



THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
LAW • JUSTICE • WORLDWIDE

20TH ANNUAL
Criminal Defense Trial Skills & Trial Law Program
A PROGRAM FOR THE DEFENSE

August 8-10, 2023

at The Center for American and International Law, Plano Texas

As of 7/20/2023

Tuesday, August 8:

- 8:00 a.m. Check-In & Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
- 9:15 a.m. Synopsis of the Facts & Developing a Theory of the Case
Frank Sellers, Westfall Sellers, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:30 a.m. Lecture: Voir Dire
Jennifer Lapinski, Cathy E. Bennett & Associates, Inc., Highland Village, Texas
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Demonstration: Voir Dire
Mike Howard, Law Office of Mike Howard, Dallas, Texas
- 11:00 a.m. Ethics
Bob Hinton, Robert Hinton & Associates, PC, Dallas, Texas
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00 p.m. Small Group Workshop (Voir Dire)
(Time includes 15 Minutes Small Group Prep: "Work In Your Seat")
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 2:55 p.m. Storytelling throughout the Trial
Tyrone Monciffe, Tyrone C. Monciffe Associates, Houston, Texas
- 3:55 p.m. Break

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– AGENDA, continued –

Tuesday, August 8, continued

- 4:00 p.m. Lecture & Demonstration: The Fundamentals of a Powerful Opening Statement
 Messina Madson, Madson | Castello, PLLC, Dallas, Texas
- 5:15 p.m. Recess, followed by a Networking Reception

Wednesday, August 9: [\[405 Minutes\]](#)

- 9:00 a.m. Instructions & Small Group Prep: “Work In Your Seat” (Opening)
- 9:15 a.m. Small Group Workshop (Opening Statements)
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Looking Back – A View from the Hilltop
 Jeff Kearney, Kearney Law Firm, Fort Worth, Texas
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00 p.m. Lecture & Demonstration: Direct Examination
 Rick Hagen, Jackson & Hagen, Denton, Texas
- 2:00 p.m. Break
- 2:05 p.m. Small Group Workshop (Direct Examination)
 (Time includes 15 Minutes Small Group Prep: “Work In Your Seat”)
- 3:50 p.m. Break
- 4:00 p.m. Lecture: Cross Examination
 Russell Wilson, Law Office of Russell Wilson, II, Dallas, Texas
- 4:45 p.m. Demonstration: Cross Examination
 Mark Werbner, Werbner Law, Dallas, Texas
- 5:15 p.m. Recess

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– AGENDA, continued –

Thursday, August 10: [345 Minutes]

- 9:00 a.m. Preservation of Error
 Jani Maselli Wood, Harris County Public Defender's Office, Houston, Texas
- 9:45 a.m. Small Group Workshop (Cross Examination)
 (Time includes 15 Minutes Small Group Prep: "Work In Your Seat")
- 11:30 a.m. Break
- 11:45 a.m. Demonstration: Closing Arguments
 John Hunter Smith, Wynne & Smith Law, LLP, Sherman, Texas
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (Provided)
- 1:15 p.m. Small Group Workshop (Closing Arguments)
 (Time includes 15 Minutes Small Group Prep: "Work In Your Seat")
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. The Intangibles: The Big Decision of a Criminal Defense Attorney
 Barry Sorrels, Sorrels Ola, Dallas, Texas
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn