



THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION PRESENTS

*33rd Annual*  
**INTERNATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE**

**"NAVIGATING GLOBAL WATERS: KEY INTERNATIONAL  
CHALLENGES FACING TEXAS LAWYERS"**



**MAY 16-17, 2024**

HOTEL ZAZA MUSEUM DISTRICT - HOUSTON, TX

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**COURSE NUMBER: 174235347**

# THOMAS H. WILSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

## Thomas H. Wilson Scholarship Award: A Beacon of Human Rights and Legal Excellence

The State Bar of Texas International Law Section is proud to sponsor the Thomas H. Wilson Scholarship Award, a prestigious accolade that recognizes and supports law students who demonstrate exceptional aptitude in the field of international law and human rights.

Named in honor of the late Thomas H. Wilson, a distinguished member of the Texas legal community, the scholarship celebrates his legacy by encouraging the next generation of lawyers to pursue careers that make a meaningful impact on the global stage.

The scholarship award is presented annually to law students who exhibit outstanding scholarship and dedication to human rights issues. The recipients are chosen based on a written essay they submit on any subject related to international human rights law.

The Thomas H. Wilson Scholarship Award not only honors the memory of a respected legal figure but also serves as a testament to the enduring importance of human rights and the rule of law in our interconnected world. It stands as a beacon, guiding aspiring legal professionals towards a future where justice and human dignity are upheld universally.

Learn more: [ilstexas.org/human-rights-essay-contest](http://ilstexas.org/human-rights-essay-contest)



**Thomas H. Wilson**

August 7, 1960 -  
October 25, 2022

*Tom took great pride in his legal profession, recognizing the impactful difference lawyers can make in the world. His legacy lives on through the lawyers he mentored, the community organizations he helped establish, and his beloved family.*

## *Tom Wilson's Legacy*

Tom's impact on the International Law Section was immeasurable. He held the position of ILS Chair from 2018 to 2019 and was instrumental in establishing the Texas Bar's International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) in 2015, serving as its inaugural Chair. Tom also founded the ILS International Newsletter, assuming the role of Editor-in-Chief from 2020 to 2022. Furthermore, he organized various events over recent past years in observance of Human Rights Day on December 10.

A renowned labor and employment lawyer, Tom dedicated his entire career to Vinson & Elkins. Starting as an associate in the Houston office in 1985, he became a partner in 1994. Tom led Vinson & Elkins' Employment, Labor & OSHA group and developed a successful practice in traditional labor and safety law. His expertise extended to international human rights law, where he played a key role in early environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategy development for clients.

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION COUNCIL

## BAR YEAR 2023-2024

### ILS Council Officers

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*ILS Chair, 2023-2024*  
Assistant General Counsel and Privacy  
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# DAY 1 AGENDA | THURSDAY, MAY 16

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE PHANTOM BALLROOM, 1ST FLOOR

8:00-8:55 am	<b>Networking Breakfast &amp; Registration:</b> Phantom Lounge, 1st Floor
8:55-9:00 am	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Richard Muñoz, ILS Chair 2023-2024, Assistant General Counsel and Privacy Officer, Buckner International (Dallas)
9:00-9:45 am	<b>Global Best Practices: Cyber Security Risks and Data Privacy</b> Demetra Koelling, General Counsel, On2It Cybersecurity (Houston) Davis Hake, Senior Director of Cybersecurity Services, Venable (San Francisco)
9:45-10:30 am	<b>Global Insolvency Challenges</b> Charles A. Beckham, Jr., Partner, Haynes Boone (Houston)
10:30-10:45 am	<b>Coffee Break:</b> Phantom Lounge, 1st Floor
10:45-11:30 am	<b>Corporate Transparency Act Compliance Survival</b> Gabriela N. Smith, Founder & Managing Partner, GNS Law (Dallas)
11:30-12:15 pm	<b>Developments in International Patent Litigation and Enforcement</b> Ross Spencer Garsson, Member, Dickinson Wright PLLC (Austin) Debbie J. McComas, Partner, Haynes Boone (Dallas)
12:15-1:30 pm	<b>Luncheon Keynote:</b> Delissa A. Ridgway, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of International Trade (New York City) <b>Presentation:</b> Joshua Newcomer, Principal, McKool Smith (Houston), Human Rights Essay Contest Scholarship Winner
1:30-2:15 pm	<b>Considerations in Enforcing Judgments Abroad</b> Vanessa Suarez, Associate, Holland & Knight (Austin)
2:15-3:00 pm	<b>International Labor Disputes and the USMCA</b> Marissa Sandoval Rodriguez, Partner, Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton Francisco Peña, Partner, Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton (McAllen)
3:00-3:15 pm	<b>Coffee Break:</b> Phantom Lounge, 1st Floor
3:15-4:00 pm	<b>International Trade: Coping with Enforcement Challenges</b> Michelle Schulz, Founder & Managing Partner, Schulz Trade Law PLLC (Dallas) Lindsay Forbes, Senior Associate Attorney, Schulz Trade Law PLLC (Dallas) Marina Mekheil, Associate Attorney, Schulz Trade Law PLLC (Dallas)
5:00-7:00 pm	<b>Networking Mixer:</b> Poolside, 2nd Floor

