



## 2025 Seminar Speakers

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## **Bridgette A. Begle – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Bridgette Begle earned her J.D. at the University of Houston Law Center in 2018. She is a municipal attorney who readily assists mayors and councilmembers to ensure they make informed decisions on regulations and the internal functioning of their jurisdiction. She assists with a wide range of issues including routine operations, police and fire department issues, zoning matters, and ordinance development, among other topics. Additionally, Bridgette assists clients with labor and employment matters including litigation, investigations, and contract review.

## **Bradley A. Morefield – Houston PD Legal Department**

Bradley A. Morefield received a B.A. in History from Texas A&M University and J.D. from the South Texas College of Law. He joined the Houston Police Department in 1998, and during his 23-year police career served in patrol, Legal Services, and the Training Division. Bradley then moved to Houston's Legal Department where he worked as an assistant city attorney litigating torts and civil rights cases. He returned to HPD in 2023 as a Police Administrator where he currently supervises the Open Records and Subpoena units. Bradley is a former legal advisor for the Texas Tactical Police Officers Association and currently serves as an adjunct instructor for Liberty University.

## **Jay Zhang – Littler Mendelson, P.C.**

Jay Zhang is a litigation associate at Littler Mendelson, a management side employment firm. Jay grew up in Montreal, Canada before escaping the harsh winters for the Houston summers by attending the University of Houston Law Center, graduating in 2018. Jay began his labor and employment career at Olson & Olson, where he conducted employment investigations and routinely advised municipalities and police and fire departments on HR and personnel decisions. Jay is excited to be back and share with you his insights on religious discrimination accommodation, a topic that's gotten more attention and prominence after the Pandemic.

## **Larry Di Camillo – City of Stafford**

Larry Di Camillo is a Fort Bend County native, having grown up in Missouri City, Texas. He began his public service career as a volunteer firefighter in 1990. This year marks Larry's 35th year with the City of Stafford fire department. He has held the position of Chief for the last 18 years.

## **Jennifer O'Sullivan – TML-IRP**

Jennifer O'Sullivan grew up in the Houston area. Now in Austin, Jennifer has been with the Risk Pool for ten years, where she began subrogation claims. She has been Litigation Counsel for the past four years, and in that role, she assists the Chief Legal

Officer and the liability department in reviewing coverage questions and overseeing liability files and the panel of outside attorneys.

## **Tamara Chafin – TML-IRP**

Tamara Chafin moved to El Paso at the age of three, where she spent most of her formative years. She eventually moved to San Antonio until pursuing higher education at UT Austin. After earning a Master's in Public Administration from Texas Tech, she joined the Risk Pool, where she has dedicated over 30 years of service. Tamara spent her first two decades with the Risk Pool as a Field Services Representative before stepping up to manage the department. For the past five years, she has served as the Communications Officer. In this role, she oversees the Pool's communications strategy, ensuring consistent and effective messaging across various platforms. Her responsibilities include creating educational content, developing copy for the website, written materials, and special projects, and representing the Pool in public forums to highlight the Pool's programs, services, and achievements.

## **Denis Potvin – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Denis Potvin earned his J.D. at Mississippi College School of Law in 2010. Denis is a partner with Olson & Olson in the Appraisal District Section. Denis's practice is centered around appraisal district litigation, with a particular focus on affordable housing and total exemptions. Denis has tried numerous cases in Harris County District Court where he zealously defends the Harris Central Appraisal District.

## **James Wang – Harris Central Appraisal District**

James Wang is a Legal Counsel II working for the Division of Legal Services within the Harris Central Appraisal District. A native Houstonian and Army veteran, he made the mistake of learning far too much about affordable housing exemptions and now it is too late to turn back. He graduated from the Michigan State University College of Law in 2018 and ran a solo practice through the early parts of COVID before joining HCAD's legal team in 2020.

## **Katie Leininger – City of Pearland**

Katie Leininger attended Trinity University on a National Merit Scholarship, graduating cum laude in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications and History. She graduated from the University of Houston Law Center in 2009. Prior to working for the City of Pearland, Ms. Leininger worked in the 106th Judicial District prosecuting felonies in Dawson, Gaines, Garza, and Lynn Counties.

