



AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
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ASSOCIATION

2024 AILA Fall Conference & Webcast Removal and Family Track

Immigration practitioners are constantly in search of any advantage they can find to better assist their clients. To help in these efforts, the expert panelists on the AILA Fall Conference and Webcast: Removal and Family Track, will provide the latest updates on current adjudication trends and present innovative solutions to problems commonly faced by practitioners. The day will begin with a discussion featuring AILA's president, Kelli Stump, as well as representatives of EOIR and OPLA, as they discuss current issues in removal proceedings. Topics such as complex naturalization, I-601 waivers, and the latest events in crimmigration will be analyzed. Our program also features a session on best practices for preparing and presenting your client's story to an immigration judge. Attending this program will give removal and family practitioners a decided edge in effectively advocating for their clients.

Note: The Removal and Family Track will be one of three tracks offered at the AILA Fall Conference and Webcast. A separate PERM track, as well as the AILA Technology and Innovation Summit track, will be held simultaneously. In-person registrants will pre-select a track to attend on site, but will receive the recordings for all three tracks. Webcast attendees can move between tracks for live sessions and also will receive the recordings.

September 27, 2024
The Adolphus Hotel
Dallas, TX

Times listed are Central Time (CT)

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration, Information, and Exhibits
7:50 am – 8:00 am	Welcome and Greetings <i>Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez, AILA Secretary/EOIR Liaison Committee/Conference Program Committee Chair, Dallas, TX Kelli Jo Stump, AILA President, Oklahoma City, OK</i>
8:00 am – 9:30 am	“But First, Coffee!”: A Discussion of the Current State of Local Removal Practice and President Biden’s New Parole in Place Program Join us for a roundtable discussion on current issues affecting immigration courts. Local representatives from EOIR, OPLA, and the immigration bar will discuss the

current state of play and what to expect in the future. Panelists will also discuss possibilities for future collaboration.

- Docket management techniques
- Prosecutorial discretion
- What is the immigration judge's role in the absence of DHS's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor?
- Pro se assistance
- President Biden's new parole in place program

Faculty:

Farheen Siddiqi (DL), AILA EOIR Liaison Committee/Conference Program Committee, Dallas, TX

Kelli Jo Stump, AILA President, Oklahoma City, OK

George Rodriguez, Dallas, TX

Carlo E. Zayas, Chief Counsel, OPLA, Houston, TX

**Tara Naselow-Nahas, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Dallas, TX*

Shannon Simmons, Deputy Chief Counsel, OPLA, Houston, TX

9:30 am – 9:55 am

Networking Break

9:55 am – 10:55 am

Defending the Alamo: Mastering Relief from Removal in Immigration Law
Panelists will explore the intricate landscape of relief options available in removal proceedings, offering a deep dive into strategic legal practices and procedural nuances. They also will discuss the finer points of LPR and non-LPR cancellation, adjustment of status, and waivers, and they will address the evolving dynamics of cases over extended periods and the impact of humanitarian programs on these proceedings.

- Challenges with Notices to Appear (NTA)
- Defense preparation and pleading
- Procedural tactics when DHS fails to act
- Forms of relief and legal strategy
- Case evolution and humanitarian impacts

Faculty:

John Gihon (DL), AILA ICE Liaison Committee Chair, Altamonte Springs, FL

Rekha Sharma-Crawford, AILA Secretary, Kansas City, MO

Monica Mananzan, AILA ICE Liaison Committee/Conference Program Committee, Baltimore, MD

10:55 am – 11:20 am

Networking Break

11:20 am – 12:20 pm

I-601 and I-601A Waivers

Panelists will focus on I-601 waivers related to inadmissibility issues while in proceedings. Practitioners will learn how to marshal evidence and to write persuasive legal arguments to yield the best outcome for clients. Panelists will discuss:

- Difference between I-601 and I-601A waivers
- How to properly prepare your waiver packet

- How to respond to RFEs and NOIDs
- Post-waiver approval next steps when proceedings have been administratively closed

Faculty:

Irene Mugambi (DL), AILA USCIS Field Operations Liaison Committee Vice Chair/Conference Program Committee, Dallas, TX

Jacqueline L. Watson, AILA Second Vice President, Austin, TX

Andres Lopez, Charlotte, NC

12:20 pm – 1:10 pm

Lunch Break *(included with registration)*

1:10 pm – 2:10 pm

“Houston, We Have a Problem”: Orbiting the Galaxy of Crimmigration
Our expert panelists will discuss ICE Detention transfers and *Padilla* advice, and they will provide tips for working with criminal defense attorneys. Panelists also will cover how to dissect statutes and deny removability using the categorical and modified categorical approaches.

