townes Hall

Tentative Schedule and Learning Objectives

- 8:00 – 9:00 **Registration:** Symposium attendees and presenters arrive. Law Review members serve as guides/school ambassadors
- 9:00 – 9:10 Opening remarks from STCLH President and Dean Michael Barry and introduction of the first presenter by Rick Ali, STLR EIC
- 9:10 – 10:40 **Criminal Advocacy Panel: Unveiling the Dynamics of Criminal Advocacy**
At the end of this panel discussion, attendees should be able to:
- understand the key roles and responsibilities of a criminal defense attorney in the legal system, including their ethical obligations and the challenges they face;
 - compare and contrast the perspectives of a judge and prosecutor, gaining insights into the decision-making processes within the judiciary and prosecution, and understanding the dynamics between the two roles;
 - analyze the overall functioning of a County District Attorney’s Office, examining its role in shaping criminal justice policies, handling high-profile cases, and addressing challenges within the legal system.
- Moderator: **Professor Amanda Peters, Godwin Lewis PC Research & Professor of Law, South Texas College of Law Houston**
Panelists: **Cordt C. Akers '12, Partner, The Akers Firm, PLLC**
Alex Bunin '85, Chief Public Defender, Harris County
Inger Hampton Chandler '03, Criminal Defense Attorney, Former Harris County Judge and Prosecutor
Mike Holley, First Assistant Montgomery County District Attorney's Office
Jack Roady, Galveston County District Attorney's Office
- 10:40 – 10:50 **Break**
- 10:50 – 11:20 **Presentation:** **Championing Justice from the Defense Bench - Dan Cogdell '82, Principal & Founder, Cogdell Law Firm**
At the end of this presentation, attendees should be able to:

- understand the nuances of effective legal advocacy through exploring the key strategies employed by a renowned criminal defense attorney in securing not guilty verdicts in high-profile cases;
- gain valuable insights into the ethical considerations and challenges faced by criminal defense attorneys when advocating for their clients, exploring the balance between zealous representation and adherence to legal and ethical standards;
- articulate the importance of building a compelling defense strategy, including the role of thorough case investigation, witness preparation, and effective courtroom presentation.

11:20 – 12:50

Lunch and Keynote Presentation: Lunch provided by Treebeards

Keynote Presentation: Lessons from the Life and Practice of Joe Jamail -

At the end of this presentation, attendees should be able to:

- identify and discuss the ethical considerations and responsibilities associated with high-stakes tort litigation, drawing from the experiences and practices exemplified by Joe Jamail throughout his career;
- articulate the importance of client advocacy and the client-attorney relationship, exploring how Joe Jamail built strong connections with his clients and maintained a client-focused approach to legal representation;
- gain insights into the unique courtroom techniques and persuasive communication skills that set Joe Jamail apart as a successful trial lawyer and recognize their significance in achieving favorable outcomes for clients.

Moderator: **Bill Kroger, Partner, Baker Botts LLP**

Panelist: **Dahr Jamail '82 - Jamail & Kolius**

Harry Reasoner, Partner, Vinson & Elkins (Ret.)

12:50 – 1:00

Break

1:00 – 2:30

Civil Trial & Civil Appellate Advocacy Panel: Ethical Imperatives in Civil Trial and

Appellate Advocacy

At the end of this panel discussion, attendees should be able to:

- differentiate between the key aspects of civil trial advocacy and civil appellate advocacy, understanding the distinct skills and strategies required for each stage of litigation;
- analyze critical elements of effective case preparation and presentation during civil trials, exploring the role of evidence, witness examination, and legal arguments in building a persuasive case before a jury;
- discuss the impact of recent appellate decisions and trends in civil law, exploring how legal professionals adapt their advocacy strategies in response to evolving legal standards and precedents.

Moderator: **Jeff L. Rensberger, Professor of Law & Executive Vice President, South Texas College of Law Houston**

Panelists: **Daniel Johnson '04, Founding Partner, Johnson Garcia LLP**

Mary-Olga ("Mo") Lovett '93, Trial & Global Disputes Partner, King & Spalding

Michael P. Lyons '99, Founding Partner, Lyons & Simmons

Dylan B. Russell '03, Partner, Hoover Slovacek LLP

2:30 – 4:00

Retired and Former Judges Q&A Panel: A View of Ethical Advocacy from Masters of the Bench and Bar

At the end of this panel discussion, attendees should be able to:

- engage in a nuanced discussion about the ethical considerations in legal advocacy, drawing on the perspectives of retired and former judges with extensive experience on the bench;
- analyze real-world examples of ethical dilemmas in legal practice presented by the panel, and discuss the decisions and actions that align with the highest standards of professional conduct;
- gain a comprehensive understanding of how retired and former judges view the role of attorneys in upholding the rule of law and ensuring fair and ethical representation for their clients;
- integrate the wisdom and expectations of retired and former judges into their own ethical framework, fostering a heightened commitment to professionalism and ethical conduct in their legal practice.

Moderator: **Rick Ali, Editor in Chief, 2023-2024 South Texas Law Review**

Panelists: **The Honorable Eva Guzman '89, Partner, Wright Close & Barger, LLP; Former Texas Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)**

The Honorable David M. Medina '89, Partner, Chamberlian, Hrdlicka, White, Williams, & Aughtry, P.C.; Former Texas Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)

The Honorable Charles F. Baird '80, Baird Law Firm, Former Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals (Ret.)

4:00 – 4:10

Closing Remarks

4:10 – 5:30

Reception: Cocktails with light refreshments in atrium with attendees, speakers, and students.