

T D C A A

Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

July 11-16, 2021

27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics

The host hotel:
Omni Southpark
4140 Governors Row
Austin, TX 78744
800/843-6664

Rooms are
\$129 plus tax.
This rate is good
until June 21 or the
block is sold out,
whichever
comes first.

Anyone who is new to a prosecutor's office (less than six months on the job) should plan to attend TDCAA's Prosecutor Trial Skills Course. It's a full week of intensive training that prepares newly hired 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, and two aspects of trial—jury selection and opening statement—are demonstrated by veteran prosecutors. Other elements of trial are covered, from opening statements to closing arguments, as are DWI and domestic violence prosecution (two of the most common offenses new prosecutors handle), plea bargains, probation revocation hearings, and motions to suppress. There's even an optional forum on Class C misdemeanors for those prosecutors who practice in JP or municipal courts. New prosecutors won't want to miss this intensive, high-quality training customized especially for them!

Due to ongoing pandemic-related concerns, we will have lower-than-normal attendee capacity. Please check the registration page on our website, www.tdcaa.com/training, for additional information.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GINCOR, INC

Texas District & County Attorneys Association
505 W. 12th St., Ste. 100
Austin, TX 78701

Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

Sunday, July 11 (2 hours CLE)

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

Monday, July 12 (6.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **DWI Caselaw Update**
Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County
10:30 a.m. **Pre-Trial Issues**
Cara Landers, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Lubbock 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**
Britt Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County
2:15 p.m. **Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection**
Marisa Dunagan, 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, July 13 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Hearings on Motions to Suppress**
Ralph Guerrero, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hays County
11:15 a.m. **Case Scenarios**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
Noon **Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
1:00 p.m. **Identifying & Overcoming Cognitive Bias**
Jarvis Parsons, District Attorney, Brazos County
2:15 p.m. **Effective Opening Statements**
Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
3:15 p.m. **DEMO: Opening Statements**
3:45 p.m. **Your VAC and You**
Jalayne Robinson, LMSW, TDCAA Victim Services Director
4:15 p.m. **Case Scenarios**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Wednesday, July 14 (3 hours CLE)

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

Thursday, July 15 (6.5 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Punishment Evidence**
Jerry Varney, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
10:15 a.m. **Case Scenarios**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
11:00 a.m. **Probation Revocation Hearings**
Nicole Washington, Asst. District Attorney, Liberty County
Noon **Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
1:00 p.m. **Plea Negotiation & Plea Bargaining Workshop**
Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County, & Brian Klas, TDCAA Training Director, Austin
3:15 p.m. **Predicate 101**
Scott Simpson, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Medina 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, July 16 (2.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Cross-Examination & Impeachment**
Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin 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.

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.