



**HARRIS COUNTY CRIMINAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION** and  
**TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**



## **DONALD DAVIS SEMINAR**

### **DEALING WITH THE PRACTICE: BALANCE & ETHICS**

Date November 9, 2018  
Location First Court of Appeals, 301 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77002  
Course Director David Ryan  
Total CLE Hours 6.00 Ethics: 3.00

### **Seminar Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>CLE</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
10:00 am	1.0 (1.0 ethics)	Wellness for Lawyers	Chris Ritter <i>Texas Lawyers Assistance Program</i>
11:00 am	1.0 (0.25 ethics)	Addiction and Treatment	Marshall Geiser Alexandra Bumbraugh <i>Recovery Unplugged</i>
12:00 pm		BREAK - PICK UP LUNCH	
12:15 pm	1.0 (0.50 ethics)	Robes, Strike Force & Ethical Considerations	Mark Bennett
1:15 pm	1.0 (0.25 ethics)	Dealing with the Practice	Monique Sparks, Jen Gaut, Gemayel Haynes
2:15 pm		BREAK	
2:30 pm	1.0 (1.0 ethics)	Dealing with Difficult Clients	David Ryan
3:30 pm	1.0	Hurricane Harvey, 1 Year Later Lessons Learned	Damon Parrish II
4:30 pm		ADJOURN	

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**AND CDLP, A PROJECT OF TCDLA, PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS**

*In Loving Memory of*

## **Donald Ray Davis** (Dec 1956 – Jun 2000)



Donald Ray Davis graduated from Grambling High School, Louisiana. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kansas in 1977 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Ohio College of Law in 1980.

Donald joined the Harris County District Attorney's Office where he remained until 1985. He became the Chief Prosecutor in the 178th District Court. He then joined Connie B. Williams and Richard W Wilkinson, Jr. in private practice where he excelled in criminal defense work. Attorneys Lott J. Brooks III and Diana Olvera later joined him in practice.

He carried a heavy caseload including at least 30 capital murder cases where he secured life sentences for 11 defendants. In 1994 Donald was rated one of the Top 12 Criminal Defense Lawyers in Houston, Texas. In the 20 years that Donald practiced law, he built many firm and lasting relationships among his peers. His trial skills and quiet and courteous competency was unrivaled at the criminal courthouse. Eventually the life he spent defending the accused had taken its toll. In 2000, overwhelmed by back to back murder trials, Donald took his own life.

This seminar is aptly named for Donald Davis in the hopes of reaching out to lawyers who give their all to their clients while experiencing difficulties balancing their own lives with the practice of law, and/or who may be struggling with personal issues such as depression, addictions, or health problems.

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*We never know everything that lies behind a man's decision to end his own life. In the case of Donald Davis I think that it's natural for us, in our adversarial relationship with the judiciary, to blame them. I'm good with that. They worked him like a rented mule, and maybe if they had given him a chance to come up for air between trials he would still be with us today.*

*The defense of people charged with crimes can be isolating and brutalizing. We are charged with protecting society's most hated from the consequences, usually, of their own mistakes. Whether we care about our clients or not (and I think most of us usually do), we take it personally when we are not able to help them as much as we feel we should be able.*

*At the same time, most of us are sole practitioners, physically isolated from our brothers and sisters fighting the same fight. Nobody but us cares about us, but we don't always heed the flight attendants' admonition to put our own oxygen masks on first. Our health suffers—we suffer from depression, from alcoholism, from sedentary lifestyles, from poor diets and from divorce.*

*But if we don't take care of ourselves, we can't take care of the people whom we are charged with defending. It is with that in mind that HCCLA several years ago put on the first "dealing with the practice" seminar. We named it in honor of Donald Davis, so that his life would not go unremembered and his death would not be in vain.*

*The seminar is about helping yourself and your fellow criminal-defense lawyers so that we can all be better lawyers and have better lives.*

*Thank you for attending,*

*David Ryan  
Course Director*



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