



The Appellate Section, State Bar of Texas presents

Appellate Tactics for the Modern Practitioner

April 30, 2026 | 10:30 AM – 3:15 PM

Baylor Law School, Jim Kronzer Appellate Classroom

[REGISTER](#)

A CLE designed to help criminal and civil practitioners spot and avoid appellate issues before, during and after trial.



- Brief Writing
- Preservation of Error
- Keynote: Judicial Panel
- New Criminal Appeal Bond Statute
- Mandamus
- New Summary Judgment Rule
- Hiring Appellate Counsel
- 4.75 Hours MCLE (1 Hour Ethics)
- Lunch Provided

Free Reception at the Baylor Club

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Presidential Suite

Baylor Club, Waco TX

Drinks • Appetizers • Networking



You do not have to attend the CLE to attend the reception, but please register for either or both events.

Sponsored by:
the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association &
the McLennan County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association



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114 South University Parks Drive, Waco

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9:30	Doors open, Registration and Check-In	12:45	Break
10:00	Set Your Brief Apart from the Never-Ending Avalanche of Cases .75 hr Steve Hayes, Fort Worth Law Office of Steven K. Hayes	1:00	Mandamus .5 hr Hon. David Gunn, Houston Justice, First Court of Appeals
10:45	Hiring and Working with Appellate Counsel .75 hr (.25 ethics) Hon. Eva Guzman, Houston Wright Close Barger & Guzman	1:30	Deciphering the New Criminal Appeal Bond Statute .5 hr (.25 hr ethics) Jeff Shell, Rockwall Rockwall County District Attorney’s Office
	Raffi Melkonian, Houston Wright Close Barger & Guzman	2:00	Preservation of Error .5 hr Tyler Talbert, Waco Scanes, Yelverton, Talbert
11:30	Break – Lunch Provided		Richard ‘Rick’ Bradley, Waco Haley & Olson
11:45	A View From the Bench 1 hr (.25 ethics) Hon. Michelle Slaughter, League City Moderator, Johnson & Associates	2:30	A New Era for Summary Judgment Practice in Texas .75 hr (.25 ethics) Jarod Stewart, Houston Steptoe, LLP
	Hon. John P. Devine, Austin Justice, Supreme Court of Texas		Patrick Fields, Houston Steptoe, LLP
	Hon. Scott Field, Austin Justice, Fifteenth Court of Appeals	3:15	Adjourn to Baylor Club Reception
	Hon. Nancy Kennedy, Dallas Justice, Fifth Court of Appeals		
	Hon. Gina Parker, Austin Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals		
	Hon. Steve Smith, Waco Justice, Tenth Court of Appeals		

MCLE CREDIT 4.75 Hours (1 hour ethics)
MCLE Course No: [174317756](#)

Applies to the Texas Bar College and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Civil Trial Law, Civil Appellate Law, Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law.

Course Scope and Purpose. This CLE is designed to strengthen trial outcomes by integrating an appellate perspective at every stage of litigation. Whether you regularly handle appeals or focus exclusively on trial work, this program will equip civil and criminal practitioners with practical tools to identify, preserve, and leverage appellate issues before, during, and after trial. Attendees will gain insight into how appellate courts view the record, common pitfalls that jeopardize error preservation, and strategies for collaborating effectively with appellate counsel. The result: stronger records, fewer surprises on appeal, and better overall case outcomes.



Reception at the Baylor Club

April 30, 2026 || 3:30 – 5:30
Presidential Suite, Baylor Club
1001 S M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Waco

FREE
Registration
Required!



Join us for drinks, light bites and an opportunity to network and visit with our CLE speakers and attorneys from the Waco-McLennan County Bar!

[REGISTER](#)

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the McLennan County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Registration. Both the CLE course and V.I.P. Reception are free but you must register for either or both to attend. You do not have to attend the CLE to attend the reception. Your advanced registration helps us control costs and remain good stewards of section funds.

Directions and Parking for CLE. This event will be held in the Kronzer Appellate Classroom of Baylor Law School. Take University Avenue off IH35 to the first stop light and turn left. University Parks Avenue dead ends at the law school and there is ample parking in front. *Please do not park in assigned faculty parking spots* – but all other parking in that area is available for guests.

Directions and Parking for Reception. This event will be held in the Presidential Suite of the Baylor Club. Take MLK, Jr. off IH35 and turn right into the first parking lot. Drive all the way to the back of the parking lot (near the river) and enter through the Presidential Club entrance (directly under the Farm Bureau sign). Take the elevator to the Club level.

Materials. Bring your wireless electronic device. Materials and digital presentations will be provided on the Appellate Section website for download or viewing during the course.

MCLE Accreditation. This course has been approved for 4.75 hours of MCLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics. You are responsible for entering your own MCLE credit via your My Bar Page. If you need assistance with this, please email TXAppellateSection@gmail.com. This course has received Legal Specialization credit in the area of Civil Practice, Civil Appellate, Criminal, and Criminal Appellate Law.

Event terms and conditions. Please review the State Bar's Terms & Conditions for live events found on the Appellate Section website. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend these events.

Special accommodations. Please email TXAppellateSection@gmail.com if you need accommodations for a disability, and we will do our best to assist.