

Elected Prosecutor Conference

November 29-December 1, 2023
Frisco

11.5 hours of MCLE, including 2.25 hours of ethics

The host hotel:
Embassy Suites Frisco
7600 John Q. Hammons Dr.
Frisco, TX 75034
972/712-7200

Rooms are \$139 plus tax; this rate is good until November 7 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Open to all elected prosecutors and first assistants, TDCAA's Elected Prosecutor Conference is geared toward those who lead prosecutor offices throughout Texas. Among a variety of targeted topics, attendees will learn about defending yourself and your office against lawsuits, the ins and outs of employment law, pressing First Amendment issues, and prosecutorial misconduct. This conference is an unparalleled opportunity to learn and to network with your peers across the state—register today!

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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Elected Prosecutor Conference Agenda

Wednesday, November 29

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introduction

1:15 p.m. Defending Yourself & Your Office

Advocates from all angles are finding new, increasingly creative outlets to spread their message and mission. These days, elected prosecutors may be surprised to find themselves targeted for acts they never committed or as named parties in suits aimed at issues never taken up by their office. This hour will focus on strategies to clarify claims and otherwise resolve these disputes in a manner consistent with the role of Texas prosecutors.

2:30 p.m. Election Law: Compliance

The rules and regulations set in place to govern elections in Texas are legion. Here we will cover those common missteps that can derail an otherwise successful campaign.

3:30 p.m. Election Law: Crimes

When the noble goal of rule compliance is frustrated, the potential for criminal consequence follows. This follow-up presentation will discuss methods to curb the behavior of both the inadvertently errant candidate and the corrupt.

4:30 p.m. A Word From our Federal Friends

Meet our jurisdictionally concurrent colleagues and hear them share where they are aiming their prosecutorial efforts.

5:00 p.m. Adjourn // TDCAA Annual Business Meeting

5:15 p.m. Reception in honor of the Texas Prosecutors Society Class of 2023 (provided by TDCAF)

Thursday, November 30

8:30 a.m. Getting to Know the Parole Board

Spend an hour with leadership from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. During this session, our guests will cover Board structure, their relationship with TDCJ, the parole process, and how prosecutors can get more involved.

9:45 a.m. A Mentally Healthy Office

Massive caseloads, over-burdened systems, and the quiet horror of crime put even the most skilled and seasoned staff at risk of mental illness. These indelible realities are best met with an office culture that recognizes the toll prosecution takes and provides resources to those in need.

11:00 a.m. The First Amendment and the Texas Penal Code: From Online Solicitation of Children to Drag Shows

Well intentioned or not, efforts to prevent crime cannot run afoul of the Constitution and expect to survive. The line

between protected speech and criminal conduct may at times appear thin, but the line remains. In this presentation, we'll explore those places where that line is most difficult to distinguish.

Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)

1:30 p.m. Employment Law: Hiring, Retention, & Firing

Of the challenges facing prosecutor leadership, employment issues loom among the largest. Hiring on a solid legal foundation, maintaining your team throughout, and making termination decisions with deliberation and professional care are requisites for an elected prosecutor. This talk will focus on employment law high points and identify where the hazards lie.

3:30 p.m. District Attorney & County Attorney Forums

DA Forum moderated by Staley Heatly, 46th Judicial District Attorney; & Kenda Culpepper, Criminal District Attorney, Rockwall County

CA Forum moderated by Eduardo "Eddie" Arredondo, County Attorney, Burnet County; & Natalie Koehler, County Attorney, Bosque County

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, December 1

9:00 a.m. TDCAA's Cavalcade of Topics

We turn our attention to those issues that, due to their infrequent appearance or otherwise unique character, don't often get explicitly covered in the normal course of training. Nevertheless, familiarity with these topics is crucial to the work of a Texas prosecutor's office. Here, from hate crime enhancements to diversions, we'll discuss and provide updates on a panoply of criminal justice subjects.

10:30 a.m. The NDAA National Prosecution Standards

The National District Attorneys Association released the fourth edition of its National Prosecution Standards in January of this year. While aspirational by design, this guide provides prosecutors a valuable resource when faced with a gut-check ethical dilemma. This short session will look at national trends in prosecutorial ethics.

11:15 a.m. What is Misconduct?

When accusations of prosecutorial misconduct, irrespective of their veracity, become an accepted strategy, the professional rules are a shield for ethical prosecutors. Here, we separate violations of the conduct rules as written from what is mere manipulative allegation.

Noon Adjourn

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's reception 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.