# DAY 2 AGENDA | FRIDAY, MAY 17

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE PHANTOM BALLROOM, 1ST FLOOR

<b>8:00-8:55 am</b>	<b>Networking Breakfast &amp; Registration:</b> Phantom Lounge, 1st Floor
<b>8:55-9:00 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Richard Muñoz, ILS Chair 2023-2024, Assistant General Counsel and Privacy Officer, Buckner International (Dallas) Demetra Koelling, General Counsel, On2It Cybersecurity (Houston)
<b>9:00-9:45 am</b>	<b>International Courts You Never Knew Existed</b> Delissa A. Ridgeway, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of International Trade (New York City)
<b>9:45-10:30 am</b>	<b>International Tribunal Legal Issues</b> Dr. Peter Koelling, Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston April Carter, Co-Registrar, Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
<b>10:30-10:45 am</b>	<b>Coffee Break:</b> Phantom Lounge, 1st Floor
<b>10:45-11:45 am</b>	<b>Legal Careers in International Law</b> Eric F. Hinton, Director, Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership, SMU Dedman School of Law Maximilian Raileanu, Associate Attorney, Aegis Law (Austin) Dr. Peter Koelling, Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston April Carter, Co-Registrar Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

## Self-Report Your CLE Hours!



Scanning this code takes you directly to the State Bar of Texas MCLE reporting tool with information for this course automatically filled in. For an attorney to report your attendance, simply scan the code, log in, certify that the requested credit is correct, and click submit.

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS

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## **RICHARD MUÑOZ**

*ILS Chair 2023-2024, Assistant General Counsel and Privacy Officer, Buckner International (Dallas)*

Richard's career is focused on public service and advocacy, including projects such as the Immigration Service and Aid Center (ISAAC) to assist undocumented immigrants. He contributed to programs at Buckner International like Family Hope Centers and initiatives for orphans. His leadership in the legal community includes pro bono work to aid low-income Texans and volunteering for human rights and community service.



## **GABRIELA N. SMITH**

*Founder/Managing Partner, GNS Law (Dallas)*

Gabriela specializes in business and corporate law, serving fast-growing private companies in digital innovation, software, services, and renewable energy sectors. With an international background, she assists multinational companies in entering the US market and managing legal risks.



## **CHARLES A. BECKHAM, JR.**

*Partner, Haynes Boone (Houston)*

Charlie has over 30 years of experience in bankruptcy, mergers, acquisitions, debt restructuring, and insolvency. Recognized in 2012 as the "Go-To Lawyer" for bankruptcy in Texas by *Texas Lawyer*, he has dealt with high-profile energy-related bankruptcies and helped clients navigate complex business failures.



## **ZACK A. CLEMENT, PLLC**

*Attorney (Houston)*

Zack, a legal professional with 40+ years experience in financial restructuring and bankruptcy cases, has expertise in complex legal and financial matters. He has represented major corporations and municipalities in significant cases and specializes in conflicts counsel, special litigation counsel, negotiations, and trials. Zack is recognized for his work on cross-border bankruptcy cases and government debt restructuring.

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## **DEMETRA KOELLING**

*General Counsel, On2It Cybersecurity (Houston)*

Over the past six years while living and working in The Hague, the Netherlands, Demetra took a deep dive into data security and privacy and began work as general counsel to ON2IT, a multi-national Dutch American cybersecurity innovator. ON2IT helps customers face cybersecurity threats to protect critical infrastructure, financial market stability, business continuity and individual privacy.



