[](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=aila+logo&id=A1276B0FA8893BC32E2EA74DD82C3EAFB8B5F740&FORM=IQFRBA)

**AILA Texas, Oklahoma & New Mexico Chapter Spring Conference**

**April 19-21, 2018**

**El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel**

**San Antonio, Texas**

**BATTLE OF FLOWERS, BATTLE OF AILA IMMIGRATION LAWYERS**

**Kicking off Fiesta San Antonio with a conference designed to prepare**

**AILA lawyers for the battle of their lives representing immigrants**

**\*Denotes invited but not confirmed**

**Thursday, April 19**

**5:00 – 7:00 Registration**

**6:00 – 7:30** **A retrospective on Immigration Relief from Immigration Lawyer Veterans from the Battlefield**

* + - * + Recapturing Old Priority Dates and its tricks
        + Western Hemisphere
        + Family Unity and Reviving Old Legalization Cases
        + Gems that can be found through FOIA requests

              Faculty:

Robert Shivers, San Antonio, Texas

               Nancy Shivers, San Antonio, Texas

               Robert Crane, Weslaco, Texas

Tom Esparza, Austin, Texas

               Gordon Quan, Houston, Texas \*

Robert Ahlgren, Chicago, Illinois

**7:30 – 9:00** **Happy Hour at Hotel El Tropicano**

**Friday, April 20**

**6:30:- 7:30 Yoga with Maria McIntyre**

**7:30- 8:30 Registration**

**8:30- 8:40 Welcome by Chapter Chair Maggie Murphy**

**8:40- 8:50 Welcome by San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg \***

**8:50: 9:30 An Overview of State and National Impact Litigation Defending Our Immigrant Community**

* Texas SB 4 and its litigation
* DACA
* Motel 6 Litigation

Faculty:

Nina Perales, San Antonio, Texas

**9:30 - 10:20 Consular Practice Roundtable: The Do’s and Don’ts of Consular**

**Practice in both the Family and Employment Context**

* From NVC to the Consular Post
* How to approach the consulate
* How to prepare a client for a consular appointment
* Hot topics in Employment and Family IV sections
* 212(d)(3) Waivers
* How to deal with Administrative Processing
* How to deal with a “Reason to Believe” charge

Faculty:

Steve Pattison, Portsmouth, NH

David Strashnoy, Los Angeles, CA \*

Consular Official \*

**10:20- 10:35** **Break**

**10:35 – 11:30** **Roundtable with ICE Chief Counsel**

* Priority guidelines
* Current trends
* How counsel can strike agreements with ICE?

Faculty:

Paul Hunker, ICE Chief Counsel, Dallas, Texas \*

JoAnn McLane, ICE Chief Counsel, San Antonio, Texas \*

Lance Curtright, San Antonio, Texas

**11:30- 12:30** **Roundtable with USCIS Officials**

* Delays in Processing and Adjudication and how to deal with them
* Tips from USCIS Adjudicators
* Latest Updates from USCIS

      Faculty:

Field Office Director USCIS San Antonio Gary Garman\*

Chief Deputy for USCIS San Antonio Chris Saucedo \*

Paul Parsons, Austin, Texas

Jackie Watson, Austin Texas

**12:30 – 1:30** **Lunch and Business Meeting**

**1:30 – 2:00** **Advocating for Immigrants Beyond Agencies and the Courtroom**

Presentation by the American Immigration Council

**2:00– 3:00 CBP Roundtable: Land and Air Entries and Exits**

**The question “should I travel?” can never be easily answered**

* + - * Validity of Admission
      * Automated I-94s
      * I-94 Revalidations
      * Expedited Removals v. Withdrawals

*Faculty:*

Lois Hunter, USCBP Port Director, San Antonio, TX\*

USCBP Port Director, Laredo, Texas\*

Ramon E. Curiel

Kenneth Harder, Houston, Texas

**3:00-4:00 Battlefield tactics to successfully obtain nonimmigrant visas in the current environment: NIV’s L-1B’s, RFE’s, H-1B’s, TN’s and OMG’s**

* + - * Specialty Occupation, Specialized Knowledge and Managerial Capacity under the current administration
      * H-1B’s and Level 1 & 2 Wage Issues
      * Current RFE Trends
      * Nonimmigrant Visas Adjudication under the Buy American Hire American Policy
      * TN issues
      * Adjustment Interviews for Employment Based Application

Faculty:

Cyrus Metha, New York, NY\*

Chuck Kuck, Atlanta, GA

William H. Stock, Philadelphia, PA

Terry Cody, Houston, Texas

Beatriz T Ballerini, Houston, Texas

**4:00– 5:00** **All Hands-on Deck: Exploring other options for our TPS population**

* + - * Arguing TPS grant constitutes admission under INA 245(a) in other circuits
      * Asylum after TPS and issues to consider
      * Possible NACARA claims
      * TPS recipients with removal orders and its challenges

Faculty:

John Blatz, San Antonio, Texas

Karen Crawford, Austin, Texas

Laura Bachman, Tulsa Oklahoma\*

**5:00 - 7:00** **Fiesta Social Event at Paramour Bar!**

**102 9th Street, Suite 400 (across from hotel)**

**Saturday, April 21**

**6:30 - 7:30 Yoga with Maria McIntyre**

**8:00 – 9:00** **Professionalism and Ethics in era of extreme immigration enforcement**

* ICE is empowered, how does counsel ethically respond?
* When to file complaints?
* How to advise clients about when to file an application
* What is the lawyer’s liability when they file an application for relief with misrepresentations or ineligibilities?

Faculty:

Roy Petty, Dallas, Texas

Michelle Saenz Rodriguez, Dallas, Texas

Maggie Murphy, Austin, Texas

**9:00- 10:00 Fighting on every front:  Filing Motions with CIS and EOIR**

* Filing Motions to Reopen and Reconsider and Other Post-Decision Motions with USCIS
* Litigating Motions in Removal Proceedings
* Preparing *Touhy* Requests for Government Witnesses, and Filing Motions to Subpoena Witnesses

Faculty:

Jodi Goodwin, Harlingen, Texas

Iliana Holguin, El Paso, Texas

Irene Mugambi, Dallas, Texas

**10:00-10:10 Break**

**10:10-11:10** **Combat Zone: Aggressive Strategies in Removal proceedings**

* Discovery Issues
* Contesting the hell out of an NTA
* Preserving the record for appellate work

Faculty:

Javier Maldonado, San Antonio, Texas

Kelli Stump, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma\*

Beth Werlin, Washington D.C.\*

**11:10- 12:10** **Reporting Back from the War Zone: Federal Court Update**

* New cases that affect all practitioners
* Trends in decision-making
* Employment based litigation

Faculty:

Olsi Vrapi, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Rekha Sharma-Crawford, Kansas City, MO

Brian Bates, Houston, Texas

**Adjournment**