

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

July 10–15, 2022  
Austin

27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics

**The host hotel:**  
**Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol**  
**701 E. 11th St.**  
**Austin, TX 78701**  
**888/627-8349**

*Rooms are \$139 plus tax (good until June 21 or the block is sold out, whichever is first). Mention TDCAA to get this rate.*

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 this January 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 jury selection and opening statement are demonstrated by veteran prosecutors. New prosecutors won't want to miss this intensive, high-quality training customized especially for them!

**Registration for this conference and other information is at [tdcaa.com](http://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, July 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, July 11 (6.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update  
*Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County*
- 10:30 a.m. Pre-Trial Issues  
*Cara Landers, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Lubbock County*
- 11:30 a.m. Faculty Discussion:  
How Does Your County Work?  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:00 p.m. The Evidence Primer  
*Habon Mohamed, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, El Paso County*
- 2:15 p.m. Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection  
*Ronny Dale Smith, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County*
- 3:15 p.m. DEMO: Jury Selection
- 3:45 p.m. Peremptory Strikes and Batson Challenges  
*Glen Fitzmartin, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*
- 4:30 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn

## Tuesday, July 12 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Hearings on Motions to Suppress  
*Ralph Guerrero, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hays County*
- 10:15 a.m. Hearings on Motions to Suppress (cont'd)
- 11:15 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:00 p.m. Identifying & Overcoming Cognitive Bias  
*Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County, & Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*
- 2:15 p.m. Effective Opening Statements  
*Marissa Hatchett, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*
- 3:15 p.m. DEMO: Opening Statements

## Tuesday, July 12 (cont'd)

- 3:45 p.m. Your VAC and You  
*Jalayne Robinson, TDCAA Victim Services Director*
- 4:15 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

## Wednesday, July 13 (3 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI: Presenting the Case  
*Mariel Puryear, Asst. County Attorney, Williamson County*
- 10:45 a.m. Domestic Violence: Presenting the Case  
*Kristin Burns, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County*
- 12:15 p.m. Adjourn

## Thursday, July 14 (6.5 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Punishment Evidence  
*Rebekah Saunders, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Galveston County*
- 10:15 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*
- 11:00 a.m. Probation Revocation Hearings  
*Nicole Washington, Asst. District Attorney, Liberty County*
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:00 p.m. Plea Negotiation & Plea Bargaining Workshop
- 3:15 p.m. Predicate 101  
*Chandler Raine, Asst. District Attorney, Harris 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 Attorney, 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, July 15 (2.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Cross-Examination and Impeachment  
*Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County*
- 10:30 a.m. Final Argument  
*John Jordan, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*
- 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 Sunday’s reception and lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and 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.