## **DAVIS HAKE**

*Senior Director of Cybersecurity Services, Venable (San Francisco)*

Davis is a cybersecurity expert recognized nationally for his experience in the private sector and government. He co-founded Arceo Analytics, a cybersecurity startup, and has been awarded for his innovative contributions to the field. Davis has guided clients through complex cybersecurity challenges, impacting how cybersecurity is managed in the digital world.



## **ROSS SPENCER GARSSON**

*Member, Dickinson Wright PLLC (Austin)*

Ross is a seasoned attorney with over 25 years of experience in intellectual property law, patent prosecution, and litigation. He has expertise in various technology fields and a history of handling IP disputes in different courts. Additionally, Ross has been involved in procuring and licensing technologies in collaboration with nanotechnology experts from esteemed institutions like Rice University and the University of Texas at Dallas.



## **DEBBIE J. MCCOMAS**

*Partner, Haynes Boone (Dallas)*

Debbie has a remarkable track record in patent litigation and appeals. She is recognized as the fourth most active attorney representing appellees and eleventh most active overall in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Her legal prowess extends beyond patent law, encompassing a broad spectrum of litigation and appellate practice across the nation, including the State of Texas. Debbie has argued before the Texas Supreme Court, petitioned the United States Supreme Court, and defended foreign sovereigns from multiple continents.

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## **JUDGE DELISSA A. RIDGWAY (LUNCHEON KEYNOTE)**

*Federal Judge, U.S. Court of International Trade (New York City)*

Judge Delissa A. Ridgway, now a Senior Judge, has served on the U.S. Court of International Trade for more than 25 years. The Court – an Article III court based in New York – has exclusive nationwide jurisdiction over actions involving the interpretation and application of the customs and international trade laws of the U.S. Before joining the Court, she served as Chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the U.S. (“FCSC”), presiding over a three-member international tribunal charged with adjudicating claims by U.S. nationals against foreign sovereigns. Claims at issue during her tenure involved Iran, Albania, Vietnam, Cuba, and Iraq, as well as Holocaust claims against Germany brought by U.S. survivors of Nazi concentration camps. The Judge began her career at one of Washington, D.C.’s largest firms, specializing in international commercial arbitration. Judge Ridgway will also be a panelist on Day 2.



## **JOSHUA NEWCOMER**

*Principal, McKool Smith (Houston)*

Joshua specializes in complex commercial litigation. His areas of focus include financial, fiduciary, construction, and bankruptcy-related disputes. He has represented numerous post-bankruptcy trustees and their counterparties in high-profile cases. He sits on the ILS Council where he serves as the Chair of the International Human Rights Committee and Editor-in-Chief of the section’s *International Newsletter*.



## **VANESSA SUAREZ**

*Associate, Holland & Knight (Austin)*

Vanessa is a commercial litigation and international disputes attorney. She focuses her practice on disputes in the energy sector and has significant experience with construction, energy, trade secrets, business torts and various other commercial disputes. Her background includes litigation management and trial experience in state and federal matters.



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## **MARISSA SANDOVAL RODRIGUEZ**

*Partner, Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton (McAllen)*

Being on the border, Marissa understands the value of the relationship between the US and Mexico and the importance of cross-border business. For over 17 years, she has represented clients from the US and Mexico on domestic and international matters, including corporate, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, contractual, estate planning, and probate matters.



## **FRANCISCO PEÑA**

*Partner, Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton (McAllen)*

Francisco represents foreign investors with a focus on cross-border operations between the US, Mexico, and other Latin American countries in environmental matters, compliance, mergers & acquisitions, labor and employment litigation, health and safety, government relations, and contractual areas. He has extensive experience in negotiating collective bargaining agreements with unions before the Mexican labor authorities, as well as in representing companies in their compliance obligations before the different agencies and government offices in Mexico.



## **MICHELLE SCHULZ**

*Founder/Managing Partner, Schulz Trade Law (Dallas)*

Michelle is a nationally recognized leader in her field, serving as a senior industry advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative on the Industry Trade advisory for Aerospace. She routinely advocates for exporters and importers in federal investigations, fines and penalties, audits disclosures, export licensing and international trade.

