

Key Information

The College

The College is an intensive program of practice exercises, enhanced by faculty demonstrations and personal supervision.

Enrollment is limited to 80 students, who are selected to participate by an application and registration process. A week before the College, students receive course materials simulating a case file, including police reports and witness statements. Preparation is essential because through the week students must try their own case, from jury selection to final argument.

A distinguished faculty member gives a brief lecture on the upcoming segment of the trial. Groups of eight, selected on the basis of experience level, then adjourn to separate classrooms to begin their videotaped exercises. Faculty members not only supervise the exercises but also critique the video performance with each student. Then, a faculty member particularly skilled in that area will present a demonstration to the entire group.

Some portion of each evening must be devoted to preparation for the next day but students and faculty are encouraged to eat together, get to know one another and exchange ideas.

The Mission

The best lawyers are those who recognize and accept their position as defenders, not only of individual clients, but also of the fragile system of checks and balances that ensures freedom for us all. Thus, this College emphasizes the spirit and camaraderie of criminal defense.

The Criminal Defense Lawyers Project has been an endeavor of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association for over 44 years. It is funded by a grant from the Judicial and Court Personnel Training Fund administered by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The purpose of the College is to promote efficient administration of criminal justice by providing training for lawyers to render effective assistance of counsel for indigent criminal defendants.

The Faculty

Only experienced trial lawyers are invited to teach at this College. Invited faculty are among the most successful criminal trial lawyers in the state. However, the best lawyers have the busiest schedules so it is inevitable that a few will not be able to attend and that some will stay for only a couple of days.

Note: Onsite registrations will not be accepted.

[www.tcdla.com]



Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
6808 Hill Meadow Drive
Austin, Texas 78736

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 2569
Austin, Texas

March 2-7, 2025
Huntsville, TX
Criminal Defense Lawyers Project

2025

48th Annual

Tim Evans Texas Criminal Trial College



www.tcdla.com

Details

Application and Registration Information

This course is designed for all ranges of criminal defense trial experience—from new to veterans to former prosecutors and to the attorney who wants to continue improving trial skills. The College is committed to responsible racial and gender balance. You must be prepared to devote your entire week to this course.

Applications will exceed enrollment, so you are encouraged to apply now. Initial acceptance will be made from applications received by the December 16th deadline. Later applicants will be placed on a ranked waiting list. You will be notified by January 17, 2025, if your application has been accepted.

Housing and Travel Accommodations

The course is conducted at the Texas Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. Participants will stay in the University Hotel adjacent to the Center. The cost of your hotel is included with the registration fee. TCDLA staff will only make your hotel reservations, if you will be staying at the University Hotel, two participants per room. Single rooms are available on request at Holiday Inn partner hotel, attendee will be responsible to make thier own reservation under the rooming block provided to them. Breakfast and lunch are provided, (dinner at own expense).

invited Faculty

Deans:		
Kerri Anderson Donica & Lance Evans		
Deans Emeritus:		
Lydia Clay-Jackson & Tim Evans		
Richard Anderson, Dallas	Theodore Hargrove, San Angelo	Sara Smitherman, Houston
Roberto Balli, Laredo	Michael Heiskell, Fort Worth	Mark Snodgrass, Lubbock
Heather Barbieri, Plano	Amanda Hernandez, San Antonio	Monique Sparks, Houston
Robert Barrera, San Antonio	John Hunter Smith, Sherman	Clay Steadman, Kerrville
Sam Bassett, Austin	Kameron Johnson, Austin	Stephanie Stevens, San Antonio
Elizabeth Berry, Abilene	Steve Keathley, Corsicana	Rebecca Tavitass, El Paso
Paul Blocker, Dallas	Laurie Key, Lubbock	Patty Tress, Denton
Anne Burnham, San Antonio	Adam Kobs, San Antonio	Ezekiel Tyson, Jr, Dallas
John Convery, San Antonio	Jim Lavine, Houston	Paul Tu, Houston
Jeep Darnell, El Paso	Brent Mayr, Houston	Rick Wardroup, Lubbock
Eric Davis, Houston	Dwight McDonald, Lubbock	Greg Westfall, Fort Worth
Nicole DeBorde Hochglaube, Houston	Bobby Mims, Tyler	Reagan Wynn, Fort Worth
Danny Easterling, Houston	Tyrone C. Moncrieffe, Houston	Thomas Wynne, Dallas
F.R. Buck Files, Tyler	David Moore, Longview	
Don Flanary, San Antonio	Tom Pappas, Dallas	
Rick Flores, Austin	Stephanie Patten, Fort Worth	
Lisa Greenberg, Corpus Christi	Scott Pawgan, San Antonio	
Michael Gross, San Antonio	Sarah Roland, Denton	
Rusty Gunter, Lubbock	Grant Scheiner, Houston	
David Guinn, Lubbock	Stan Schneider, Houston	
	Frank Sellers, Fort Worth	

Agenda

[37.50 CLE Hours, Including 1.00 Ethics]

