

Investigator Conference

February 9-12, 2026
Conroe

24 hours of TCOLE credit

The host hotel: Hyatt Regency Conroe
1001 Grand Central Pkwy, Conroe, TX 77304

Call 936/444-4454 for reservations and mention TDCAA to get the room rate of \$169 (plus tax) for a single or double; this rate is good until January 19 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Whether you are new to a prosecutor’s office or a seasoned vet, every investigator should plan to attend the Texas District and County Attorneys Association’s Investigator Conference. Consisting of topics recommended by investigators from across Texas, this year’s agenda has something for every jurisdiction. Join us for professional networking and training on such topics as motor vehicle theft, elder fraud, human trafficking, and gang prosecution—just to name a few. Don’t miss this training opportunity.

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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Investigator Conference Agenda

Monday, February 9 (4 hours of TCOLE)

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction**
Brian Klas, TDCAA Training Director, Austin
- 1:15 p.m. Forum: The Investigator’s Evolving Role**
Moderator: W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin; Panelists: Joe Medrano, Bell County; Amber Howell, Milam County; & Mike Holley, Kaufman County
- 2:30 p.m. Forum (cont’d)**
- 3:45 p.m. Case Study: Murder for Hire**
Glen Fitzmartin, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, & Lupita Rendon, CDA Investigator, Dallas County; & Detective Eric Barnes, Dallas Police Department
- 5:15 p.m. Adjourn to the Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)**

Tuesday, February 10 (8 hours of TCOLE)

8:00 a.m.–5:15 p.m. New Investigator School (NIS)
Open only to investigators with less than one year of experience in a prosecutor’s office. You must apply for NIS when you register for the Investigator Conference, and applicants will be notified prior to the conference regarding acceptance into the NIS.

- 8:00 a.m. Procedural to Practical: Writs of Attachment**
Shelby Griffin, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hays County
- 9:30 a.m. Human Trafficking Update**
Liz Buice, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, McLennan County
- 11:00 a.m. Working with Confidential Records**
Brandon Dakroub, First Asst. County & District Attorney, Milam County
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
- 1:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crime: Status & Update**
Amber Ott & Herman Adair, Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
- 3:00 p.m. Garrity: Scope & Application**
Tori Oblon, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
- 4:15 p.m. Gang Prosecution Checklist**
John Bowman, DA Investigator, Bell County
- 5:15 p.m. Adjourn**

Wednesday, February 11 (8 hours of TCOLE)

- 8:00 a.m. Active Listening for Investigators**
Aurelio Arias, DA Investigator, El Paso County
- 9:30 a.m. Vehicle Crime Forensics**
Ron Cathcart, CDA Investigator, Dallas County
- 11:00 a.m. Vehicle Crime Forensics (cont’d)**
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
- 1:15 p.m. Mass Casualty: The Aftermath**
Audrey Louis, 81st Judicial District Attorney
- 2:45 p.m. The Passion of the Work in Six Words**
Mark Warren, Training Consultant, Georgetown
- 4:15 p.m. The Passion of the Work in Six Words (cont’d)**
- 5:15 p.m. Adjourn**

Thursday, February 12 (4 hours of TCOLE)

- 8:00 a.m. Elder Fraud**
Nathan Martin, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
- 9:15 a.m. Mental Health and Peer Support**
Christina O’Rear, Regional Director, Texas Law Enforcement Peer Network
- 10:30 a.m. Forum: Tech Resources for Investigators**
Moderator: Joe Hooker, TDCAA Asst. Training Director; Panelists: Fred Gutierrez, Webb County; Oscar Ruiz, Special Prosecution Unit; & Sandy Wilson, Hardin County
- Noon 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 Monday’s reception and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- ☐ **\$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.