

Prosecuting Adult Sexual Assault & Homicide Conference

April 14-17, 2026
Sugar Land

18 hours of MCLE, including 1.5 hours of ethics

**The host hotel: Marriott Sugar Land Town Square
16090 City Walk, Sugar Land, TX 77479**

Call 888/236-2427 for reservations and mention "TDCAA April 2026" to get the room rate of \$159 (plus tax); this rate is good until March 23 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Targeting some of the most horrendous crimes committed in Texas, TDCAA's Prosecuting Adult Sexual Assault & Homicide Conference will deliver tools and resources to see justice done. Attendees will learn to advance their jury selection skills in case-specific training and through a unique, three-hour block devoted to individual voir dire. Other topics include combatting nullification, utilizing TDCJ resources, cross examination, and punishment. Combine the training with unparalleled professional networking and fellowship opportunities, and this is an event not to be missed. Be warned: With separate training tracks you won't be able to attend all the sessions, so bring a friend!

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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Prosecuting Adult Sexual Assault & Homicide Conference Agenda

Tuesday, April 14

1:15 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction
1:30 p.m. The Evolution of Advocacy
John Gillespie, Criminal District Attorney, Wichita County
2:45 p.m. Trauma: Neurobiology & Symptoms
Tamara Tyler, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County, & Ann Marie Ronsman, President & CEO, Child Advocates of Montgomery County, Conroe
4:00 p.m. Trauma: Neurobiology & Symptoms (cont'd)
5:00 p.m. Adjourn to Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)

Wednesday, April 15

Homicide

8:45 a.m. Voir Dire I
Allenna Bangs & Charlie Boulware, Asst. Criminal District Attorneys, Tarrant County
10:30 a.m. Voir Dire II
Glen Fitzmartin, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
Individual Voir Dire (Demonstration & Lecture)
1:30 p.m. Individual Voir Dire I
Chandler Raine, First Asst. District Attorney, Harris County; Dale Smith, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County; & Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
2:45 p.m. Individual Voir Dire II
4:00 p.m. Individual Voir Dire III
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Adult Sexual Assault

8:45 a.m. Voir Dire I
Tara Avants, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, McLennan County, & Janna Oswald, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
10:30 a.m. Voir Dire II
Lisa Stewart, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
Dedicated Discussions
1:30 p.m. Bond Conditions & Administration
Paige Pattillo, First. Asst. County Attorney, Nacogdoches County
2:45 p.m. Analysis & Charging in Sex Assault
Kim D'Avignon, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
4:00 p.m. Case Study: Attack by Dog
Raul Jordan, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Thursday, April 16

Expert Evidence

8:30 a.m. In Practice: Rule 702 & 705
9:45 a.m. DNA Complications
Leighton D'Antoni, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
11:00 a.m. Abusive Head Trauma
Brittany Hansford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
Inside the State's Case
1:30 p.m. TDCJ Resources & Available Evidence
Natalie McKinnon, Special Prosecutor, Special Prosecution Unit, Huntsville
2:45 p.m. Jury Charge
Britt Houston Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County
4:00 p.m. Preparing for Punishment
Traci Bennett, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Ensuring A Fair Trial

8:30 a.m. Defense Overreach & Case Protection
Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
9:45 a.m. Nullification I
Erik Nielsen, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County
11:00 a.m. Nullification II
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
Responding to the Defense
1:30 p.m. Confrontation & the Forensic Sciences
Chris Gatewood, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Smith County
2:45 p.m. Self-Defense
Jamie Felicia, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County
4:00 p.m. Cross Examination
Ricky Sipes, First Asst. County & District Attorney, Ellis County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Closing
Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County
10:45 a.m. Discovery: Law & Practicalities
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Payment options:

\$500 Registration (\$250 Registration fee + \$250 Association fee): For CAs, DAs, CDAs, C&DAs, and their office personnel. The TDCAA fee of \$250 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 Tuesday's reception and lunch on Wednesday and Thursday.

\$250 "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.

\$750 Registration: For everyone else.