

**A look back
at the year
everyone did
everything
differently
(including us)**

2020

*the Annual Report for the
Texas District & County
Attorneys Foundation*

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T E X A S
DISTRICT AND
C O U N T Y
ATTORNEYS
FOUNDATION

A letter from the TDCAF Board President

“We can’t wait to see what’s around the corner in 2020! And as always, I thank you for your continued support.” That is how I ended my preface to TDCAF’s 2019 Annual Report. Had I only known better, I wouldn’t have been so anxious to experience 2020.

If you’re like me, you breathed a sigh of relief as the year finally came to an end. And while we continue to face big challenges caused by a global pandemic, the promise of a vaccine affords us so much hope for the future. This relief cannot arrive too soon, as operations in prosecutor offices across the state have been severely impacted. Prosecutors are managing workloads from home, trials are severely curtailed, and justice has largely been put on hold.

The pandemic presented a threat to TDCAA’s ongoing operations, including scheduled training, delivery of publications, and victim services. TDCAF’s ability to continue providing financial support for TDCAA was also a concern. I am thankful the leadership of both TDCAA and TDCAF rose to the challenge by assuring that services continued throughout 2020. The Foundation contributed funding for a video recording studio and turned TDCAA into a robust online training organization. Also important, TDCAF continued expansion of the Texas Prosecutors Society with the induction of 22 new members. Finally, we resurrected the TDCAF website after an extended absence. All told, TDCAA has been fortunate to weather the pandemic storm and overcome numerous challenges, and TDCAF has stood by its side, supporting the mission by providing financial resources to meet the need.

This new year represents TDCAF’s 15th year in existence, and our work never been more imperative. The TDCAF board has re-committed itself to meet the challenges ahead. With government funding for training ever-decreasing, the Foundation can step in to support excellence in Texas prosecution. The Foundation’s leadership believes that Texans share our vision of a safer state, and having well-trained and equipped professional champions in the courtroom can make a real difference. With your help, our future is bright.

So, at the risk of tempting fate, I’ll try a second time to end where we began: We can’t wait to see what’s around the corner in 2021! And as always, I thank you for your continued support.



David Escamilla
*TDCAF Board
President*

What TDCAF does

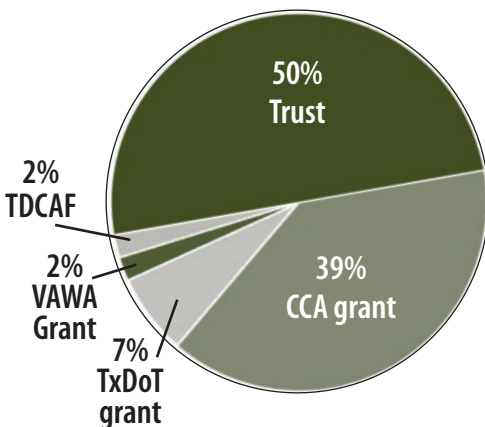
In its 15 years of existence, the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation (TDCAF) has never seen a year like 2020. That's likely true for everyone reading this report, and we all have been through the wringer, professionally and personally, over the past several months. Now more than ever, it's clear why the Foundation is so important to the mission and purpose of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA).

TDCAA is the professional association for Texas prosecutors, and it has been around for more than 100 years. Our 6,367 members—a number that swells every year—include prosecutors, investigators, support staff, defense attorneys, judges, and law students, and they need training, technical assistance, and other help in seeing that justice is done. Without effective advocates both in and outside the courtroom, crime victims and members of the public will not get the justice they deserve.

Grants support a portion of the training we produce, but government funding for training is ever-decreasing and the number of prosecutors and staff who need it is always increasing. (See the chart below for a breakdown of where we

get our funding.) Without money from other sources, such as the Foundation, TDCAA could not meet the needs of its members and law enforcement. Read on to find out how we served Texas prosecutors and staff in 2020.

Sources of TDCAA's funding



What TDCAF did in 2020

Training

Normally, TDCAA produces more than 60 (!) in-person conferences a year all over the state to provide 7,000-plus people more than 50,000 hours of continuing legal education. That's a lot—these numbers rank us among the top out of more than 1,500 CLE providers. But the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown halted our regular business of putting on live courses, though we were able to host two in-person conferences in early 2020 before the shutdown.

In March, we quickly pivoted to producing courses that could be watched online (both live and pre-recorded). The Foundation Board sprung to action to approve and fund the creation of a film studio in TDCAA headquarters. TDCAA had created video training before, but not the number or frequency of courses we produced in 2020. By the end of the year, we had put together 11 online conferences. Topics included general advocacy, mental health, caseload management, domestic violence, and courtroom testimony in DWI cases. Several courses were pre-recorded so that viewers could stream them at their own pace from home or work, while a couple were conducted live over Zoom. All told in 2020, TDCAA trained 3,561 prosecutors, staff, and law enforcement officers with a

Below, the new video recording studio at the TDCAA office.

