

Prosecuting Violent Crimes Conference

April 11-14, 2022

**18 hours of MCLE credit, including 2 hours of ethics
18 hours of TCOLE (General Law No. 3150)**

**The host hotel:
Hyatt Regency Houston West
13210 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079
281/558-8338**

Mention code TDCAA to get this rate.

*Rooms are
\$125 plus tax;
this rate is good
until March 21 or
the block is sold
out, whichever
comes first.*

With reports of violent crime on the rise, Texas prosecutors must arm themselves with the tools and skills necessary to resolve these tough cases. Whether it is a deeper understanding of consent issues in adult sex assault cases, an examination of domestic violence victim dynamics, or an exploration of an officer's use of force, this training will address the need. Accompanied with a focus on their duty to see justice done, TDCAA's Prosecuting Violent Crimes Conference has something for prosecutors of all experience levels.

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.

Prosecuting Violent Crimes Conference Agenda

Monday, April 11

10:00 a.m. Free Domestic Violence Training (optional; 1.75 hours of MCLE)
(This course requires separate registration from Prosecuting Violent Crimes.)

- 1:15 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction
- 1:30 p.m. The State of Affairs
Kevin Petroff, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Galveston County
- 2:45 p.m. Bail / Bond Hearings
Sarah Seely, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
- 4:00 p.m. Technology in Crime
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn to Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)

Tuesday, April 12

Domestic Violence Track

From misdemeanors to felonies, domestic violence offenses make up an outsized share of criminal cases in every Texas county. Achieving justice in these cases requires will. This track covers the skills and tools necessary to shape that will into successful prosecution.

- 8:30 a.m. Voir Dire
Allenna Bangs, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County
- 9:45 a.m. Witness Recantation
Rebekah Saunders, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Galveston County
- 11:00 a.m. Punishment
Kristin Burns, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County
- Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Forfeiture by Wrongdoing
Andrea Westerfeld, Asst. County & District Attorney, Ellis County
- 2:45 p.m. Experts
Grant Bryan & Meli Powers, Asst. Criminal District Attorneys, Bexar County
- 4:00 p.m. Case Analysis & Charging
Kerri New, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Rockwall County
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Officer-Involved Offenses Track

A prosecutor's duty to see that justice is done sometimes means holding law enforcement officers accountable for criminal conduct. Effective prosecutors must be prepared and flexible to tailor their trial strategy to address a defendant's background, including a defendant in law enforcement. This track will prepare prosecutors for the unique issues arising with such cases.

- 8:30 a.m. Investigation
Darla Faulkner, Asst. District Attorney, & Jon Buckholtz, DA Investigator, Montgomery County
- 9:45 a.m. Understanding Use of Force
Darla Faulkner, Asst. District Attorney, & Jon Buckholtz, DA Investigator, Montgomery County
- 11:00 a.m. Punishment
Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County
- Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Cross of the Defendant
- 2:45 p.m. Voir Dire
Laquita Long, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
- 4:00 p.m. Voir Dire (cont'd)
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Wednesday, April 13

Homicide Track

Regardless of the why, prosecutors know that homicide rates are on the rise. This track focuses on some of the current available tools as well as the most common missteps prosecutors make when taking on these offenses.

- 8:30 a.m. Defendant Statements
Sean Teare, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
- 9:45 a.m. Digital Evidence
Chris Gatewood, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Smith County
- 11:00 a.m. Defensive Issues
Gretchen Flader, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:30 p.m. Accomplices
Andrew Anagnostis, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
- 2:45 p.m. Firearms & Toolmarks
- 4:00 p.m. Appellate Issues
Zack Wavrusa, Asst. County & District Attorney, Rusk County
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Adult Sexual Assault Track

Like impairment in a DWI charge, the dominant issue in most adult sex assault cases is lack of consent. While it may be daunting, establishing that crucial element is not an insurmountable challenge. Along with other facets of an adult sex assault prosecution, this track will examine the issue of consent from investigation to the courtroom.

- 8:30 a.m. Consent
Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County; Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County, & Jennifer Falk, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
- 9:45 a.m. Consent: Victim Bias & Voir Dire
Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County; Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County, & Jennifer Falk, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
- 11:00 a.m. Consent: Special Relationships
Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County; Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County, & Jennifer Falk, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County
- Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)
- 1:30 p.m. State's Case
Nick Socias, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Kendall County
- 2:45 p.m. Cross-Examination
Sarah Moore, First Asst. District Attorney, Dawson County
- 4:00 p.m. Closing
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Thursday, April 14

- 9:00 a.m. Prior Acts
Mary McFaden, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
- 10:15 a.m. The Ethics of Publicity & Media
W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin
- 11:30 a.m. The Ethics of Victim Support
Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn