**BENCH/BAR PANEL IDEAS**

**The Eastern District of Texas…...................Past, Present and Future**

1. (**Gil asking Gilstrap, Crone and Schroeder**) Let’s go back 25 years to 1997. Describe your path from then to now. (Tell us where you were in your career, what was going on in the Eastern District if you know, and how you came to be a Judge on this Court)
2. (**Bill asking Heartfield and Schell**) Judge Heartfield and Judge Schell, you were both on the bench when the first of these conferences was held. How was it started, and how has it grown and developed over the years? (**And for all**) give us a favorite memory from a past conference.
3. (**Gil asking Gilstrap, Heartfield and Crone**) What is it about the Eastern District court culture that has attracted lawyers and litigants to come try their cases here? (e.g., collegiality of Judges, trial date certainty, willingness to try jury cases, streamlined discovery, etc)
4. (**Bill asking Schroeder and Schell**) Many believe that our district has been and continues to be at the forefront for innovation within the justice system. Give us an example of that, and whether it worked well, or not. (e.g., The “plan”, trial time limits, asking juror questions)
5. (**Gil asking Gilstrap, Schell and Crone** If we were to critique the Eastern District, what would you say are its strengths, and in what areas could it improve?
6. (**Bill asking Schroeder, Heartfield and Gilstrap**) I’ve always thought that Eastern District practitioners were very creative. Any ideas on what might be the “next big thing” in the Eastern District?