Meeting planners LaToya Scott (far left) and Andie Peters (second from left) stepped in as audio and video techs while training director Brian Klas (second from right) and Travis County ADA (and co-host) Erik Nielsen (far right) prepare to be on camera.



total of 33,050 hours of training. Pretty impressive given the widespread confusion in the wake of the shutdowns, as well as the steep learning curve, which included converting a little-used library in the TDCAA office into a recording studio, hiring film crews to record experts giving presentations, editing the raw footage into high-quality courses, and tweaking the TDCAA website to accommodate all of it. And of course, doing all of this work while staying 6 feet away from every other person!

In the top left photo, TDCAA Executive Director Rob Kepple records the introduction to the 2020 Annual Criminal & Civil Law Update, which was filmed at a downtown Austin hotel over four days. In the top right photo, Tiana Sanford, an ADA in Montgomery County and TDCAA's Training Committee chair, tapes her presentation for the Annual, as do Erik Nielsen (bottom photo at left), an ADA in Travis County, and Jack Roady, CDA in Galveston County.



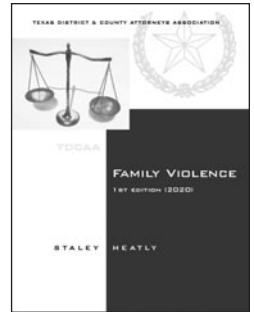
Publications

Another key to educating prosecutors, especially in a year with so few opportunities for networking and in-person gatherings, is publications. In 2020, TDCAA produced six criminal law books for prosecutors and law enforcement officers. Three of these—*Family Violence*, *Jury Selection*, and *Mental Health Law for Prosecutors*—are brand-new offerings meant to help prosecutors navigate the difficult waters of tricky topics. The other three were updated editions of previously published books: *Investigation & Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse*, *Intoxication Manslaughter*, and *Writs*. TDCAA publishes more than 30 books and manuals in all, including electronic versions of code books, to educate prosecutors and staff on a wide breadth of criminal law topics. The Foundation has been instrumental in getting many of these publications into the hands of the professionals who need them.

Victims Services

The Foundation helps underwrite our Victims Services Director position to improve legislatively mandated but largely unfunded crime victim services in prosecutor's offices. Normally, Jalayne Robinson, our Victim Services Director, criss-crosses the state in any given year to on-board new victim assistance coordinators (VACs), prosecutors, and other staff, but in 2020, much of that work moved online. Still, Jalayne accomplished much in the last year when she:

- presented victim services training in person and via Zoom to 436 prosecutors, prosecutor office staff, and victim services personnel at multiple TDCAA courses, including the Prosecutor Skills Trial Course, Key Personnel & Victim Assistance Coordinator Conference, and Newly Elected Boot Camp;
- provided ongoing daily email and telephone support to Texas VACs and prosecutors;



Family Violence
*a new TDCAA
book by Staley
Heatly*



**Jalayne Robinson,
LMSW**

*TDCAA Victims
Services Director*

- served as project director for our Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division VOCA grant, including grant writing and grant administration;
- assisted in developing VOCA grant training;
- assisted with coordinating the TDCAA Key Personnel–Victim Services Board, including conducting board member elections via Zoom and corresponding with Board members;
- wrote a regular column for TDCAA's journal, *The Texas Prosecutor*;
- moderated discussion forums at the Key Personnel & Victim Assistance Coordinator Conference; and
- represented TDCAA in policy development and service coordination with state agencies and other nonprofits assisting victims.

In the top photo, TDCAA Victims Services Director Jalayne Robinson (top row in the middle) trains four new VACs in the Harris County DA's Office. In the bottom photo, she does the same for two new VACs in the Rains County DA's Office, all over Zoom.



A resurrected website

Without a dedicated staffer to maintain it, the Foundation's website had been offline for several years. That changed in 2020 when Sarah Halverson, TDCOA communications director, offered to try her hand at WordPress to create an online home for the Foundation. Several YouTube tutorials and much trial and error later, the Foundation has a gleaming new website! It includes news and goings-on, as well as a link for making donations. Check out **tdcaf.org** to take a look.



WHAT WE DO OUR LEADERSHIP TEXAS PROSECUTORS SOCIETY DONATE CONTACT US

TEXAS DISTRICT & COUNTY ATTORNEYS FOUNDATION

SO THE STATE IS ALWAYS READY.

When a Texas prosecutor stands up and announces “ready” for the State, the community needs to know that that prosecutor is truly prepared to see justice done. With government funding for training ever-decreasing, the Foundation can step in to support excellence in Texas prosecution. The Foundation's leadership believes that Texans share our vision of a safer state, and having well-trained and equipped professional champions in the courtroom can make a real difference.

