



NATIONAL EDUCATORS LAW INSTITUTE

NELI FALL CONFERENCES

— 33RD ANNUAL DISABILITIES LAW CONFERENCE —



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

BEHAVIOR
CONFERENCE

December 4, 2025
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin
Austin, Texas

DISABILITIES
CONFERENCE

December 5, 2025
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin
Austin, Texas

33RD ANNUAL DISABILITIES LAW CONFERENCE

December 4 & 5, 2025 · Austin, TX

BEHAVIOR CONFERENCE

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The law pertaining to behaviorally-challenged students is ever-changing. NELI's Behavior Conference will deliver training on some of the most critical issues regarding this complicated subject. Experienced attorneys and behavior specialists will cover topics including how to recognize and implement effective trauma informed behavior strategies, how to address student offenses when the student receives special education, virtual instruction for a DAEP placement, options available to the school when behavior is a manifestation, and how to obtain an injunction when a student's behavior is too unsafe to have them on school grounds.

Sign up for both the Behavior Conference AND the Disabilities Conference to save \$25.00!

CONFERENCE TOPICS

8:00 - 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:45 "It's Related to His Disability, You Can't Discipline Him!": Options Available to the School When the Behavior is a Manifestation

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

9:45 – 10:00 Morning Break

10:00 – 10:45 "Ferris Bueller, Bueller?": Effectively Addressing Chronic Absenteeism and School Refusal

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

10:45 – 11:30 "From Vaping to Weapons": Addressing Student Offenses When the Student Receives Special Education

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

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch On Your Own

1:00 – 1:45 "I Think You're on Mute": Virtual Instruction for a DAEP Placement

Lindsey McPheeters - Texas Assoc. of School Boards

1:45 – 2:00 Afternoon Break

2:00 – 2:45 "He's Too Dangerous to be on Campus": Obtaining an Injunction When a Student's Behavior is too Unsafe to Have on School Grounds

Christina Garcia-Henshaw - Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson, P.C.

2:45 – 3:30 "My Trauma Will Become Yours if You Don't Address It!": Recognizing and Implementing Effective Trauma Informed Behavior Strategies to Improve Student Outcomes

Dr. Heather Hughes - Eagle-Mountain Saginaw ISD

3:30 Adjourn

DISABILITIES 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 33rd Annual Disabilities Law Conference is the ideal way to get up to speed on disabilities law. At the Disabilities Conference, expert school law attorneys and educational professionals will discuss timely subjects including the continuum of placements and cognitive challenges, providing counseling under Senate Bill 12, addressing cultural and linguistic differences when conducting an evaluation, and a panel of TEA educational specialist will discuss how to best utilize TEA's systems alignment and support to ensure compliance.

Sign up for both the Behavior Conference AND the Disabilities Conference to save \$25.00!

CONFERENCE TOPICS

8:00 - 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:45 The "Continuum of Placements" and Cognitive Challenges: What does Least Restrictive Environment Mean When a Student Needs Functional Academics and Living Skills?

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

9:45 – 10:00 Morning Break

10:00 – 10:45 "I Need Your Parent's Permission Before I can Discuss Your Problem with You": Providing Counseling Under Senate Bill 12

Stacy Ferguson - Escamilla & Poneck, LLP

10:45 – 11:30 "English is My Second Language": Addressing Cultural and Linguistic Differences in an Evaluation

Dr. Mertie Gomez - Educational Consultant

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch On Your Own

1:00 – 2:00 "You've Got a Friend in Me": Taking Advantage of TEA's Systems Alignment and Support to Ensure Compliance

Panel of TEA Educational Specialists

2:00 – 2:15 Afternoon Break

2:15 – 3:00 "When Does a Mental Health Concern Become a Special Education Issue?": Determining When a Referral is Warranted

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

3:00 – 3:30 "When the Abuser is a School Employee and the Victim Receives Special Education": What Actions to Take Under Senate Bill 571

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

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.

CHRISTINA GARCIA-HENSHAW is an attorney with the law firm of Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. focuses on special education and related matters. She provides legal guidance to and training for school boards, district administrators, and campus personnel in the area of special education compliance. Christina represents districts in due process hearings, mediations, ARD committee meetings, and complaints filed with the Texas Education Agency and the Office for Civil Rights.

STACY FERGUSON is an attorney with Escamilla & Poneck, LLP. She has served as in-house counsel for the San Antonio Independent School District and as Head of Special Education Litigation while a shareholder at Schwartz & Eichelbaum, P.C. Ms. Ferguson's practice is concentrated in the areas of student discipline, special education and disabilities law and frequently conducts seminars for educators on a variety of topics.

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.

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) commit-

tee 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.

HEATHER HUGHES, PH.D., BCBA is the executive director of special programs for Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD and has over 30 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.

LINDSEY MCPHEETERS joined TASB Legal Services in May 2022. Ms. McPheeters began her legal career as a juvenile prosecutor in Bronx, New York, before moving back to Texas to start her own law practice focused on family law and criminal defense. Prior to joining TASB, McPheeters worked as a staff attorney and interim general counsel to a large Austin-area school district. She also worked for several years as a high school CTE teacher.

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.

PANEL OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS FROM TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY A group of Educational Specialists from the Texas Education Agency will hold a panel discussion. Presenters will include:

- **Deanna Clemens** - Director, Continuous Improvement and Academic Behavior Supports Division
- **Samora Davis** - Special Education Performance Diagnostic Manager
- **Dana Garza** - Strategic Integration Manager
- **Dora-Lee Lvovsky** - Strategic Integration Liaison Education Specialist
- **Lori Merrell** - Director of Monitoring, Review & Support

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 33RD ANNUAL DISABILITIES LAW CONFERENCE

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

1. Choose Your Training

Choose Your Training

Register Me For:

- ☐ **Behavior Conference** — \$210.00*
December 4, 2025
- ☐ **Disabilities Conference** — \$210.00*
December 5, 2025
- ☐ **Gimme "The Works"!** — \$395.00*
Save \$25.00! Register me for both the
Behavior Conference AND the Disabilities
Conference!

* On-site registration fee of \$220.00 for Behavior Conference and \$220.00 for Disabilities Conference required after December 5, 2025. "The Works" pricing not available after Dec. 5, 2025.

In Person!

**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:

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

Register Via:

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

W25

Cancellation Policy—Please Read!: Cancellations will only be accepted through Nov. 24, 2025. 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.