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OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

1.) OCTOBER WEBINAR

TOPIC: **The Art & Technique of Effective Opening Statements**

WEBINAR CONTENT: Seasoned trial lawyers know that the best opening statements are considered and planned well before trial. Effective opening statements craft a narrative designed to persuade the decision-maker. Learn techniques and strategies - as well as the "art" - of preparing and executing an effective opening statement.

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**
11:30 am - 1:15 pm

CLE: 1.5 credit hours

COST: Free!

REGISTRATION: <https://www.californiaduilawyers.org/art-technique-effective-opening-statements>



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PRESENTER: Phillip Crawford

The Crawford Law Firm Inc. (Salinas, CA)



Phillip Crawford is an attorney in private practice in the counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz. In 2018, he received the President's Award from the late Felipe Plascencia for excellence in DUI defense. Phillip gets more DUIs dismissed and wins more DUIs than any other lawyer on the central coast.

Phillip is regarded by judges, prosecutors and fellow defense attorneys as a diligent and creative lawyer who fights passionately for his clients. His ability to communicate with jurors is exceptional. His skilled written and oral advocacy and his extensive knowledge and understanding of the law and the science of DUIs lead to remarkable results in the courtroom.

Three of Phillip's recent jury trials (a 0.17 breath, a 0.14 blood, and a 0.11 blood with an accident) ended with hung juries. A fourth trial (a 0.23 breath) ended when the DA moved to dismiss in the middle of her case-in-chief. Other recent successes include: a 0.18, 0.17 breath case that ended with a not guilty verdict, and one case with breath tests of 0.22 and 0.23 and a 0.23 blood test that ended with a hung jury.

One happy client wrote about Phillip: "He thinks strategically and pays attention to key details. His court performance is amazing. He talks to the jury like he is one of them, he engages them, provides them with the facts, and raises questions for them to think about with a suggested answer. He utilizes logic to explain complex matters. He deeply cares about his clients and works day and night to achieve what's best for them." And one DDA told Phillip: "Thank you for being a fearless advocate for your clients. I have a mountain of respect for you and what you do."

Aside from voir dire, Phillip believes the opening statement is the most important part of a DUI trial and he believes that the best defense is a good offense. Join Phillip as he provides tips on making an opening statement that packs a punch.

Phillip serves as Secretary of the CDLA Board of Directors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Brief presentations from our Sponsors will be held prior to the start of this webinar.
- This program will be recorded and added to CDLA's Learning Management System.
- 27 CDLA webinars are available on-demand 24/7 via our website (& eligible for MCLE credit!)
- All attendees will receive a Certificate of Attendance (1.5 CLE credit hours) and be asked to complete a brief evaluation survey.

Please contact me if you have any questions or have any issues registering for this webinar.

2.) WEBINARS AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

The September CDLA webinar - **3 AI STRATEGIES TO GET YOU MORE OF THE RIGHT CASES** - presented by **Tim Bedford** - is now available via CDLA's Learning Management System!

Just a friendly reminder that you can access **28 CDLA webinars** 24/7 On-Demand and even earn CLE credit!

- 3 AI STRATEGIES TO GET YOU MORE OF THE RIGHT CASES - NOW AVAILABLE!
- SEVILLA ON CIVILITY
- WORK SMARTER - NOT HARDER: AI TOOLS FOR DUI ATTORNEYS
- EFFECTIVE OPENING STATEMENTS
- THC/CANNABIS TOXICOLOGY - RECOGNIZING IMPAIRMENT
- NAVIGATING THE IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES OF DUI'S
- DEFENDING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES IN CALIFORNIA: CROSSOVER CASES INVOLVING DRUG & ALCOHOL ISSUES
- SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE: DISRUPTING TRADITIONAL ADDICTION RECOVERY
- DOING BATTLE WITH THE DMV
- CHEMICAL BREATH TEST MACHINES
- FIELD SOBRIETY TESTS: FACT, FICTION, OR VODOO ECONOMICS
- THC/CANNABIS: RECOGNIZING IMPAIRMENT
- DUI FORENSICS: How to Support Your Expert and Discredit the State Charlatan
- Head Trauma, Comprehensive and Intoxication: What to Look for in every Case
- California Primer for DUI & Criminal Defense Attorneys
- Ethics & Diversity in Your Legal Practice
- Human Factors
- Miranda & DUI with Lara Gressley
- Cross Examination of the State's Expert
- DUI Drugs Webinar Part 1: Pharmacology Expert
- DUI Drugs Webinar Part 2: Drug Recognition Evaluation (DRE)
- DUI Drugs Webinar Part 3: Blood Analysis for Drugs
- Effective Opening Statements
- All Things AMP (Accepted Medical Practices)!
- Victim Restitution
- The Rule-Out Method of Criminal Defense: A Game Changer
- Effective Legal Writing for Attorneys
- How to Challenge the THC Evidence in Every Case