The Texas District & County Attorneys Foundation provides support for such endeavors.

*A screen capture of the Foundation's new website, **tdcaf.org**.*

Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS)

In 2011, under the direction of then-Board Chair Dan Boulware and Endowment Chair Tom Krampitz, the Foundation established a select group of supporters called the Texas Prosecutors Society. This invitation was for those who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to improving prosecution and training in Texas, whether they serve as current prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, or judges; they practice in another area of law; or they are enjoying retirement. We are proud that so many current and former prosecutors have joined these ranks.



Texas Prosecutors Society members have pledged \$2,500 each to create an endowment fund for the Foundation—a forward-thinking strategy for building stability and growth for both the Foundation and the Association. The endowment’s purpose is to collect and invest funds for the future to provide critical support to the Association.

Each year, new inductees of the Society are recognized at a special reception at TDCAA’s Elected Prosecutor Conference in December. 2020’s reception has been postponed until it can happen in person, but that didn’t stop 22 people from joining TPS in 2020. As of this writing, the Society now consists of 204 members. It will continue to grow as more prosecutors and distinguished alumni are invited to join every year. Listed on these three pages is the current membership of the Texas Prosecutors Society with the 2020 inductees in **bold**.

Johnnie Actkinson	Eduardo Arredondo	Traci Bennett	Grant Brenna
Chilo Alaniz	Charles Aycock	Bobby Bland	Tom Bridges
Jay Aldis	Brian Baker	Murff Bledsoe	Alice Brown
Carolyn Allen	Steve Baldassano	Joe Edd Boaz	C. Scott Brumley
Richard Alpert	Nelson Barnes	Dan M. Boulware	Terese Buess
Bernard Ammerman	Patrick C. Batchelor	Dusty Boyd	Celeste Byrom
James Michael Anderson	Art Bauereiss	Kathy Braddock	Katherine A. Cabaniss
Gordon Armstrong	Diane Beckham	John Bradley	Ryan Calvert
	Elmer Beckworth	Richard Brainerd	Donna Cameron

Stephen H. Capelle
Gerald C. Carruth
James L. Chapman
Jack Choate
Don Clemmer
Cathleen Cochran
Tim Cole
Skip Cornelius
J. Michael Criswell
Kenda Culpepper
Justin Cunningham
Alan Curry
Norma Davenport
Danny Buck Davidson
A.W. Davis
Don Davis
Yolanda de Leon
Natalie Koehler Denbow
Dan Dent
John P. Dodson
Caroline Dozier
Scott A. Durfee
Ray Echevarria
James Eidson
Jon English
Laurie English
David Escamilla
Jaime Esparza
Jamie Felicia
Tony Fidelie
David Finney
Knox Fitzpatrick
Gretchen Flader
John Fleming
Gerald Fohn
Michael Fouts
Jack Frels
Keri Fuller

Bob Gage
Casey Garrett
Henry Garza
Dan Gattis
Larry Gist
Elizabeth Godwin
Jesse Gonzales, Jr.
Gerald Goodwin
H. E. Bert Graham
Michael J. Guarino, II
Rene Guerra
Tony Hackebeit
Dan Hagood
Dale Hanna
Tom Hanna
Lynn Hardaway
Russell Hardin Jr.
Ira Royal Hart
Bill Hawkins
Donna Hawkins
Dan Heard
Staley Heatly
Bill Helwig
Fred Hernandez
Jim Hicks
Michael Hinton
John B. Holmes, Jr.
Lee Hon
John Hubert
Bruce Isaacks
Helen Jackson
Michael Jarrett
Micheal Jimerson
Kyson Johnson
Ed C. Jones
Kim Judin
James Keeshan
Rob Kepple

Charles Kimbrough
Bud Kirkendall
Oliver S. Kitzman
Tom Krampitz
Jim Kuboviak
Landon Lambert
Pete Laney
Robert Charles Lassmann
Brett Ligon
Jo Ann Linzer
Crawford Long
Doug Lowe
Cheryll Mabray
Barry Macha
Ken Magidson
Tom Maness
Betty Marshall
Sonny McAfee
Lyn McClellan
Jana McCown
Katherine McDaniel
Adrienne McFarland
Andy McMullen
Gina DeBottis Metts
Greg Miller
Rick Miller
Sunni Mitchell
Mindy Montford
Kris Moore
Larry Moore
Margaret Moore
Karen Morris
Amanda Navarette
John Neal
Murray Newman
Laura Nodolf
Kim Ogg
Denise Oncken

Texas Prosecutors Society (continued)

