



NATIONAL EDUCATORS LAW INSTITUTE

# NELI FALL CONFERENCES

32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DISABILITIES LAW CONFERENCE



...Meeting the Challenges of the Ever Changing  
World of Educational Law

PRE-CONFERENCE  
ON BEHAVIOR

December 5, 2024  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin  
Austin, Texas

MAIN  
CONFERENCE

December 6, 2024  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin  
Austin, Texas

# 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DISABILITIES LAW CONFERENCE

December 5 & 6, 2024 · Austin, TX

## PRE-CONFERENCE ON BEHAVIOR

### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The law pertaining to behaviorally-challenged students is ever-changing. NELI's Pre-Conference on Behavior will deliver training on some of the most critical issues regarding this complicated subject. Experienced attorneys and behavior specialists will cover topics including effectively addressing students with aggressive behaviors - both legally and educationally, how to use preventative measures to prevent the escalation of behaviors, and making airtight manifestation determinations. You will also hear the harrowing story of an administrator that was criminally charged for her involvement in handling a student with significant behaviors

**Sign up for both the Pre-Conference and Main Conference to save \$25.00!**

### CONFERENCE TOPICS

**8:00 - 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 – 9:45 "Since When Does Mandatory Mean Maybe?": How Chapter 37 (Discipline) Interacts with Special Education**

*Cynthia S. Buechler - Buechler & Associates, P.C.*

**9:45 – 10:00 Morning Break**

**10:00 – 10:45 "When a Student Brings a Machete to Show and Tell": Actions that can be Taken to Protect the Safety of Students and Staff**

*Jamie Turner - Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson, P.C.*

**10:45 – 11:30 "When Behaviors are Out of Control": Creating a Behavior Classroom that is Effective**

*Dr. Ann Hughes - Sanger ISD*

**11:30 – 1:00 Lunch On Your Own**

**1:00 – 1:45 "The Indictment and Prosecution of an Administrator Dealing with Behaviorally Challenged Students": An Insider's Perspective and Her Sage Advice**

*Dr. Stacie Koerth - Educational Consultant*

**1:45 – 2:00 Afternoon Break**

**2:00 – 2:45 "Stop the Madness": Using Preventative Measures to Prevent the Escalation of Behaviors**

*Audra Hastings, BCBA - Educational Consultant*

**2:45 – 3:30 "Is it Related or Not Related? Only the ARD Committee Knows for Sure": Making Airtight Manifestation Determinations**

*William M. Buechler - Buechler & Associates, P.C.*

**3:30 Adjourn**

## MAIN CONFERENCE

### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

When you're in education, sometimes you have to think like a lawyer. A solid understanding of the laws governing special education will give you confidence in providing educational services to any child. Whether you're in general or special education, the 32nd Annual Disabilities Law Conference is the ideal way to get up to speed on disabilities law. At the Main Conference, expert school law attorneys and educational professionals will discuss timely subjects including changes to the Commissioner's rules, addressing educator shortages, how to document medical necessity to maximize Medicaid reimbursement, how to evaluate and program for dysgraphia and how to create, collect and maintain proper documentation,

**Sign up for both the Pre-Conference and Main Conference to save \$25.00!**

### CONFERENCE TOPICS

**8:00 - 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 – 9:45 "Please Provide the Following Information": Creating, Collecting and Maintaining Appropriate Documentation**

*Cynthia S. Buechler - Buechler & Associates, P.C.*

**9:45 – 10:00 Morning Break**

**10:00 – 10:45 "The State of the State": New Changes to the Commissioner's Rules**

*Kristin McGuire - Texas Education Agency*

**10:45 – 11:30 "Medical vs. Educational Services": What Must a School Provide?**

*Elvin Houston - Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson, P.C.*

**11:30 – 1:00 Lunch On Your Own**

**1:00 – 1:45 "We Have Six Unfilled Vacancies for Special Education Staff": Addressing Educator Shortages**

*Paula Maddox Roalson - Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson, P.C.*

