



## 2018 Georgia-Alabama Chapter Conference Schedule

**February 22-24, 2018**

**The Georgian Terrace Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia**

**659 Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308**

### **Thursday, February 22, 2018**

- 7:00 PM Taste of Atlanta Dinner - Empire State South  
999 Peachtree St NW #140, Atlanta, GA 30309

### **Friday, February 23, 2018**

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| 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  | <b>Registration</b>  |
| 8:00 am - 8:45 am  | Welcome and Opening Remarks<br>Keynote: Allen Orr - Fighting the Good Fight <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How to Be Advocates in Times of Adversity</li></ul>  |
| 8:45 am - 10:15 am | Immigration Court Fundamentals & Trial Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What to Expect in Removal Proceedings Before EOIR</li><li>● Common Forms of Relief</li><li>● Best Practices in Preparing Cases for Court</li></ul> <i>Speakers: Luis Alemany (DL), Willis Miller, Sarah Owings</i> |
| 8:45 am - 10:15 am | Hands On Workshop: Things Every Immigration Lawyer Needs to Know <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The CSPA: It's Not Rocket Science</li><li>● Big Red Flags</li><li>● Can I file that AOS Application?</li></ul> <i>Speakers: Carolina Antonini (DL), Dustin Baxter, Joe Rosen</i>                  |

- 8:45 am - 9:30 am PERM - What's in Store for 2018 and Beyond
- Proposed PERM/H-1B Regulations
  - Processing Times (PWD & LCA)
  - The State of the Budget for DOL
  - Denial Grounds, Statistics, Electronic Audits
- Speakers: Sarah Peterson (DL), Kevin Miner, Mark Johnson*
- 9:30 am - 10:15 am Adjustment of Status Interviews for Employment-Based Applications
- Interviews - What to Expect
  - What this Means for Processing Times
  - Responding to Scrutiny of I-140 Approvals
- Speakers: Laine Posel (DL), Roberta Cooper, Andrew Shackelford*
- 10:15 am - 10:30 am Networking Break
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm A to Z of Business: Non-Immigrant Visas and Green Card Processes
- An Overview of Business Immigration for New Practitioners
- Speakers: Aimee Clark (DL), Elizabeth Garvish, Audra Doyle*
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Hands On Workshop: Motions to Suppress in Removal Proceedings
- A Step-By-Step Overview of the Processes
  - Honing Your Litigation Skills
- Speakers: Peter Hill (DL), Noemi Puntier, Arturo Corso*
- 10:30 am - 11:15 am How to Prepare for USCIS Interviews
- Trends at Local USCIS Offices
  - What to expect in an age of "Heightened Scrutiny"
- Speakers: Olesia Gorinshteyn (DL), Zainab Alwan, Jorge Gavilanes*
- 11:15 am - 12:00 pm Overview of Removals of Conditional Resident Status
- Overview of the Process
  - CPR Waivers
  - What To Do When Love Doesn't Last
- Speakers: Dara Lynn Berger (DL), Bhavya Chaudhary, Zaira Solano*
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch Break
- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Professionalism & Ethics Under New Policy Guidelines (Ethics CLE Credit)
- Speakers: Reid Trautz, Jenny Mittelman*
- 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm USCIS Panel - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency Update
- Speakers: Sam Radin, Erin Elliott*
- 1:30 pm - 2:30 Expedited Removal - Current Trends & Responses
- Speakers: Michael Urbina (DL), Rebecca Rojas, Gracie Willis*

- 1:30 - 3:30 PM Hands on Workshop: Asylum Basics
- How to Prepare an Affirmative Asylum Application
  - Determining the Basis of the Claim
  - Where to Turn for Help in Documenting Your Claim
- Speakers: Hiba Ghalib (DL), Eli Echols, Joy Smith*
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Agency Panel - Customs and Border Protection
- Speakers: Courtney Noce (DL), Bhavya Chaudhary, CBP Atlanta Port Director, Carey Davis*
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude
- How to Determine If a Conviction Qualifies as a CIMT
  - Post-Conviction Relief Opportunities
- Speakers: Jean Sperling (DL), Patricia McKenzie, Killa Marti*
- 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm Networking Break
- 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm Agency Panel - Executive Office for Immigration Review
- Speakers: Jennifer Bensman (DL), Jeremy McKinney, Judge Michael P. Baird*
- 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm Consular Processing
- Overview of the Basics of the Consular Process
  - Common Errors to Avoid
  - Current Trends at Consulates
- Speakers: Leslie Diaz (DL), Asiyah Sharifi, Stacy Ehrisman*
- 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm Hands On Workshop: Provisional Waivers
- Best Practices in Preparation of Provisional Waivers
  - Overcoming Common Barriers to Approval
- Speakers: Anne Koch (DL), Stanley Walker, Pamela Peynado-Stewart*
- 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm Advanced Detention Issues
- Competency Determinations and Complications
  - How to Litigate Detention Conditions
  - Documenting Abuses
- Speakers: Andrew Free (DL), Amy Haer, Azadeh Shahshahani*
- 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm International Adoption: An Overview
- The Current State of International Adoption
  - Process and Procedures
- Speakers: Irene Steffas (DL), Grace Kennedy*
- 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm Hands on Workshop: Opening a Law Practice on Shoestring Budget
- Things to Consider When You Want to Hang Your Shingle
  - The Steps to Take to Get Started
  - Avoiding Common Pitfalls
- Speakers: Erin Elliott (DL), Lino Rodriguez, Luis Virguez*

- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm New Member Division Happy Hour  
(Escorpion NE F1, 800 Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308)
- 7:30 pm Taste of Atlanta Dinner - Madre + Mason  
366 5th St NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

## **Saturday, February 24th**

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am Motions to Reopen in Removal Proceedings
- Filing for Asylum Based on Changed Country Conditions
  - *Lozada* Motions
  - The Detained Client and Motions to Reopen
- Speakers: Peter Isbister (DL), Shirley Zambrano, Heather Drabek Prendergast*
- 8:00 am - 9:00 am EB2/National Interest Waivers
- Speakers: David Soloway (DL), Susanne Segall, Vance Berry*
- 8:00 am - 10:00 am Hands on Workshop - Motions and Appeals before USCIS
- How does the Administrative Appeals Office Work?
  - Successful Processes for Motions to Reopen/Reconsider
  - Responding to RFEs and NOIDS
- Speakers: Sonal Shah (DL), Peter Acker, Amy Myers*
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am Federal Court Litigation
- When All Else Fails, Sue!
- Speakers: Charles Kuck (DL), Danielle Claffey, Laura Rivera*
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am Non Immigrant Visa RFE Update
- RFE Issuance Increased 45% for FY2018
  - What lessons have we learned from recent requests and denials?
- Speakers: Sarah Hawk (DL), Beth McKee, Justin Russo*
- 10:15 am - 11:15 am Naturalization w/ Criminal Convictions
- Proper criminal analysis to assess eligibility for naturalization
  - Best practices for filing complex naturalization applications
  - Naturalizing with an Aggravated Felony
- Speakers: Socheat Chea (DL), Jessica Stern, Giovanna Holden*
- 10:15 am - 11:15 am EB 1 Overview
- Assessing Extraordinary Ability
- Speakers: Marshall Cohen (DL), Ken Levine, Robert Lee*
- 11:15-12:15 Lunch Break

- 11:45 pm - 12:45 pm      Maintaining Professionalism: A Focus On Immigration  
Attorney Health and Wellness (Professionalism CLE Credit)
- The Duty of Competence
  - Stress Management in Times of Uncertainty
  - Recognizing Secondary Trauma and Burnout
- Speakers: Kerry McGrath (DL), Rachel Efron-Sharma, Maureen McGarty*
- 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm      Save the World! How Pro Bono Helps the Big Picture
- Where you can get involved
  - What to expect when you volunteer
- Speakers: Elizabeth Matherne (DL), Christina Itturalde, Silas Allard*
- 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm      Ancillary Services
- Driver's License Renewals in an Age of Increased Scrutiny
  - Social Security and Your Clients
- Speakers: Elena Kochutin (DL), Justin Chaney, Abbi S. Taylor*
- 12:45 pm - 2:45 pm      Hands on Workshop - Prevailing Wage Determinations
- Overview of PWD Process and Requirements
  - Assessing Timelines for Realistic Outcomes
- Speakers: Janora Hawkins (DL), Yane Mckenzie*
- 1:45 pm - 2:45 pm      Consistency in the Lifecycle of an Employment-Based Case: Best Practices
- Proper Preparation of the DS-160
  - NIV Petitions
  - Immigrant Visa Petitions and the Adjustment Application
- Speakers: Greg Siskind (DL), Nisha Karnani, Caroline Taylor*
- 1:45 pm - 2:45 pm      The Ins and Outs of the I-864
- Overview of the Form and Requirements for Sponsorship
  - Alternate Means of Sponsorship
  - Rights and Duties with Co-Sponsors
- Speakers: Marisa Gonzalez (DL), Kathleen Hoyos*