

**Annual
Report for
the Texas
District &
County
Attorneys
Foundation
• 2024 •**

My heart has always been in prosecution. I adore speaking out for those who don't have a voice or whose rights have been violated, and I always wanted to work in a profession that truly served people.

I worked in two district attorney offices (Harris and Travis Counties), where I prosecuted everything from traffic tickets to capital murder cases. When an unexpected career shift occurred, due to the political nature of our employment, I found myself hanging up a shingle as a criminal defense attorney. I discovered, however, that defense attorneys also represent those who cannot speak for themselves and many whose rights have been violated. It is equally important to have good representation on both sides of the courtroom for our justice system to work effectively. I do not regret the lessons I learned in private practice nor this career shift, though it was certainly not one I ever anticipated.



Mindy Montford
*TDCAF Board
President*

In 2017, I was asked by Margaret Moore, then the DA-Elect in Travis County, to serve as her First Assistant. I knew my answer before she could even finish asking the question. It was an honor to return to such a great profession, and I was part of the TDCAA community again. While I am no longer at the DA's Office, I still see justice done for those who need it. I am the Senior Counsel with the Cold Case and Missing Persons Unit in the Attorney General's Office, and I get to work with amazing prosecutors across the state on their unsolved homicides. I've also served on the Foundation Board for over 15 years now—about as long as the Foundation has existed—and I am thrilled to now be the President. I am so proud of the work we've done and will continue to do.

2024 was a banner year in many ways. For one, donations were up—way up—by nearly 50 percent. That meant we continued to support TDCAA with its resource-heavy courses, such as Train the Trainer, the Advanced Trial Advocacy Course, and the Prosecutor Management Institute. Secondly, we provided funds for TDCAA's library of online courses, on-staff victim services, books and publications, and technical assistance for domestic violence offenses. What an amazing year!

When prosecution (and TDCAA) holds a special place in your heart—and I'm sure it does for many people who are reading this—you can't help but get excited for what the new year has in store. With Rob Kepple as our new full-time executive director and with an incredible Foundation Board membership, I can't wait to see all the good things the Foundation will be able to do to support TDCAA and Texas prosecutors in 2025!

2024 was a significant year for the Foundation. Under the steady guidance of our leadership, the Foundation offered significant support to training in advanced trial advocacy, management, and victim services. We also jumped in to help with unexpected expenses in the timely delivery of training to the newest attorneys in TDCAA's service group at the Prosecutor Trial Skills Course. Furthermore, we welcomed a wonderful new class into the Texas Prosecutors Society. The past year was about steady growth, and it did not disappoint.

I am thrilled that, upon my retirement as the TDCAA Executive Director at the end of 2024, I am continuing as the Director of the Foundation. I intend to focus on our connection with our members, sponsors, and community members at large to redouble our support for TDCAA's important mission of seeing justice done in our courthouses. I can't wait to develop resources for one of TDCAA's new and exciting projects, the Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor, Kristin Burns. See more about that new and innovative program on page 8.

Finally, I want to thank our leadership and the TDCAA staff who work to support the Foundation's efforts. Their work is the key to the mission: "So the State is Always Ready."



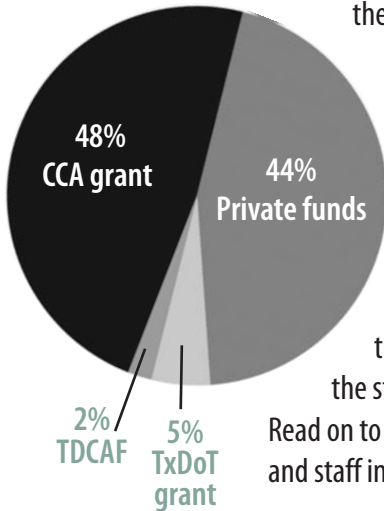
Rob Kepple
*TDCAF Executive
Director*

What TDCAF does

In 2024, we did more of what we do so well: training Texas prosecutors and staff to be the best they can be. In doing so, 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 6,607 members—a number that seems to swell every year—include prosecutors, investigators, support staff, 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.