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## **LINDSAY FORBES**

*Senior Associate Attorney, Schulz Trade Law (Dallas)*

Lindsay specializes in international trade law and focuses on compliance, risk mitigation, and developing export control and sanctions programs. She has experience in telecommunications, autonomous vehicles, and Big Data platforms. Lindsay was involved in a major export control monitorship and has a background in commercial litigation.



## **MARINA MEKHEIL**

*Associate Attorney, Schulz Trade Law (Dallas)*

Marina has a wealth of experience from her previous role with the U.S. Government's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Trade, Regulations and Rulings Directorate. During her time there, she provided advice on customs matters, including advanced rulings, litigation proceedings, and customs law trainings. Marina's expertise is particularly strong in navigating the complexities of import regulations. She utilizes her deep understanding of customs operations to advise clients on risk mitigation strategies, ensuring compliance and protecting them from potential fines and penalties.

## **Join the International Law Section!**

### **Membership Dues**

Regular membership fee is \$30. Law students and first- and second-year lawyers join for FREE! Scan the QR code to the right and download the application. Once filled out, mail it to the address listed on the form. You can also join online from your **My Bar Page**.



# MEET OUR SPEAKERS

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DAY 2

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## **DR. PETER KOELLING**

*Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston*

Before joining the University of Houston in 2021, Peter was with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague, where he was the chief of Court Management. Previously, he was the director and chief counsel for the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association for eight years and has been a licensed attorney for nearly 40 years. He has worked as a court administrator in various courts in Texas, Washington and Colorado.



## **APRIL CARTER**

*Co-Registrar, Iran-United States Claims Tribunal (IUSCT)*

April has over 20 years' experience specializing in complex litigation with a focus on domestic and international criminal law, human rights, humanitarian affairs, child welfare, safeguarding, compliance, ethics, and administrative law. The IUSCT arbitration court was established to resolve the crisis in relations between Iran and the US arising out of the 1979 hostage crisis at the US Embassy in Tehran and the subsequent freezing of Iranian assets.



## **ERIC F. HINTON**

*Founding Director, Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership, SMU Dedman School of Law (Dallas)*

Eric teaches international business law, European Union law, and ethics and compliance law at SMU Dedman School of Law and Loyola Chicago University Corboy School of Law. He has developed innovative law courses in international business practice and corporate compliance law and regularly speaks at business law and compliance events and conferences. He also lectures in the MBA programs at the University of Texas at Dallas, Jindal School of Management.



## **MAXIMILIAN RAILEANU**

*Associate Attorney, Aegis Law (Austin)*

Max has supported attorneys and clients in hearings, mediations, and arbitrations. He's passionate about national and international case law, evidenced by his time spent as an international arbitration legal intern for the London office of WilmerHale. Driven by a deep sense of duty to the public, Max's work in local government primarily inspired his interest in law. He hopes to one day pursue public office.

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# - NOTES -



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# UPCOMING ILS EVENTS



## JOIN THE ILS AT THE TEXAS BAR ANNUAL MEETING! JUNE 20-21, 2024 - HILTON ANATOLE (DALLAS)

INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION | THURSDAY AGENDA | JUNE 20, 2024

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8:45 AM

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

9:00-10:00 AM

**THE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPACT OF YOUR CROSS-BORDER DEAL: FROM FOREIGN INBOUND (AND OUTBOUND!) (1 HOUR CLE)**

- OLGA TORRES, TORRES TRADE LAW
- DERRICK KYLE, TORRES TRADE LAW
- DON PEARCE, TORRES TRADE LAW
- ALBERT SCHULTZ, FORMER CIA AND CFIUS MITIGATION PROXY

10:00-10:15 AM

COFFEE BREAK

10:15-11:15 AM

**THE IMPACT OF AI ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CREATION AND PROTECTION AROUND THE WORLD (1 HOUR CLE)**

- DAVID CARSTENS, CARSTENS, ALLEN & GOURLEY

11:15-11:30 AM

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:00 PM

**SECTION MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS  
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

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CONTACT US: [ILSTEXAS.ORG](https://ilstexas.org) | [ADMIN@ILSTEXAS.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@ILSTEXAS.ORG)