

Annual Criminal & Civil Law Conference

September 20–22, 2023
Round Rock

12 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics
12 hours of TCOLE (General Law #3150)

The host hotel and training location:
Kalahari Resort
3001 Kalahari Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78665

You can also attend our DV Assault Victims Training, Rural Prosecutors' Forum, and Juvenile Forum!

There is something for every attendee at TDCAA's Annual Conference. This year's agenda includes everything from a look at social media policies to street racing and takeover investigations. Do you want to become a more polished courtroom advocate or gain a better understand of the grand jury system? We are covering that. Are you looking for the latest on DNA evidence? We are covering that. Do you want to take a deep dive into a discrete phase of trial? We're going to talk about voir dire for an entire day. Do you need to a couple of days to just catch your breath? Well, we have that too. Come to Round Rock for three days of training, networking, and celebration.

Registration for this conference 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.

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Payment, Reimbursement, & CLE/TCOLE Credit

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 Wednesday and Thursday's receptions and lunch on 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.

Reimbursement: TDCAA will reimburse only eligible prosecutors and prosecutor office employees up to \$102 per night for Wednesday and Thursday nights at a hotel. TDCAA will not reimburse for meals, travel, registration fees, hotel tax, parking, taxi costs, or other extraordinary expenses. All meals not provided by TDCAA and other expenses are your own. Associate members are not eligible for reimbursement.

CLE and TCOLE credit: Attendees will receive up to 12 hours of CLE and TCOLE credit, including 3 hours of ethics.

Conference Agenda (all events are at the Kalahari Resort)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Noon–4:00 p.m. Early registration for the Annual Criminal & Civil Law Conference

1:00–3:00 p.m. Understanding Assault Victims (FREE training)
(1.75 hours of MCLE; requires separate registration from the Annual)

Staley Heatly, 46th Judicial District Attorney

1:30–5:00 p.m. Legislative Update
(3 hours of MCLE; requires separate registration and payment from the Annual)

Shannon Edmonds, TDCAA Director of Governmental Relations, Austin

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:30 a.m. Registration opens

9:00 a.m. Rural Prosecutors' Forum (2.0 hours MCLE; requires separate registration from the Annual)
Moderated by: Mike Fouts, 39th Judicial District Attorney, & Mike Criswell, County Attorney, Swisher County

11:00 a.m. Juvenile Prosecutors' Forum (1.0 hour MCLE; requires separate registration from the Annual)
Moderated by: Jana Jones, Prosecutor, Special Prosecution Unit

General Session

1:00 p.m. Welcome, Course Introduction, & Special Recognitions

1:30 p.m. Opening Presentation
Jaime Esparza, United States Attorney, Western District of Texas

2:45 p.m. CCA & SCOTUS Update
Britt Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County; & Emily Johnson-Liu, Asst. State Prosecuting Attorney, Austin

4:00 p.m. The State of Affairs
Mike Holley, First Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County

5:00 p.m. Adjourn // Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 2 |

Forensic Evidence Update

8:30 a.m. Fentanyl Investigation & Prosecution

Donna Hansen, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County, & Jordan Witkop, Ph.D., Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Montgomery County

9:45 a.m. Forensic Science: DNA Integrity

Dawn Boswell, Director, Legal Forensics & Training, UNTHSC Center for Human Identification, Fort Worth

11:00 a.m. Forensic Science Experts

W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin

Civil Law

8:30 a.m. Sovereign Citizens

Ariane Flores, Asst. County Attorney, Williamson County

9:45 a.m. Tax Collections: Strategies & Practicalities

Javier Gutierrez, Asst. County Attorney, Travis County

11:00 a.m. Who is Blocking

Whom? Social Media Policy Issues

Laura Hedge, Asst. County Attorney, Harris County

Trial Tips

8:30 a.m. Preparing for & Presenting Punishment

Sunshine Stanek, Criminal District Attorney, Lubbock County

9:45 a.m. Responding to Defense Arguments

Chandler Raine, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County

11:00 a.m. Victory Beyond Verdict

Ryan Calvert, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, McLennan County

Voir Dire

8:30 a.m. Mechanics I

Jarvis Parsons, District Attorney, Brazos County, & Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County

9:45 a.m. Mechanics II

Jarvis Parsons, District Attorney, Brazos County, & Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County

11:00 a.m. Voir Dire Focus:

Domestic Violence

Allenna Bangs, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County, & Jessica Escue, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County

Investigators

8:30 a.m. Jury Selection with Investigators

9:45 a.m. Autism for Law Enforcement

Ann Jackson, Asst. County Attorney, Bell County, & Michael L. Jackson III, Bell County Autism Intervention Team (BAIT), Belton

11:00 a.m. Autism for Law

Enforcement (cont'd)

KP-VAC

8:30 a.m. Criminal Appellate Procedure

Melinda Fletcher, Special Prosecution Unit, Huntsville

9:45 a.m. Bond Conditions & EPOs

Sara Bill, Victim Assistance Coordinator, & Jacqueline Johnson, Asst. County Attorney, Aransas County

11:00 a.m. Immigration Issues Overview

Francisco Mendoza, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Webb County

Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 2 |

Defending your Evidence

1:30 p.m. The When & How of Warrants

Bryan Jiral, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Smith County

2:45 p.m. Defending a Warrant

John Gillespie, Criminal District Attorney, Wichita County

4:00 p.m. Defending a Warrantless Search

Civil Law

1:30 p.m. Purchasing

Amy Davidson, First Asst. County Attorney, & Bushra Khan, Asst. County Attorney, Montgomery County

