

A Conversation with Justice J. Brett Busby and ALI President Wallace B. Jefferson



Moderated by Judge Lee H. Rosenthal



Thursday, September 24, 2026

5:30 - 7:30 PM Central Time

University of Houston Law Center
John M. O'Quinn Law Building

AGENDA

5:45 - 5:50 PM

Welcome

Leonard M. Baynes

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

5:50 – 6:25 PM

Conversation with Justice J. Brett Busby and ALI President Wallace B. Jefferson, Moderated by Judge Lee H. Rosenthal

The Honorable J. Brett Busby

Justice
Supreme Court of Texas

The Honorable Wallace B. Jefferson

President, American Law Institute (ALI)
Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Partner, Alexander Dubose & Jefferson LLP

Moderator

The Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal

Senior Judge
United States District Court, Southern District of Texas

6:25 - 6:30 PM

Closing Remarks & Invitation to Reception

Leonard M. Baynes

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

6:30 - 7:30 PM

Reception

**Kate (J.D. '03) and James Blaine Commons and
Carol Roach Rooftop Lounge**

All Guests

BIOGRAPHIES



THE HONORABLE J. BRETT BUSBY

*Justice
Supreme Court of Texas*

Justice Brett Busby was appointed to the Court by Governor Greg Abbott in 2019, confirmed unanimously by the Texas Senate, and elected to a full term in 2020. He previously practiced as an appellate litigator in Houston, served on the Fourteenth Court of Appeals and the Texas Multi-District Litigation Panel, and taught at U.T. Law School as an adjunct professor.

Justice Busby is a seventh-generation Texan, third-generation Eagle Scout, and life-long violinist who grew up in Amarillo and Austin. After graduating with high honors from Duke University and Columbia Law School, he served as a law clerk to Justices Byron R. White (Ret.) and John Paul

Stevens, U.S. Supreme Court, and to Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit.

In private practice, Justice Busby presented oral argument in the U.S. Supreme Court and handled dozens of appeals in that Court, the Supreme Court of Texas, and federal and state appellate courts. He is board certified in civil appellate law, and his fellow Texas appellate lawyers elected him as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section in 2018. He has also served as Chair of the Texas Bar Committee on Pattern Jury Charges (Business, Consumer, Insurance, and Employment) and as a Director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

Justice Busby oversees the work of the Texas Access to Justice Commission and Foundation, which help assure that Texans with limited means have access to basic civil legal services. He received the 2022 Judicial Civic Education Award from the American Lawyers Alliance for his work on the Teach Texas judicial civics program, a partnership with the Houston Bar Association and the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society that sends lawyers and judges to teach seventh graders about our court system and Texas legal history. The Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists named him Appellate Judge of the Year in 2018.

Justice Busby and his wife Erin, a clinical professor at U.T. Law School, met as law clerks at the U.S. Supreme Court. They have two children.



THE HONORABLE WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

*President, American Law Institute (ALI)
Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Partner, Alexander Dubose & Jefferson LLP*

Wallace B. Jefferson is a partner at Alexander Dubose & Jefferson and President of The American Law Institute. Prior to joining the firm in 2013, he served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. Appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001 and named Chief Justice in 2004, Jefferson made Texas history as the Court's first African-American Justice and Chief Justice. He led the Court's efforts to fund access to justice programs; reform juvenile justice; and inaugurate a statewide electronic filing system for Texas courts. Jefferson was elected President of the Conference of

Chief Justices, an association of chief justices from the 50 states and U.S. territories (2010-2011).

A graduate of the James Madison College at Michigan State University and The University of Texas School of Law, Jefferson is the namesake for Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School in San Antonio. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and Director of the Holdsworth Center and Lexitas. He has been certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1993.

He is listed in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2015-2026), Best Lawyers in America (2016-2027), and Texas Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters (2015-2026).



THE HONORABLE LEE H. ROSENTHAL

Senior Judge

United States District Court, Southern District of Texas

Judge Lee H. Rosenthal was appointed a United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division in 1992. Before then, she was a partner at Baker & Botts in Houston, Texas, where she tried civil cases and handled appeals in the state and federal courts. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Chicago and served as law clerk to Chief Judge John R. Brown, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

In addition to serving as a district court judge for over 32 years, Judge Rosenthal has been invited to sit by designation with courts of appeals around the country, including the Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits. Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed Judge Rosenthal as a member of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules in 1996. She served as chair of the Class Actions subcommittee during the development of the 2003 amendments to Rule 23. Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed Judge Rosenthal chair of the Civil Rules Committee in 2003. In 2007, Chief Justice Roberts appointed Judge Rosenthal to chair the Judicial Conference Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure, which coordinates and oversees the work of the Advisory Committees for the Civil, Criminal, Evidence, Appellate, and Bankruptcy Rules. That appointment was extended through October 1, 2011.

Judge Rosenthal has been a very active senior judge since 2025. She was chief judge of the Southern District from 2016 to 2023. The Fifth Circuit judges selected her as their District Judge representative on the Judicial Conference of the United States for a 3-year term beginning October 2016.

Judge Rosenthal is the 1st Vice President of The American Law Institute, where she also serves as an Adviser on the Conflict of Laws Restatement and the Constitutional Torts Restatement. She was an Adviser for the project to revise the Model Penal Code sections on sexual assault as well as the Employment Law project, the Aggregate Litigation project, and for the Transnational Rules of Civil Procedure project. In 2007, she was elected to the ALI Council and from 2011 to 2016 was Chair of the Program Committee.

Judge Rosenthal has taught, written, and lectured extensively, concentrating on topics in complex litigation and civil procedure, including class actions and electronic discovery. She has taught Federal Courts at the University of Houston Law Center and lectured or taught recently at Yale, Duke, Cornell, Syracuse, Louisiana State University, and University of Texas law schools. She also taught a summer class for state, federal, and international judges at Duke University School of Law.

Judge Rosenthal served the allowable term on the Board of Trustees of Rice University in Houston, Texas from 2008 to 2016, chairing the Academic Affairs Committee. She currently serves on the Board of the Baylor College of Medicine, and is on the Duke University School of Law Board of Visitors. She has served as president of the District Judges' Association of the Fifth Circuit. Judge Rosenthal is the 2012 recipient of the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics given by the American Inns of Court and is a 3-time recipient of the Trial Judge of the Year Award from the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists. In 2014, Judge Rosenthal was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



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