

Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

January 11-16, 2026

Austin

27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics

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

Call 512/480-2037 for reservations and mention TDCAA to get the room rate of \$187 (plus tax); this rate is good until December 21 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 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 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 11 (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 12 (6.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Identifying & Overcoming Cognitive Bias
Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
- 10:30 a.m. Pre-Trial Preparation
Kristin Burns, TDCAA Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor, Austin
- 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
Britt Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County
- 2:15 p.m. Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection
Sepi Zimmer, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
- 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, January 13 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Hearings on Motions to Suppress
Jack Choate, Executive Director, Special Prosecution Unit, Huntsville, & Jon English, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hays County
- 10:45 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update
Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:00 p.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
- 2:15 p.m. Effective Opening Statements
Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
- 3:45 p.m. Direct Examination
Danny Smith, Asst. County Attorney, Travis County

Tuesday, January 13 (cont'd)

- 4:15 p.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Wednesday, January 14 (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 15 (6.5 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Punishment Evidence
Jerry Varney, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
- 10:15 a.m. Case Scenarios
Faculty Directed at Each Table
- 11:00 a.m. Probation Revocation Hearings
Alysia Huskey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Kaufman County
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:00 p.m. Plea Negotiation & Plea Bargaining Workshop
- 3:15 p.m. Predicates & Objections
Lauren Scott, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar 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 16 (2.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Cross-Examination & 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:

- ☐ **\$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 Sunday’s reception and lunch on Monday, Tuesday, 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.