



# 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 &amp; Continental Breakfast</i>	
8:25 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Course Directors
8:30 am	1.00	<b>Strategic Use of Experts &amp; Challenging Junk Science:</b> 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	<b>Post Conviction:</b> 10 Things Trial Counsel Should Do	Sarah Brandon
10:30 am	0.50	<b>Mitigation &amp; Lessers:</b> A focused look at using mitigation early & pursuing lesser.	Nicole VanToorn
11:00 am	0.50	<b>Mitigation &amp; Negotiating Capital Pleas:</b> 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>	<b>Lunch Presentation: The Cost of Carrying Criminal Defense Work:</b> 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	<b>IDD - Recognizing &amp; Litigating at All Levels:</b> 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	<b>Trauma &amp; Narrative Development:</b> How to use trauma-informed interviewing, cultural awareness, & narrative techniques to build meaningful client stories in mitigation.	Dr. Antolin Llorente
3:35 pm	1.00	<b>Jury Selection, Case Resolution &amp; Sentencing Psychology:</b> 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>	