



## Welcome to **NEW LAWYER LIVESTREAM!**

TCDLA invites you to join us for an exclusive web series designed specifically for new and aspiring criminal defense attorneys like yourself. This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights, sharpen your skills, and connect with insightful professionals in the field. When: Once a month! Location: Online - Join from the comfort of your home, office, or school!

**Presentation:** Voir Dire Basics

**Presenter:** Sara Smitherman

**Date:** Wednesday, February 17, 2027

**Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

**CLE:** 1.00, 0 ethics

**Overview:** This presentation introduces the fundamentals of voir dire in criminal defense practice. It focuses on jury selection strategy, identifying bias, asking effective questions, building rapport with jurors, and using challenges appropriately. New attorneys will gain practical tools to confidently participate in jury selection and begin shaping a fair and favorable jury from the start of trial.

**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.