

Prosecuting Crimes Against Children Conference

April 11-14, 2023

18 hours of MCLE, including 2.5 hours of ethics

The host hotel:
Westin North
9821 Colonnade Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78230
210/691-8888

*Mention TDCAA
to get the room
rate of \$124 plus tax;
it is good until
March 20 or the
block is sold out,
whichever comes
first.*

TDCAA's 2023 Prosecuting Crimes Against Children Conference is the premier training solution for prosecutors assigned to our most egregious caseload. Built by Texas prosecutors, the conference is designed to advance attendees' advocacy skills and knowledge base. From insight into child development to practical tools for the courtroom, a variety of topics will be offered—all aimed at seeing justice done. The conference also includes training geared toward prosecutors and DFPS attorneys assigned to a CPS caseload. This track has been developed with the assistance of the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Don't miss this training opportunity!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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Prosecuting Crimes Against Children Conference Agenda

Tuesday, April 11

OPTIONAL *FREE* TRAINING

10:00 a.m.–Noon Understanding Assault Victims (1.75 hours CLE)

This course requires separate registration from the Prosecuting Crimes Against Children Conference; register at our website, www.tdcaa.com/training.

General Session

- 1:15 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction
1:30 p.m. Case Study: Overcoming Obstacles
Lisa Gregg & Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorneys, Fort Bend County
2:45 p.m. Case Study: Overcoming Obstacles (cont'd)
Lisa Gregg & Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorneys, Fort Bend County
4:00 p.m. Prosecutor Ethics
5:00 p.m. Adjourn to the Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)



Scholarships to attend this conference are available; please go to the conference's registration page at www.tdcaa.com/training for details.

Wednesday, April 12

Child Injury Track

- 8:30 a.m. From Charging to Jury Charge
Ronny Dale Smith, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
9:45 a.m. Effective Use of Evidence
Summer Elmazi, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
11:00 a.m. Medical Complications
Laura Nodolf, District Attorney, Midland County
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)

General Child Crimes

- 1:30 p.m. Community Resources
Moderated by W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, with panelists Estrella Ramirez, Webb County; Sarah Moore, 106th Judicial District; & Allenna Bangs, Tarrant County
2:45 p.m. Top Appellate Tips
Alan Curry, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Galveston County
4:30 p.m. Child Exploitation Update
Shanna Redwine, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Sexual Assault Track

- 8:30 a.m. From Charging to Jury Charge
Grace Pandithurai, Asst. County & District Attorney, Ellis County
9:45 a.m. Effective Use of Evidence
Allen Otto, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
11:00 a.m. The CAC & You
Justin Wood, General Counsel, & Mikey Betancourt, Director of MDT Programming, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
1:30 p.m. Pre-Trial Practice
Melissa Munoz, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County
2:45 p.m. Victims' Rights
4:30 p.m. Victim & Family Dynamics
Meli Powers, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

CPS Track

- 8:30 a.m. Nuts & Bolts of DFPS
Brenda Kinsler, Regional Managing Attorney, DFPS, & Amber Martinez, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, McLennan County
9:45 a.m. Protecting the Record
Leslie Capace & Rebecca Safavi, Appellate Attorneys, DFPS
11:00 a.m. Trauma Basics
Elizabeth Watkins, Associate Judge, CPC, Concho Valley
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
1:30 p.m. Discovery, Service, & Records Requests
Mauro Valdez, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County, & Laura Palmquist, Records Management Attorney, DFPS
2:45 p.m. Common Evidentiary Issues
Tiffany Reedy, Asst. County Attorney, Harris County, & Kellie Price, Special Projects Attorney, DFPS
4:00 p.m. Domestic Violence in Child Welfare Cases
Jeanice Dawes, Asst. County Attorney, Harris County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Thursday, April 13

Child Injury Track

- 8:30 a.m. Confronting Defense Issues
Grant Bryan, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County
9:45 a.m. Types of Injury
William Vassar, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
11:00 a.m. Types of Injury (cont'd): Abusive Head Trauma
William Vassar, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
Noon Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. Jury Selection
Tiffany Dupree, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
2:45 p.m. State Experts
Allenna Bangs, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
4:00 p.m. Crossing Defense Experts
John Gillespie, Criminal District Attorney, Wichita County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Sex Assault Track

- 8:30 a.m. Power Dynamics
Noah Coltman, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Smith County
9:45 a.m. Special Special Victims
11:00 a.m. Sexually Violent Predators
Erin Faseler, Special Prosecutor, Special Prosecution Unit
Noon Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. Jury Selection
Kara Comte, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County
2:45 p.m. State Experts
4:00 p.m. Crossing Defense Experts
Jamie Felicia, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

CPS Track

- 8:30 a.m. Reasonable Efforts
Alysoon Dietrich, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County, & Katie Drummond, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County
9:45 a.m. Removals
Emily Reichert, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County
11:00 a.m. Caselaw Update
Eric Tai, Appellate Managing Attorney, DFPS, & Robert Falkenberg, Associate Judge, CPC, South Texas
Noon Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. Community-Based Care
Samantha Jo Magee, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County, & Cindy Williams, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
2:45 p.m. Crossover Issues for Prosecutors
4:00 p.m. Reinstatement of Parental Rights
Willima Mikeska and Julie Panger, Regional Managing Attorneys, DFPS
5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14

9:00 a.m. **Understanding Child Development**

*Janna Oswald, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County, &
Dr. Whitney Crowson, Clinical Psychologist, Houston*

10:45 a.m. **Wellness & Self-Care for Prosecutors**

Dr. Darrel Turner, Forensic Psychologist, Montgomery County

12:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Additional information about this conference

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 Tuesday's reception and Wednesday's lunch. For this conference, DFPS attorneys are eligible for the \$350 registration rate.

\$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.

CLE and TCOLE credit: Attendees will receive up to 18 hours of CLE and TCOLE credit, including 2 hours of ethics.

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.