

TBA Federal Practice Forum 2026

A Virtual CLE Event

July 14, 2026

Program Producer: Alan Jackson

Total Credits: 2 General, 1 Dual



This year's Federal Practice Forum will offer essential and useful material for attorneys. Over the course of three sessions, speakers will cover a range of topics, including First Amendment issues, ethical rules of communication with judges, and immigration.

9:00am – 10:00am CT

DUAL

Ethical Considerations: Ex Parte Communication with Judges & Jurors

This session features a conversation with Judges Crytzer, Parker, and Richardson about ex parte communication with judges and jurors, including the ethics of those communications, the contrast between federal- and state-court practice regarding these communications, and avoiding prohibited ex parte communications.

Audrey Calkins (moderator), US Attorney's Office, Western District of Tennessee

Judge Thomas Parker, US District Judge, Western District of Tennessee

Judge Eli Richardson, US District Judge, Middle District of Tennessee

Judge Katherine Crytzer, US District Judge, Eastern District of Tennessee

10:00am – 10:15am

CT

Break

10:15am – 11:15am

CT

First Amendment Update: Court Records, Gag Orders & Free Speech

Trends

This session will analyze the First Amendment principles underlying access to court records and gag orders. The discussion will also encompass emerging First Amendment issues, including litigation involving government employee speech, social media use by elected officials, and press freedoms.

Jennifer Safstrom, Vanderbilt University

11:15am – 11:30am

CT

Break

11:30am – 12:30pm
CT

Immigration Habeas Petitions

This CLE program provides attorneys with a practical guide to using federal habeas corpus petitions to challenge unlawful immigration detention amid major recent shifts in enforcement policy. Presenters will cover the legal foundations of habeas practice, including procedural due process and Fourth Amendment claims, along with the remedies and procedural steps needed to file effectively. The session concludes with a real-world case study illustrating these strategies in action.

Lorne Hiller (moderator), Johnson Evans & Headrick

Michael Holley, Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

Julio Colby, Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition