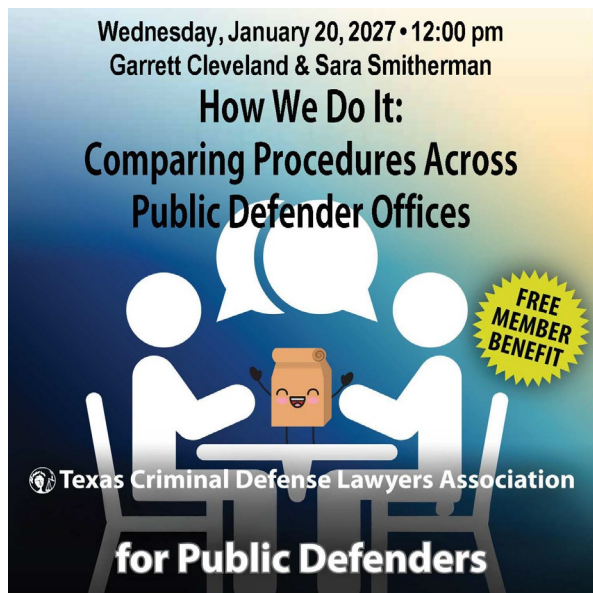




Welcome to **TCDLA ROUNDTABLES!**

Join us for a **Public Defender Committee Roundtable** presentation followed by open discussion. Free for Members. Open to all. Forward to a colleague.

Presentation: How We Do It: Comparing Procedures Across Public Defender Offices

Presenter: Garrett Cleveland & Sara Smitherman

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2027

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

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Overview: How does your office do it? Join TCDLA's Public Defender Committee for an interactive virtual roundtable! Every office has its own way of doing things, and this is your chance to see how others approach everyday procedures and challenges. Share ideas, compare practices, discuss what works (and what doesn't!), and learn new ways to improve efficiency in your office. Connect with fellow public defenders, exchange experiences, and pick up helpful tips and ideas you can bring back to your team. Bring your questions, experiences, and ideas to the conversation!

Bio: Garrett Cleveland graduated from Texas A&M Law in 2020 and started as a misdemeanor attorney at the Hill Country Regional Public Defender's Office in June of 2021, after working in family law for a year in Fort Worth. He became a felony attorney in November of 2021 and then became Deputy Chief in November of 2023. Public Defender work has fortunately given him the opportunity to handle and try a multitude of cases, from possession of marijuana to murder. He is married to a member of the "other side," Madison Cleveland, who is a prosecutor in Fredericksburg, TX. If we're not talking about criminal law, you can find us fishing.

Bio: Sara Smitherman graduated from the Texas Tech School of Law in 2008, and spent the first 10 years of her law career as a solo practitioner in Lubbock, Texas. In 2019 she moved to Houston, and joined the Harris County Public Defender's Office in the Felony Trial Division. She handles every kind of felony criminal case, from state jail drug possession to murder. Sara is currently a board member for TCDLA and is a past President of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. When she is not working hard (and playing hard) with her friends and colleagues, she is spoiling her daughter with sushi and movie dates.