

TDCAA wants you! (to write for this journal)

⁹ *Id.* at *2 (“Many of the findings simply recount the trial court’s recollection of the hearing without evaluating the evidence for accuracy or credibility or declaring what the trial court found to have happened on the night of the arrest”).

¹⁰ *Id.* at *5-7.

¹¹ *Id.* at *9 (Newell, J., concurring).

¹² *Id.* at *8.

¹³ *Martinez II*, 2019 WL 137754 at *6.

¹⁴ *Id.* at * (Newell, J., concurring) (pagination of side opinions not complete).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Keller, P.J., and Hervey and Richardson, JJ.

¹⁸ *State v. Esparza*, 413 S.W.3d 81, 92-93 (Tex. Crim. App. 2013) (Keller, P.J., concurring, joined by Keasler and Hervey, JJ.).

¹⁹ Our office has asked for both. See *State v. Sanders*, PD-0080/81/82-18 (pet. ref’d May 2, 2018).

²⁰ See *State v. Velasquez*, 539 S.W.3d 289, 294 (Tex. Crim. App. 2018) (order setting hearing should ensure the parties will have time to subpoena witnesses, conduct legal research, and “otherwise prepare for impending litigation”).

²¹ *Id.* at 297 (Hervey, J., concurring) (calling the State’s refusal “taking its ball and going home”).

²² Oral findings can work but will likely lack the detail needed.

²³ See *Cullen*, 195 S.W.3d at 698-99 (casting omissions following request as a “failure or refusal to act” under Tex. R. App. P. 44.4).

²⁴ Martinez’s suppression hearing was four years ago.

Have you ever found yourself flipping through *The Texas Prosecutor* journal and asked yourself, “How do I join the ranks of these suave, articulate, knowledgeable paragons of the profession?”

(Or asked yourself how those poor souls got dragged into the task?) Have you ever been interested in writing for the journal but didn’t know where to start? Have you ever had an idea for an article you hoped to see someday, but you haven’t seen anyone write it yet?

If you answered yes to any of those questions (or even answered no but kept reading for some reason), then TDCAA wants you to write for the journal! The articles you enjoy and dog-ear for future reference are almost entirely written by your fellow prosecutors, investigators, victim assistance coordinators, and support staff, and we (that’s your friendly neighborhood editorial committee) are always on the lookout for new contributors. If you’ve ever had questions about how to start or wondered about the process, we’ll try to clear things up, bring light to darkness, insert cliché here, etc.

Why write for the journal?

That’s a great question, and there are lots of reasons to write. First, it’s an opportunity to learn. Even when writing on a topic that you know well, the research and writing process gives you a chance to revisit the subject, kick off the rust, and learn a new useful tidbit or two. Second, it’s a chance to share an experience that you or your office had with others who may be facing similar problems. Third, it’s one way to steward the profession, by sharing your knowledge with those coming after you. Of course, there’s also getting the chance to wow friends and family with seeing your name in print.¹

How to get started

If you asked Sarah Wolf, the journal’s ~~brutal~~ ~~taskmistress~~—hard-working, diligent editor/



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Even if you don't think your first idea is a good one, run it by someone. Give it a test pitch. Your idea might be better than you think, or we might help you come up with something else that you'd like to do.

coach/cheerleader combo, she'd probably tell you that her preferred way of getting new articles is to have someone drop one in her lap, fully cited and edited, and completely out of the blue. Because this scenario almost never happens, the next best way is to get in touch with Sarah. If you have an article idea, she'll help you refine that into a specific topic. If you want to write, but don't have a topic in mind, she has a list of topics you can choose from. She'll help you come up with a deadline that works with your schedule, and finally, she'll work with you on revisions and possibly even connect you with someone else to provide feedback. From start to finish, you won't be writing alone; you'll have someone to help you be successful.

While we're at it, let's cover a few of the most common objections or excuses not to write.

I'm not a very good writer. Don't worry! None of us was good our first time around, but we had help from others who wanted us to be successful. We'll be there to help you while you're working.

My idea's not interesting. Even if you don't think your first idea is a good one, run it by someone. Give it a test pitch. Your idea might be better than you think, or we might help you come up with something else that you'd like to do.

Everything's already been done before. Did you know that a good chunk of prosecutor ranks turns over every three years or so? Even if a topic was covered a few years ago, there are likely plenty of people who could benefit from such an article—and even older readers can use another perspective.

I don't want to write by myself. Safety in numbers works! If you feel like team authorship works better for you, we will work to pair you with a partner. On top of that, you'll still have help from us to keep you on track.

I don't have the time to write a long article. Write a short one instead. We try to publish book reviews in most issues, and someone's got to write them.

Bill Wirskye writes for the journal, and I'm just not on the same level as Wirskye. Let's face it, none of us are. It doesn't stop us from trying, though.

Last call

Just like every other TDCAA activity, the journal is member-driven; it is written by and for Texas prosecutors and staff. If you want a chance to hone your skills and knowledge, contribute to others' development, and pay forward what other members have invested in you, please consider writing an article (or six). You'll find it both rewarding and achievable. ✱

Endnote

¹ Kaylee, my Australian Shepherd and occasional co-author, is always suitably impressed by my articles; my 3-year-old old daughter, not so much.