T D C A A

Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

January 10–15, 2027
Austin

27 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics

The host hotel: Hyatt Regency Austin
208 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78704

Call 800/233-1234 for reservations and mention TDCAA to get the room rate of $187 (plus tax); this rate is good until December 20 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Anyone who is new to a prosecutor's office should plan to attend the Texas District and County Attorneys Association's Prosecutor Trial Skills Course in Austin. It's a full week of intensive training that prepares new prosecutors for their work both in the courtroom and out. Seasoned faculty advisors are assigned to small groups of attendees to answer questions and direct discussions at each table, and many aspects of criminal law are covered in the presentations. New prosecutors won't want to miss this high-quality training customized especially for them!

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Texas District & County Attorneys Association
505 W. 12th St., Ste. 100
Austin, TX 78701

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Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

Sunday, January 10 (2 hours CLE)

4:00 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction
4:15 p.m. The Ethical Prosecutor
W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin
6:00 p.m. Case Scenario / Group Introductions
Faculty Directed at Each Table
6:15 p.m. Adjourn to Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)

Monday, January 11 (6.5 hours CLE)

9:00 a.m. Pretrial Preparation
Kristin Burns, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bastrop County
10:45 a.m. Faculty Discussion: How Does Your County Work?
Faculty Directed at Each Table
11:15 a.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
1:00 p.m. The Evidence Primer
Britt Houston Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County
2:15 p.m. Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection
Sepi Zimmer, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
4:00 p.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
5:15 p.m. Adjourn

Tuesday, January 12 (6.25 hours CLE)

9:00 a.m. Motion to Suppress Hearings
Jack Choate, Executive Director, & Jon English, Prosecutor, Special Prosecution Unit
10:45 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update
Jessica Frazier, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
1:00 p.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
2:00 p.m. Effective Opening Statements
3:15 p.m. Direct Examination
Danny Smith, Asst. County Attorney, Travis County
4:00 p.m. Predicates & Objections
Erik Nielsen, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Wednesday, January 13 (3 hours CLE)

9:00 a.m. DWI: Presenting the Case
Alison Baimbridge, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
10:45 a.m. Domestic Violence: Presenting the Case
Allenna Bangs, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Thursday, January 14 (6.5 hours CLE)

9:00 a.m. Probation Revocation Hearings
Alysia Huskey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Kaufman County
10:15 a.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
11:00 a.m. Cross-Examination & Impeachment
Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
1:00 p.m. Identifying & Overcoming Cognitive Bias
Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
2:30 p.m. Plea Negotiation & Plea-Bargaining Workshop
Shanna Redwine & Lauren Gavin, Asst. District Attorneys, Montgomery County
4:15 p.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

5:00–5:45 p.m. Optional Class C Forum
W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin
This session is an opportunity for attendees who practice in justice or municipal courts to discuss current trends and issues they face in their practice. Attendance at this session is optional and no MCLE credit will be provided.

Friday, January 15 (2.75 hours CLE)

9:00 a.m. Punishment Evidence
10:30 a.m. Final Argument
Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
Noon Adjourn

Payment options:

❑ **$500 Full Registration** ($250 Training fee + $250 Association fee): For CAs, DAs, CDAs, C&DAs, and their office personnel. The voluntary Association fee of $250 is each participant's share of costs over and above what the grant allows (association overhead, including excess costs for on-site meals and receptions). In addition, this fee enables TDCAA to lock in discounted hotel rates for participants and entitles them to attend all association functions, including Sunday's reception and lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

❑ **$250 "Training Only" Registration:** For CAs, DAs, CDAs, C&DAs, and their office personnel. Paying only this fee does not allow an attendee to participate in receptions or meals but does entitle the attendee admittance to all training sessions.

❑ **$750 Registration:** For everyone else.