- Accounting for ICE detention transfers when providing *Padilla* advice
- 48-hour waiting period and Writs of Habeas Corpus
- Overview of working with criminal defense attorneys
 - Advising on plea agreements
 - Identifying lesser included offenses to avoid immigration consequences
- Categorical Approach
 - How to determine if there is a categorical match
 - Divisibility
- Modified Categorical Approach

Faculty:

Rocio Martinez (DL), AILA ICE Liaison Committee/Conference Program Committee, Fort Worth, TX

Mary E. Kramer, AILA Author, Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity: A Guide to Representing Foreign-Born Defendants, 10th ed., Miami, FL

W. Michael Sharma-Crawford, AILA ICE Liaison Committee/Removal Defense Section Steering Committee, Kansas City, MO

Jordan Pollock, Public Defender, Dallas County Public Defender’s Office, Dallas, TX

2:10 pm – 2:40 pm

Networking Break

2:40 pm – 3:40 pm

“This Isn’t Our First Rodeo”: Navigating Complex Naturalization and N-336 Appeals
Panelists will delve into eligibility challenges, procedural nuances, and effective legal strategies for addressing complex naturalization cases. They will provide a comprehensive overview of the N-336 appeals process, including common grounds for appeals, procedural considerations, and successful advocacy strategies.

- Complex naturalization cases
 - Eligibility requirements, legal barriers, procedural challenges
- N-336 appeals process

- o Common grounds, procedural considerations, appeals strategies
- Legal strategies and case studies

Faculty:

Michael R. Jarecki (DL), AILA Board of Governors/USCIS Field Operations Liaison Committee, Chicago, IL

Susan Girardo Roy, AILA Removal Defense Section Steering Committee Vice Chair, Princeton Junction, NJ

Steven C. Thal, Minnetonka, MN

3:40 pm – 4:10 pm

Networking Break

4:10 pm – 5:10 pm

Storytelling in Immigration Court: How to Make Your Case Texas Hot

Presenting a compelling narrative that incorporates your client's case in a way that resonates with the judge is a critical tool for court room practitioners. Panelists will focus on how to get your client to tell you their story and how to prepare your case to present a compelling record of events that will sway a judge in your favor. They also will provide tips on how to successfully navigate the case, prepare applications for relief, support your case with evidence, and tell a compelling story during the final merits hearing.

- How to build rapport and trust while discovering the story
- Developing a theme for your case
- Organizing the application and exhibits
- Preparing witnesses and telling a compelling story in the courtroom

Faculty:

Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez, AILA Secretary/Conference Program Committee Chair, Dallas, TX

Erich C. Straub, Milwaukee, WI

Diana Tafur, Conference Program Committee, San Antonio, TX

5:10 pm

Conference Concludes

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Fall Conference Happy Hour

Join us for networking and drinks following the conference. This event is co-sponsored by AILA National and the AILA Texas Chapter.



Program Committee

Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez, AILA Secretary/EOIR Liaison Committee/Conference Program Committee Chair, Dallas, TX

Anthony Drago, Jr., AILA Removal Defense Section Steering Committee, Boston, MA

Monica Mananzan, AILA ICE Liaison Committee, Baltimore, MD
Rocio Martinez, AILA ICE Liaison Committee, Fort Worth, TX
Irene Mugambi, AILA USCIS Field Operations Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Dallas, TX
Farheen Siddiqi, AILA EOIR Liaison Committee, Dallas, TX
Diana Tafur, San Antonio, TX

Michael Orlando, AILA Associate Director of Professional Development, Washington, D.C.