

T D C A A

Advanced Trial Advocacy Course

Child Sexual Assault

Baylor Law School in Waco

July 27-31, 2026

22.5 hours of MCLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Austin, TX 78701

505 W. 12th St., Ste. 100

Texas District & County Attorneys Association

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Advanced Trial Advocacy Course Information

TDCAA's Advanced Trial Advocacy Course is designed for prosecutors with three to five years of trial experience who want to prepare and participate in a hands-on course to increase their effectiveness in trial. Upon acceptance, all participants will receive a detailed packet of instructions and a felony case scenario that will form the basis of the presentations, faculty demonstrations, workshops, and courtroom performances. Each participant is responsible for the entire case scenario, although individual performances may involve only a particular aspect of the case. Upon arrival, participants will be assigned to one of the law school's practice courtrooms with a smaller group of eight participants and experienced faculty advisors who will guide the group discussions and provide critiques of each participant's live and recorded performances. This year, participants will focus on a child sexual assault case to learn how to address many of the challenges stemming from these types of cases.

Attendance: Attendance is limited to 32 prosecutors. Application review will begin on **June 25**. Interested prosecutors should submit their applications prior to that date to ensure they are considered. No walk-in registrations will be accepted under any circumstances. Upon acceptance, participants will receive confirmation, informational packets, and detailed felony case scenarios via email. Advance preparation and full-week participation are required. Applicants who are not accepted for this course will be put on a waiting list and have first priority in case of cancellations. **Any attendee substitutions must be submitted to and approved by TDCAA.**

Registration and fees: There is no fee for attending this course. TDCAA will pay for the hotel and reimburse your travel at the current GSA rate. Participants will receive a per diem reimbursement, also at the current GSA rate, for meals, which are on your own. All participants will stay at the AC Hotel by Marriott Waco Downtown, 600 Mary Ave., in Waco, TX 76701. Classes are a short drive to the Baylor University Law School, which is located at 1114 South University Parks Drive, Waco, TX 76706. **Upon acceptance, TDCAA will make hotel reservations for all participants. Do not call the hotel directly.** Rooms are reserved beginning Sunday, July 26, with departure on Friday, July 31. If you do NOT need the hotel room on Sunday night and plan to check in Monday instead, please let meeting planner Andie Peters know by replying to your initial acceptance email from us. All incidental expenses, including room upgrades, double occupancy, room service, movie rentals, etc., are your own.

Attire: On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, courtroom attire is required. On Friday, business casual dress is acceptable.

CLE: TDCAA has applied to the State Bar of Texas for 22.5 hours of MCLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics for participation in this course.

More information on this course is at tdcaa.com.

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

Advanced Trial Advocacy Course Agenda

Monday, July 27 (courtroom attire)

- 9:00 a.m. Registration Opens
(Course directors will be available for questions about the case file, and faculty will be available in their assigned courtrooms.)
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Course Introduction
- 10:15 a.m. Investigation & Intake
- 11:00 a.m. Charging Decisions
- Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Case Management & Construction
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. State's Experts
- Adjourn At the end of the exercise

Tuesday, July 28 (courtroom attire)

- 9:00 a.m. *Performance: Jury Selection*
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Jury Selection I
- Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Jury Selection II
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. *Performance: Opening Statement*
- 4:00 p.m. Opening Statements
- 4:45 p.m. Witness Preparation
- Adjourn At the end of the exercise
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner (provided by TDCAA)

Wednesday, July 29 (courtroom attire)

- 9:00 a.m. Direct Examination
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. *Performance: Direct Exam*
- Adjourn At the end of the exercise

Thursday, July 30 (courtroom attire)

- 9:00 a.m. Cross-Examination
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. *Performance: Cross-Examination*
- Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Closing Argument & Punishment
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. *Performance: Closing Argument at Guilt–Innocence*
- 4:00 p.m. Break
- 4:15 p.m. *Performance: Closing Argument at Punishment*
- Adjourn At the end of the exercise

Friday, July 31 (casual attire)

- 9:00 a.m. Victim Considerations
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Resolution & Debrief
- 11:00 a.m. Ethical Issues in Child Sexual Assault: *Brady & Beyond*
- Adjourn At the end of the exercise

Course Directors: Madeline Jones & Dale Smith

TDCAA Registration Form

Advanced Trial Advocacy Course at Baylor Law School

July 27-31, 2026

Application Requirements: For consideration, you must complete this form in its entirety. Incomplete forms will not be considered. Please type or print and sign your form. To ensure consideration, applications must be received via email by **June 25**. If accepted, applicants will be notified by email and will receive confirmation and information about the course and lodging. This form may be duplicated.

Name _____

Title _____

Current assignment _____

Mailing address _____

(We will mail course materials here.)

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

State Bar # _____

Email address _____

1. What is the approximate population of your jurisdiction? (Check the appropriate box.)

- Less than 20,000 20,000–50,000
 50,001–100,000 100,001–250,000
 250,001–500,000 Over 500,000

2. How many employees are in your office? _____

3. Total years as a prosecutor: _____

4. Total number of trials:

Jury trials:	Bench trials:
____ misdemeanor	____ misdemeanor
____ Class C	____ Class C
____ felony	____ felony
____ civil	____ civil

5. Charges in the last five completed trials as lead attorney (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> violent crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> property crime | <input type="checkbox"/> arson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> juvenile court | <input type="checkbox"/> DWI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> white-collar crime | <input type="checkbox"/> vehicular fatalities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drug prosecution | <input type="checkbox"/> sexual assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child abuse/exploitation | <input type="checkbox"/> computer crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

I understand that if I am accepted, my advance preparation and full participation for the week are required.

Signature of applicant

NOMINATIONS MUST BE MADE BY THE ELECTED PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IN THE APPLICANT'S JURISDICTION.

I nominate _____ for participation in TDCAA's Advanced Trial Advocacy Course. The information provided in this application is accurate and complete, and the applicant meets the course requirements.

Signature of Elected Prosecutor

(Type or print name)

Date

Phone

We reserve the right to limit the number of attendees from each jurisdiction. Submission of application does not guarantee acceptance.

Return this form via email to Brian.Klas@tdcaa.com.