**2021 Eastern District of Texas Bench Bar**

**Topics for Law Clerk Panel – “Let’s Hear it From the Clerks – Past and present clerks share secrets on how lawyers can help clerks help Judges”**

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| **Topic** | **Panel Members** | **Other Notes** |
| How do chambers operate/what do law clerks do | * **Rudy** – like law firms with one senior partner, etc. * **Becca** – deep dark secrets about Judge Crone’s chambers * **Tripp** – how clerks manage the docket – living off the six-month list, etc. * **Jenna** – know your chambers – some don’t have career clerks, some do – why that matters * Question to everyone – Any other consistent practice they used for resolving issues that would be helpful for lawyers to know? Example: reading briefs backwards [if no one has any examples here I won’t ask it] |  |
| Practice pointers – What are some things practicing lawyers should know about how to improve their practice before the court | * **Tripp** – you know your case better than anyone, if you have a suggestion for why it may make sense to depart from local rules, suggest it * **Jenna** – additional flavor re the topic of “you know your case better than the court” * **Jenna** – how to make objections * **Boone** – use meet and confer not just to resolve issues but to narrow them * **Anyone** - most clerks have an enormous workload / be reasonable and don’t dispute the small things / focus on quality over quantity * **Anyone** – even when the judge isn’t present, everything that happens in front of their staff and clerks gets shared with the judge * **Anyone** – don’t be misleading or incomplete about what a case says – have to defend credibility at all costs and that kills credibility |  |
| Contacting chambers – when to do it, how to do it, etc. | * **Becca** – example of a time you appreciated a call to chambers |  |
| Hot button issues? (If Rudy can find any) | * **Rudy** |  |
| A lot of this has focused on law clerks in chambers – what about how lawyers can use law clerks that have gone into private practice? | * **Natalie**   + Listen to the advice you get from former clerks   + Utilize them in real ways |  |