



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR DEFENDING THE WRONGFULLY ACCUSED

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date Wednesday, August 5-6, 2026
Location Wyndham Garden Austin – 3401 I-35 Frontage Rd, Austin, TX 78741
Course Directors Mehr Singh & Patty Tress
Total CLE Hours 8.75 Ethics: 1.25

Wednesday, August 5, 2026			Daily CLE Hours: 5.50	Ethics: 0.50
Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker	
11:00 am		Registration		
11:30 am		Lunch Line		
12:00 pm		Opening Remarks	Mehr Singh & Patty Tress	
12:15 pm	.50	Protecting the Truth: Cocktail Answers Why We Do What We Do, decline cases, First Generation Lawyer, lawyer lingo, The Do's and Don'ts. What you should wear and how to build a network.	Mehr Singh	
12:45 pm	1.00	Probation/Parole: Who is eligible and how not to get probation – What you need to do if you get probation, know the terms, lengths, and consequences – the difference between deferred, PTI's and probation. When your client is eligible for Parole and rules for time (government code)	Staci Krause	
1:45 pm	.75	Hidden Impacts to Prevent Unfair Outcomes: Collateral Consequences Including fundamental Crimmigration consequences (PTD), military join or CDL all aspects, class c with family violence, knowing if your client is on parole/probation	Jordon Pollock	
2:30 pm	.50 <i>Ethics</i>	Ethics to Prevent Harmful Client Outcomes: How to get paid, retainer agreement, IOTA, advertising, communicating with clients (payments, advertising, fee.)	Paul Tu	
3:00 pm		Break – Check into hotel		
3:30 pm	.50	Advocating for Right Result & Effective Early Case Strategies: Negotiation Tools Developing Relationships with Prosecutors for Better Negotiations, Pre-Filed vs. Post-Filed Negotiations, Investigating and Preparing Grand Jury Packets	Aaron Diaz	
4:00 pm	1.00	Client 101 & How to get 2nd Chair Experience: What you ought to be asking clients, initial interview and questions, holistic defense and keeping your client out of the system, setting boundaries with clients, what to do with behavior – client control, relationship building with the client, sit down in detail client dress, what to do when	Sarah Kannel & Jessica Lieck	



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your client doesn't show up to court. How to get Experience 2nd Chair – organize notes, challenge for cause, how to take notes in voir dire in second chairs, how to get experience as second chair, how to get on the list, court appointments and qualify basics not area specifics.

5:00 pm	.50	Motions vs Notices Practice: When it has to be a Motion vs Notice Discovery 39.14, filing pretrial motions 20+ and when it's not needed when to file or not file, Directive Verdict	Anne Burnham
5:30 pm		<i>Dinner Line</i>	
6:00 pm	.75	Building the Team: Expectations and how to get fact investigators, mitigation specialists and experts – working together as a team	Katherine Mayer
6:45 pm		<i>Adjourn</i>	

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Daily CLE Hours: 3.25 Ethics: 0.75

8:00 am		<i>Breakfast</i>	
8:15 am	.75	Voir Dire Basics: Basics of Strikes, jury selection, burden of proof, presumption of innocence, range of punishment, essential PowerPoint slides.	Jason Parrish
9:00 am	.75 <i>Ethics</i>	Difficult Cases and Ethical Considerations: How to deal with these kinds of cases and ethical considerations. True stories of recantations in child sex cases. From looking for your client, going to client's home, sharing with family case items, assisting with mental health clients and what it looks like, burn out, resources available and where to find them for mental health/resources.	Patty Tress
9:45 am	.75	Office Management & Marketing: Learn how to get clients, organize your office, and marketing 101	Annie Scott
10:30 am	1.00	Round Table Discussion: Criminal Defense	Facilitated by Speakers
11:30 am		<i>Lunch Line: To-go Box</i>	