

Mitigating Dispositions in Juvenile Cases

Houston, Texas: Friday, January 29, 2027: 7.25 CLE including 1.00 Ethics

Course Director

Tressa Surratt - Houston

Overview

Effective juvenile defense requires a holistic approach. This program equips attorneys with practical strategies for representing youth through mitigation, education advocacy, community-based alternatives, and trauma-informed defense. Topics include limiting probation involvement, working with Guardians ad Litem, advocating for Dual Status Youth, using school law in negotiations, defending juvenile sex offense cases, and mitigating juvenile capital cases. Gain the tools and resources needed to achieve better outcomes for young clients.

Agenda – Friday, January 29, 2027

- 7:00 am *Registration & Coffee*
- 7:45 am *Opening Remarks*
- 8:00 am Introduction to Holistic Defense in Juvenile Cases ~ **Mollie Wade**
- 8:30 am Connecting Youth to Community Resources & Limiting Probation Involvement ~ **Cindy Castelan**
- 9:00 am Working with a Guardian Ad Litem When the Youth's Parent/Guardian is Incapable or Unwilling to Make Best Interest Decisions ~ **Jacky Varela**
- 10:00 am Mitigation in Juvenile Cases ~ **Rachel McDanie**
- 11:00 am *Lunch Line Begins*
- 11:15 am *Lunch Presentation:* Using School Law in Negotiations: Understanding School Discipline & Special Education & Using Information to Your Client's Advantage ~ **Julie Rogers**
- 12:30 pm Dual Status Youth: Advocating for DFPS Placement & Services Over Juvenile Probation Services (*Ethics*) ~ **Ryan Mitchell**
- 1:30 pm Juvenile Sex Offenses ~ **Casey O'Neil, PhD.**
- 3:00 pm Mitigating Juvenile Capital Cases ~ **Andrea DeVinney**
- 4:00 pm *Adjourn*

Registration | Materials

Registration before 1/15/2027

- ☐ **\$40** (for all classes, meals, and materials)
[*General Enrollment Information](#)
 - ☐ Criminal Defense Lawyer
 - ☐ Judge
 - ☐ Student
 - ☐ Mitigation Specialist
 - ☐ Paralegal
 - ☐ Investigator
 - ☐ Legal Assistant
 - ☐ Social Worker
 - ☐ Other

- ☐ **Vegetarian Meal Option***

*No accommodations will be made onsite. If you have dietary needs not covered by the vegetarian option, please contact register@tcdla.com.

- ☐ **\$80** (onsite registration after 1/15/27)

[*General Enrollment Information](#)

Unable to pay tuition? E-mail mschank@tcdla.com to request tuition assistance.

Meeting | Lodging Location

The meeting will be held at The Whitehall Hotel located at 1700 Smith St., Houston, TX 77002. The TCDLA room rate is \$128 for a single or double room. Call the hotel at (713) 739-8800 and **refer to "TCDLA" to receive the group rate.** The group rate is available until **January 13, 2027, or until room block is full, whichever occurs first.**

Register - Payment Must Accompany Registration

Online www.tcdla.com

Phone 512.478.2514

Fax 512.469.0512

Email register@tcdla.com

Mail 6808 Hill Meadow Dr | Austin, TX 78736

WWW.TCDLA.COM

This course is funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, or special prosecutors MUST request in advance a special exception to this policy be granted by prior approval from the Course Directors and an Officer of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Requests for consideration MUST be submitted in advance at least 14 days before the seminar begins by emailing mschank@tcdla.com; no onsite exceptions will be made.

Contact Information

Name _____

Bar Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Cell _____ Phone _____

Join TCDLA #tcdlastrong #onevoice

☐ New Member or Second-Year Member \$100

Endorser Name: _____

☐ Renew Membership \$180

☐ Public Defender \$60

☐ prefer not to participate in 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 emailing mduarte@tcdla.com or by checking the opt-out option above.

Payment ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card 4% Convenience Fee will be applied

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ CCV _____

General Information

[General Enrollment Information](#)

Please read before registering: Because TCDLA cannot sustain its present operations solely with grant funds and the nominal fees it assesses for tuition, meals, and/or travel stipends. The additional voluntary fee, which is deposited as private funds, will be used for expenses that exceed what is allowed under state grant guidelines for participant food and lodging costs as well as staff salaries and benefits.

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). Registrants who paid tuition and are not entitled to a refund will receive the course materials. Tuition waiver recipients must attend the program to receive materials. Tax Notice: \$20 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. deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deducted as an ordinary business expense.

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.