



2011 NCSL Legislative Summit

San Antonio, Texas

The Perils of the Attorney-Client Relationship in the Legislature

**Wednesday, August 10, 2011
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**

Examine ethical responsibilities inherent in the state legislative attorney-client relationship. Through examples of state laws, a panel of attorneys and a legislator will critique a controversial federal case and discuss ethical and legal consequences.

- Speaker: Jon Heining, General Counsel, Texas Legislative Council
- Respondents: Representative Sannie Overly, Kentucky
- Julie Pelegrin, Legislative Legal Services, Colorado
- O. Walker Reagan, Research Division, North Carolina
- Cheryl Reinhart, Legislative Research Bureau, Arkansas

Agenda

4:00 – 4:10 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions Peggy Kerns, Director, Center for Ethics in Government
4:10 – 4:50 p.m.	Speaker's Remarks Jon Heining, General Counsel, Texas Legislative Council
4:50 – 5:10 p.m.	Respondents Remarks Representative Sannie Overly, Kentucky Julie Pelegrin, Legislative Legal Services, Colorado Walker Reagan, Research Division, North Carolina Cheryl Reinhart, Legislative Research Bureau, Arkansas
5:10 – 5:30 p.m.	Discussion among the speaker and panelists and Questions from the Audience

Faculty Bios

Representative Sannie Overly, Kentucky General Assembly

Representative Sannie Overly has served in the Kentucky House since 2008, when she was appointed to fill a vacancy and then elected to a full term. Among her committee assignments are Agriculture and Small Business, Appropriations and Revenue, and Banking and Insurance. She chairs the session 2011 House Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation.

Rep. Overly grew up on her family's farm in Bourbon County, a farm which her father still operates. Her mother, a former teacher, was Bourbon County's home economics agent. Rep. Overly earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky and worked for the Kentucky State Transportation Cabinet while earning her law degree from the University of Louisville, College of Law.

She practices law in Paris, KY, and is active in her community. She is chair of the Board of Trustees of Bourbon Community Hospital board, president of the Bourbon County Bar Association and president of Historic Paris Bourbon County.

Jon Heining, General Counsel, Texas Legislative Council

As general counsel, Jon Heining provides legal support to the Texas Legislative Council for administrative, contractual and personnel issues. In addition, he drafts bills and provides legal advice to the Texas legislature. Heining joined the council in July 2006.

Most recently Heining served as counsel for public policy in the office of Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst. In that role he monitored the Senate State Affairs and Criminal Justice Committees, assisted the general counsel in advising the lieutenant governor, researched topics for the lieutenant governor and senior staff, and helped develop policy on a variety of issues.

Heining graduated summa cum laude from Auburn University with a B.B.A. and subsequently earned a Juris Doctor degree from The University of Texas School of Law. Adding to his legal studies, he later earned a Master of Laws degree from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. During his undergraduate years, Heining managed WEGF 91.1 FM, an on-campus radio station at Auburn University.

Julie Pelegrin, Assistant Director, Office of Legislative Legal Services, Colorado General Assembly

Julie has worked with the Colorado Office of Legislative Legal Services for 20 years, drafting legislation pertaining to education and criminal law. For several years, Julie managed a group of ten persons who work in the areas of criminal law, education, higher education, family law, the courts, child welfare, human services, Medicaid, health, public benefits and probate. In addition to drafting and advising legislators, Julie now focuses on improving legislator education programs.

Julie graduated from the University of Denver in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in mass communications and public affairs. She graduated from the University of Denver College of Law in 1989.

Julie has served as the staff chair and vice chair of the NCSL Standing Committee on Education and as co-chair of the Legislative Education Staff Network Steering Committee. Julie has also served on the advisory group and facilitated several programs for the NCSL Afterschool Project and the NCSL Foundation Education Technology Partnership. Julie is currently a member of the NCSL Executive Committee.

O. Walker Reagan, Director, Research Division, North Carolina General Assembly

O. Walker Reagan is Director, Research Division, of the North Carolina General Assembly. Prior to becoming director in February, 2009, he was a principal legislative analyst and staff attorney with the Research Division since 1992. He served 14 years as co-counsel to the Legislative Ethics Committee and the House Ethics Committee. Walker also was co-counsel to the Senate Judiciary I Committee and the Senate and House Commerce committees.

Walker is on the executive committee of the NCSL's Research and Committee Staff Section and of the Legal Services Staff Section. He also serves on NCSL's Standing Committee on Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce and the Standing Committee on Labor and Economic Development. Walker attended the NCSL's Legislative Staff Management Institute in 2003.

Walker received his BA in political science and his MA in public policy sciences from Duke University and his JD from the University of North Carolina. Walker practiced law in the Raleigh area for 13 years before coming to the Research Division.

Cheryl L. Reinhart, Legislative Attorney, Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research

Cheryl Reinhart is employed by the Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research as a legislative attorney for the House and Senate Education committees in the Arkansas General Assembly. She also serves as the legislative attorney for the Legislative Oversight Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the Arkansas Lottery Commission.

Cheryl obtained her J.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law in 1998 and was licensed to practice law in Arkansas and Texas the same year. Before joining the bureau in 2005, she practiced law in the areas of business and corporations, securities and real estate.

Cheryl is an adjunct faculty member for the Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, Arkansas, teaching in the Paralegal Technology Division. She is the current staff chair for the NCSL Education Standing Committee and co-chair of the Steering Committee for Legislative Education Staff Network, which is sponsored by NCSL and the Education Commission of the States.