

9TH ANNUAL

2026 Northern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference

April 24, 2026

Loews Hotel in Arlington

Hosted by the Dallas and Fort Worth chapters of the Federal Bar Association



Friday, April 24, 2026

Northern District of Texas **Bench Bar Conference**

Welcome back to the Northern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference! It is an honor for the Federal Bar Association's Dallas and Fort Worth Chapters to host this special event again. Thank you for being here.

This year, two fundamental goals once again guided our dedicated Host Committee. The first was to bring the bench and bar together from the vast reaches of our District to emphasize that although we serve in seven divisions, we are one Northern District of Texas. The second was to offer practical, useful, and informative NDTX-specific content by showcasing our district's tremendous judicial and legal talent. Thank you to everyone for making this day possible and successful, especially the judges, staff, and public servants who serve the people of the Northern District of Texas.

We hope that you enjoy today's conference, and catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Please join the FBA and its Dallas Chapter or Fort Worth Chapter. And we look forward to seeing you again next year.

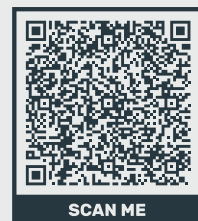
H. Preston Glasscock
FBA Dallas Chapter President

Joe Cleveland
FBA Fort Worth Chapter President

**WIFI NAME:
NDTX BENCH BAR**

**WIFI CODE:
NDTXBB2026**

For more information, including speaker biographies and FBA membership opportunities, please visit the conference website:



CONFERENCE AGENDA:

In With The New

8:15 - 9:00 AM

Check-In & Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- > **Hon. Mark T. Pittman** – U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas
 - > **H. Preston Glasscock** – President, FBA Dallas & Senior Associate at Norton Rose Fulbright
 - > **Joe Cleveland** – President, FBA Fort Worth & Shareholder at Brackett & Ellis
-

9:15 - 10:00 AM

Go West: Practicing in the Northern District's Western Courthouses

- > **Hon. Hal R. Ray, Jr.** – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Hon. Lee Ann Reno** – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Hon. Amanda R. Burch** – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Hon. John R. Parker** – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas

Moderated by Alli Allman – Partner at Jackson Walker

10:15 - 10:30 AM

Mentoring Minute: Finding the Forest Through the Trees

- > **Grant Schmidt** – Managing Partner (Dallas) at Hilgers PLLC
-

10:30 - 11:15 AM

A Fireside Chat with the Newly Appointed U.S. Attorney

- > **Richard Roper** – Partner at Vartabedian Katz Hester & Haynes
 - > **Ryan Raybould** – U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas
-

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Y'all Street: What it Means for Your NDTX Practice

- > **Shamoil Shipchandler** – Chief Counsel, Risk and Regulatory Legal Group, Charles Schwab
- > **Sarah S. Mallett** – Partner at Kirkland & Ellis
- > **Mark W. Rasmussen** – Partner at Jones Day
- > **Nikolay Vydashenko** – Assistant Director at SEC Division of Enforcement

Moderated by Hon. Mark T. Pittman – U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Lunch

Participants will grab lunch and get back to their seats for the next great panel!

12:30 - 1:15 PM

State of the District with the New Chief and Clerk of Court

- > **Hon. Reed O'Connor** – Chief U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Karen Mitchell** – Clerk of Court, Northern District of Texas

Moderated by Hon. Rebecca Rutherford – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas

Breakout Panels: First Session

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Ballroom ABC

**The New Affirmative Civil Enforcement Landscape:
Perspective from Recently Departed Civil AUSAs**

- > **Andrew Robbins** – Shareholder at Vedder Price
- > **Richard Gultinan** – Partner at Vartabedian, Katz, Hester & Haynes
- > **Kenneth Coffin** – Counsel at Sidley Austin
- > **George Padis** – Partner at Sbaiti & Co.

