



Midyear Conference
April 13 – 15, 2023
San Antonio, TX

Creating a Culture of Inclusion: Maximizing the Courts' Potential
Agenda

Thursday, April 13, 2023

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Registration**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Executive Committee Meeting**

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**

Friday, April 14, 2023

7:00 AM – 4:15 PM **Registration**

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM **American Judges Foundation Meeting**

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM **Welcoming Remarks**
Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander, *President, American Judges Association*
Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht, *Texas Supreme Court*
Mayor Ron Nirenberg, *Mayor of San Antonio*

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Access to Justice: Can Legal Paraprofessionals and Navigators Be Used in Court Proceedings to Ensure All Voices Are Heard in Court?**
Panelists: **David Udell**, *Executive Director of National Center for Access to Justice*
Brittany Kauffman, *Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System*
Rebecca Sandefur, *University of Arizona*
Scotti Hill, *Ethics Counsel/Director of Professional Development, Utah State Bar*
Description: This session will present on the pros and cons of using legal paraprofessionals in certain court proceedings.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Break**



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10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

"Can I Say Queer?": Gender Diversity in the Courts

Presenter: Judge Kael McKenzie, *Former Diversity Committee Chair, Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges (CAPCJ)*

Description: At this point of our collective history, more and more transgender people are appearing before the court. It is not that historically there are more transgender people; they are just more open and visible. This interactive discussion will encompass,

- The importance of and use of appropriate language. This includes the basic concepts of the differences between sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
- The challenges faced by transgender people when accessing legal services; and
- Suggestions to assist the judge in making proceedings fair and equal for all participants.

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Buffett Luncheon and Presentation

Celebrating the First in the Profession

Moderator: Chief Justice Rebeca Martinez, *Texas 4th Court of Appeals*

Panelists: Judge Jason Pulliam, *U.S. District Court Judge, Western District of Texas, 1st African American Judge to serve in the Western District of Texas.*

Chief Justice Dori Contreras, *Texas 13th Court of Appeals, first woman to serve on the court and only the second Latina to be elected Chief Justice statewide.*

Judge Juli Mathew, *Presiding Judge of County Court at Law 3, Fort Bend County, 1st Asian American woman elected in Fort Bend County, and the 1st Indian American woman elected to the bench in the country*

Description: This session will feature a panel presentation and discussion with Judicial officers who have been the "firsts" in their profession.



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1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	<p>Embodying Wellness for All: Creating a Culture of Inclusion Beyond the Judge's Chambers.</p> <p>Presenters: Chief Judge Berryl Anderson, <i>DeKalb Magistrate Court</i> Jen Donovan, <i>Wellness Specialist, RYT, RCYT, RPY</i></p> <p>Description: Join Chief Judge Berryl Anderson and Jen Donovan, Wellness Specialist, RYT, RCYT, RPYT for a deeply relaxing session. Judge Anderson will share her personal journey to wellness and beyond her chambers. She will speak to the importance of why a culture of inclusion is critical to a workplace wellness program. Jen Donovan will guide us through breathwork techniques, gentle chair movement and guided sound meditation with healing instruments. This practice is one of the most profound and accessible ways to positively reshape our human interactions, along with the subconscious mind helping you to feel more calm and centered.</p>
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Break
2:45 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>Riding the Wave: Bias to Equity</p> <p>Presenter: Gretta Gardner, <i>Deputy Director for Ujima, Inc.</i></p> <p>Description: This workshop will explore how personal and institutional biases impact services for and responses to communities of color. Led by Gretta Gordy Gardner, Esq., Chief Legal Officer and Co-Founder of Ujima, Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, participants will identify reasons why victims of color do not rely on the civil and criminal justice systems and/or may not access mainstream services. Participants will identify personal and institutional biases that may be a barrier to services for victims of color. Participants will discuss how federal legislation has improved services to communities of color and what can be done to improve the legal system and advocacy services for victims of color.</p>



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Saturday, April 15, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Judicial Ethics: How Do These Rules REALLY Apply To Me? Presenter: Judge Sandra Cabrina Jenkins, <i>Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.</i> Description: The rules of Judicial Ethics are standard for all judges across all territories. However, depending upon who you are, the rules may be applied differently when there are ethical concerns, questions, potential violations and application of the law. This session will address how judges are governed by ethical considerations and who Makes the Rules, Breaks the Rules, Bends the Rules and those who believe the Rules Don't Apply to Me. Where do you fit?
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Board of Governors Meeting