

Raising the Bar – Setting Up the Appeal & Capital Murder Training

Houston, TX: February 12-13, 2026

Raising the Bar – Setting the Appeal: Whether this is your first brief or your hundredth brief, as defenders, we can all be better. This seminar will focus on elevating your appellate practice to the next level. Hear from some of the best in the field on ways to better your practice.

Thursday, February 12, 2026

(full agenda online)

CLE: 7.25, including 1.00 Ethics

- 8:00 am *Opening Remarks*
- 8:15 am Jury Charge Issues on Appeal
- 9:00 am Recent Case Law
- 10:15 am PDRs: Where is the Law Heading?
- 11:15 am A View from the Bench (*Ethics*)
- 12:30 pm *Lunch Presentation:* Keeping Up the Fight
- 1:45 pm TRAP Issues—Part 2
- 2:30 pm Making Your Record—Motions for New Trial
- 3:30 pm Small Group Discussions: The Brief Writing Process
- 4:30 pm *Adjourn*

9th Annual Harris County Capital Murder

Training: Research shows that capital defendants are made, not born. They are made by the circumstances in which they are raised, the culture they learn, the mental capacities they inherit, the drugs they are exposed to, and the coping skills they develop as they mature.

Friday, February 13, 2026

(full agenda online)

CLE: 7.00, including 2.00 Ethics

- 8:45 am *Opening Remarks*
- 9:00 am Trial Preparation in Capital Cases
- 10:00 am Understanding Firearms
- 11:15 am Organizing Massive Amounts of Evidence & Dealing with Punishment
- 12:45 pm Extraneous Offenses of the Decedent Under 404(b) (*Ethics*)
- 1:45 pm Lesser-Included Offenses
- 3:00 pm Pointers from a Veteran—How to Provide Effective Assistance of Trial Counsel (*Ethics*)
- 4:00 pm Voir Dire Strategies
- 5:00 pm *Adjourn*

Registration

Registration before 1/29/2026	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raising the Bar – Appellate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capital Murder Training
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0 – no show fee of \$50 will be charged (law enforcement not allowed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal Defense Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> PD Investigator <input type="checkbox"/> Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Add on Vegetarian Meal Option* - \$5 <small>*No accommodations will be made after the cut-off date.</small>
On-site lunches are limited and may not be available	

Register:

Online www.tcdla.com
Phone 512.478.2514
Fax 512.469.0512
Mail 6808 Hill Meadow Drive | Austin, Texas 78736

Questions ? Email register@tcdla.com or call 512.478.2514. Include the program name in the subject.

Lodging & Meeting Location

The meeting will be held at the Cambria Hotel Houston Downtown, located at 1314 Texas Ave., Houston, Texas 77002. The TCDLA room rate is \$128 for a single/double room. Call the hotel at (713) 222-2100 and **refer to “TCDLA” to receive the group rate. The group rate is available until January 21, 2026 or until room block is full, whichever occurs first.**

www.tcdla.com

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



Contact

Name _____
 Bar Number _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____

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☐ New Member and Second-Year Member \$100

Endorser Name: _____ \$180

☐ Renew Membership \$60

☐ Public Defender

☐ 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

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ CVV _____

General Information

(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).

Registration Fees: Pre-registration fees for CDLP events total \$40. Of that amount, \$5 is collected as tuition for attending a grant-funded training event. Onsite registration fees total \$80, of that amount \$5 is collected as tuition for attending a grant-funded training event. It is used to supplement grant funds and is limited in use by grant restrictions. The other \$35 (onsite \$75) is an overhead fee that TCDLA has voluntarily chosen to bridge the gap between what state grant funding can provide and increasing costs. 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: \$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.

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.