Moderated by Hon. Renee Toliver – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Ballroom D

**The New Era of College Athletics:
NIL, Antitrust, and Trends in Representation**

- > **Joanna Adkisson** – Associate at Baker Botts
- > **James Carlos McFall** – Partner at Foley & Lardner
- > **Demi Williams Coles** – Founder at The Ready Athlete
- > **Logan Phillip** – General Counsel for the Big 12 Athletic Conference

Moderated by Nicole Sims, Associate at Haynes Boone

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Ballroom E

Hot Topics in Federal Criminal Law

- > **Renee Hunter** – Assistant United States Attorney
- > **Jon Bradshaw** – Assistant United States Attorney
- > **Jeffrey Ansley** – Shareholder at Vedder Price

*Moderated by Hon. James Wesley Hendrix – U.S. District Judge,
Northern District of Texas*

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Ballroom F

**Bankruptcy and Related Civil Litigation:
Managing Counterparty Risk in a Volatile Economy**

- > **Hon. Michelle V. Larson** – U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Charles Persons** – Partner at Paul Hastings
- > **Martha Wyrick** – Counsel at Haynes Boone

Moderated by Michael Berthiaume – Senior Associate at Norton Rose Fulbright

Breakout Panels: Second Session

2:30 - 3:15 PM
Ballroom ABC

Trying (and Winning) a Big Criminal Case

- > **Hon. Ada Elene Brown** – U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Tom Melsheimer** – Partner at King & Spalding
- > **Arianna Goodman** – Shareholder at Vedder Price
- > **Tiffany Eggers** – Counsel at Dykema

Moderated by Hon. Amos Louis Mazzant, Chief U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Texas

2:30 - 3:15 PM
Ballroom D

Private and Government Antitrust Enforcement: Recent Past, Present, and Future

- > **M. Sean Royall** – Global Practice Head for Antitrust and Consumer Protection at King & Spalding
- > **Barry Barnett** – Partner at Susman Godfrey
- > **Rachel Zieminski** – Partner at A&O Shearman
- > **Andrew Blumberg** – Chief Counsel, Antitrust at Mckesson

Moderated by Connor Brewer – Associate at King & Spalding

2:30 - 3:15 PM
Ballroom E

Winning on Appeal: Start Early, Be Persuasive, Stay Focused

- > **Brad Hubbard** – Partner at Gibson Dunn
- > **Billy Cole** – Principal Deputy Solicitor General at Texas Attorney General
- > **Stephen Gilstrap** – Of Counsel at Paul Hastings

Moderated by Judge Kristina Williams – Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright

2:30 - 3:15 PM
Ballroom F

Trends in Employment Law: Paper Trials & Jury Attitudes

- > **Hon. Sam A. Lindsay** – U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Anne Marie Painter** – Partner at Haynes Boone
- > **Elizabeth “BB” Sanford** – Trial Lawyer at the Sanford Firm

Moderated by Michele Himstedt – Associate at Munck Wilson Mandala LLP

3:30 - 3:45 PM

Mentoring Minute: Attorney Mentoring in the Age of AI

- > **Trey Cox** – Co-Chair of Gibson Dunn’s Global Litigation Practice and Co-Managing Partner of the Dallas office

3:45 - 4:30 PM

Don’t Be an Artificially Intelligent Attorney: Ethics, Disclosure, and Practical Use of Generative AI in Light of NDTX Local Rule 7.2(f)

- > **Hon. Reed O’Connor** – Chief U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **Hon. David Horan** – U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **David McAtee** – Senior Executive Vice President & General Counsel at AT&T
- > **Timothy Durst** – Partner at O’Melveny & Myers
- > **Sam Bragg** – Partner at Alston & Bird

Moderated by Leslie McCombs Roussev – Senior Associate at Baker Botts

4:30 - 4:45 PM

Closing Remarks

- > **Hon. James Wesley Hendrix** – U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas
- > **H. Preston Glasscock** – President, FBA Dallas & Senior Associate at Norton Rose Fulbright
- > **Bobby Hill** – Vice President, FBA Dallas & Associate at King & Spalding

4:45 - 6:15 PM

Closing Reception

Sponsored by

The Texas Lawbook

6:30 - 10:00 PM

Rangers Game

Lawyers and Judges will head over to the ballpark to “root, root, root for the home team” as the Rangers take on the Athletics.

Host Committee

CO-CHAIRS

H. Preston Glasscock

*FBA Dallas Chapter President & Senior Associate,
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP*

Joe Cleveland

*FBA Fort Worth Chapter President & Shareholder,
Brackett & Ellis, P.C.*

COURT ADVISORS

Karen S. Mitchell

*U.S. District Clerk for the
Northern District of Texas*

Hon. Rebecca Rutherford

*U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Texas*

Hon. Michelle V. Larson

*U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
Northern District of Texas*

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