

15th Annual Course

Advanced Trial Strategies

Live In-Person • New Orleans, LA • February 19-20, 2026 • Omni Royal Orleans Hotel

Seating is limited and this course is expected to sell out!



Cosponsored by



TEX-ABOTA
The Texas Chapters of ABOTA



MCLE CREDIT 13.5 Hours (3.25 Ethics)

↓ Downloadable Course Materials



TexasBarCLE.com | (512) 427-1574

Education by the Bar, for the Bar

Register early and save up to \$100!

(See page 6 for details.)

Live In-Person

New Orleans, LA

February 19-20, 2026

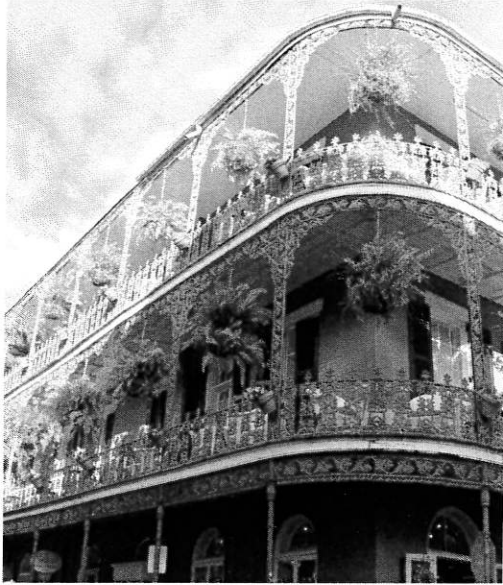
Omni Royal Orleans Hotel

Register by February 5 to save!

Cosponsored by the Texas Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates

Purpose and Scope

This two-day program offers a practical and forward-looking update on modern litigation practice, featuring insight from prominent judges and experienced trial lawyers. Attendees will explore advanced techniques in case initiation, jury selection, cross-examination, and error preservation, along with updates on rules, evidence, and legislative changes. The course also addresses emerging issues such as the Texas Business Court, the growing use of artificial intelligence, and the evolving ethical standards in trial practice.



MCLE CREDIT

13.5 Hours (3.25 Ethics)

MCLE Course No: 174295969

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



Scan to report
your MCLE hours.

LOUISIANA MCLE CREDIT

13.5 Hours (1 Ethics)

MCLE Course No: 0336260219

To receive credit in Louisiana, all attorneys must sign an attendance roster with the State Bar of Texas staff at the course.

THURSDAY

7.25 hours including 1.25 ethics

- 7:30 **Registration**
Chicory Coffee, Breakfast, & Beignets Provided
- 8:20 **Welcoming Remarks**
Course Director
Claude E. Ducloux, *Austin*
Law Offices of Claude E. Ducloux
- 8:30 **Initiating Litigation 1 hr**
Hon. Tonya Parker, *Dallas*
Judge, 116th Civil District Court
Robert Booth, *Galveston*
Mills Shirley
Javier Espinoza, *San Antonio*
Espinoza & Brock
- 9:30 **Judicial Civil Rules Update**
.5 hr (.25 ethics)
Kennon Lily Wooten, *Austin*
Scott Douglass & McConico
- 10:00 **Networking Break**
- 10:15 **Jury Selection .75 hr (.25 ethics)**
Jim Perdue, Jr., *Houston*
Perdue & Kidd
Thomas C. Riney, *Amarillo*
Underwood Law Firm
- 11:00 **Mandamus as Click-Bait .75 hr**
Patricia Askew, *Fort Worth*
Staff Attorney, Second Court of Appeals
Steven K. Hayes, *Fort Worth*
Law Office of Steven K. Hayes
- 11:45 **Break - Lunch Provided**

