



Children's Commission.

Attorney Resource Letter:

For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

September 29, 2017

Reminder of Upcoming MCLEs and Related Discounts

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 on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:40 P.M. and from 1:00 P.M. to 4:10 P.M. (total MCLE 6.0 hours, including .75 ethics hours). Please see below for information about registering for either or both webcasts and available viewer discounts and scholarships.

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.

3.0 hours of MCLE, with .50 hours of ethics credit.

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 9:30 A.M. to 12:40 P.M.

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.

3.0 hours of MCLE, with .25 hours of ethics credit.

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:10 P.M.

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. The full cost of each webcast is \$180. Please note that the following discounts and scholarships 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](#) and is also attached.
 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](#).

Please note that both of the above scholarships are available until a year after their broadcast date.

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.

For questions, please contact children@txcourts.gov.



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