

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

## January 9-14, 2022

**27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics**

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

*Rooms are \$139 plus tax. This rate is good until December 20 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first. Mention TDCAA to get this rate.*

Anyone who is new to a prosecutor's office or who has not had sufficient opportunity in trial should plan to attend TDCAA's Prosecutor Trial Skills Course. It's a full week of intensive training that prepares newly hired 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 two aspects of trial—jury selection and opening statement—are demonstrated by veteran prosecutors. Other elements of trial are covered, from opening statements to closing arguments, as are DWI and domestic violence prosecution (two of the most common offenses new prosecutors handle), plea bargains, probation revocation hearings, and motions to suppress. There's even an optional forum on Class C misdemeanors for those who practice in JP or municipal courts. New prosecutors won't want to miss this intensive, high-quality training customized especially for them!

Due to recent pandemic-related cancellations of this program, we expect higher than usual interest. To preserve the quality of the program and to guarantee sufficient training space, we have set a maximum capacity. Please check the registration page on our website, [www.tdcaa.com/training](http://www.tdcaa.com/training), for additional information.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1718  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

## Sunday, January 9 (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

## Monday, January 10 (6.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update  
*Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County*  
10:30 a.m. Pre-Trial Issues  
*Jamie Felicia, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson 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  
*Britt Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County*  
2:15 p.m. Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection  
*Grace Pandithurai, Asst. County & District Attorney, Ellis 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, January 11 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Hearings on Motions to Suppress  
11:15 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
1:00 p.m. Identifying & Overcoming Cognitive Bias  
*Jarvis Parsons, District Attorney, & Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County*  
2:15 p.m. Effective Opening Statements  
*Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County*  
3:15 p.m. DEMO: Opening Statements  
3:45 p.m. Your VAC and You  
*Jalayne Robinson, LMSW, TDCAA Victim Services Director*  
4:15 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

## Wednesday, January 12 (3 hours CLE)

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

## Thursday, January 13 (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  
*Joe Hooker, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County*  
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
1:00 p.m. Plea Negotiation &  
Plea Bargaining Workshop  
*Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County, & Brian Klas, TDCAA Training Director, Austin*  
3:15 p.m. Predicates & Objections  
*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, January 14 (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:

- \$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.
- \$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.

**Registration for this seminar 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.*