- 12:00 **Luncheon Presentation: The Rising Use of Artificial Intelligence 1 hr (.25 ethics)**
Moderator
Claude E. Ducloux, *Austin*
Law Offices of Claude E. Ducloux
Panelists
Hon. Xavier Rodriguez, *San Antonio*
Judge, U.S. District Court
Western District of Texas
Prof. Craig D. Ball, *New Orleans, LA*
University of Texas School of Law
- 1:00 **Break**
- 1:15 **10 Cases That Every Trial Lawyer Should Know .75 hr**
Hon. Daryl L. Moore, *Houston*
Partner, AZA Law
- 2:00 **Cross-Examination .75 hr**
Paula F. Sweeney, *Dallas & Whitefish, MT*
Sweeney Law
- 2:45 **Sponsored Networking Break - King Cake & Chicory Coffee Provided by Our Counsel Sponsors**
- 3:00 **Plaintiff & Defense Strategies on Non-Economic Damages 1 hr (.25 ethics)**
Hon. Harvey G. Brown, Jr., *Houston*
The Lanier Law Firm
Mark Trachtenberg, *Houston*
Haynes Boone
Victor Vital, *Dallas*
Haynes Boone
- 4:00 **Error Preservation & Charge Conferences .75 hr (.25 ethics)**
Prof. Christina Crozier, *Houston*
University of Houston Law Center
Chad Baruch, *Dallas*
Johnston Tobey Baruch
Steven K. Hayes, *Fort Worth*
Law Office of Steven K. Hayes
- 4:45 **TEX-ABOTA Update (no MCLE credit)**
Javier Espinoza, *San Antonio*
Espinoza & Brock

5:00 **Adjourn**
 Second Line Parade & Legal Networking
 Social Provided by Our Partner
 Sponsors

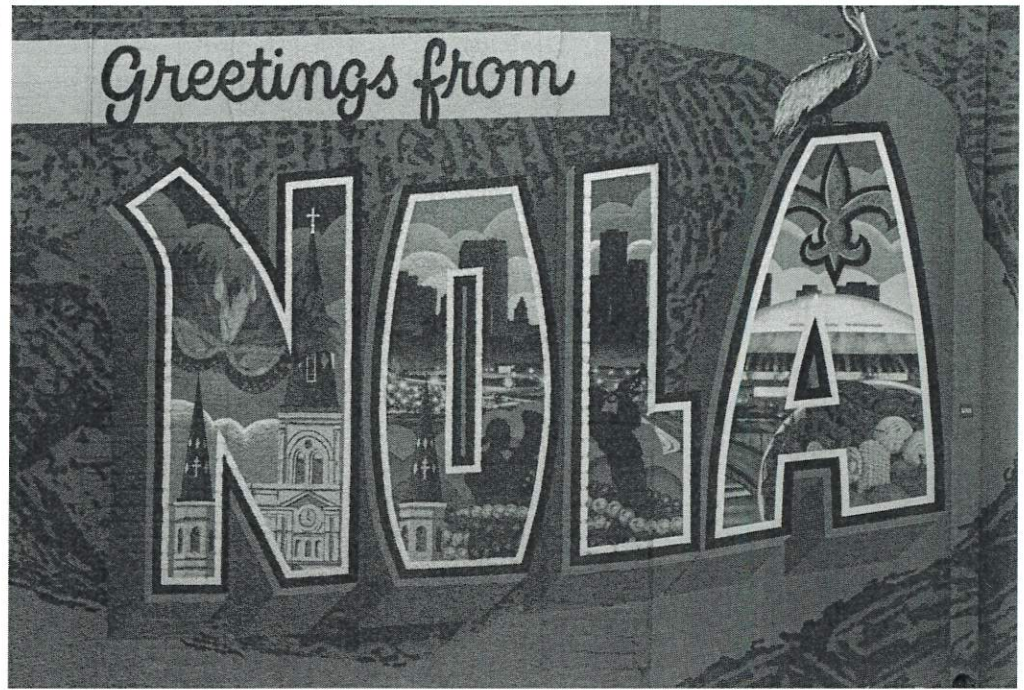
**Second Line Parade
 Thursday 5:00 p.m.**

Come and partake in the New Orleans custom of Second Line as we joyfully sing and dance through the French Quarter, accompanied by our lively brass band!
 Thanks to our sponsors!

CRAIG D. BALL PC
 HELPING LAWYERS MASTER TECHNOLOGY



TEX-ABOTA
 The Texas Chapters of ABOTA



**TEX-ABOTA's Legal Networking Social
 Thursday 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.**

The festivities will carry on at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, where the TEX-ABOTA Annual Legal Networking Social awaits, featuring music, refreshments, and an abundance of joyous moments!



TEX-ABOTA
 The Texas Chapters of ABOTA



FRIDAY

6.25 hours including 2 ethics

- 7:30 **Chicory Coffee, Breakfast, & Beignets Provided**
- 7:55 **Announcements**
- 8:00 **Summary Judgment 1 hr**
 Hon. Melissa Davis Andrews, *Austin*
 Judge, Texas Business Court, Third Division
 Hon. Harvey G. Brown, Jr., *Houston*
 The Lanier Law Firm
 Clyde "Jay" J. Jackson III, *Houston*
 Burford Perry
- 9:00 **Evidence Update .5 hr**
 George (Tex) Quesada, *Dallas*
 Sommerman McCaffity Quesada & Geisler
- 9:30 **Networking Break**
- 9:45 **Opening & Closing .75 hr**
 Charla Aldous, *Dallas*
 Aldous Law
 Joel Steed, *Dallas*
 Steed Dunnill Reynolds Bailey
 Stephenson
- 10:30 **The Texas Business Court: Can I Get In? Should I? .75 hr**
 Hon. Melissa Davis Andrews, *Austin*
 Judge, Texas Business Court, Third Division
 Hon. Jerry Bullard, *Fort Worth*
 Judge, Texas Business Court, Eighth Division

- 11:15 **Attorney's Fees .5 hr (.25 ethics)**
 Robert Ford, *Houston*
 Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
- 11:45 **Break - Lunch Provided**
- 12:00 **Luncheon Presentation: Storytelling & Communication Skills 1 hr (.75 ethics)**
Moderator
 Claude E. Ducloux, *Austin*
 Law Offices of Claude E. Ducloux
Panelists
 Chad Baruch, *Dallas*
 Johnston Tobey Baruch
 David M. Gonzalez, *Austin*
 Sumpter & Gonzalez
 Michael L. Slack, *Austin*
 Slack Davis Sanger
- 1:00 **Break**
- 1:15 **Legislative Update .75 hr**
 David E. Chamberlain, *Austin*
 Chamberlain McHaney
 Jack Walker, *Tyler*
 Martin Walker
- 2:00 **Legal Ethics and Disciplinary Rules Updates & Opinions 1 hr ethics**
 Claude E. Ducloux, *Austin*
 Law Offices of Claude E. Ducloux
- 3:00 **Adjourn**

REGISTRATION FORM

● **To pay by credit card**, register online at TexasBarCLE.com or call (512) 427-1574 during business hours.

● **To pay by check**, mail to State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 676916, Dallas, TX 75267-6916



Earn Discounts by Registering Five or More

Contact our Firm & Group Sales Representative at firmandgroupsales@texasbar.com. Please note, this excludes complimentary registrations.

Advanced Trial Strategies (8170)

Live In-Person • New Orleans, LA • February 19-20, 2026

- \$945** Regular Registration Fee
Eligible for a discount if registering by February 5

Course Amenities

- Chicory coffee, breakfast, and beignets each morning
- Lunch provided both days
- Networking break with King Cake on Thursday
- Sponsored Second Line Parade on Thursday evening
- Sponsored Legal Networking Social on Thursday evening
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access in the meeting room
- Course materials provided as a PDF download and a hardcopy or choose the PDF download only option for a discount!



Discounts

- \$50 off** • Early Bird Discount (see deadline date above)
(Postmark date for checks will be determinative.)

Membership Discounts: (select one)

- \$25 off • TEX-ABOTA
 \$25 off • Texas Bar College
 \$25 off • Paralegal Division

For more information, see page 6.

I may attend for \$295* because I am a:

- Qualifying judge
 Judge's staff attorney

See FYI section on page 6 for details.

Course Materials

- Hardcopy book & PDF download (included with registration)
 PDF download only (\$25 Off)

I can't attend but would like the hardcopy materials
(Free Shipping and Handling)

- \$155[†]** Advanced course hardcopy book

PDF downloads of course materials are available online 1-2 weeks after the course.

Check Payments

My total is \$
State Bar Membership No:

Registrant Name:
Firm Name / Court:
Address for Bar-Related Mail:
City / State Zip:
Phone / Fax:
E-Mail:

An email address is required for payment confirmation and pdf downloads of course materials.

**Does not qualify for discounts listed in the Discount section.*

† Plus 8.25% sales tax on total course book sales only. Please include sales tax or attach an exemption certificate. Book orders are shipped separately 1-2 weeks after the final in-person event. Please include payment by check on this form.

To order on USB, contact our FlashCLE service at (512) 427-1575.

QUESTIONS? (512) 427-1574

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Partner Sponsors



TEX-ABOTA
The Texas Chapters of ABOTA

CRAIG D. BALL PC
HELPING LAWYERS MASTER TECHNOLOGY

Counsel Sponsor



**American National
Bank & Trust™**

Tote Bag Sponsor



Texas Bar College

A Professional Society of Legal Scholars

Associate Sponsors



TLIE TEXAS
LAWYERS'
INSURANCE
EXCHANGE®
Experience when you need it most.

CHAMBERLAIN ♦ MCHANEY

Wi-Fi Sponsor



**Davis
Settlement Partners**

An Indispensable Partner in Settlement Planning.
www.davissettlementpartners.com

Interested in Sponsoring or Exhibiting at this Course or Others?

Please view our TexasBarCLE Course List or contact us at clesponsorships@texasbar.com.

We are TEX-ABOTA

Our mission is to preserve and protect the Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury and the civil justice system. We vigorously advocate our mission in both the Texas legislature by supporting and opposing certain legislation, and by filing amicus briefs in both state and federal appellate courts.



We Advocate

TEX-ABOTA is the leading advocate of civility in the legal profession, presenting the *Civility Matters* program at various CLE events throughout the state. And during the 2015 legislative session, TEX-ABOTA secured unanimous passage of the New Lawyer Civility Oath in both chambers. The bill was signed into law by the governor on May 16, 2015.

We Lead

TEX-ABOTA is also the recognized leader in legal civics education, sponsoring the *Teachers Law School* for educators, the *Law Rules Lecture Series* for community organizations, and the *James Otis Lecture Series* for students. And for the benefit of all Texas lawyers, we present the highly regarded *Masters In Trial* program at the *Annual Meeting* of the State Bar, as well as co-sponsoring this *Advanced Trial Strategies Course*.



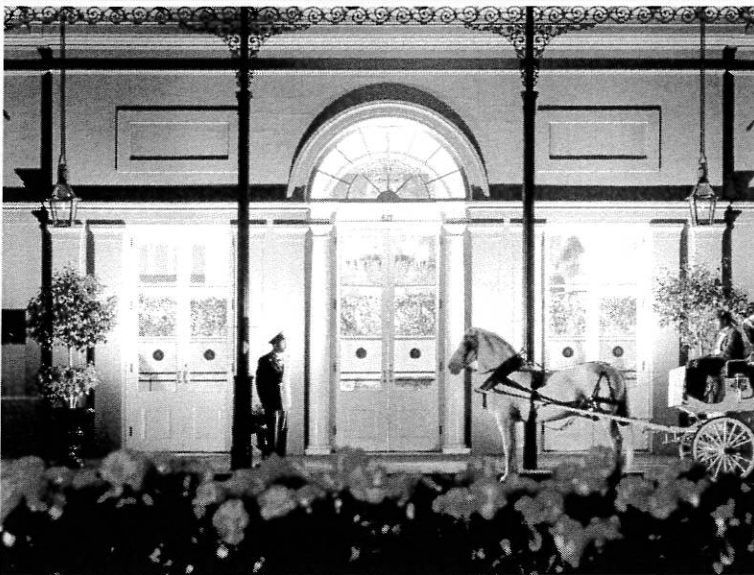
TEX-ABOTA
The Texas Chapters of ABOTA



TEX-ABOTA is a peer-selected association of the finest and most accomplished trial lawyers in Texas.



Reserve Your Hotel Room Early



Hotel rooms have been blocked at special rates on a space available basis. To make a reservation, contact the hotel and indicate that you will be attending this State Bar of Texas course.

Live In-Person

New Orleans, LA

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel
621 St. Louis Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 529-5333

\$239 - \$289/night for a single/double + additional fees

Hotel Deadline: January 28

Make your reservation online.

Parking: Valet parking only, for \$50 per night.

This hotel sells out before the deadline each year. Act now!

• Course Director

Claude E. Ducloux..... Austin

• Planning Committee

Prof. Craig D. Ball..... New Orleans, LA
Chad Baruch..... Dallas
Hon. Harvey G. Brown, Jr..... Houston
David E. Chamberlain..... Austin
Javier Espinoza..... San Antonio
David M. Gonzalez..... Austin
Lynne Liberato..... Houston
Mitzi S. Mayfield..... Amarillo
Hon. Daryl L. Moore..... Houston
Hon. Xavier Rodriguez..... San Antonio
Michael L. Slack..... Austin
Paula F. Sweeney..... Dallas/Whitefish, MT
Kennon Lilly Wooten..... Austin

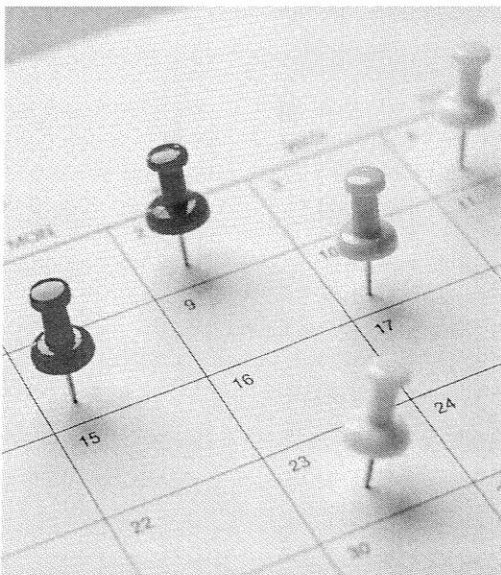
• TexasBarCLE Planning Team

Kim Maka..... Program Planner
Sheena Ward..... Senior Program Coordinator
Elizabeth Follis..... Written Materials Coordinator
Kelly Brooks..... Meeting Planner

• State Bar of Texas

Santos Vargas..... President
Britney E. Harrison..... Chair of the Board
G. David Smith..... President-Elect
Steve Benesh..... Immediate Past President
Alyson A. Martinez..... TYLA President
Donna Thomisee..... Chair, CLE Committee
Chris Nickelson..... Chair, Board PDP Committee
Trey Appfel..... Executive Director
Hedy Bower..... Director, TexasBarCLE

Mark Your Calendar



Mark your calendar for these upcoming 2026 courses:

- **Becoming a Fiduciary Litigator***
Live In-Person
Fort Worth • March 26-27, 2026
Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown
- **Soaking Up Some CLE:
A South Texas Litigation Course***
Live In-Person
Coming to South Padre Island in May!
- **Advanced Evidence and Discovery***
Live In-Person
Coming to Dallas in April!
San Antonio • May 21-22, 2026
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
- **Advanced Insurance Law***
Live In-Person
San Antonio • June 4-5, 2026
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
Join us a day early for
Insurance Law 101!*

* Registration for this course is not available at the time of publishing. Search TexasBarCLE.com for updates.

*Event details may change. For the latest information, please visit TexasBarCLE.com.

Ways to Save on This Course!

Register by February 5 and Save \$50!

Early registrations help us ensure that sufficient course books, seating, and refreshments are available. Course materials and seating will be reserved for preregistrants until the start of the first topic.

TEX-ABOTA Members Can Save \$25!

See the registration form. Membership to TEX-ABOTA is by invitation only.



Earn Discounts by Registering Five or More

Contact our Firm & Group Sales Representative at firmandgroupsales@texasbar.com. Please note, this excludes complimentary registrations.

GO GREEN and Save \$25!

Select the *PDF download only* option for a discount.

Texas Bar College Members Can Save \$25!

To join or learn more, visit texasbarcollege.com or call (512) 427-1819.

Qualifying Texas judges may attend for a reduced rate!

Paralegal Division Members Can Save \$25!

To join or learn more, visit txpd.org or call (806) 443-2209.



FYI

- **Active Texas State, County, and Federal Judges, Administrative Law Judges, Hearing Examiners, and Judge's Staff Attorneys may attend out-of-state programs for a discounted rate or in-state programs for free, provided:** (1) the course directly relates to the judge's/tribunal's jurisdiction, (2) the judge is a full-time judge or retired under a judicial retirement system and (3) space is available for all paying registrants. This privilege does not extend to prosecutors, receivers, trustees, other court staff, or persons serving part-time in a judicial capacity. Actual attendance is required to receive course materials.
- **Parking Information** is subject to change and does not guarantee available space.
- **If You Need Special Accommodations to Attend or Have a Food Allergy**, please contact us as soon as possible at (512) 427-1827 or Kelly.Brooks@texasbar.com.
- **Registered but Can't Attend? Still Earn MCLE Credit** by taking the course online later through your Free Online Benefits. If you paid for hard copy materials and would like them mailed to you, please **email to let us know** within one month of the program date. If you would rather have a refund, call (512) 427-1574 or fax your request to (512) 427-4443. Refund requests must be made at least one business day before the program.
- **FREE ONLINE BENEFITS! Online Videos and MP3s of the Topics** will be available to registrants 4-6 weeks after the live in-person event. Provide your e-mail address when preregistering to be notified when and how these benefits may be accessed. (**Note:** Presentation lengths may vary from that which was advertised.) There's no extra charge; as a registrant, you're already entitled!
- **Policy of Impartiality**
The State Bar of Texas does not endorse political candidates. When a candidate for the public office is included in promotion for or participates in a TexasBarCLE event, the State Bar is not taking a position for or against anyone's candidacy.
- **Prospective Speakers**
We are always looking for new speakers and encourage you to fill out this **prospective speaker form** to let us know your areas of expertise.