Sources of TDCAA's funding



Grants support a portion of the training we produce, and the number of prosecutors and staff who need it is always increasing. (See the chart at left for a breakdown of where our funding comes from.)

Without money from other sources, such as the Foundation, TDCAA could not meet the needs of its members and law enforcement. And this year, the Foundation helped the Association train an astonishing number of people: TDCAA ranked in the top 10 (out of more than 1,500 CLE providers) in the state in the number of training hours we provided!

Read on to find out the other ways we served Texas prosecutors and staff in 2024.

Live and Online Training

In 2024, TDCAA offered quite a bit of live training and continued to produce a library of online courses. The association is back to pre-COVID numbers with how many conferences we produced (both online and in-person), people it trained, and hours of TCOLE and MCLE it awarded:



Here's more about the training the Foundation helps support.

Advanced Prosecutor Training

To fight for victims of crime, prosecutors must be at their best in the courtroom. To this end, and through a gift from the Harris County District Attorney's Office 16 years ago, the Foundation can sustain two critical TDCAA courses. Both are staff- and resource-intensive, and financial support from the Foundation is critical.

Train the Trainer. Since 2008, the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation has fully funded the food, lodging, and training of those attending this four-day conference at no cost to their offices. Highly qualified faculty teach prosecutors, investigators, and staff the principles of adult learning techniques so they can give more effective presentations to a room of their peers or a jury panel. Attendance is by invitation only and is limited to 32 participants.

At right are photos of attendees and faculty advisors at Train the Trainer in Fredericksburg.



Advanced Advocacy Courses. Here, seasoned prosecutors further their skills in an intensive, week-long session at Baylor School of Law in Waco. Through presentations, demonstrations, and directed workshops in mock courtrooms, experienced faculty guide participants through detailed felony case scenarios. These courses address many challenges that arise in the most difficult cases we try. TDCOA offers both trial and appellate advocacy courses so that prosecutors with different specializations can enrich their skills. These courses are limited to 40 hand-selected students and are fully funded by the Foundation so there is no cost to attendees or their offices.

Prosecutor Management Institute (PMI)

The Prosecutor Management Institute (PMI) continues to offer its bedrock module, Fundamentals of Management. This 2½-day course is designed to give prosecutors the personal insight and tools they need to successfully lead their teams. The concepts we cover translate to all prosecutors, whether they are running their first court, overseeing a cadre of attorneys and administrative personnel, or even operating as a solo elected prosecutor with responsibility for an entire county's caseload. We have also offered three "elected editions" of this course exclusively to elected county and district attorneys, and they were a big hit.

To date, the course has been delivered to 392 supervisor-level prosecutors. Other courses are currently scheduled, and even more offices have expressed a desire to attend it.



At left and below are attendees at our Advanced Trial Advocacy Course at Baylor School of Law.





Joe Hooker
*TDCAA Assistant
Training Director*

Online Training

TDCAA expanded its online course catalog in 2024 with several exciting additions. “Grievances and Prosecutorial Ethics” is a member-exclusive course that not only delves into the grievance process but also analyzes the new rule changes that passed during last year’s State Bar elections. “Introduction to Juvenile Law” is a course for prosecutors who are new to the practice of juvenile law; the course covers everything from terminology to how to certify a juvenile to stand trial as an adult, and it will be a valuable resource in this often-overlooked area of law. “Mental Health Courts & Jail-Based Competency Restoration” is TDCAA’s final installment in its Mental Health Video Series. The first part discusses how to establish a mental health court but also advises what prosecutors can do in jurisdictions without such a court; the second focuses on the new practice of restoring defendants’ competency in jail rather than sending them to inpatient facilities. In 2024, 1,420 participants completed our online courses. For 2025, TDCAA will focus on the forensic sciences so that prosecutors will be well-versed to explain to juries their scientific evidence and be ready to defend that evidence from being wrongfully excluded.

Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor

In November, TDCAA hired Kristin Burns as its very first Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor (DVRP). This position is somewhat similar to the DWI Resource Prosecutor position long held by W. Clay Abbott, in that it is part of a national push to improve training for and prosecution of domestic violence offenses. Very few other states have hired DVRPs, so Texas is yet again on the cutting edge of prosecution. Texas prosecutors have long requested additional help with domestic violence, as these cases are among the hardest to investigate and prosecute for a host of reasons. The difficulties include the sheer number of cases, evidence issues (both evidence collection at the scene and presentation in court), complex interpersonal relationships



Kristin Burns
*TDCAA Domestic
Violence Resource
Prosecutor*

between victims and perpetrators, and the potential lethality of domestic violence. As if all these weren't daunting enough, many domestic violence cases are filed as misdemeanors so they are assigned to the newest prosecutors in the office.

After an extensive search and with support from the Foundation, Kristin comes to TDCAA from the District Attorney's Office in Brazos County. She has already attended a conference hosted by the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, where she networked with other DVRPs and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutors from across the country. She is learning what trends, curricula, and resources are available, and she's in the process of formulating her own curriculum and how best to deliver it. It could include online courses, presentations at conferences, standalone regionals (similar to our DWI offerings), and articles in the TDCAA journal. Stay tuned for more developments in 2025.

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. TDCAA's Victim Services Director, Jalayne Robinson, provides training to individuals and groups on topics related to victim services and crime victims' rights. Jalayne is available daily for those in TDCAA's service group who need technical assistance via phone and email.

In 2024, Jalayne:

- trained 673 victim services personnel, prosecutors, and prosecutor office staff at TDCAA conferences and via individual and group trainings;
- provided ongoing daily email and phone support to victim assistance coordinators (VACs) and prosecutors;
- assisted with coordinating TDCAA's Key Personnel–Victim Services Board, including conducting board member elections, board meetings, and corresponding with board members;



Jalayne Robinson,
LMSW
*TDCAA Victims
Services Director*

- coordinated with TDCAA’s service group and the KP-VS Board for award nominations & Professional Victim Assistance Coordinator (PVAC) applications, then presented the awards at the KP–VAC Conference;
- presented at a statewide victim services training in Rockwall (hosted by Criminal District Attorney Kenda Culpepper);
- wrote a regular column for *The Texas Prosecutor* journal;
- represented TDCAA in policy development and service coordination with state agencies and other nonprofits assisting victims; and
- per a new law passed by the 88th Legislature, helped write standardized protective order forms now available on the Office of Court Administration’s website.

All told, 2024 was a busy year that supplied Texas prosecutors and staff with the high-quality training they need, both online and in-person. The Foundation continues to invest in the training, personnel, publications, and other resources TDCAA needs.

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 recognition 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 Society inductees are recognized at a special reception and dinner at TDCAA's Elected Prosecutor Conference in December. In 2024, we celebrated a new class, bringing the number of TPS members to 276. (See the photo, below, of the Class of 2024.) It will continue to grow as more prosecutors and alumni are invited to join every year. Listed on the next two pages is the membership of TPS with 2024 inductees in **bold**.



Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS)

