



GIDEONS PROMISE – FIDL ALUMNI
April 24-25, 2026
Alumni Training
Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, Texas

Friday, April 24, 2026

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Registration
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Welcome & Agenda Overview <i>Executive Learning Center</i> <i>Alumni meet to receive an overview of the training activities for the program.</i>
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	GP FIDL Alumni Statewide Legal Strategy Session <i>Executive Learning Center</i> <i>Alumni convene to meet each other, to share and discuss legal victories and challenges they have experienced in the last six months, and to discuss leadership issues.</i>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Trauma Informed Practice <i>Executive Learning Center</i> <u>Session Description:</u> <i>Presentation topics will include the science of trauma, how trauma affects people over time, how to interact with a person with a history of trauma, and improving legal advocacy on behalf of clients with a history of trauma</i>
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Pretrial Mental Health Hearings: Competency and Civil Commitment <i>Executive Learning Center</i> <u>Session Description:</u> <i>This session provides an overview of litigating competency, forcible medication hearings, and civil commitment.</i>
5:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Group Convenes <i>Executive Learning Center</i> <i>Large group convening of alumni to debrief lessons of the day and to prepare for next day's programming.</i>
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Community Dinner

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00 am – 9:00 pm Breakfast

**10:00 am – 11:00 am Litigating a DNA Case
Executive Learning Center**

Session Description: This presentation will provide attorneys with a solid understanding of DNA evidence and how to understand the reports provided by the crime lab. We will discuss what to look for when you are informed there is biological evidence linking your client to a crime. You will learn both the basics of DNA as well as more advanced topics which will provide attendees with a solid foundation for their next DNA case. Attendees will learn about different approaches to mount a strong if not successful defense against DNA testimony offered against your client.

11:00 am – 11:15 am Break

**11:15 am - 12:15 pm Forensic Evidence: Gearing up for the Challenge
Executive Learning Center**

Session Description: This session will discuss how to prepare to challenge forensic evidence at trial, with discussion about resources, discovery requests, investigations, and motions, in an attempt to demystify cases that purport to involve "science."

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Goodbyes & Lunch Program
Large group session where alumni share parting words and goodbyes with each other.