

Essential Strategies for Defending the Wrongfully Accused

Austin, Texas: August 5-6, 2026, 8.75 CLE including 1.25 Ethics

Course Directors

Mehr Singh – Lubbock
Patty Tress – Denton

Overview

This program equips new and developing criminal defense lawyers with the core skills needed to protect the truth, prevent wrongful outcomes, and advocate effectively for clients. Through engaging sessions on professionalism, probation and parole, hidden collateral consequences, ethical practice, negotiation strategies, client communication, second-chair experience, teamwork with investigators and experts, motions practice, voir dire, and managing difficult cases, attendees gain practical tools to safeguard the innocent and navigate the system with integrity. The seminar concludes with guidance on office management and marketing, ensuring participants leave with a well-rounded foundation for building a strong, ethical, client-centered practice.

Agenda

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

- 11:00 am *Registration*
11:30 am *Lunch Line*
12:00 pm *Opening Remarks*
12:15 pm **Protecting the Truth: Cocktail Answers** ~ Mehr Singh
12:15 pm **Probation/Parole** ~ Staci Krause
1:45 pm **Hidden Impacts to Prevent Unfair Outcomes: Collateral Consequences** ~ Aglae Eufrancio
2:30 pm **Ethics to Prevent Harmful Client Outcomes** ~ Paul Tu
3:30 pm **Advocating for Right Result & Effective Early Case Strategies: Negotiation Tools** ~ Aaron Diaz
4:00 pm **Client 101 & How to get 2nd Chair Experience** ~ Sarah Kannel & Jessica Lieck
5:00 pm **Motions vs Notices Practice** ~ Anne Burnham
5:30 pm *Dinner Line*
6:00 pm **Building the Team** ~ Katherine Mayer
6:45 pm *Adjourn*

Thursday, August 6, 2026

- 8:00 am *Breakfast*
8:15 am **Voir Dire Basics** ~ Jason Parrish
9:00 am **Difficult Cases and Ethical Considerations** ~ Patty Tress
9:45 am **Office Management & Marketing** ~ Annie Scott
10:30 am **Roundtable Discussion**
11:30 am *Adjourn - Lunch To-Go Box*

Travel Stipends

TCDLA will reimburse travel expenses (flight, Ubers, rental car & fuel, or mileage at the standard mileage-rate) **up to \$250**. Anything beyond that is the registrant's obligation. Registrant should make their own travel arrangements; reimbursement forms will be provided at the on-site registration.

Hotel | Meeting Location

TCDLA will cover the hotel cost for Wednesday, August 5, 2026. **Attendees are responsible for calling the hotel and making a room reservation in our block and guaranteeing the room.** TCDLA will move the room to the direct bill upon attendees' arrival.

The meeting will be held at The Wyndham Garden Austin, located at 3401 South I-35 Austin, TX 78741. The TCDLA room rate is \$129 for a single/double room. Call the Wyndham Garden Hotel at (737) 304-0630 and refer to "TCDLA" to receive the group rate. The group rate is available until July 22, 2026 or until room block is full, whichever occurs first.

Registration | Materials

Registration before 7/22/2026

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 (for all classes, meals, and materials) *General Enrollment Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Defense Lawyer<input type="checkbox"/> Judge<input type="checkbox"/> Student<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation Specialist<input type="checkbox"/> Paralegal<input type="checkbox"/> Investigator<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Assistant<input type="checkbox"/> Social Worker<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Vegetarian Meal Option* - \$5 *No accommodations will be made after the cut-off date.
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$80 (onsite registration after 7/22/2026) *General Enrollment Information

Unable to pay tuition? E-mail mschank@tcdla.com to request tuition assistance.

Register - Payment Must Accompany Registration

Online www.tcdla.com
Phone 512.478.2514
Fax 512.469.0512
Email register@tcdla.com
Mail 6808 Hill Meadow Dr | Austin, TX 78736

WWW.TCDLA.COM

This course is funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Contact Information

Name _____

Bar Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Cell _____ Phone _____

Join TCDLA #tcdlastrong #onevoice

- New Member or Second-Year Member \$100
Endorser Name: _____
 Renew Membership \$180
 Public Defender \$60

prefer not to participate in auto renewal

For your convenience, TCDLA uses AUTO RENEWAL for all membership dues, using your checking account or credit card. You will be automatically enrolled in the auto renewal program so you do not have to do anything while continuing to enjoy membership benefits every year! You can always opt out of auto-renewal anytime by simply emailing mduarte@tcdla.com or by checking the opt-out option above.

Payment Check Credit Card 4% Convenience Fee Applied

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ CVV _____

General Information

NOTE: Please read before registering: you may not register for this program if you are, or are working for, or are affiliated, clerking or interning with: a full-time law enforcement officer, a full or part-time state or federal prosecutor, or if you are a full or part-time criminal defense attorney who is currently acting as a prosecutor or special prosecutor in a capital case. CDLP programs are for criminal defense lawyers and supporting staff who regularly represent indigent Defendants. (unfortunately, no exceptions).

*Tuition will be used to cover future expenses of TCDLA's grant programs or to provide for items that the grant cannot sufficiently cover.

**Voluntary contributions go to support The Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA), a nonprofit organization, and will go directly to TCDLA's private fund account.

CDLP CANCELLATION POLICY: To receive a refund-less 10% processing fee-cancellations must be received in writing 14 days prior to the seminar (email kpreston@tcdla.com). Registrants who paid tuition and are not entitled to a refund will receive the course materials. Tuition waiver recipients must attend the program to receive materials.

Tax Notice: \$36 of your annual dues (\$19 if a student member) is for a one year subscription to the VOICE for the Defense. Dues to TCDLA are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deducted as an ordinary business expense.