



# Children's Commission.

## Attorney Resource Letter:

### For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

August 4, 2017

## Announcing Upcoming MCLE Webcasts on Trial Skills: Tuesday, August 29, 2017

In partnership with the State Bar of Texas, the Children's Commission will present two live webcasts on basic and advanced trial skills in CPS cases. The total MCLE is six hours, which includes .75 hours of ethics.

**Preparing Your CPS Case for Trial: Position Yourself to Win** will cover the following topics: case strategy and preparation, including discussion of successful themes and theories; how to build a CPS Trial Notebook; and identifying, designating, preparing and presenting your witnesses. Also discussed will be how to handle evidentiary matters, including tips and traps for the CPS practitioner on laying the foundation for various exhibits and on making and responding to common objections. Additionally, there will be a judicially-led advocate panel on preparing for Voir Dire in CPS Cases.

MCLE No.: 928009428 for 3.0 hours of MCLE, with .50 hours of ethics credit. Tuesday, August 29, 2017 from 9:30 am to 12:40 pm.

To register, please click here: [Register for Webcast](#)

**Basic and Advanced Trial Skills in CPS Litigation: Persuade and Prevail** will cover the following topics: basic information and advanced tips regarding trial advocacy in the CPS Case, including crafting your opening statement; conducting successful direct and cross examinations, impeachment, and closing argument. Additionally, presentations on how to qualify and disqualify experts and using high level cross examination to your advantage with opposing counsel's exhibits will round out this MCLE with advanced practical skills for all practitioners on the CPS docket.

MCLE No.: 928009427 for 3.0 hours of MCLE, with .25 hours of ethics credit. Tuesday, August 29, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 4:10 pm.

To register, please click here: [Register for Webcast](#)

Each program will have a different CLE number, so viewers will need to register and pay separately for each webcast. Viewer discounts are available for qualifying attorneys upon registration. The full cost of each CLE is \$180. Please note that the following discounts are available upon registration:

- Judges' staff attorneys can register for free.
- Court-appointed attorneys currently taking cases on the CPS docket can receive a \$155 discount per webcast from TexasBarCLE, bringing the cost to \$25.
- Discounts are not available through TexasBarCLE to prosecutors who represent the State or DFPS. However, any prosecutor who cannot afford to pay or whose employer cannot pay the full cost of the webcast may apply for one of two scholarships:
  1. a scholarship through the Children's Commission, where the applicant pays for the full cost of the webcast to TexasBarCLE and then is reimbursed a total of \$155, bringing the cost per webcast to \$25. This scholarship form is available on the Children's Commission website, [TST Scholarship Request Form](#).

2. a scholarship through the State Bar of Texas where the applicant agrees to pay whatever amount she or he can afford for a webcast. This scholarship form is available on the TexasBarCLE MCLE registration page:  
<http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/site/helpfiles/Scholarship%20Form.pdf>.

Both of these webcasts will be presented by members of the Children's Commission's Trial Skills Training Faculty and will be moderated by Justice Michael Massengale, First Court of Appeals and Chair of the Children's Commission's Training Committee.

The complete list of webcast presenters is as follows: Trevor Woodruff, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS); Rob Galvin, Attorney, Travis County; Michele Surratt, Special Litigation Attorney for DFPS; Manuel Charles Rodriguez, Jr., Attorney, Bexar County; Jackie Sparks Martin, Regional Attorney for DFPS, Region 3; Hon. Michael Schneider, Judge of the 315th Juvenile Court, Harris County; Elizabeth Watkins, Regional Attorney for DFPS, Smith County; Jack Sigman, Attorney, Travis County; Tracy Harting, Attorney, Travis County; Hon. Gary Coley, Judge of the 74th District Court, McLennan County; David Halpern, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Texas A & M; R. Charles Griffin, Assistant County Attorney, Harris County; Doug Lowe, former District Attorney of Anderson County; Hon. Melissa DeGerolami, Judge of the Child Protection Court of South Texas; and Clint Harbour, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General.



Follow us on Twitter [@TXChildrensComm](https://twitter.com/TXChildrensComm)

To join this list or unsubscribe, please link [here](#).

Information provided by the Children's Commission should not be read as a commentary by the Supreme Court of Texas or any other court. The Children's Commission website is not equipped to facilitate dialogue or conversation about matters related to the information in this communique. For more information about the Children's Commission, please visit our website at [texaschildrenscommission.gov](http://texaschildrenscommission.gov)