2:45 p.m. Election Day Triage

4:00 p.m. Discretionary Funds
Carlos Madrid, Asst. County Attorney, El Paso County

Domestic Violence

1:30 p.m. Protective Orders

Matt Mills, County Attorney, Hood County, & Brandi Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County

2:45 p.m. Direct Examination

Kristin Burns, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County

4:00 p.m. Identifying & Using Prior Statements

Rebekah Saunders, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Galveston County

Voir Dire

1:30 p.m. Voir Dire Focus: Intoxication

Alison Baimbridge, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County

2:45 p.m. Voir Dire Focus: Violent Crimes

Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County

4:00 p.m. Voir Dire Focus: Sex Assault

Bill Vassar, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County

Investigators

1:30 p.m. Street Racing & Takeovers

Lynn Nguyen, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County

2:45 p.m. Tech Tools for Small Agencies

Mike Holley, CDA Investigator, Kaufman County

4:00 p.m. Agencies & Discovery Compliance

Tanisha Manning, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County

KP-VAC

1:30 p.m. Grants 101

Cyndi Jahn, Victim Services Director, Bexar County

2:45 p.m. Fostering Communications

Mark Warren, Consultant, Texas Association of Counties, Austin

4:00 p.m. Grand Jury

Jamie Felicia, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County

5:00 p.m. Adjourn 6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner (provided by TDCAA)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 (3 HOURS ETHICS)

Trial Ethics

9:00 a.m. Practical Responses to Cognitive Bias

10:15 a.m. Discovery Limitations & Response

Ronnie Smith, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County, & Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County

Civil Law (ethics)

9:00 a.m. Ethical Responsibilities of Civil Practitioners

Dwayne Simpson, Asst. County Attorney, Chambers County, & Ariane Flores, Asst. County Attorney, Williamson County

10:45 a.m. Disciplinary Rules Update

C. Scott Brumley, County Attorney, Potter County

Investigator

9:00 a.m. Case Study

10:45 a.m. Investigation of Nuisance Cases

Amy Monsivais, Asst. County Attorney, El Paso County

VAC "Core Training" Workshop

9:00 a.m. Advanced VAC Training

Jalayne Robinson, LMSW, TDCAA Victim Services Director

10:30 a.m. Adjourn

12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Location & Hotel Information

Location of training: All training will be held at Kalahari Resort located at 3001 Kalahari Blvd., in Round Rock. Shuttle service will be available Wednesday through Friday to and from the conference hotels listed below.

Parking: Self-parking is complimentary. If you are parking for the day, please park on the Convention Center side of the resort; it is closer to TDCAA's events.

Hotel information: This year TDCAA has room blocks at only two hotels, Kalahari Resort and LaQuinta Inn & Suites, so it is extremely important that you do not overbook rooms—please be considerate of other offices. You can book up to five rooms at one time under one name; you will be able to send individual names to the hotel as we get closer to the conference.

At the Kalahari Resort, the room rate is \$149 plus tax; this discounted rate will be available until August 29 or until the block is sold out, whichever comes first. Make reservations using the link on our website at www.tdcaa.com/training. The \$149 rate includes up to four wristbands for the waterpark. There is an additional \$50 per person per night charge for the fifth and sixth person. Hotel rooms allow up to six people in each room. If the hotel is sold out, check back periodically as rooms may become available.

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m., and checkout is 11:00 a.m. If you would like to get into your room early, there is an additional charge. If your room isn't ready upon arrival, you can leave your luggage with the concierge and have early access the waterpark. If you checkout after 11:00 a.m., the hotel will charge you for an additional night. If you book a room outside of the TDCAA block at a higher rate, you will not be able to transfer that room into the TDCAA block at a later date, nor will TDCAA be able to lower this rate for you.

Resort fees apply to reservations booked outside of the block. However, resort fees are waived for all rooms booked inside the block (including upgraded rooms). For attendees paying for your room via check, payment must be received by the hotel before September 5. Payment must be a county or business check; the hotel does not accept personal checks. If you bring a check upon arrival, you run the risk of paying out of pocket. To pay for multiple rooms with one form of payment, contact the hotel directly for details.

Cancellation policy for the Kalahari Resort: A \$30 processing fee will be charged to the credit card used to hold the room for any cancelled reservation. If the room is canceled less than 72 hours before the conference, a charge of one night's room and tax will be applied to the credit card on file. This means that for each reservation that you make, you will immediately pay \$30 if you cancel it. This fee will not be waived at any time so please be cautious when booking multiple rooms. TDCAA will not be able to waive this fee; this is the hotel's policy and will not be altered at any time before, during, or after the conference. The only way to avoid paying this fee is for you to personally find another attendee to take over the reservation.

Deposits are not required, so if you were/are charged for a deposit, it may be a glitch in the hotel's system. If you were/are charged for a deposit, please email the first and last name of the reservation and your confirmation number to TXGroups@kalahariresorts.com. The resort will issue refunds upon request.

Overflow hotel information: LaQuinta Inn & Suites near Kalahari is located at 3900 E. Palm Drive. Call 737/300-6008 to make reservations. The hotel rate is \$149 plus tax per night. Overnight parking is complimentary. Distance is 1.6 miles (4 minutes) from Kalahari Resort. The cut-off date for this discounted room rate is August 9 or until the block is filled, whichever comes first. This hotel offers a hot breakfast, complimentary self-parking, and free internet in guest rooms.