HOW TO ACCESS A CDLA WEBINAR (in 5 easy steps!)

<https://www.californiaduilawyers.org/>

- 1.) MEMBER LOGIN
- 2.) ON-DEMAND WEBINARS
- 3.) COURSE LIST
- 4.) DETAILS
- 5.) SELECT COURSE YOU WISH TO WATCH (28 available!)

IMPORTANT NOTES

- The PowerPoint presentation, instructor bio, and a link to the assessment will also appear.
- Once you have watched (at least 90% of) the webinar and completed the assessment (with a 70%+ passing grade), you will receive a Certificate of Attendance via email.
- Print the Certificate, complete the bottom portion of this form, and retain a copy for your files.
- Please contact me if you have difficulty accessing any of these presentations or do not receive your MCLE Certificate of Attendance after successfully completing any program.

3.) SAVE THE DATE: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING



The popular annual ***NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING*** will be held:

Thursday, December 18, 2025
6:00 to 9:00 pm
Trader Vic's
Emeryville, CA

- Registration will open on Monday, November 3.
- Peter Johnson, CDLA Board of Directors, will be the presenter.
- Members are invited to bring a spouse or guest.
- This program has sold out for the past 3 years!

4.) NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER

MEMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	COUNTY
Michael Schwartz	mds@themichaelschwartzfirm.com	323-793-6735	Los Angeles
Bernard Bray	bernardbraylaw@gmail.com	408-655-3122	Santa Clara
Jessie Sinitch	jessie@cd-heroes.com	323-529-3660	Los Angeles

5.) GOT REFERRAL?



Do you know someone who may be interested in joining our Association? If so, please send me their contact information and I will email him/her about possible membership. Of course, if your referral joins, I will let you know!

6.) **California issues historic fine over lawyer's ChatGPT fabrications**

(portion of article published in *CalNews* on September 22, 2025, by Khari Johnson)

A California attorney must pay a \$10,000 fine for filing a court appeal full of fake quotations generated by the artificial intelligence tool ChatGPT.

The fine appears to be the largest issued over AI fabrications by a California court and came with a [blistering opinion](#) stating that 21 of 23 quotes from cases cited in the attorney's opening brief were made up. It also noted that numerous out-of-state and federal courts have confronted attorneys for citing fake legal authority.

"We therefore publish this opinion as a warning," it continued. "Simply stated, no brief, pleading, motion, or any other paper filed in any court should contain any citations— whether provided by generative AI or any other source—that the attorney responsible for submitting the pleading has not personally read and verified."

The opinion, issued 10 days ago in California's 2nd District Court of Appeal, is a clear example of why the state's legal authorities are scrambling to regulate the use of AI in the judiciary. The state's Judicial Council two weeks ago [issued guidelines requiring judges and court staff](#) to either ban generative AI or adopt a generative AI use policy by Dec. 15. Meanwhile, the California Bar Association is considering whether to strengthen its code of conduct to account for various forms of AI following a request by the California Supreme Court last month.

7.) THE LAST WORD!

If you have any CDLA membership issue, just call, text, or email me and I will assist you with the resolution of the problem. As always, thank you for your CDLA membership!

Roger

Dr. Roger C. Andersen

Executive Director

California DUI Lawyers Association

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