



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

THE ART OF MITIGATION: CRAFTING PERSUASIVE NARRATIVES

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date January 29-30, 2026
Location Aloft Dallas Downtown, 1033 Young St., Dallas, TX 75202
Course Directors Harmony Schuerman, Nicole VanToorn, & Rick Wardroup
Total CLE Hours 13.75 Ethics: 1.00

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Daily CLE Hours: 7.25 Ethics: 1.00

Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
8:00 am		Registration	
8:30 am		Opening Remarks	Nicole VanToorn & Harmony Schuerman
8:45 am	1.00 Ethics	Building the Team - Guidelines, Expectations & Responsibilities	Gary Smart
9:45 am	1.00	What Constitutes Mitigation	Susan Garvey
10:45 am		Break	
11:00 am	1.00	The Case for Mitigation in Non-Capital Murder Cases	Stacie Lieberman
12:00 pm		Lunch Line	
12:15 pm	1.00	Lunch Presentation: Open Source Information, Records by the Numbers	Drew Sustaita
1:15 pm	0.75	The Importance of Writing & Sharing Reports	Nicole VanToorn & Brent McQueen
2:00 pm	1.00	Getting in the Door & Building Rapport - Relationships with Collateral Witnesses	Caiti Coughlan
3:00 pm		Break	
3:15 pm	0.75	Sourcing Social History	Amy Williams
4:00 pm	0.75	Help Us Help You - Working with Experts in Mental Health	Jeanine Galusha, PhD
4:45 pm		Adjourn	



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Friday, January 30, 2026

Daily CLE Hours: 6.50 Ethics: 0

Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
8:00 am		<i>Registration</i>	
8:30 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Nicole VanToorn & Harmony Schuerman
8:45 am	1.00 <i>Ethics</i>	Mitigation Collaboration with Fact Investigation	Rob Cowie
9:45 am	1.00	Developing a Thorough & Fluid Theory of Mitigation	Lisa Greenberg
10:45 am		<i>Break</i>	
11:00 am	0.75	Being Sensitive to Evidence of Mental Illness & Intellectual Disability	Alexandria Anderson
11:45 am		<i>Lunch Line</i>	
12:00 pm	1.00	<i>Lunch Presentation:</i> Selecting Experts & Obtaining Funding	Mitch Nolte
1:00 pm	0.75	Brainstorming	Harmony Schuerman, Nicole VanToorn, & Rick Wardroup
1:45 pm	1.00	A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words - Presenting a Visual Narrative of Our Client's Social History	Jill Patterson
2:45 pm	1.00	Presenting the Mitigation Argument to a Jury	Tyrone Moncriffe
3:45 pm		<i>Adjourn</i>	