

2nd Annual Harris County Capital Murder Seminar

Friday, May 3, 2019

8:30 am – 4:45 pm

First Court of Appeals Courtroom

301 Fannin

Hosted by Mark Hochglaube and Jerald Graber

Sponsored by TCDLA

Approved for 7 hours of Criminal Law and Capital Murder CLE, with 2 hours of Ethics

This seminar is free!

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Gerald Bourque
Out-of-County Capitals

Mr. Bourque is a board-certified criminal defense lawyer, handling first-chair capital murder cases in Harris County and its surrounding counties. He will discuss the differences in handling cases outside of Harris County -- from the various appointment systems and court schedules to the prosecutorial and jury cultures and biases. He also will discuss his recent "NG" on a capital in a surrounding county.

9:15 am – 10:00 am

Peter Stout, CEO Houston Forensic Science Center

Dr. Stout, HFSC's CEO and president, has more than 15 years of experience in forensic science and forensic toxicology. He will discuss the importance of HFSC's independence from law enforcement and the resources it has available to defense attorneys upon request.

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Hon. Elsa Alcala, Policy Director, Texas Defender Service
Legislative Update

Judge Alcala has been a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, a justice on the First Court of Appeals, and a judge of the 338th District Court of Harris County. She is now the policy director for the Texas Defender Service and will discuss all pertinent legislative activity from the 2019 legislative session. She also will discuss a recent Supreme Court case that defines how to determine intellectual disability.

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

R.P. (Skip) Cornelius
Capital Jury Selection Ethics (ethics)

Mr. Cornelius has tried more capital cases to verdict than any other lawyer in the State of Texas. He is board certified and certified to sit first chair in death penalty capital murder trials. Prior to working as a defense attorney, he worked as a prosecutor at the Harris County District Attorney's Office. He will be discussing the intricacies of individual voir dire in death penalty capital murder trials.

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm **LUNCH - generously provided by TCDLA**

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm **Jerald Graber**
Motions and Orders on Mental Health Issues

Mr. Graber is a board-certified criminal defense lawyer, handling first-chair capital murder cases in Harris County. He has tried many capital cases where competency and intellectual disability were the main issues litigated. He will discuss the logistics of handling capital cases with mental health issues.

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm **Randi Chavez and Miranda Nolen, Texas Defender Service**
State Assistance in Death Penalty Cases

Ms. Chavez is the Director of Mitigation and Investigation, and Ms. Nolen is a Mitigation Specialist for the Texas Defender Service. They will discuss the many ways TDS can assist capital practitioners.

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm **Break**

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm **Dr. Dwayne Wolf, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences**
Institute of Forensic Sciences Offerings

Dr. Wolf is the head pathologist at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science, Harris County's entity that performs all autopsies. He will discuss the importance of independence at the IFS and the Institute's availability to assist criminal defense practitioners.

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm **John "Casey" Keirnan**
From Pretrial Preparation through Trial

Mr. Keirnan has been handling first-chair capital murder cases in Harris County and surrounding counties for decades. He is well known for his folksy style and his ability to connect with jurors. He is one of the few capital lawyers to receive the big "NG" from a jury. He will discuss a broad range of strategies that have been proven successful in capital cases.

4:00 pm – 4:45 pm **Andy Drumheller, partner, Drumheller, Hollingsworth & Monthy**
Ethically Dealing with Media Intensive Cases (ethics)

Mr. Drumheller has handled several high-publicity cases and has in-depth experience in responding to media inquiries. He will discuss the ethical considerations involved in high-profile cases.