**1:45 – 2:00 Afternoon Break**

**2:00 – 2:45 "You Owe the Government 1.5 Million!": How to Document Medical Necessity to Maximize Medicaid Reimbursement**

*Dr. Heather Hughes - Eagle-Mountain Saginaw ISD*

**2:45 – 3:30 "The Lesser Known Specific Learning Disability": How to Evaluate and Program for Dysgraphia**

*Dr. Mertie Gomez - Educational Consultant*

**3:30 Adjourn**

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

## LOCATION



**Doubletree by Hilton Austin**  
**6505 Interstate Hwy 35 N**  
**Austin, TX 78752**  
**Phone: (512) 454-3737**  
**Fax: (512) 419-0102**



**BOTH CONFERENCES  
HELD BACK TO BACK  
IN SAME LOCATION!**

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**CYNTHIA S. BUECHLER** is a partner in the law firm of Buechler & Associates, P.C. Ms. Buechler has been practicing disabilities law for over 30 years. Ms. Buechler is the C.E.O and Co-founder of the National Educators Law Institute.

**WILLIAM M. BUECHLER** is the managing partner at the law firm of Buechler & Associates, P.C. His practice emphasizes special education, Section 504, ADA, civil rights and employment and administrative law issues. Mr. Buechler frequently speaks at education law seminars and conferences at the state and national levels and he serves as managing director of the National Educators Law Institute.

**MERTIE M. GOMEZ, PH.D.,** is a retired Associate Professor and program coordinator for the M.Ed. in Special Education at Sam Houston State University. Before becoming a faculty member, she worked for 31 years as a special education teacher, educational diagnostician, and Senior Manager of Evaluation. Dr. Gomez specializes in assessment best-practices, report writing, and dyslexia assessment/identification. She consults with districts throughout Texas on matters related to assessment and disability identification and presents nationwide on a variety of topics.

**AUDRA HASTINGS, BCBA,** is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, with over 30 years of experience in public education. Areas of specialization include professional development for all things behavior, behavior support and coaching, conducting functional behavior assessments, and writing behavior intervention plans. She has worked with numerous districts, including Austin ISD and Tyler ISD and was a Special Education Specialist for Region 7 Education Service Center.

**ELVIN W. HOUSTON** is a shareholder with the law firm of Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. Mr. Houston represents school districts in Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee meetings, in mediation, and in matters before the Texas Education Agency and the Office of Civil Rights. advises school board members and school personnel in all aspects of federal and state special education and disability law. Mr. Houston joined Walsh Gallegos in 2004 and is a frequent speaker on legal issues related to public schools, disabilities, and special education.

**ANN HUGHES, PH.D.,** is the Director of Student Intervention at Sanger ISD. With over 28 years experience as a teacher and administrator in alternative education settings, including DAEPs, juvenile correctional settings, and alternative schools, Dr. Hughes provides training related to positive behavioral interventions and supports and behavioral RTI.

**HEATHER HUGHES, PH.D., BCBA** is the executive director of special programs for Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD and has over 21 years' experience as an educational diagnostician, LSSP, and teacher. She serves on several advisory boards and teaches college courses on a variety of special education and autism subjects.

**STACIE KOERTH, ED.D.,** is a retired Special Education Director. Ms. Koerth has worked in public education for 26 years and is a product of public education. She taught in title 1 schools for 13 years, was a school administrator, special education coordinator and then a director. Currently Stacie is working as a consultant to school districts and as a special education advocate for parents. She believes that everyone can succeed if given the right tools.

**KRISTIN MCGUIRE** is the Deputy Associate Commissioner of Special Populations Policy, Integration, and Technical Assistance in the Office of Special Populations and Student Supports at TEA. She oversees the development and implementation of state policies, including state regulations, for the office, as well as the development and dissemination of special education technical assistance and the efforts to integrate special populations at the blueprint level in each state curriculum initiative. Before TEA, Kristin served as the director of governmental relations at TCASE.

