



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

TRAINERS AGENDA AND FEEDBACK

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date **Wednesday, July 22, 2026**
Location **Margaritaville Beach Resort | 310 Padre Boulevard, SPI, TX 78597**
Course Directors **Patty Tress & Thomas Wynne**
Total CLE Hours **5.00** Ethics: 0.00

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

CLE Hours: 5.00 Ethics: 0.00

Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
7:30 am		<i>Registration & Continental Breakfast</i>	
8:00 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Patty Tress & Thomas Wynne
8:15 am	.75	Storytelling <ul style="list-style-type: none">Structuring a Clear, Persuasive Presentation.Effective frameworks: problem-solution, timeline/case-study, rule-application-analysis.Crafting a concise opening (hook + roadmap) and a memorable closing (takeaways + call to action). Time management and pacing for CLE-format talks.	John Hunter Smith
9:00 am	.75	Writing an Effective Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing Compelling, Credible Content.Selecting cases, statutes, empirical data, and ethical considerations.Balancing advocacy with objectivity and CLE compliance.Use of storytelling and real-world examples.Checklist for legal accuracy and citation standards.	Andrew Decker
9:45 am	1.00	Audience Analysis & Tailoring Content <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify typical criminal defense audiences (private counsel, public defenders, MAC).Strategies to assess attendee knowledge level and needs.Adapting legal content, complexity, and tone for practitioners vs. multidisciplinary audiences.Knowing your jurisdiction, audience and concerns/challenges.Short exercise: outline three learning objectives for a chosen target audience.Time management.How to manage hostile audience members, difficult questions.	Annie Scott
10:45 am		<i>Break</i>	



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

TRAINERS AGENDA AND FEEDBACK

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date **Wednesday, July 22, 2026**
Location **Margaritaville Beach Resort | 310 Padre Boulevard, SPI, TX 78597**
Course Directors **Patty Tress & Thomas Wynne**
Total CLE Hours **5.00** Ethics: 0.00

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

CLE Hours: 5.00 Ethics: 0.00

11:00 am	1.00	Next Level Mastering Media/Visuals in Presentations & Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designing clear slides for lawyers: minimal text, meaningful visuals, callouts for key citations.• Tips for hybrid/virtual presentations, troubleshooting AV, and using creative tools.• Quick review: slide dos and don'ts checklist. Effectively using AI	Blakely Mohr
12:00 am		<i>Lunch Line</i>	
12:30 am		<i>Lunch Discussion: Signing Up for Future Seminars</i> CDLP Theme, Mental Health, Capital, Forensics etc., Pair with a partner from CDLP, speaker expectations	Thomas Wynne & Melissa Schank
12:45 pm		<i>Break/Signing Up for Events</i>	
1:00 pm	1.50	AI in Law: Tools, Tactics, Ethical Traps & Practical Prompting Explore how to ethically leverage AI tools to boost productivity and avoid critical errors in your legal practice. In this fast-paced workshop, criminal defense attorneys will learn advanced prompting strategies, including RAG, few0shot, & develop defense strategies.	J. Miguel Guhlin
2:30 pm		<i>Adjourn Lunch Line</i>	



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

GUARDIANS OF SACRED JUSTICE SPI

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date July 23-24, 2026
Location Margaritaville Beach Resort SPI – 310 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX, 78597
Course Patty Tress, Thomas Wynne, & Bobby Lerma
Total CLE 6.00 Ethics: 1.00

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Daily CLE Hours: 3.0 Ethics: 0.0

Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
8:00 am		<i>Continental Breakfast & Registration</i>	
8:30 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Patty Tress
8:45 am	.75	Pre-trial Investigation/Mitigation One must prepare and investigate your case to help your client and protect their rights. Additionally, by doing so, you will also be able to prepare mitigation in case of punishment.	Porscha Brown
9:30 am	1.00	Jury Selection You are in trial due to negotiations breaking down or being unsuccessful. That is ok, not all cases can be negotiated. Now what? Jury selection: This is where you will speak with the panel about all those sacred rights everyone has and through your preparation begin laying the groundwork for your trial theme.	Monroe Solomon
10:15 am		<i>Break</i>	
10:30 am	.75	Opening & Closing Weave your theme through your case and pepper it with those sacred rights to help the jury understand where the state has gone wrong.	Lara Bracamonte Davila
11:15 am	.75	Technology How to make technology work for you to help your client.	Amanda Webb
12:00 pm		<i>Adjourn</i>	
12:30 pm		<i>Beach BBQ with Bobby Lerma & the Boca Chica Beach Boys</i>	



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

GUARDIANS OF SACRED JUSTICE SPI

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date July 23-24, 2026
Location Margaritaville Beach Resort SPI – 310 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX, 78597
Course Patty Tress, Thomas Wynne, & Bobby Lerma
Total CLE 6.00 Ethics: 1.00

Friday, July 24, 2026

Daily CLE Hours: 3.00 Ethics: 1.0

Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
8:00 am		<i>Continental Breakfast & Registration</i>	
8:30 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Patty Tress
8:45 am	1.00 <i>Ethics</i>	Mental Health & Ethics Guiding your client through the process of the criminal justice system. Guarding your client's privacy and rights, while helping them navigate the system. Making sure to set boundaries and communicating with all types of clients. Recognizing mental health issues in clients – what you need to ask and file.	Kellye Fernandez
9:45 am	.75	Statutory Defenses How to use them to guard your client, your burden of proof and making them work for your case.	Chris Fredericks
10:45 am		<i>Break</i>	
11:00 am	1.00	Cross-Examination When guarding clients' rights, the most important thing is to tell their story. Learn the art of doing this through cross-examination.	Laurie Key
12:00 pm		<i>Adjourn</i>	