



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

FULL COURT DEFENSE: WINNING CRIMINAL DEFENSE STRATEGIES

SEMINAR INFORMATION

Date: Friday, September 18, 2026

Location: Sheraton McKinney Hotel | 1900 Gateway Blvd., McKinney, TX 75070

Course Directors: Thomas Wynne, Amanda Hernandez, Kyle Therrian, & John Hunter Smith

Total CLE Hours: 6.00 Ethics: 1.00

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Time	CLE	Topic	Speaker
7:45 am		<i>Registration & Coffee</i>	
8:00 am		<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Course Directors
8:15 am	1.00	Pre-Trial Investigation & Mitigation: Setting Up the Play Cases are won before tip-off. You cannot out-perform poor preparation. This session focuses on thorough pre-trial investigation to protect your client's rights and strengthen the defense. Attendees will learn how early preparation not only shapes trial strategy but also builds effective mitigation in the event of punishment, positioning the defense for success at every stage of the case.	
9:15 am	1.00	Jury Selection: Scouting the Roster and Picking the Team When negotiations break down, trial is the next step and that's okay. This session focuses on jury selection as the foundation of your case, where you engage the panel on fundamental rights and begin establishing your trial narrative and theme through purposeful, strategic voir-dire.	
10:15 am		<i>Break</i>	
10:30 am	1.00	Opening & Closing: From Tip-Off to Final Buzzer Learn how to weave your case theme from opening statement through closing argument, using your client's constitutional rights to frame the story. This session focuses on helping the jury see where the State missed its shots and why the defense prevails when the final buzzer sounds.	
11:30 am	1.00	Technology: Court Vision- Leveraging Technology in Case Presentation This session covers how to effectively use technology to support your defense, streamline presentation, and enhance advocacy—making sure your tools work for you and ultimately benefit your client.	
12:30 am		<i>Lunch Line</i>	
12:45 pm	1.00 <i>Ethics</i>	Lunch Presentation: Protecting the Player: Mental Health Time Out & Ethics This session covers how to guide clients through the criminal justice process while protecting their rights and privacy. Topics include effective communication, setting boundaries, and recognizing mental health issues, including key questions to ask and necessary filings.	
1:45 pm	1.00	Making & Meeting Objections: The Defensive Playbook This session provides a practical evidentiary playbook for making and responding to objections in real time, helping you protect the record, maintain momentum, and keep your case moving forward.	
2:45 pm	1.00	Cross-Examination: Forcing the Turnover When guarding a client's rights, the most important task is telling their story. This session focuses on the art of using cross-examination to control the narrative, expose weaknesses in the State's case, and present your client's theory through effective, strategic questioning.	
3:45 pm		<i>Adjourn</i>	