

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
6808 Hill Meadow Drive
Austin, Texas 78736

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Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association & Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Prairie Pup

JANUARY 7, 2026

COURSE DIRECTORS

Rusty Gunter & Kristen Ayers

*The seminar is sponsored by CDLP, a project of TCDLA,
funded by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.*

Scan to Register for Prairie Pup!



Scan to Register for Prairie Dog!



45th Annual

Prairie Dog

Advanced Criminal Law Seminar

JANUARY 8-9, 2026

COURSE DIRECTORS

**Sarah Gunter, Mehr Singh,
& Paula Millan**



**Texas Tech School of Law
Lubbock, TX**

P: 512.478.2514 • F: 512.469.9107 • www.tcdla.com • 6808 Hill Meadow Dr., Austin, TX 78736

Course Directors:

Sarah Gunter, Paula Millan, & Mehr Singh • 14.50 CLE, including 4.00 Ethics

OVERVIEW

2026 marks the 45th Annual Prairie Dog Seminar. First held in 1981, it has evolved into one of the premier CLE courses in Texas and consistently draws top-speakers from across the State as well as prominent local attorneys. Proceeds are donated to the Philip Wischkaemper scholarship. A very important component of Prairie Dog is Prairie Pup, a nuts and bolts seminar for young attorneys, taught by local attorneys providing both mentorship and education on "what we do".

MEETING/LODGING LOCATION

The seminar will be held at the Texas Tech Law School located at 3311 18th St. Lubbock, TX 79409. Sleeping accommodations are at the Overton Hotel & Convention Center, located at 2322 Mac Davis Ln. Lubbock, TX 79401. The TCDLA room rate is \$110 for a single/double room. Call the Overton Hotel at (806) 776-7000 and refer to "TCDLA" to receive the group rate. The group rate is available until December 23, 2025, or until room block is full, whichever occurs first. Scan the QR code on the front and click on "Additional Info" to find the hotel booking link. Complimentary self parking

TCDLEI SCHOLARSHIPS

The Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Educational Institute provides various scholarships for criminal defense attorneys with financial needs. Application online at www.tcdla.com or email scholarship@tcdla.com.

AGENDA

Thursday - January 8, 2026

8:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
8:30 am	Opening Remarks	Sarah Gunter & Paula Millan
8:45 am	Case Law Update	Hon. Mark Hocker
9:45 am	Confrontation in Sex Cases/Handling Outcry Witnesses	Jesse Mendez
10:45 am	Break	
11:00 am	Collateral Consequences	Dwight McDonald
11:45 am	Lunch Line	
12:00 pm	Lunch Presentation: The Lawyer's Mental Health Journey (Ethics)	Angelica Cogliano
1:00 pm	Break	
1:15 pm	Crimmigration	Jordan Pollock
2:15 pm	Handling Client Funds & Other Financial Advice for Lawyers (Ethics)	Levi Sienbenlist
3:15 pm	Break	
3:30 pm	Child Death Cases	Mark Snodgrass
4:30 pm	Preservation of Error	Audie Reese
5:15 pm	Adjourn	

Friday - January 9, 2026

8:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
8:30 am	Opening Remarks	Sarah Gunter & Mehr Singh
8:45 am	Winning Trials & Influencing Juries	Michael King
9:45 am	Self-Defense	Bryan Cantrell
10:45 am	Break	
11:00 am	Legislative Update	David Gonzalez
12:00 pm	Lunch Line	
12:15 pm	Lunch Presentation: Yogurt Shop: The (Human) Cost of Defending Innocence	Carlos Garcia
1:15 pm	Break	
1:30 pm	The Intersection of Family Law & Criminal Law	Sam Bassett
2:30 pm	Competency	Robert Sullivan
3:30 pm	The Evolution of AI in the Practice of Law (Ethics)	Rocky Ramirez
4:30 pm	Adjourn	
7:00 pm	Prairie Dog Party (Ticket Required)	



TCDLA's 45th Annual Prairie Dog Advanced Criminal Law Seminar

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Bar Number: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Cell #: _____ Phone #: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

REGISTRATION (INCLUDES ELECTRONIC MATERIALS)

Wednesday Program - Prairie Pups Nuts & Bolts:

cospnsored w/ Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Nuts & Bolts ☐ \$40* (Wednesday, January 7)

*Wednesday program is FREE if Attending Prairie Dog Seminar
\$40 includes \$20 voluntary support if attending Prairie Pups only
seminar sponsored by CDPF are funded by the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas

Thursday-Friday Program - Prairie Dog:

Viewing Preference: ☐ In Person ☐ Livestream/On-Demand

	Early Registration Before December 23	Onsite Registration After December 23
LCDLA/TCDLA Member	☐ \$215	☐ \$415
Non-Member	☐ \$415	☐ \$615
ADD-ONS:	Book ☐ \$75	USB Video ☐ \$75
	Vegetarian Meal ☐ \$5	

Philip Wischkaemper T-Shirt

Circle your size

Shirt ☐ \$20
S M L XL XXL XXXL

Prairie Dog Party

Grand Central Venue
1219 Avenue J, Lubbock, TX 79401
Friday, January 9 @ 7 pm

Ticket ☐ \$40

Not Attending

Prairie Dog Seminar Only
Materials | Members Only, No CLE

USB ☐ \$100
Book + USB ☐ \$150

JOIN TCDLA: ONE VOICE – STAND WITH TCDLA!

TCDLA Membership Fees (renew or join as a new member)

- ☐ New Member & Second-Year Renewal \$100 • Endorser Name: _____
- ☐ Renew Membership \$180
- ☐ Prefer not to participate in auto-renewal

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS Voluntary Contribution: _____

TCDLEI SCHOLARSHIPS Voluntary Contribution: _____

TCDLA AUTO-RENEWAL

For your convenience, TCDLA uses AUTO-RENEWAL for all membership dues, using your checking account or credit card. You will be automatically enrolled in the auto-renewal program so you do not have to do anything while continuing to enjoy membership benefits every year! You can always opt out of auto-renewal anytime by simply contacting TCDLA by emailing mduarte@tcdla.com or by checking the opt-out option above.

PAYMENT INFORMATION ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card Total: _____

Please read before registering: You may not register for this program if you are a full-time law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or currently acting as a prosecutor or special prosecutor in a capital case (unfortunately, no exceptions).

CANCELLATION POLICY: To receive a refund-less 10% processing fee-cancellations must be received in writing 14 days prior to the seminar (email kpreston@tcdla.com). Cancellations made within two weeks of the seminar will be changed to on demand and materials will be sent after the seminar, and socials will be refunded less processing fee.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM, QUESTIONS, OR SPECIAL NEEDS:

Call: 512.478.2514 Mail: 6808 Hill Meadow Dr., Austin, TX 78736 Fax: 512.469.0512

Online: www.TCDLA.com Email: register@tcdla.com

Tax Notice: \$36 of your annual dues (\$19 if a student member) is for a one-year subscription to the Voice for the Defense. Dues to TCDLA are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deducted as an ordinary business expense.

Covid Notice: By registering, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending the TCDLA Events, you and any guests voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold the TCDLA, or any of their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents, contractors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury.

Media Consent: I hereby grant permission to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) to use photographs and/or video of me taken at this event in publications, news releases, online, and in other communications related to the mission of TCDLA.