

WINTER STORM URI

LEGAL ISSUES AFTER THE THAW



Please join the University of Houston Law Center for an online workshop discussing legal issues following the Texas Winter Storm, also applicable to most other disasters.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 | 9 AM – 1 PM (CDT) | Zoom

4 hours of Texas CLE credit



AGENDA

9:00 – 9:05 am

Ryan Marquez

Introduction

Professor of Practice, University of Houston Law Center

9:05 – 10:00 am

Leesa Everitt

Richard Tomlinson

Landlord/Tenant

Staff Attorney, Houston Volunteer Lawyers

Director of Litigation, Lone Star Legal Aid

10:00 – 11:00 am

Jon-Ross Treviño

Debt Collection/Bankruptcy

Managing Attorney, Lone Star Legal Aid

11:10 am – 1:00 pm

Meghan Smolensky

Ta'mara Foster

**Homeowners Repair Issues, FEMA,
Insurance, Contracts, Liens, DTPA/RCLA**

Staff Attorney, Lone Star Legal Aid

Staff Attorney, Lone Star Legal Aid

1:00 pm

Closing

BIOGRAPHIES



LEESA EVERITT

Leesa Everitt has been a staff attorney at Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL) since 2012. For the past year, she has led the eviction defense project at HVL to try to keep people housed during the pandemic. She primarily practices landlord-tenant, consumer, probate, and housing-related law. She received her degree from the University of Houston Law Center.



TA'MARA FOSTER

Ta'Mara Foster is a general law practitioner in the Disaster Relief Unit at Lone Star Legal Aid. She received her undergraduate degree from Texas Woman's University and Juris Doctor from Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. She has maintained a Professional in Human Resources Certification (PHR) for over ten years, and is a trained and certified Mediator. She is licensed to practice law in Texas courts and before the US District Court for the Southern District of Texas and is a member of the Houston Bar Association.



RYAN MARQUEZ

Ryan Marquez is a Professor of Practice and Consumer Law Clinic Director with the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC). He is board certified in Consumer and Commercial Law. He previously served as the Director of the UHLC's Hurricane Consumer Assistance Project. He previously served as a Staff Attorney with the Center for Consumer Law and Texas Consumer Complaint Center. His practice focuses primarily on issues impacting everyday consumer including debt collection, property disputes, landlord/tenant, foreclosures, and DTPA issues.



MEGHAN SMOLENSKY

Meghan Smolensky is an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the Disaster Resilience Program and a Staff Attorney in the Disaster Relief Unit at Lone Star Legal Aid in Houston, Texas. This program helps victims of natural disasters through assistance with a multitude of legal matters. Prior to joining, Meghan was a part of the Disaster Recovery Legal Corps and assisted with the repair and mitigation efforts for Hurricane Harvey. Meghan is a 2017 graduate of the South Texas College of Law. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Louisiana State University.

BIOGRAPHIES



RICHARD TOMLINSON

Richard “Rich” Tomlinson is a Director of Litigation for Lone Star Legal Aid. He has practiced extensively in all aspects of consumer law from operating his own firm while in private practice, as an assistant attorney general for the State of Texas, and while working for multiple nonprofits. He has practiced consumer law both in state and federal courts including a multitude of appeals. He was conferred board certification in Consumer and Commercial Law in 1997. He has presented on consumer law issues for decades.



JON-ROSS TREVIÑO

Jon-Ross Treviño is the managing attorney of the Housing and Consumer Unit at Lone Star Legal Aid. Jon-Ross passionately strives to provide equal access to justice through a client-centric approach. Serving over 5 years with Lone Star Legal Aid, Jon-Ross has carried out extensive litigation as a consumer advocate in state and federal court in Houston and the surrounding area. He also previously worked as a Rosenberg Fellow fighting against predatory payday loans, and in LSLA’s Foreclosure Prevention Project, protecting individuals’ homes from foreclosure. Jon-Ross obtained his J.D. from the University of Houston and his B.A. from Rice University.