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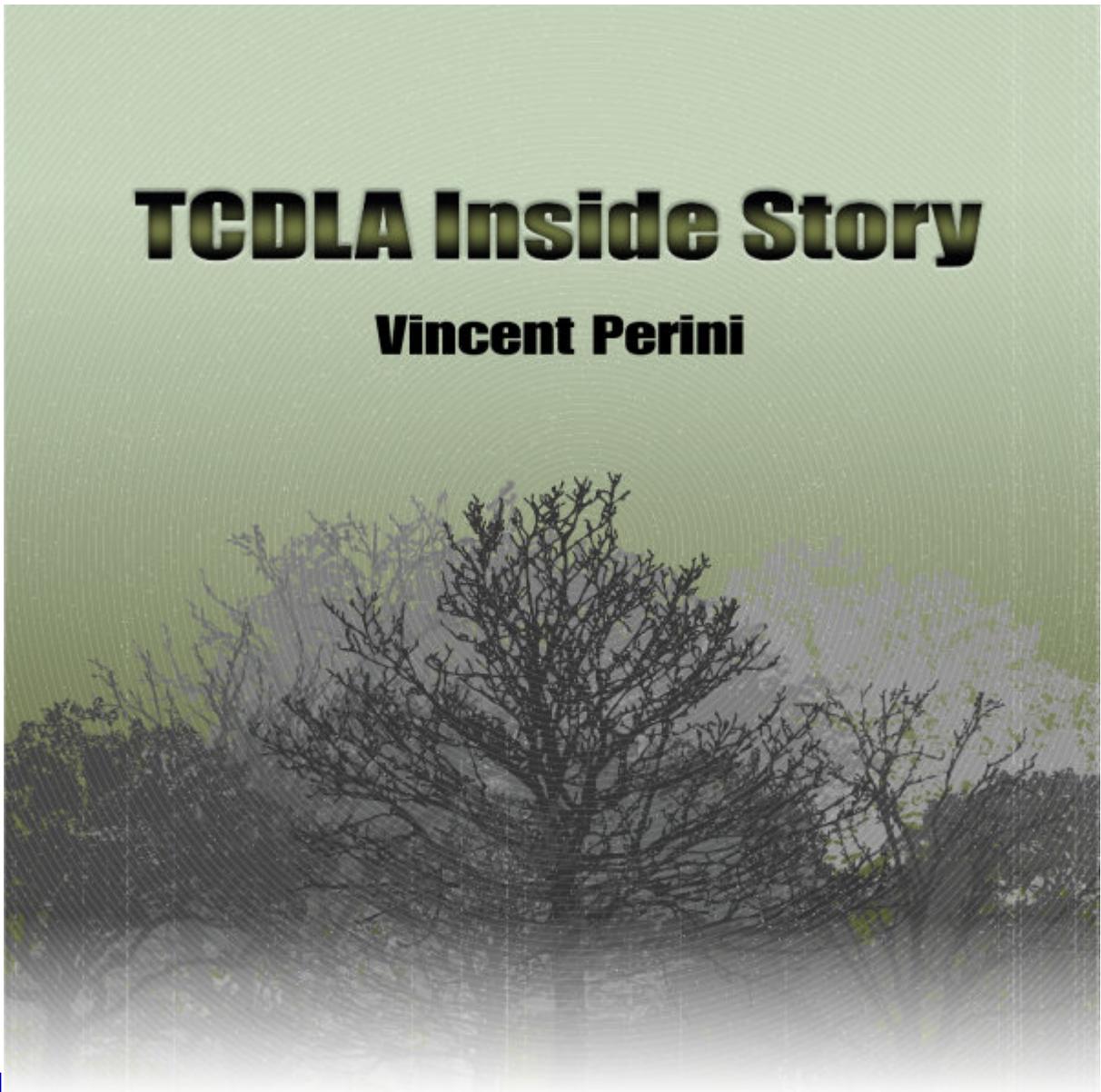
[Home](#) > Printer-friendly PDF

TCDLA Inside Story

[1][Features](#)

[2][Vincent Perini](#)

Wednesday, October 10th, 2018



[3]

Does anyone remember the inside story about how TCDLA was born? Does anyone remember the likes of Tony Friloux, Phil Burleson, or Frank Maloney? And while you ponder those questions, imagine a criminal

defense practice in Texas without TCDLA. Imagine practicing without defense-oriented books and written resources. Imagine practicing without the focused and quality continuing legal education we enjoy today. Imagine life without a strong criminal defense lobbying force in the Texas Legislature. Or simply imagine trying to bridge the gap between law school and a financially viable law practice all by yourself. Well, that was life prior to 1971 . . . before TCDLA was born.

The inside story on the birth of TCDLA began at the 1970 Dallas State Bar Convention. Frank Maloney, the first president of TCDLA, recalled Tony Friloux handing out flyers at the convention advocating for the establishment of a statewide criminal defense lawyer's organization. Tony had recently organized the Harris County Criminal Bar Association and had much support from his loyal Harris County brethren for the establishment of TCDLA.

TCDLA



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
SUITE 1005 - BROWN BUILDING
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
512 478-2514

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TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



Are you interested in the
defense of those accused
of crime?

Are you interested in state
and federal legislation which
may affect the right of an
accused to a fair trial?

Are you interested in
improving your knowledge
and skills in defending
criminal cases?

If you are . . .

