

Recap: 2015 Eastern District of Texas Bar Association Bench Bar Conference

PLANO, Texas – The Eastern District of Texas Bar Association’s 2015 Bench Bar Conference was a huge success, earning extensive media coverage in Texas and nationally after drawing more than 400 individual attorneys and judges from throughout the U.S. to Plano.

The 19th annual conference took place Oct. 21-23 and included an informative series of continuing education programs focused on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Conference chairman Clyde Siebman of Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith, LLP; EDTX Bar Executive Director Elizabeth Black Berry; EDTX Bar President Michael Truncale of Orgain Bell & Tucker, LLP; and other EDTX Bar members played key roles in organizing the conference and extending the district’s well-known hospitality to attendees and panel participants.

The Texas Lawbook provided day-by-day conference coverage, including regular blog updates. One *Lawbook* article examined the Eastern District’s reputation as a jurisdiction where cases reach trial quickly, saying “For proof that jury trials are a fair and equitable way to resolve civil disputes, look no further than the Eastern District of Texas.” The complete list of *Lawbook* stories can be found at the Texas LawBook link below this article (subscription required).

The 2015 Eastern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference also earned national attention in a series of reports from *Law360*. In one article, link below, (subscription required) describing the district’s effective local rules, *Law360* said, “Patent litigation in the Eastern District of Texas isn’t the Wild West mayhem some lawyers imagine...” Another *Law360* [story](#) (subscription required) noted the opinions of several current and former federal judges who told conference attendees, “Abusive patent litigation is less of a problem in the real world than it’s presumed to be in media reports and in Congress...”

The Bench Bar conference also was noted in several Twitter posts submitted by attendees and the media.

“On behalf of every member of the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association, I want to thank our sponsors, panelists and all the attendees for making this year’s Bench Bar Conference the most successful yet,” says Mr. Siebman. “The hard work of Elizabeth Berry and Michael Truncale was invaluable, and I think everyone who attended was able to come away with a better understanding of the how Eastern District courts operate and the good work being done by the judges and juries that hear these cases.”

The Eastern District of Texas Bar Association is committed to facilitating justice in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, which is headquartered in Tyler with divisions in Beaumont, Lufkin, Marshall, Sherman and Texarkana. The group fosters the

highest ethical and professional standards among lawyers admitted in the Eastern District.