## **Jordan Marget – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Jordan Marget began as a law clerk at Olson & Olson in 2024. After graduating from the University of Houston Law Center and passing the bar exam, Jordan returned as an attorney with the Appraisal District group. In law school, Jordan served as a notes and comments editor for the Houston Business and Tax Law Journal and gained litigation experience at the Law Center's Entertainment Law Clinic, where he enforced the intellectual property rights of local artists and got favorable settlements for his clients.

## **Morgan Morrow – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Morgan Morrow was born in Warner Robins, Georgia and moved to Pearland, Texas when she was 10 years old. She attended Texas State University where she obtained her B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Spanish. She then sought and obtained her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. Morgan gained an interest in public service during law school while she interned with the Missouri City Attorney's Office and Harris County Attorney's Office. Her drive to assist the public service sector led her to support and represent various governmental entities early on in her career. Prior to working at Olson & Olson, Morgan was Acting General Counsel for a local school district. Morgan focuses her practice on advising and defending local government clients in ad valorem tax disputes involving residential and commercial properties along with related exemption matters.

## **Sally S. Vardy – Harris Central Appraisal District**

Sally S. Vardy's work experience includes serving as the Chief Human Resources Officer at Harris Central Appraisal District since 2016. Prior to that, she worked as the Executive Vice President of Human Resources, Americas Region at Transfield Services Americas from 2013 to 2015. From 2008 to 2013, she held the position of Senior Vice President of Human Resources, North America at Aker Solutions. Sally also served as the Director of Operations and HR at Jefferson Wells, Manpower Group from 2006 to 2008. Sally's earlier experience includes working as the Senior Director of HR at Aspen Technology, Inc. from 1999 to 2005. Sally S. Vardy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Math and Art from Southwestern University. Additionally, she has pursued a Master's in Business Administration from Texas A&M University.

## **Lora-Marie Bernard – City of Lake Jackson**

Lora-Marie Bernard is the public information officer for the City of Lake Jackson. She handles the City's television station, podcast, print materials as well as its multimedia, social and digital platforms. During a crisis, she works with the Mayor and Modesto in the emergency operations center to create all the City's public messages. She earned her undergraduate degree from the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas. She earned her graduate degree from Harvard University. She is an award-winning

Texas nonfiction author who has been named one of the best storytellers in Texas by Texas A&M's Texana Reads. Her partner, Bobby Gervais, is a former Olson & Olson attorney who now serves as the City Attorney in Manvel.

## **Modesto Mundo – City of Lake Jackson**

Modesto Mundo has served as the city manager for the City of Lake Jackson since September 2020. As the chief executive officer for the City of Lake Jackson, Modesto is responsible for the management of the City's affairs and day-to-day operations, including the preparation and administration of budgets, emergency management, delivery of responsive public safety and utility services, development and upkeep of critical infrastructure, and enhancement and maintenance of parks and recreation amenities. Modesto received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas Christian University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas. He serves as a member of the Texas City Manager Ethics Committee. His daughters have called him the least interesting person in the family because his sister is a successful Hollywood director who has worked on projects such as Seal Team, Selena and Jerry Maguire.

## **Nicholas Perez – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Nick Perez got his J.D. at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2018 and joined Olson & Olson in April of 2024, after spending three years as general counsel for the Galveston Central Appraisal District. He has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge in ad valorem matters. He focuses his practice on advising and defending local government clients in ad valorem disputes involving residential and commercial properties, as well as exemption matters.

## **Philip Boedeker – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Phil Boedeker joined Olson & Olson in October of 2023. Phil works with the municipal team as city attorney for multiple cities across the Houston area regularly advising mayors and councilmembers. Phil also works with our municipal litigation team representing municipalities through the process of eminent domain. Phil simultaneously serves in the United States Army Reserve and is currently commanding a Battalion in Chicago, IL. His previous civilian professional experience includes being the Assistant Director of the BTI Institute at the University of Houston and a Communications Specialist for UTHealth at LBJ Hospital. Phil served in the Army full-time for seven years prior to entering the civilian work force and the US Army Reserve.

## **Brandon Davis – Olson & Olson, LLP**

Brandon Davis has worked as city attorney for multiple cities in and around Liberty County for the past 15 years. He also represents school districts and water districts as general counsel. He serves as a board member for the Texas City Attorney Association. Most importantly, he has four kids and spends the bulk of his time shuttling kids around when not in city council meetings.