Agenda

Land Use Law *N. Meade*
- Understanding land use law
- Governmental power and authority to zone
- Governmental bodies with the power to zone
- Comprehensive land use planning
- Finding existing land use laws and regulations
- Seeking zoning variances or rezoning
- Participating in zoning administrative appeals
- Participating in land use litigation

Locating Land Boundaries on Paper (And on the Ground) *D. Bowles*
- Interpreting land descriptions
  - Metes and bounds
  - Lot and block
  - Dos and don'ts for writing descriptions
- Applying principles of boundary location
  - Collecting and evaluating all types of boundary evidence: documents, physical evidence, people, surveys
  - Locating the described land on a map
  - Locating the described land on the ground
- Understanding and using geographic information systems (GIS)
- Solving land description and boundary location problems

Handling Ethical Issues in Civil Engineering and Land Surveying Practice *J. Stuckey*
- Promoting health and welfare vs. managing risk: complimentary or conflicting duties?
- Protecting the environment: meeting or exceeding legal requirements
- Watching the bottom line: identifying and balancing economic pressures in design and construction
- Integrating new technologies: identifying and balancing the benefits and risks

Surface Water and Groundwater Rights and Regulation *A. Smith*
- Understanding the basics of Texas water rights law
- Who has the right to access and use Texas surface water?
  - Riparian rights
  - Restrictions on access and use
- Who has the right to access and use Texas groundwater?
  - Well drilling
  - Restrictions on use of Texas groundwater

Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law *A. Smith*
- Understanding eminent domain powers
  - Source of eminent domain powers
  - History of the exercise of eminent domain powers
  - Types of eminent domain "takings"
- Participating in the condemnation process
- Appealing a condemnation decision
- Understanding regulatory "takings" and inverse condemnation

Legal Issues for Texas Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors
Live, Interactive Webinar - Thursday, April 15, 2021

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Learning Objectives

You'll be able to:

Discuss comprehensive land use planning, and review the land use regulatory process.

Collect and evaluate all types of boundary evidence including documents, physical evidence, people, and surveys.

Discuss a variety of ethical issues that can impact civil engineers and land surveyors.

Examine who has the rights to access and use both surface water and groundwater in Texas.

Analyze eminent domain powers and get tips on participating in the condemnation process.

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Legal Issues for Texas Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors

Live, Interactive Webinar - Thursday, April 15, 2021



Learn about land use law and regulatory procedures

Locate land boundaries on paper and on the ground

Handle ethical issues in civil engineering and land surveying practice

Examine surface water and groundwater rights and regulations

Analyze eminent domain and condemnation law

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Faculty

Nikelle Meade *Attorney & Partner at Husch Blackwell*
Ms. Meade represents clients in all aspects of local government and real estate with an emphasis in land use and real estate development, public-private partnerships, procurement, and governmental affairs. Her work includes zoning, permitting, land use planning, development application processing and representation before local city councils. She also works on business development, relationship management, and with economic development, zoning boards of adjustment, planning commissions, local governing bodies and state and local agencies. Ms. Meade helps clients navigate real estate development projects through governmental approvals. She also has vast experience in commercial transactions including purchases and sales, leases, public financing and general contracts. Ms. Meade received her J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law where she was an Endowed Presidential Scholar.

Deward "Karl" Bowles *Professional Land Surveyor at B&B Surveying Company*
Mr. Bowles is an independent professional land surveyor and owner of B&B Surveying Company in Houston. He began working in the field of land surveying in 1978 and is certified as a registered professional land surveyor in the State of Texas. Mr. Bowles has given seminars to lawyers, real estate professionals and other land surveyors on land surveying principles, practice and codified standards. He has been an expert witness in a number of legal actions centering around boundary disputes and land surveyor negligence claims. Mr. Bowles has given expert testimony regarding boundary resolution, minimum standards and minimum content regarding land surveys. He is a member of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors and a former member of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

Joe W. Stuckey
Attorney at Law, Professional Engineer, and Registered Public Land Surveyor
Mr. Stuckey practices primarily in corporate, real estate, and environmental law, including transactional work and litigation. He has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and J.D. and L.L.M. degrees from the University of Houston Law Center. Mr. Stuckey is admitted to the practice of law in all Texas courts, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. Claims Court. He is also licensed in Texas as a professional engineer and a registered public land surveyor.

Audra B. Smith *Attorney & Founder at Audra Smith Law*
Ms. Smith is an attorney based in Wharton County, Texas. Her practice focuses on a wide variety of agricultural issues, especially those involving cattle. She additionally spends a significant portion of her time on oil and gas title examination, farm and ranch transactions, and real estate litigation. Ms. Smith also assists clients with estate planning, probates, and business planning needs. Ms. Smith is a graduate of El Campo High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science from Texas A&M University in 2009, and received her doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law in 2014. She was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 2014 and is also admitted to the Southern District of Texas. Ms. Smith is a member of the Wharton County Bar Association, formerly serving as president, and is a member of the Texas Bar College.

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