



Guardians of Sacred Justice

Corpus Christi, Texas: 6.00 CLE, including 1.00 Ethics

Course Directors

- Danice Obregon - Corpus Christi
- Mario Olivarez - Corpus Christi
- Patty Tress - Denton

Overview

We are the Guardians of the Rights everyone holds most sacred. We must fight to protect those rights for everyone, especially those who are less fortunate and those who have a mental illness. We are the wall between our clients and the State of Texas. Remember, if you are not steadfast in protecting these sacred rights, the State will easily break down that wall and more harshly punish your client at all costs.

Agenda

Friday, September 26, 2025

- 7:45 am **Registration**
- 8:00 am **Opening Remarks**
- 8:15 am **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.
- 9:00 am **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.
- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:15 am **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.
- 11:00 am **Technology** | How to make technology work for you to help your client.
- 11:45 am **Lunch Line**
- 12:00 pm **Lunch Presentation: 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.
- 1:00 pm **Break**
- 1:15 pm **Statutory Defenses** | How to use them to guard your client, your burden of proof, and make them work for your case
- 2:00 pm **Cross-Examination** | When guarding client's rights, the most important thing is to tell their story. Learn the art of doing this through cross-examination.
- 3:00 pm **Adjourn**

Reserve My Space I Materials

Registration before 9/12/2025

- ☐ **\$40** (for all classes, meals, and materials)
[*General Enrollment Information](#)
- ☐ Criminal Defense Lawyer
- ☐ Judge ☐ Investigator
- ☐ Student ☐ Legal Assistant
- ☐ Mitigation Specialist ☐ Social Worker
- ☐ Paralegal ☐ Other
- ☐ Add on Vegetarian Meal Option* - \$5
- ☐ *No accommodations will be made after the cut-off date.
- ☐ **\$80** (onsite registration after 9/12/2025)
[*General Enrollment Information](#)

GUARDIANS



OF SACRED JUSTICE

This image was created by a family member at my request. I am a Native American member of the Lake Superior Band of Ojibwe, and I wanted to celebrate and honor my heritage in my role as CDLP Chair for TCDLA this year. - Patty Tress

Meeting/Lodging Location

The seminar will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi, located at 900 North Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401. Accommodations are \$149 per night, single/double. \$10 self-parking is available for overnight guests. **Hotel cut-off date is September 11, 2025, or until the block is full, whichever occurs first.** Please call (361) 887-1600 for reservations and mention TCDLA room block.

Register:

Online www.tcdla.com
Phone 512.478.2514
Fax 512.469.0512
Mail 6808 Hill Meadow Drive | Austin, Texas 78736

Questions & Concerns

Email: Smartinez@tcdla.com or call 512.478.2514

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 and Second-Year Member \$100

New Member endorser: _____

☐ Renew Membership \$180

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

Payment ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ CVC _____

General Information

(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).

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 \$20 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 remaining is an overhead fee that TCDLA has voluntarily chosen to bridge the gap between what state grant funding can provide and increasing costs. Because 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.

CANCELLATION POLICY: To receive a refund-less 10% processing fee-cancellations must be received in writing 14 days prior to the seminar (email kreston@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. 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.