



## MODULE 2: VIRTUAL

Monday, April 25 • 1:00pm-3:30pm

Available via GoToWebinar anywhere you have internet access

\$30/person

**BEST DEAL!** \$125 to register 5 or more staff/board members

Are you a new board member? District employee trying to learn it all? GCD manager with less than 5 years of experience? Just need a refresher on the essentials? TAGD is proud to offer the second module of our GCD Boot Camp where participants will learn the ropes of how GCDs operate and manage groundwater resources throughout the state.

### Module 2 Sessions

- 1:00pm**     **Open Government**  
*Jennifer Smith, Attorney, SledgeLaw Group*
- 1:45pm**     **GCD Must-Do's**  
*Bill Dugat, Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta*
- 2:45pm**     **Board Liability, Ethics, and Best Practices**  
*Greg Ellis, Attorney, GM Ellis Law*



Questions? Email [julia@texasgroundwater.org](mailto:julia@texasgroundwater.org)  
or call 512-596-3101.

# SPEAKERS

## **Jennifer Smith**

*Attorney, SledgeLaw Group*

Jennifer has been an attorney with SledgeLaw Group for five years. Her practice focuses on assisting clients with legal and public strategies counsel on a broad range of water-related and environmental issues, as well as employment law issues. She assists numerous water supply districts, groundwater conservation districts, cities, water utilities, private and public companies, and landowners in all phases of environmental regulation and in employment law matters. Jennifer previously practiced as an attorney for the TCEQ, representing the agency's Executive Director in contested cases on water and landfill permits, petroleum storage tank regulation, and a variety of enforcement matters. She subsequently practiced employment law at the TCEQ, advising agency staff on personnel issues, including implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Jennifer also served for 13 years as the Communications Director and Media Representative for a large nonprofit organization in Austin. Jennifer received both her bachelor's degree and law degree from Baylor University.

## **Bill Dugat**

*Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta*

William D. "Bill" Dugat III is an attorney with the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP. He has been a partner since 1995 and served as the Managing Partner for the firm for 17 years. Mr. Dugat practices in the area of water and environmental law, public law, and administrative law. He represents and advises groundwater conservation districts, river authorities, and municipalities before state and federal agencies with emphasis on water and environmental issues. He is outside general counsel for several ground water conservation districts and a river authority. Mr. Dugat earned a BBA in Management from Texas A&M University, an MBA from the University of Missouri, and a JD from the University of Texas. He is Board Certified in Administrative Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. After graduating from Texas A&M University, Mr. Dugat served as a Minuteman Missile Launch Officer in the United States Air Force. While on duty he earned his MBA. After four years in the United States Air Force, Mr. Dugat attended law school and upon graduation, served as a briefing attorney for the Austin Court of Appeals. He has been an attorney at Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP for 32 years. He and his wife Kathy have been married 40 years and have two grown sons and three grandsons.

## **Greg Ellis**

*Attorney, GM Ellis Law*

Gregory M. Ellis has been practicing water law and been involved in water issues for over three decades. In the mid-eighties as a law student, Greg helped clerk the House Natural Resources Committee working on a variety of water legislation. After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988 and admission to the Bar in 1989, Ellis worked as legislative liaison for the Texas Water Commission. In 1992 Greg moved to Houston to serve as General Counsel to the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District. The Edwards Aquifer Authority hired Ellis as their first General Manager in 1997, a position he held until October 2004 when he left to start his solo law practice. Greg is well versed in groundwater law, groundwater conservation districts, the Open Meetings Act, the Public Information Act, the Public Funds Investment Act, the Public Funds Collateral Act, local government law, and administrative law and procedures.