

**40TH ANNUAL
SCHOOL LAW RETREAT**

JULY 17-18, 2026



**STATE BAR of TEXAS
School Law Section**

**HYATT LOST PINES RESORT
575 HYATT LOST PINES ROAD
CEDAR CREEK, TEXAS 78612**

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HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved at the resort for July 16-19, 2026, for \$306 (1 king bed/2 queen beds) per night, plus tax and fees. The deadline for making reservations within the room block is June 18, 2026. Please note, however, that the block of rooms reserved at the conference rate is limited, and these rooms will be filled at the conference rate on a first-come, first-served basis. In past years, rooms reserved under the block for this conference have sold out well before the deadline; attendees are encouraged to book rooms as soon as possible. Once the block of rooms at the conference rate is sold out, you will be charged the regular rate by the resort, subject to room availability. To make reservations, please contact the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort at (512) 308-1234 and ask for the State Bar of Texas, School Law Section Retreat rate, or book your room online here: <https://www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/AUSLP/G-SB26>

EVENT REGISTRATION

Register online with a credit card at <https://schoollawretreatregistration20.redpodium.com/state-bar-of-texas-school-law-section-retreat-2026>. For questions regarding registration, please contact CHRISTIE HOBBS at christie.hobbs@nisdtx.org. The early bird registration fee is \$300 for online registration on or before June 30, 2026. Registration increases to \$325 after June 30, 2026. Conference registration cancellations received by July 10, 2026, will receive a \$100 refund and all electronic materials. After July 10th, no refund will be issued but registrants will receive a copy of the electronic materials.

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Friday, July 17

4.25 hours MCLE Credit

Presiding Officer: Leslie Story, Chair

7:15-8:00

Breakfast and Registration

8:00-8:45

Double Agents 0.75 hr (0.75 hr ethics)

Ashney Shelly, Aldine ISD
Mike Leasor, Leasor Crass PC
Angela Tekell, Law Offices of Tekell & Tekell

8:45-9:15

Parent Bill of Rights 0.5 hr

Heather Castillo, Law Offices of Heather Castillo

9:15-10:15

Work Smarter, Not Harder 1.0 hr (0.25 hr ethics)

Cara Carter, Northwest ISD Chief Technology Officer
Lindsey McPheeters, Texas Association of School Boards

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-11:00

School Closings and Consolidations 0.5 hr

Tabitha Branum, Richardson ISD Superintendent
Leticia McGowan, Richardson ISD General Counsel

11:00-11:45

Educating Violent Students 0.75 hr

Kaitlyn Thomas, Ramage Law Group
Michael Vorsino, United Educators Association
Alaina Smith, Katy ISD

11:45-12:30

Religion After the 89th Legislative Session 0.75 hr

Chris Gilbert, Thompson & Horton



Saturday, July 18

3.25 hours MCLE Credit

Presiding Officer: Leticia McGowan, Chair-Elect

7:30-8:00

Breakfast

8:00-8:45

School District TEA Takeovers 0.75 hr

Pam Kaminsky, Rogers, Morris, & Grover, LLP
Christine Badillo, Walsh Gallegos

8:45-9:45

Athletics Hot Topics 1.0 hr

Tiger Hanner, Tiger Hanner Law Office
Scott Cummings, Adams, Lynch & Loftin, P.C.
Dr. Jamey Harrison, UIL

9:45-10:15

Business Meeting and Break

10:15-11:00

Combatting ChatGPT “Experts” 0.75 hr (0.75 hr ethics)

Paul Lamp, Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois
Kaylan Dixon Smith, Texas Classroom Teachers Association

11:00-11:45

Ethics Book Club 0.75 hr (0.75 ethics)

Carrie Galatas
Lynn Rossi Scott
Rick Morris, Rogers, Morris & Grover, LLP
Moderator: Christie Hobbs, Northwest ISD

7.5 HOURS OF MCLE CREDIT, INCLUDING 2.5 HOURS OF ETHICS

EVENT PROGRAM

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Materials: Registrants will be able to download conference materials electronically prior to and during the Retreat. Printed conference materials will not be available for the event. Attendees wanting hard copies of materials must print materials on their own prior to the event.

Thursday Night “Tritico and Friends” Reception: Continuing the tradition established by Chris Tritico over the years, a cocktail reception for Retreat attendees hosted by participating attorneys and firms, Chris Tritico, and the School Law Section, will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2026. Please join us for this popular event!

Friday Dinner and Kelly Frels Lifetime Achievement Award: A casual dinner will be held Friday evening, July 17, 2026, at the resort; cash bar at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. Dinner is complimentary for each registrant. Registrants may add dinner reservations for any additional adults (\$35 each) or children ages 12 and under (\$25 each) during the registration process. The Kelly Frels Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented during the Friday Dinner. Please be sure to join us as we celebrate this prestigious Award and enjoy dinner and fellowship.

