

Lone Star Resilient Investment Forum

ESG and Investing in an Era of Unprecedented Change

April 7 and 8, 2021

1:00 pm – 5:50 pm CDT (both days)

5.0 CLE credit hours available*



Law.tamu.edu/ESG

The confluence of economic, political, and even climatic turbulence of the past year— as exemplified by the electric grid failure in Texas—compounded by a deadly global pandemic, has brought into view the critical importance of the private sector in decisions that affect the natural environment, societal structures, and governance mechanisms. Integrating **environmental, social and governance ("ESG") practices** into decision-making by companies and investors is now more important than ever. Rebuilding our economy requires business to take a more holistic approach to operations and activities. And, it requires an understanding of the impact that ESG factors can have on the sustainability of the private sector, which is vital to mitigating potential business exposure and hazards that occur with increasing frequency, such as systemic, reputational, investment, legal and financial risks. This conference will bring together interdisciplinary perspectives from legal practitioners, investors, and business representatives to explore the risks facing the private sector, and how ESG factors can be integrated into business decisions to benefit both the private sector and the broader community.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

1:00pm CDT **Welcome**

1:15pm CDT **Interview** with [Dee Smith](#), Founder and CEO, [Strategic Insight Group](#) and board chair of the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies/Benson Library
Interviewed by [Marianne Dwight](#), Of Counsel, Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP

- Dee Smith will discuss ESG in the context of global change and risk, and consider how ESG principles can be integrated and implemented into the business and investment environments in ways that maximize impact and mitigate risks to business and society.

2:20pm CDT **Panel 1: The "G" in ESG: GOVERNANCE**

1.25 CLE hours Panel 1 will focus on governance and consider why stable, transparent, and inclusive governance mechanisms may be the most important factor in the entire ESG equation.

- Chair: [Sharmila Kassam](#), Executive Director at AIF Institute
- [Nicholas Abel](#), Sustainable Investment Officer, Portfolio Management at CalSTRS

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- [John D'Agostino](#), CEO, Dagger LLC
- [Dominic Garcia](#), Chief Investment Officer, New Mexico Public Employees Retirement Association
- [William Magnuson](#), Associate Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law

3:45pm CDT **Panel 2: The “S” in ESG: SOCIAL / SOCIETAL**

1.25 CLE hours

Panel 2 will address the social and societal aspects of business decisions, and consider why these factors are critical for the private sector, economic stability, and the economic system as a whole. Among others, topics will include income and wealth inequality, and the dichotomies of value versus values and shareholders versus stakeholders.

- Chair: [Gabriel Eckstein](#), Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law
- [Coco Brown](#), CEO, Athena Alliance
- [Luz Herrera](#), Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Experiential Education, Texas A&M University School of Law
- [Ryann Marotta](#), Senior Portfolio Manager / Senior Vice President, Northern Trust
- [Niraja Srinivasan](#), Partner, NERA Economic Consulting

5:10pm CDT **NETWORKING BREAKOUT AND HAPPY HOUR**

5:50pm CDT Forum Day 1 Concludes

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

1:00pm CDT **Welcome**

1:15pm CDT **Interview** with [Steven Rothstein](#), Managing Director, Accelerator at [Ceres](#)

Interviewed by [Marianne Dwight](#), Of Counsel, Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP

- Steven Rothstein will discuss the threat that climatic changes pose to capital markets, and the need to identify immediate and long-term steps that regulators, policymakers, investors and businesses must take to protect the stability of the financial system.

2:20pm CDT **Panel 3: The “E” in ESG: ENVIRONMENTAL**

1.25 CLE hours

Panel 3 will focus on the importance of environmental considerations in business and investment decisions, consider how they impact the economy and the private sector, and explore how they can be integrated into the business process. Among others, topics will include sustainable and green energy and the circular economy.

- Chair: [Vanessa Casado Pérez](#), Associate Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law; Research Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University

- [Lorraine Akiba](#), President and CEO, LHA Ventures
- [Felix Mormann](#), Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law
- [Todd Palmer](#), Partner and Sub-Practice Leader, Environmental & Natural Resources, Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP

3:45pm CDT **Panel 4: The silent “R” in ESG: REGULATORY**

1.25 CLE hours

Panel 4 will address the regulatory environment as it applies to ESG in investing and managing businesses, and how it is likely to evolve over the next few years, including under the Biden Administration. This will include consideration of changing social, political, and legal perspectives, the role of increasing environmental concerns, and other influential factors.

- Chair: [Scott Zdrzil](#), Senior Investment Officer, Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
- [Chris Hayes](#), Senior Policy Counsel, Institutional Limited Partners Association
- [Satyam Khanna](#), Senior Policy Advisor for Climate and ESG, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- [Neal Newman](#), Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law

5:10pm CDT **NETWORKING BREAKOUT AND HAPPY HOUR**

5:50pm CDT Forum Day 2 Concludes

The four panels presented at this conference will be held under the [Chatham House Rule](#). Participants and attendees are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of any of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed in any context.

***CLE Information:** This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 5.0 credit hours, of which 0.0 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

Event Partners

- [Texas A&M University School of Law](#)
- [Michael Best and Friedrich, LLP](#)
- [Strategic Insight Group](#)

Planning Committee

- [Marianne Dwight](#), Of Counsel, Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP
- [Gabriel Eckstein](#), Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law
- [Chris Hayes](#), Senior Policy Counsel, Institutional Limited Partners Association
- [Sharmila Kassam](#), Executive Director at AIF Institute
- [Neal Newman](#), Professor of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law
- [Dee Smith](#), Founder and CEO, Strategic Insight Group