

**22<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on Emerging Intellectual Property Issues**  
**February 20, 2026**  
**SMU Dedman School of Law**  
Hillcrest Classroom, Underwood Law Library

**8:15 a.m. Registration and Breakfast Buffet**

**9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks**

David O. Taylor, Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation and Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law

John Tower, Chair, Dallas Bar Association Intellectual Property Section and Attorney, Hitchcock Evert

**9:00–10:00 a.m. Federalizing Trade Secret Law: Ten Years After the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016**

The Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (DTSA) has transformed trade secret litigation over the past decade by creating a federal cause of action that now operates alongside state law regimes like the Uniform Trade Secrets Act. Key topics will include the practical implications of dual federal-state jurisdiction; the impact of DTSA's unique provisions such as *ex parte* seizure orders, whistleblower immunity, and the requirement for civil seizure notices in employment agreements; evolution of case law interpreting critical DTSA elements; and emerging challenges including cross-border enforcement issues, the intersection with employment mobility and non-compete restrictions.

**Moderator:** Joe Cleveland, Brackett & Ellis, P.C.

**Panelists:** Chase Cobern, Munck Wilson Mandala LLP

Leiza Dolghih, Dolghih Law Group

Tim Hudson, Barnes & Thornburg

**10:10–11:10 a.m. The Politics of Patent Law and Computer-Related Inventions**

A discussion of the history of treatment of computer-related inventions and how policy has shifted over time, including by court decisions but also by guidance documents at the USPTO, with particular attention to substantive doctrines like patent eligibility and procedural rules like those governing inter parties review proceedings.

**Moderator:** David O. Taylor, SMU Dedman School of Law

**Panelists:** Gregory Howison, Munck Wilson Mandala  
Ira Matsil, Slater Matsil  
Jerry R. Selinger, Patterson + Sheridan, LLP

**11:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Trademark Tiffs: Trademark Squatting, Schedule A Litigation, and More**

A discussion of a variety of trademark enforcement issues in a post-*Jack Daniels* world, including Schedule A litigation, first-hand experience from a recent federal bench trial, and the use of AI as evidence of confusion. Panelists will also discuss defending against novel trademark squatting attempts at the USPTO and other recent trademark issues they address frequently.

**Moderator:** Sari Mazzurco, SMU Dedman School of Law

**Panelists:** Matt Acosta, Platt Richmond, PLLC  
Morgan Delabar, Holland & Knight, LLP  
Ozz Siddiq, Lennox International, Inc.

**12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. IP issues in Entertainment, Publishing, and Digital Media in 2026**

*Hillcrest Classroom, Underwood Law Library*

***A boxed lunch will be provided to enjoy during this session***

This panel will explore the rapidly evolving challenges shaping how creative content is protected, enforced, monetized, and distributed across interconnected digital ecosystems. This session provides an overview of key legal developments, emerging technologies, and industry trends that impact rights holders, creators, and businesses navigating today's complex digital landscape.

**Moderator:** Craig Carpenter, BakerHostetler

**Panelists:** Tamera Bennett, Harper & Bates, LLP  
Lisa Normand, PlattRichmond, PLLC  
Shani Shisha, SMU Dedman School of Law

**1:30 p.m.**

**Closing Remarks**

David O. Taylor, SMU Dedman School of Law