**PAULA MADDOX ROALSON** is a shareholder with Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. in Houston. Ms. Roalson previously served as the staff attorney for special education for TASB. Her practice emphasizes the representation of school districts in special education litigation and general school law.

**JAMIE TURNER** is an attorney with the law firm of Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. and focuses her practice on special education and student matters. Jamie previously served public schools as in-house counsel for the Austin Independent School District, in private practice representing schools in general education matters, and as a special education administrator.

The legal information provided at this conference is for general purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for individual legal advice or the provision of legal services. Accessing this information does not create an attorney-client relationship. Individual legal situations vary greatly and attendees should consult directly with an attorney.

## ACCREDITATION

**Earn up to 9 Hours of Continuing Education Credit!** All attendees will receive a certificate at the end of each conference indicating they have earned Continuing Education Credit (4.5 hours for Main Conference, 4.5 hours for Pre-Conference). **Administrators, Teachers & Diagnosticians:** This program may meet the local criteria for up to 9 hours of school administrator's general management training, which is no longer governed by the Texas Education Agency. NELI has been approved by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) as a provider of continuing professional education (CPE) credit. **Counselors:** The conference sponsors are approved by the State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors for up to 9 hours of continuing education credit for licensed professional counselors. **School Board Members:** The conference sponsors are registered providers of school board member training with the Texas Education Agency. This program provides up to 9 hours of school board member training in the areas of Vision, Structure and Unity. **Psychologists:** The conference may be approved by the State Board of Examiners of Psychology for up to 9 hours of continuing education credit for psychologists. **Speech-Language Pathologists:** The conference may be approved by the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association for up to 9 hours of continuing education for Speech-Language Pathologists.

# REGISTRATION FORM

## NELI 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DISABILITIES LAW CONFERENCE

Registration is as easy as 1...2...3!

### 1. Choose Your Training

Choose Your Training

Register Me For:

In Person!

**Pre-Conference on Behavior** — \$210.00\*  
December 5, 2024

**Main Conference** — \$210.00\*  
December 6, 2024

**Gimme "The Works"!** — \$395.00\*  
**Save \$25.00!** Register me for both  
the Pre-Conference on Behavior AND  
the Main Conference!

\* On-site registration fee of \$220.00 for Pre-Conference and \$220.00 for Main Conference required after December 4, 2024. "The Works" pricing not available after Dec. 4, 2024.

**Doubletree by  
Hilton Austin**  
**6505 Interstate Hwy 35 North**  
**Austin, TX 78752**  
**Phone: (512) 454-3737**  
**Fax: (512) 419-0102**

\* There will be a limited block of rooms reserved at the Doubletree by Hilton Austin at a state/government rate. We strongly encourage you to make reservations as early as possible to ensure availability. To receive this special rate, contact the Doubletree by Hilton Austin directly at (512) 454-3737 and reference "NEL" or "National Educators Law Institute".

### 2. Attendee Information

Submit Separate Form For Each Attendee

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

District/Co-op: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Submit Registration and Payment

Four Ways to Register

Payment:

Register Via:

- Check ( Enclosed  Mailing Separately)
- Purchase Order ( Enclosed  Mailing Separately)
- Invoice Me (Attn: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Credit Card (Please Call NELI at 512-732-2988)

**Online:** [www.nelilaw.net](http://www.nelilaw.net)  
**Phone:** (512) 732-2988 **Fax:** (512) 322-9342  
**Email:** [edservices@nelilaw.net](mailto:edservices@nelilaw.net)  
**Mail:** National Educators Law Institute  
3660 Stoneridge Road, Suite D-101  
Austin, TX 78746

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**Cancellation Policy—Please Read!:** Cancellations will only be accepted through Nov. 30, 2024. Substitution of attendees is allowed at any time, up to and including the day of the conferences. Registrants not able to attend may transfer to any other NELI Conference within one year.