Sunday, March 2

2:00 pm	Registration and Check-in
4:00 pm	Orientation, History and General Discussion of the Institute
	Lecture: Opening and Closing Arguments How to Start . . .
	Week Instructions and Q&A
4:45 pm	Developing a Theory of the Case
5:30 pm	The Fun of an Initial Lawyer/Client Interview
6:00 pm	Cultural Competence in the Courtroom (Including CS)
6:30 pm	Adjourn
7:00 pm	Group Dinner

Monday, March 3

7:30 am	Breakfast Provided
8:30 am	Lecture: Theater and the Lawyer in the Courtroom
9:15 am	Introductions, Group Activity, and Closing Argument Exercises
11:30 am	Lunch Provided
1:00 pm	Continue Closing Argument Exercises
3:30 pm	Demonstrations and Discussion: Closing Arguments
5:00 pm	Taking Care of Yourself
5:30 pm	Daily Evaluation & Adjourn
6:30 pm	Group Dinner

Tuesday, March 4

7:30 am	Breakfast Provided
8:30 am	Lecture: Direct and How to Introduce Demonstrative Evidence (Making and Responding to Objections)
	Direct Examination Exercises
10:00 am	Lunch Provided
12:00 pm	Lecture: Dealing with Difficult Clients Appointed and Retained (Including Collateral Consequences) (Ethics)
1:30 pm	Complete Direct (if needed) and Begin Cross Examination Exercises
	Lecture: Making Objections and Protecting the Record
2:30 pm	Daily Evaluation & Adjourn
5:00 pm	
6:00 pm	
6:30 pm	Group Dinner

Wednesday, March 5

7:30 am	Breakfast Provided
8:30 am	Lecture: Cross-Examination
9:30 am	Cross-Examination Exercises
12:00 pm	Lunch Provided
1:00 pm	Cross-Examination Exercises Continued
2:30 pm	Demonstration and Discussion: Cross-Examination
4:00 pm	Break
4:15 pm	Lecture: Jury Selection
5:45 pm	Daily Evaluation & Adjourn
6:15 pm	Group Dinner

Thursday, March 6

7:30 am	Breakfast Provided
8:30 am	Lecture: Punishment/Sentencing
9:15 am	Jury Selection Exercises
12:00 pm	Lunch Provided
1:00 pm	Jury Selection Exercises Continued
3:15 pm	Demonstration and Discussion: Jury Selection
4:45 pm	Lecture: Opening Statements
5:30 pm	Daily Evaluation & Adjourn
6:30 pm	Group Dinner

Friday, March 7

7:30 am	Breakfast Provided
8:30 am	Wrap Up and Questions
9:00 am	Opening Statement Exercises
12:00 pm	Adjourn, Farewell Lunch, or Grab & Go — Check Out with TCDLA

**Ethical considerations will be emphasized throughout the College.*

Registration

Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2024

Bar # _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Must be a licensed Texas attorney. Please complete entire application.

I would like to attend this training and have enclosed:

- ☐ \$150 registration fee (refunds, less 10% processing fee, only for cancellations made before February 17, 2025).
Registration price includes breakfast and lunch each day, dinner two nights, and hotel double occupancy.
- ☐ This application plus a letter of intent telling us your level of trial experience. Additionally, please explain to us why you want to attend the Texas Criminal Trial College.
- ☐ A letter of recommendation from a Texas Judge (District, County, or Federal).
- ☐ A letter of recommendation from a criminal defense attorney.
- ☐ Single room (I will book my own at my own expense, TCDLA will provide info for off-site partner hotel)
- ☐ Requested Roommate: _____

You will be notified by January 17, 2025. Only complete applications will be considered.

*Special needs or financially unable to pay, contact TCDLA.

Note: After February 17, cancellations will be charged a portion of the actual cost of \$750 per person if we cannot fill your spot.

Required {

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature _____ CVC: _____

☐ I applied last year. ☐ I attended Criminal Trial College in _____

Trial Experience: Please be candid about your trial experience, and do not exaggerate.

☐ I accept court appointments: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of Trials (as first chair only): **On a separate sheet explain your involvement.

_____ Felony Jury # _____ Felony Bench # _____ Misdemeanor Jury

_____ Misdemeanor Bench # _____ Civil Jury

Number of Trials (as second chair): **On a separate sheet explain your involvement.

_____ 2nd Chair Felony Jury** # _____ 2nd Chair Misdemeanor Jury**

Type of practice and years in practice (general description): _____

Other Training or Experience:

Law school: _____ Date graduated: _____

Other trial training courses taken: _____

Former Prosecutor: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how long, when did you leave, and what experience did you have? _____

Public Defender: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what office? _____

Email: smartinez@tcdla.com | Fax: 512-469-0512 or mail to 6808 Hill Meadow Drive | Austin, TX 78736
Sponsored by CDLP, a project of TCDLA, funded by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

*If you do not receive a confirmation of application in 5 business days, please call 512.646.2730.