October 13, 2021,

24TH ANNUAL EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS BAR ASSOCIATION BENCH BAR CONFERENCE.

Panel -- “Tales from the Bench -- Safely Conducting Public Trials in a Post-Pandemic World and are COVID Juries Different?”

**A. Introduction of topic: “Tales from the Bench -- Safely Conducting Public Trials in a Post-Pandemic World and are COVID Juries Different?”**

**B. Introduction of Panel members:**

 United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Texas --Chief Judge Rodney Gilstrap from the Marshall Division.

 United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Texas – Judge Amos Mazzant from the Sherman Division.

 United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Texas – Judge Trey Schroeder from the Texarkana Division.

**C. Charles Bundren -- “Softball questions.**

1. Judge Gilstrap -- What are your experiences in conducting jury trials during COVID?

2. Judge Mazzant -- How have your experiences in conducting jury trials during COVID differed from Judge Gilstrap?

3. Judge Schroeder -- How do you handle COVID juries in Texarkana and how do your experiences differ from Judge Gilstrap and Judge Mazzant?

**D. General questions to the panel (if needed).**

1. Are COVID juries really different than non-COVID juries?

2. How have members of the general public reacted to the request that they serve on a jury during COVID?

3. Have citizens in your division resisted service on the jury during COVID?

4. How have you handled potential jurors who have resisted or expressed concerns about serving on a jury during COVID?

5. How have the attorneys who have tried cases during COVID reacted to the policies and procedures you have implemented for COVID jury trials?

6. How have witnesses reacted to the policies and procedures you have implemented for COVID jury trials?

7. Do you have any unique stories of anything that has occurred during one of your COVID jury trials?