Jarvis Parsons
 Sherri Wallace Patton
 Rene Pena
 Lisa Peterson
 Kevin Petroff
 John Pool
 Ed Porter
 Matt Powell
 G. Dwayne Pruitt
 Julian Ramirez
 Judge Susan D. Reed
 Steven Reis
 Julie Renken
 Ray Rike
 Jack Roady
 Fred Rodriguez
John Rolater
 Ross Rommel, Jr.
 Vince Ryan, Jr.
Tiana Sanford
 Bob Schell
 Daphne Session

Joe Shannon, Jr.
 B.J. Shepherd
 Ed Shettle
 Toby Shook
April Sikes
 Randall Coleman Sims
 Joseph J. Skrivaneck, III
Kebharu Smith
 Stephen Smith
 Ken Sparks
Kerry Spears
Leslie Standerfer
 Jane Starnes
 Don R. Stricklin
 Johnny Keane Sutton
 Lisa Tanner
 Marcus Taylor
 John Terrill
 Jennifer Tharp
 F. Duncan Thomas
 Sherri Tibbe
 Jaime Tijerina

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 Martha Warren Warner
 David Weeks
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Patrick Wilson
 Roe Wilson
 Sharen Wilson
 Ted Wilson, III
 Bill Wirskye
 Vic Wisner
 Justin Wood
 Bob Wortham
 Mark Yarbrough



Mike Hinton

*photographed in
 2010 at a TDCAF
 event in Houston*

Mike Hinton's passing and scholarship

We are deeply saddened to note the passing of Mike "Machine Gun" Hinton in 2020. A longtime prosecutor and defense attorney, Mike made friends on both sides of the bar wherever he went. Not long after word of his death had gotten around, Charles Rosenthal, one-time District Attorney in Harris County and a longtime member of the Foundation's Advisory Committee, reached out to former colleagues and friends who had known and adored Mike with the idea that they contribute toward a scholarship fund in Mike's name. Several people did just that, raising just about \$5,000 in a few short weeks. That money will be used to provide scholarships for future TDCAA trainings. Keep an eye on the TDCAA and TDCAF websites for more information.

TDCAF donors in 2020

Chilo Alaniz	David Finney	Charles Kimbrough	Steven Reis
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Charles Aycock	Leon Frels	Chip Lewis	Vince Ryan
Brian Baker	Bob Gage	Cheryl Lieck	Bob Schell
Art Bauereiss	Casey Garrett	Brett Ligon	Daphne Session
Elmer Beckworth	Dan Gattis	Jo Ann Linzer	April Sikes
Mary Beeler Meadows	Elizabeth Godwin	Audrey Louis	Kebharu Smith
Traci Bennett	Bert Graham	Doug Lowe	Stephen Smith
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How to give

There are three easy ways to contribute toward the Foundation's mission of supporting TDCAA and its purpose in helping prosecutors and staff see that justice is done in their communities.

- You can send a check made payable to TDCAF to LaToya Scott, TDCAF, 505 West 12th Street, Ste. 100, Austin, TX 78701.
- Give online with a Visa or Mastercard at tdcaf.org.
- Donate asset forfeiture funds. A few years ago, the Texas Legislature amended Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 59.06(d-2) to allow elected prosecutors to donate these funds to an entity that provides training or education related to the detection, investigation, or prosecution of a crime or abuse. We are grateful for these contributions (when local needs have already been met) and have committed that all such funds are "restricted"—meaning, they are used only for training, without any expenditures for Foundation overhead and the like.

TDCAF by the numbers

	2020	Budget	% of Budget
Unrestricted Funds			
Income	\$17,225	\$60,000	29%
Expenses	\$23,581	\$54,900	43%
Net Unrestricted Income	(\$6,356)	\$5,100	
Restricted Funds			
Income	\$128,634	\$140,000	92%
Expenses	\$38,673	\$75,000	52%
Net Restricted Income	\$89,961	\$65,000	
Fund Balances			
Restricted	\$677,351		
Unrestricted	\$88,860		
Endowment	\$489,020		
Total All Funds	\$1,255,231		

TDCAF leadership

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Ashton Cumberbatch, Jr., Austin
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Dean Robert Fertitta, Columbia, SC
Gerald Flatten, Beaumont
Jack Frels, Houston
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Diane Beckham, Senior Staff Counsel	Brian Klas, Training Director
Kaylene Braden, Asst. Database Manager & Membership Director	Andie Peters, Assistant Meeting Planner
William Calem, Director of Operations & Chief Financial Officer	Jalayne Robinson, Victims Services Director
Shannon Edmonds, Director of Governmental Relations	Dayatra Rogers, Database Manager & Registrar
Sarah Halverson, Communications Director	LaToya Scott, Meeting Planner
	Andrew Smith, Financial Officer
	Amber Styers, Reimbursement Clerk

