

CDLP Chairs

Chair: Thomas Wynne (Dallas)

Vice Chair: Amanda Hernandez (San Antonio)

OVERVIEW

This CLE provides practical strategies for criminal defense lawyers at every stage of a case, from pre-trial investigation through trial advocacy. Sessions cover jury selection, opening and closing arguments, technology, objections, cross-examination, and client-centered ethics and mental health considerations. Designed to sharpen skills and strengthen advocacy, this program equips attorneys to deliver a complete defense from tip-off to final buzzer.

TOPICS (UPDATED AGENDAS ONLINE)

6.00 CLE, Including 1.00 Ethics

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.

Jury Selection — Scouting the Roster & 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.

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.

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.

Mental Health & Ethics — 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.

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.

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.

www.tcdla.com

Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, or special prosecutors MUST request in advance a special exception to this policy be granted by prior approval from the Course Directors and an Officer of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Requests for consideration MUST be submitted in advance at least 14 days before the seminar begins by emailing mschank@tcdla.com; no onsite exceptions will be made.



FULL COURT DEFENSE

Winning Criminal Defense Strategies

Course Directors: John Hunter Smith & Kyle Therrian

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Bar Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell #: _____ Phone #: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

RESERVE MY SPACE/MATERIALS

Register now to save \$\$\$ for 2026–2027 CDLP seminars. Onsite rate will be increased to \$80.

Check all that apply:

- \$40, including \$20 tuition (for all classes, meals, and materials) plus \$20 TCDLA offset CDLP expenses.
- Texas criminal defense lawyer who regularly represents indigent defendants
- Texas Judge Paralegal Social Worker Law School Student
- Mitigation specialist Legal assistant Investigator Public Defender
- I have special needs and have listed them below:
 - vegetarian lunch (Not available Onsite)
 - other: _____

Special needs or financially unable to pay contact: smartinez@tcdla.com

JOIN TCDLA: ONE VOICE — STAND WITH TCDLA!

TCDLA Membership Fees (renew or join as a new member)

- New member & second-year renewal \$100 | Endorser (Required by a current TCDLA Member): _____
- Prefer not to participate in auto-renewal Renew membership \$180

TCDLA 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 contacting TCDLA by emailing mduarte@tcdla.com or by checking the opt-out option above.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check Credit Card Total: _____
4% Convenience Fee will be applied.

Please read before registering: You may not register for this program if you are a full-time law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or currently acting as a prosecutor or special prosecutor in a capital case (unfortunately, no exceptions).

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.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____ CVC: _____

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM, QUESTIONS, OR SPECIAL NEEDS:

Call: 512.478.2514

Mail: 6808 Hill Meadow Dr., Austin, TX 78736

Fax: 512.469.0512

Online: www.TCDLA.com

Email: register@tcdla.com

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.

Media Consent: I hereby grant permission to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) to use photographs and/or video of me taken at this event in publications, news releases, online, and in other communications related to the mission of TCDLA.

Registration Fees: Pre-registration fees for CDLP events total \$40. Of that amount, \$20 is collected as tuition for attending a grant-funded training event. Onsite registration fees total \$80, of that amount \$40 is collected as tuition for attending a grant-funded training event. It is used to supplement grant funds and is limited in use by grant restrictions. The other \$20 (onsite \$40) is an overhead fee that TCDLA has voluntarily chosen to bridge the gap between what state grant funding can provide and increasing costs. TCDLA cannot sustain its present operations solely with grant funds and the nominal fees it assesses for tuition, meals, and/or travel stipends. The additional voluntary fee, which is deposited as private funds, will be used for expenses that exceed what is allowed under state grant guidelines for participant food and lodging costs as well as staff salaries and benefits.

September 18, 2026 • McKinney, TX

Sheraton McKinney Hotel

1900 Gateway Blvd. McKinney, TX 75070

**Bring Your
Defense Team!
Paralegals,
Investigators, Social
Workers, Mitigators, etc.**