

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

**January 13–18, 2019  
Austin**

**27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics**

**Omni Southpark Hotel  
4140 Governors Row  
Austin, TX 78744  
512/383-2622**

*Rooms are  
\$119 plus tax.  
This rate is good  
until December 24  
or the block is sold  
out, whichever  
comes first.*

**A**nyone who is new to a prosecutor's office (or just ready for an update) should plan to attend the Texas District and County Attorneys Association's Prosecutor Trial Skills Course this January in Austin. It's a full week of intensive training that prepares new prosecutors for their work both in the courtroom and out. Seasoned faculty advisors are assigned to small groups of attendees to answer questions and direct discussions at each table. New prosecutors won't want to miss this intensive, high-quality training customized especially for them!

**Registration for this seminar and other information is at [tdcaa.com](http://tdcaa.com).**

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

## Sunday, January 13 (2 hours CLE)

- 4:00 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction  
4:15 p.m. Case Scenario / Group Introductions  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
4:30 p.m. The Ethical Prosecutor  
*W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin*  
6:15 p.m. Adjourn to Opening Reception  
(provided by TDCAA)

## Monday, January 14 (6.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update  
*By Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County*  
10:30 a.m. Pre-Trial Issues  
*Shelton Gibbs, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Kaufman County*  
11:30 a.m. Faculty Discussion:  
How Does Your County Work?  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
1:00 p.m. The Evidence Primer  
*Melinda Westmoreland, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County*  
2:15 p.m. Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection  
*By Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County*  
3:15 p.m. DEMO: Jury Selection  
3:45 p.m. Peremptory Strikes and Batson Challenges  
*Glen Fitzmartin, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*  
4:30 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
5:30 p.m. Adjourn

## Tuesday, January 15 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Hearings on Motions to Suppress  
*Tom Bridges, Former District Attorney, Aransas & San Patricio Counties (retired)*  
11:15 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
1:00 p.m. On Difficult Relationships  
1:45 p.m. Your VAC and You  
*Jalayne Robinson, TDCAA Victim Services Director*  
2:30 p.m. Effective Opening Statements  
*Kevin Petroff, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Galveston County*

## Tuesday, January 15 (cont'd)

- 3:30 p.m. DEMO: Opening Statement  
4:00 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

## Wednesday, January 16 (3 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI: Presenting the Case  
*Allison Tisdale, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County*  
10:45 a.m. Domestic Violence: Presenting the Case  
*Kristin Burns, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bastrop County*  
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

## Thursday, January 17 (6.5 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Punishment Evidence  
*Tanisha Manning, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*  
10:15 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
11:00 a.m. Probation Revocation Hearings  
*Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*  
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
1:00 p.m. Plea Negotiation & Plea Bargaining  
Workshop  
*Sheri Culberson, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*  
3:15 p.m. Predicate Prosecutor Feud  
*Erik Nielsen, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County*  
4:15 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

## 5:00–5:45 p.m. Optional Class C Forum

*W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Attorney, Austin*  
This session is an opportunity for attendees who practice in justice or municipal courts to discuss current trends and issues they face in their practice. Attendance at this session is optional, and no MCLE credit will be provided.

## Friday, January 18 (2.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Cross-Examination and Impeachment  
*Ryan Calvert, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County*  
10:30 a.m. Final Argument  
*John Jordan, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*  
Noon Adjourn

## Registration for this seminar and other information is at [tdcaa.com](http://tdcaa.com).

*This program is funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association.*

### Payment options:

- \$350 Registration** (\$175 Registration fee + \$175 Association fee): For CAs, DAs, CDAs, C&DAs, and their office personnel. The TDCAA fee of \$175 is each participant's share of costs over and above what the grant allows (for example, excess costs of on-site meals and association overhead). In addition, this fee enables TDCAA to lock in discounted hotel rates for participants and entitles them to attend all association functions, including Sunday's reception and lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.
- \$175 "Training Only" Registration:** For CAs, DAs, CDAs C&DAs and their office personnel. This fee does not allow an attendee to participate in receptions or lunches but entitles the attendee admittance to all training sessions.
- \$500 Registration:** For everyone else.