Consider



TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE

THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE:

- TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE STATE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THOSE LAWYERS WHO ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE DEFENSE OF CRIMINAL CASES;
- TO PROTECT AND INSURE BY RULE OF LAW THOSE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE TEXAS AND FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONS IN CRIMINAL CASES;
- TO RESIST PROPOSED LEGISLATION OR RULES WHICH WOULD CURTAIL SUCH RIGHTS AND TO PROMOTE SOUND ALTERNATIVES;
- TO PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF LAWYERS ENGAGED IN THE DEFENSE OF CRIMINAL CASES;
- TO IMPROVE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND TO URGE THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT TO THE BENCH OF WELL-QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED LAWYERS;
- TO IMPROVE THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM AND TO SEEK MORE EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMES;
- TO PROMOTE CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

ELIGIBILITY AND DUES

Eligibility: Any attorney who is a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas and is engaged in whole or in part in the defense of criminal cases is eligible for membership upon approval of his or her application and receipt of the annual membership dues. An application must be endorsed by a voting member. Members of the judiciary and those regularly employed in a prosecutorial office are not eligible.

Annual dues \$100.00. Sustaining dues \$200.00. Dues for members in the firm of a charter or sustaining member \$50.00. Student membership dues \$10. Dues must accompany application.

STUDENTS: A person regularly enrolled in an accredited school of law in Texas is eligible for student membership upon approval of his or her application and receipt of the annual dues. A student application must be endorsed by a voting or student member.

Mail to: Texas Criminal Defense
Lawyers Association
Suite 1005, Brown Building
Austin, Texas 78701

Professional Organization in which applicant is member in good standing: _____

Have you ever been disbanded or disciplined by any bar association, or are you the subject of disciplinary action now pending? If yes, attach a statement of the circumstances. _____

Signature of Applicant

ENDORSEMENT

I, a member of TCDLA, endorse this application to be a member of applicant's organization as a lawyer. The applicant is actively engaged in the defense of criminal cases. _____

Signature of Member

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Application of: _____

Please letter certifier: as above other _____

Street or Box No.: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Firm Name: _____

Business Telephone: _____

Does Court _____

Member of Bar(s): State Bar of Texas _____

Other: _____

Education (Bachelor's, Degree, etc.): _____

Date Admitted: _____

Date Admitted: _____

The call goes out from the founding members to criminal defense lawyers around the state interested in banding together in a new association.

At the same time, Phil Burlerson was a leader among the Dallas criminal defense bar. He noticed Tony's

efforts and saw how Dallas defense attorneys were supportive of his idea. Phil was then instrumental in organizing the now-famous meeting of defense attorneys at the Petroleum Club in the upscale Adolphus Hotel. There, factions from Houston and Dallas debated over who would lead this new defense lawyer organization.

Reliable sources revealed an agreement was reached between the two groups wherein Tony Friloux would be voted in as the first president the next year when the Bar met in Houston for its annual convention. Further, Phil Burluson would receive support from Tony for his own presidential bid the following year. And the need for comity was imperative at that time since TCDLA would be circling its wagons to combat the District and County Attorney's Association during the coming legislative session regarding the enactment of the new penal code. Joe Goodwin of Beaumont was credited with facilitating this peace between both sides in an effort to get the nascent TCDLA established and off on the right track.

And don't we know the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry? At the next year's Bar convention, neither Tony nor Phil could muster enough votes to get elected president. Consequently, plan B went into effect. Tony and Phil agreed the most innocuous person left, Frank Maloney, should be nominated. Frank was consequently nominated and then elected as TCDLA's first president. Interestingly, Frank always claimed he did not want the job, but a close friend had persuaded him to accept. His leadership was necessary not only from a personal perspective, but also for the health and well-being of the infant TCDLA.

Frank Maloney's first order of business was to convince the elected Board of Directors the organization desperately needed an executive director to help run the day-to-day operations. Frank incorporated the organization and hired Bill Reid as the first executive director of TCDLA. From an office in the Brown Building, Bill and Frank wrote to every district court judge in Texas seeking recommendations on leading criminal defense attorneys around the state who would be invited to join. The Board agreed on the \$150 membership fee while Bill designed an application, which was sent out to all the recommended attorneys. Frank remembers fondly how he and Bill hung a big map of Texas on the wall and stuck in a pin at the address for each member who joined as a result of their initial efforts. The result? Over 200 dues-paying members that first year in 1971.



TCDLA presidents from 1971 through 1982, with the exception of C. David Evans, the fifth president. Shown (*standing, left to right*) are Frank Maloney, Vincent Perini, Emmett Colvin, Weldon Holcomb, Clifford Brown, George Luquette, Robert Jones, and George Gilkerson. Seated (*left to right*) are C. Anthony Friloux Jr., Charles McDonald, and Phil Burleson.

The first TCDLA Board meeting took place at the Lakewood resort outside of Austin. Bylaws were proposed and finalized at the Rice Hotel in Houston the following year. Frank explained from that point, TCDLA "began to roll," becoming the supportive and forceful organization we know today. And in the years following, both Tony Friloux and Phil Burleson were eventually elected president – both putting their personal touches on the organization we all have come to appreciate and depend upon.

Thankfully, in 2018 we don't have to imagine practicing criminal law in Texas without books and resources, without quality continuing legal education, or without a force in the Texas Legislature. Indeed, the dream of a few visionaries in 1970 made our professional lives possible today. And long after these visionaries pass away, TCDLA will continue to train and support one of the nation's most effective criminal defense lawyers' organization ever conceived—the TCDLA.

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- [1] <http://voiceforthedefenseonline.com/channel/1/stories>
- [2] <http://voiceforthedefenseonline.com/source/vincent-perini>
- [3] <http://voiceforthedefenseonline.com/image/tcdla-inside-story>

[4] <http://voiceforthedefenseonline.com/image/tcdla-inside-story-1>

[5] <http://voiceforthedefenseonline.com/image/tcdla-inside-story-2>