W. Clay Abbott	James L. Chapman	Carlos Garcia	Kim Judin
Johnnie Actkinson	Jack Choate	Casey Garrett	James Keeshan
Chilo Alaniz	Don Clemmer	Henry Garza	Rob Kepple
Jay Aldis	Cathleen Cochran	Christopher Gatewood	Charles Kimbrough
Carolyn Allen	Tim Cole	Dan Gattis	John Kimbrough
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Bernard Ammerman	Kenda Culpepper	Elizabeth Godwin	Natalie Koehler
James Michael Anderson	Justin Cunningham	Jesse Gonzales, Jr.	Tom Krampitz
Gordon Armstrong	Alan Curry	Joe Gonzales	Jim Kuboviak
Eduardo Arredondo	Katrina Daniels	Gerald Goodwin	Landon Lambert
Charles Aycock	Norma Davenport	H. E. Bert Graham	Pete Laney
Joe Bailey	Amy Davidson	Stephanie Greger	Robert Charles Lassmann
Alison Baimbridge	Danny Buck Davidson	Michael J. Guarino, II	Brett Ligon
Brian Baker	A.W. Davis	Rene Guerra	Jo Ann Linzer
Steve Baldassano	Don Davis	Tony Hackebeil	Crawford Long
Nelson Barnes	Yolanda de Leon	Dan Hagood	Lance Long
Patrick C. Batchelor	Roy DeFriend	Dale Hanna	Audrey Louis
Art Bauereiss	Dan Dent	Tom Hanna	Doug Lowe
Diane Beckham	John P. Dodson	Lynn Hardaway	Rebecca Lundberg
Elmer Beckworth	Caroline Dozier	Russell Hardin Jr.	Cheryll Mabray
Traci Bennett	Scott A. Durfee	Ira Royal Hart	Barry Macha
Nicole Bishop	Kevin Dutton	Roger Haseman	Carlos Madrid
Bobby Bland	Ray Echevarria	Wally Hatch	Ken Magidson
Murff Bledsoe	James Eidson	Bill Hawkins	Mia Magness
Joe Edd Boaz	Jon English	Donna Hawkins	Tom Maness
Dan M. Boulware	Laurie English	Dan Heard	Betty Marshall
Dusty Boyd	David Escamilla	Staley Heatly	Sonny McAfee
Kathy Braddock	Jessica Escue	Bill Helwig	Lyn McClellan
John Bradley	Jaime Esparza	Cheryl Henry	Jana McCown
Richard Brainerd	Gen Falk	Fred Hernandez	Katherine McDaniel
Grant Brenna	Erin Faseler	Jim Hicks	Adrienne McFarland
Tom Bridges	Jamie Felicia	Michael Hinton	Natalie McKinnon
Alice Brown	Tony Fidelie	Dee Hobbs	Andy McMullen
Joe Brown	David Finney	David Holmes	Jennifer Meriwether
C. Scott Brumley	Glen Fitzmartin	John B. Holmes, Jr.	Gina DeBottis Metts
Terese Buess	Knox Fitzpatrick	Lee Hon	Greg Miller
Kriste Burnett	Gretchen Flader	John Hubert	Rick Miller
Kristin Burns	John Fleming	Bruce Isaacks	Dewey Mitchell
Michael Butera	Ariane Flores	Helen Jackson	Sunni Mitchell
Celeste Byrom	Gerald Fohn	Michael Jarrett	Mindy Montford
Katherine A. Cabaniss	Michael Fouts	Micheal Jimerson	Ann Montgomery
Ryan Calvert	Jack Frels	Kyson Johnson	Kris Moore
Donna Cameron	Keri Fuller	Ed C. Jones	Larry Moore
Stephen H. Capelle	Philip Mack Furlow	Jana Jones	Margaret Moore
Gerald C. Carruth	Bob Gage	Rocky Jones	Sarah Moore

Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS)

Clint Morgan	Judge Susan D. Reed	Nick Socias	Jerry Varney
Karen Morris	Steven Reis	Ken Sparks	John Wakefield
Suzy Morton	Julie Renken	Kerry Spears	Janice Warder
Amanda Navarette	Ray Rike	Leslie Standerfer	Martha Warren Warner
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Christopher Gatewood	Erik Nielsen	Gary Young

How to give

There are two 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.

TDCAF by the numbers

	2024	Budget	% of Budget
Unrestricted Funds			
Income	\$107,080	\$60,000	178%
Expenses	\$68,618	\$39,500	174%
Net Unrestricted Income	\$38,462	\$20,500	
Restricted Funds			
Income	\$56,117	\$90,000	62%
Expenses	\$66,110	\$50,000	132%
Net Restricted Income	(\$9,993)	\$40,000	
Fund Balances			
Restricted	\$577,397		
Unrestricted	\$133,678		
Endowment	\$960,726		
Total All Funds	\$1,671,801		

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