



## **A DWI Court Program for the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law**

### **Role of the Defense Attorney for SOBER Court**

1. Ensure a potential SOBER Court participant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to participate in SOBER court by meeting with each potential participant and their attorney to explain:
  - a. the nature and purpose of SOBER Court;
  - b. the rules governing participation; the consequences of abiding or failing to abide by the rules in the SOBER court will affect the interests of the defendant; and
  - c. how the rights, duties and responsibilities of a SOBER court participant differ from traditional community supervision using the contract, consent form, and confidentiality documents as examples.
2. Participate in staffing and court review of each case.
3. Maintain a non-adversarial role during court proceedings.
4. Ensure systemic substantive and procedural due process.
5. Monitor appropriate sanctions and incentives imposed within the SOBER court program guidelines.
6. Provide guidance and advice for documents to facilitate specific needs of participants.
7. Contribute to DWI Court efforts in community education with the public, peers in other jurisdictions, and the judiciary on effectiveness and value of the program.