



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

CAPITAL

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Location Hyatt Regency Riverwalk, 123 Losoya St., San Antonio, TX 78205
Rio Grande Ballroom

Course Directors Patrick McCann & David Ryan

Total CLE Hours 7.00 Ethics: 1.00

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Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
8:00 am		<i>Registration & Continental Breakfast</i>	
8:25 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Course Directors
8:30 am	1.00	Strategic Use of Experts & Challenging Junk Science: Best practices for integrating experts into defense strategy and confronting unreliable forensic evidence, with updates tailored for Texas practitioners.	Dr. Evan Matshes
9:30 am	1.00	Post Conviction: 10 Things Trial Counsel Should Do	Sarah Brandon
10:30 am	0.50	Mitigation & Lessers: A focused look at using mitigation early & pursuing lesser.	Nicole VanToorn
11:00 am	0.50	Mitigation & Negotiating Capital Pleas: Negotiating capital pleas, with lessons from teams who secured LWOP outcomes, structured proffers, & managed victim-family dynamics.	Jeff Wax
11:30 am		<i>Lunch Line</i>	
12:00 pm	1.00 <i>Ethics</i>	Lunch Presentation: The Cost of Carrying Criminal Defense Work: Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, & sustaining a long-term career in Criminal Defense.	David Guinn, Jr.
1:00 pm		<i>Break</i>	
1:15 pm	1.00	IDD - Recognizing & Litigating at All Levels: How to identify IDD in capital cases & effectively raise these issues at every stage of litigation.	Pat McCann & Dr. Greg Hupp
2:15 pm		<i>Break</i>	
2:35 pm	1.00	Neuropsychology: Trauma & Narrative Development	Dr. Antolin Llorente
3:35 pm	1.00	Jury Selection, Case Resolution & Sentencing Psychology: A comprehensive look at effective voir dire strategies in capital cases, lessons from recent high-profile trials, & approaches for working collaboratively with clients on resolutions short of trial. This session also explores new research on how jurors understand mitigation & aggravation during sentencing, offering practical insights Texas defense teams can use to shape strategy from jury selection through punishment.	Carlos Garcia
4:35 pm		<i>Adjourn</i>	