

9th Annual Child Welfare & Forensics CLE 2026 (Virtual)

REVISED AGENDA

Proof, Power, and Due Process

Friday March 20, 2026

Total CLE Credit: 8.0 Hours (4.5 Ethics)

8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.

Welcome & Framing the Day

Earl Carl Institute

(Not CLE Credit)

8:10 a.m.– 9:10 a.m. (1.0 hr – General 1.0)

When Medical Opinion Becomes Legal Proof

Dr. Disha Jain, M.D., Child Abuse Pediatrics Team at Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, Texas

9:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. (1.25 hr – General 0.75 / Ethics 0.50)

Three Systems, One Client: Ethical Advocacy Across Criminal, CPS, and Immigration Proceedings

Brian Ehrenberg, Managing Attorney, SHEV Law Group

10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

Break

10:35 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. (1.25 hr – General 0.75 / Ethics 0.50)

Defense Quality and Systemic Issues Affecting Expert Litigation

Attorney Porscha Brown, Executive Director, Harris County Managed Assigned Counsel Program

11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Lunch

12:10 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. (1.0 hr – General 0.25 / Ethics 0.75)

Power, Proof, and Perspective in CPS Litigation

Attorney, Jeanice Dawes, The Law Office of J. Dawes, PLLC

1:10 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. (1.25 hr – General 0.75 / Ethics 0.50)

From Statute to Strategy: Weighing Charging Decisions and Standards of Proof

Brody Burks, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Texas

2:25 p.m.– 2:35 p.m.

Break

2:35 p.m.– 3:35 p.m. (1.0 hr – Ethics 1.0)

The Criminalization of Disability in Child Protection Cases

Attorney Sean Jackson, Executive Director, Disability Rights Texas

3:35p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (1.25 hr – Ethics 1.25)

Gatekeepers of Justice: The Judicial Role in High-Emotion Litigation

Honorable Judge Aurora Martinez Jones, 126th State District Court Judge, Travis County, Texas

5:00 p.m.– 5:10 p.m.

Closing Remarks-- Attorney Cheri A. Abbage, Earl Carl Institute