

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

PRESORT  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2569  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

[www.tcdla.com](http://www.tcdla.com)



Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

# Gumbo

Register today at [tcdla.com](http://tcdla.com), give us a call at 512-478-2514, or scan the QR codes below!  
Available In Person, Livestream and On-Demand At Your Own Pace

February 19-20, 2026  
Hyatt Centric French Quarter New Orleans

One Bead or a Whole Parade  
Register for One or Both Seminars!

**Criminal Law  
on the Bayou:  
Strategies  
that Jazz**

Course Director:  
Laurie Key



**Jazz, Justice,  
& the System  
of Federal  
Law**

Course Directors:  
Roberto Balli &  
Michael Gross



## Criminal Law on the Bayou Course Director:

Laurie Key

7.50 CLE, including 0.00 Ethics

### Overview

Come for the CLE, stay for the fun! This criminal defense seminar covers a range of powerful topics, including voir dire, collateral consequences, attacking expert witnesses, and cutting-edge sessions on AI and digital forensics. From untraditional motions to taming massive discovery, you'll leave with fresh strategies, practical tools and a few laughs along the way.

### Meeting & Lodging Location

The seminar will be held at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter located at 800 Iberville Street, New Orleans, LA 70112. The TCDLA room rate is \$199 for a single room. Call the Hyatt Centric French Quarter at (504) 586-0800 and refer to "Texas Criminal Defense Group" to receive the group rate. The group rate is available until January 24, 2026, 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. Self parking \$37.50 per day, valet is \$50 per day plus tax.

### 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](http://www.tcdla.com) or email [scholarship@tcdla.com](mailto:scholarship@tcdla.com).

### Agenda

#### Thursday - February 19, 2026

##### Criminal Law on the Bayou: Strategies That Jazz

|          |                                                                    |                   |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 7:30 am  | Registration, Coffee, & Pastries                                   |                   |
| 7:45 am  | Opening Remarks                                                    | Laurie Key        |
| 8:00 am  | Trial Tactics                                                      | Mark Thiessen     |
| 9:00 am  | Voir Dire                                                          | Robert Hirschhorn |
| 10:15 am | Attacking & Excluding an Expert Witness                            | John Hunter Smith |
| 11:15 am | Collateral Consequences: Family/<br>Federal/Lifetime Bans/Licenses | Stephanie Stevens |
| 12:00 pm | Adjourn                                                            |                   |

##### Jazz, Justice & the System of Federal Law

|         |                                                                           |                  |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1:00 pm | Registration                                                              |                  |
| 1:15 pm | Opening Remarks                                                           | Course Directors |
| 1:30 pm | 5th Circuit Supreme Court Update                                          | Judy Madewell    |
| 2:30 pm | Sentencing Guidelines: Minor Role, Variance,<br>& the Death of Departures | Roberto Balli    |
| 3:30 pm | Fresh Ideas on Pretrial Agreements                                        | Michael McCrum   |
| 4:30 pm | Guns: Who Can Possess a Weapon & Other Issues                             | Cody Cofer       |
| 5:30 pm | Adjourn                                                                   |                  |

#### Friday - February 20, 2026

##### Jazz, Justice & the System of Federal Law

|          |                                             |                  |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 7:30 am  | Registration, Coffee, & Pastries            |                  |
| 7:45 am  | Opening Remarks                             | Course Directors |
| 8:00 am  | Aliens: Illegal Reentry Issues              | Cesar De Leon    |
| 9:00 am  | Federal Motion Practice                     | Michael Heiskell |
| 10:15 am | Suppression, Touhy Issues, & Taint Hearings | Michael Clark    |
| 11:15 am | Restitution Issues                          | Michael Gross    |
| 12:00 pm | Adjourn                                     |                  |

##### Criminal Law on the Bayou: Strategies That Jazz

|         |                                          |                |
|---------|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1:00 pm | Registration                             |                |
| 1:15 pm | Opening Remarks                          | Laurie Key     |
| 1:30 pm | Untraditional Motions                    | Mark Stevens   |
| 2:30 pm | Using AI for Case Strategies & Prep      | Joseph Esparza |
| 3:30 pm | AI & Digital Forensics                   | Sean Hightower |
| 4:30 pm | Mitigation & Sentencing – How to Prepare | Laurie Key     |
| 5:30 pm | Adjourn                                  |                |

## Jazz, Justice & the System of Federal Law Course Directors:

Roberto Balli & Michael Gross

7.50 CLE, including 0.00 Ethics

### Overview

Sharpen your federal practice with cutting-edge insights from top criminal defense attorneys at this powerhouse seminar. Topics include updates from the 5th Circuit and Supreme Court, sentencing strategies, pretrial negotiations, and hot-button issues like weapons possession, illegal reentry, and restitution. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your motion practice and courtroom advocacy with practical tools you can use immediately.



## TCDLA's Law Gumbo

### Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration (Includes Electronic Materials)

|                                                   |                                                     |                                                    |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Viewing Preference:                               |                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> In Person                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestream/On-Demand |
| Early Registration - Before January 29            |                                                     |                                                    |                                               |
| Member                                            | Criminal Law ONLY<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Federal Law ONLY<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Both<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$315        |
| Non-Member                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$350                      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$350                     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$450                |
| Onsite Registration - After January 29            |                                                     |                                                    |                                               |
| Member                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300                      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300                     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$415                |
| Non-Member                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$400                      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$400                     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$515                |
| ADD-ONS:                                          | Book <input type="checkbox"/> \$75                  | USB Video <input type="checkbox"/> \$75            |                                               |
| Not Attending<br>Materials   Members Only, No CLE |                                                     |                                                    |                                               |
| USB <input type="checkbox"/> \$100                |                                                     |                                                    |                                               |
| Book + USB <input type="checkbox"/> \$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

\*endorser required

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.TCDLA.com) Email: [register@tcdla.com](mailto: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.