



Southwest Border - South Texas HIDTA  
Shane Bonnette, Training Coordinator



## Training Announcement

### **Writing Search Warrants**

**DATE:** April 11-12, 2017

**LOCATION:** Hays County Government Center  
712 South Stagecoach Trail, Rooms 1003/1004  
San Marcos, TX 78666

**TIME:** 9:00 am to 4pm

**COST:** None

**Dress Code:** Business Casual/Uniform

**Class Limit:** 50

**Course Description:** *This course is designed for law enforcement officers and prosecutors. The students will learn how to draft a search warrant affidavit by collectively discussing fact based scenarios. The course will also concentrate on their affidavit surviving the close scrutiny of the courts. The class will review the Fourth Amendment and any procedural and case law requirements within the state where the course will be taught.*

*The presentation will consist of lecture that is interspersed with practical exercises. The exercises consist of factual situations that will be provided to the students. The students will discuss those facts and then, as a group, prepare an affidavit for search warrant, along with the warrant itself. The discussion will be led by the instructor. The students will decide what information will be put into the affidavit and who they want to word that information. The instructor will actually type the affidavit "real time" and the students watch the affidavit being constructed as it is shown on the PowerPoint screen. Then, the instructor will offer constructive criticism and make corrections to the students' work product.*

**The lecture portion of the class will include:**

***Knock and Talks;***

***The Fourth Amendment as applied to search warrants;***

***How to properly describe the place to be searched;***

***How to properly describe the things to be seized;***

***Making sure that you have included everything in the warrant that you have a right to seize;***

***How to deal with computers and cell phones when asking to seize them and then search the content of those devices;***

***Naming or describing persons that you want to search, under the authority of the search warrant;***

***Describing the probable cause:***

***Organizing the facts***

***Creating a timeline***

***Sources of probable cause***

***Conclusory statements***

***Trying to insulate the informant***

***Being sure to state probable cause to support each item that you are asking to search for***

***How to prepare the search warrant***

***Execution Issues:***

***Knock and announce***

***Who gets searched during the execution of the warrant;***

***What are the limitations in executing a search warrant;***

***Gathering "evidence" in addition to seizing contraband.***

***Each student will receive a handout that details the requisites of drafting a search warrant and search warrant affidavit. The handout provides suggested language that the student can use when drafting warrants in the field. They will also receive a compact disc containing various templates for search warrants, as well as examples of several affidavits used in more complex situations. Also, each student will receive, by email, the affidavits and warrants that the class built during the two day course.***

***This class will be instructed by former District Attorney Ted Wilson. Ted Wilson retired after 34 years of service with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. He has been Chief over District Attorneys Bureaus in Major Fraud, Narcotics, Organized Crime and Major Offenders. He has authored several pieces of legislation involving the State of Texas Criminal Conspiracy Laws. He participates on the national lecture circuit of the Professional Development Bureau for training of new prosecutors.***

***Registration is by link: Cut and Paste into your browser, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXM2YTY>***

***Inquiries can be addressed to:***

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