



Texas Indigent Defense Workshop

October 25 & 26, 2023

Texas Association of Counties Event Center
1210 San Antonio Street, Austin TX. 78701- 4th Floor

AGENDA

Day 1-Wed., Oct. 25

7:45 – 8:15 a.m.

Registration

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome

Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals &
Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Nathan Craddock, County Auditor, Tom Green County &
2023 President, Texas Association of Counties
Scott Ehlers, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Building Public Defender and Managed Assigned Counsel Offices (CLE 1.0 hr)

Jim Bethke, Director, Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel
Jason Howell, Chief Defender, Panhandle Area Public Defender Office
Joe Stephens, Chief Public Defender, Concho Valley Public Defender Office
Ben Zeller, County Judge, Victoria County

TIDC Representatives:

Edwin Colfax, Director of Grant Funding, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Kristin Meeks, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Indigent Defense Commission

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Access to Counsel & Demystifying TIDC Policy Monitoring (CLE .5 hr)

TIDC Policy Team

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Multi-County Indigent Defense Services (CLE .75 hr)

Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases

Ray Keith, Chief Public Defender, Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases
Curtis Parrish, County Judge, Lubbock County

myPadilla

Nora Picasso, Immigration Attorney, myPadilla

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Focus on TIDC Research (CLE 1.0 hr)

Counsel at First Appearance

George Naufal, Associate Research Scientist, Public Policy Research Institute,
Texas A&M University

Use of Investigators by Texas Public Defense Providers

Dr. Venita Embry, PhD, MPH, Research Public Health Associate, Center for Criminal
Legal Systems Research, RTI International

- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
Speaker: Anthony Graves, Exoneree and Founder, Peer Navigator Project (CLE .75)
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Family Protection Representation (CPS cases): Where are we today? (CLE 1.0)**
Moderator – Crystal Leff-Pinon, Senior Policy Analyst, TIDC
Dylan Moench, Legal Representation Director, Texas Children’s Commission
Rhonda Rieken, Child Protection Division Supervisor, Dallas County Public Defender
Judge Carlos Villalon, Jr., Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley West
- Family Protection Representation (CPS cases): What can we do now and in the future? (CLE .5)**
Moderator – Crystal Leff-Pinon, Senior Policy Analyst, TIDC
Cindy Dyar, Project Director – Family Defense Project, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
Leslie Hill, Managing Attorney, Travis County Office of Child Representation
Jacquelyn Wilson, Chief, Travis County Office of Parent Representation
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. **Mental Health Defense Programs & Grant Opportunities (CLE 1.0)**
Kayla Bennett, Social Services Manager, Travis County Public Defender’s Office
Edwin Colfax, Director of Grant Funding, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Kathryn Dyer, Clinical Professor, Criminal Defense Clinic, Univ. of Texas School of Law
Danice Obregon, Chief Defender, Nueces County Public Defender Office
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Introduction to Break-Out Sessions**
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Break-out Session 1**

Day 2-Thurs., Oct. 26

- 8:15 – 8:45 a.m. **Arrive/Registration**
- 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. **88th Legislature Recap (CLE 1.0)**
Rick Thompson, Legislative Director, County Judges and Commissioners Assoc. of Texas
Edwin Colfax, Director of Grant Funding, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Crystal Leff-Pinon, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Wesley Shackelford, Deputy Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
- 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Break-Out Session 2**
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Report Back**

End

TOTAL AVAILABLE CLE CREDIT HOURS: 7.50