

T D C A A

# Crimes Against Children Conference

## April 14-17, 2020

### Houston

**18 hours of MCLE, including 2 hours of ethics**

**The host hotel:  
Omni Westside Hotel  
13210 Katy Fwy.  
Houston, TX 77079  
281/558-8338**

**Mention TDCAA  
to get the room  
rate of \$125 plus tax;  
it is good until  
March 20 or the  
block is sold out,  
whichever comes  
first.**

TDCAA's 2020 Crimes Against Children Conference is *the* training solution for prosecutors assigned to our most egregious caseload. The conference is designed to advance attendees' advocacy skills through an opportunity to explore a single, real-life case from voir dire to closing. In addition, a variety of topics will be covered by foremost experts in prosecution, psychiatry, and medicine. 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. You won't want to miss this training opportunity!

**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.*

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# Crimes Against Children Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, April 14

### General Session

- 1:15 p.m. **Welcome & Course Introduction**
- 1:30 p.m. **Vicarious Trauma**  
*Mike Holley, First Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*
- 2:45 p.m. **Charging Decisions**  
*Ronny Dale Smith, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County*
- 4:00 p.m. **Corroborating Evidence**  
*Cameron Callighan, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn to the Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)**

## Wednesday, April 15

### Child Sexual Abuse Track \*

- 8:30 a.m. **Case Study: *State v. Distefano***  
*Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County, & Janna Oswald, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*
- 9:45 a.m. **Jury Selection**  
*Donna Berkey, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*
- 11:00 a.m. **State's Case I**  
*Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County, & Janna Oswald, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*
- Noon **Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
- 1:30 p.m. **State's Case II**  
*Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County, & Janna Oswald, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*
- 2:45 p.m. **Defense Case**  
*Jamie Felicia, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County*
- 4:30 p.m. **Closing**  
*Donna Berkey, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

### Child Homicide Track \*

- 8:30 a.m. **Case Study: *State v. Mathews***  
*Jason Fine, Sherre Thomas, & Bryan Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorneys, Dallas County*
- 9:45 a.m. **Jury Selection**  
*Hope Palacios, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hidalgo County*
- 11:00 a.m. **State's Case I**  
*Jason Fine, Sherre Thomas, & Bryan Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorneys, Dallas County*
- Noon **Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
- 1:30 p.m. **State's Case II**  
*Jason Fine, Sherre Thomas, & Bryan Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorneys, Dallas County*
- 2:45 p.m. **The Defense's Case**
- 4:30 p.m. **Closing**
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

### CPS Track

- 8:30 a.m. **Who's Who? Attorney Roles & Procedure**
- 9:45 a.m. **To Remove or Not to Remove**
- 11:00 a.m. **Starting Strong: Pleadings & Parties**
- Noon **Lunch (provided by TDCAA)**
- 1:30 p.m. **Termination Grounds & Avoiding an Appeal**
- 2:45 p.m. **Dual Status Cases: CPS Kids in Juvenile Court**
- 4:00 p.m. **Dealing with Ethical & Procedural Issues**
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

## Thursday, April 16

### Track One

- 8:30 a.m. **Juvenile Offenders & Sex Abuse**  
*Jana Jones, Juvenile Chief, & Erin Faseler, Civil Commitment Chief, Special Prosecution Unit*
- 9:45 a.m. **Preparing Child Witnesses**  
*Geeta Singletary, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County*
- 11:00 a.m. **Trafficking Children**  
*Shanna Redwine, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*
- Noon **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:30 p.m. **Jury Charges**  
*Philip Mack Furlow, District Attorney, Dawson County*
- 2:45 p.m. **Post-Conviction Concerns**  
*Jaelyn Lambert, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*
- 4:00 p.m. **Plea Agreements and Sex Offender Registration**  
*Felicia Olyphant, First Asst. District Attorney, Rockwall County*
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

### Track Two

- 8:30 a.m. **In the State's Possession**  
*Laurie English, 112th Judicial District Attorney*
- 9:45 a.m. **ICAC Case Presentation**
- 11:00 a.m. **Special Victims & Defendants**  
*Ivan Martinez, Asst. District Attorney, El Paso County*
- Noon **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:30 p.m. **Trusted Predators**  
*Tanisha Manning, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*
- 2:45 p.m. **Understanding Physical Trauma**  
*Dr. Rebecca Girardet, Department of Pediatrics, University of Texas School of Medicine, Houston*
- 4:00 p.m. **Kids & Memory**  
*Dr. Christopher Frederick, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Texas School of Medicine, Houston*
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

### CPS Track

- 8:30 a.m. **State of the State: Trauma Basics for Prosecutors**
- 9:45 a.m. **Substance Abuse Issues in CPS Cases**
- 11:00 a.m. **Substance Abuse Issues in CPS Cases (continued)**
- Noon **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:30 p.m. **Domestic Violence in CPS Cases**
- 2:45 p.m. **Ask Early and Often: Indian Child Welfare Act**
- 4:00 p.m. **Concurrent Criminal & CPS Cases**
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**



## A note about this conference

Unlike traditional TDCAA track training, Wednesday's Child Sexual Abuse and Child Homicide Tracks are designed for continued attendance. Each track will introduce a criminal case and then use that case as a tool to illustrate the listed topics. Attendees should not expect the case to be reintroduced each session.

## Friday, April 17

9:00 a.m. **Children's Advocacy Centers' MDT Approach**

*Justin Wood, General Counsel, CACTX, Austin*

10:15 a.m. **Combatting Cognitive Bias in Crimes Against Kids**

*Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County, &*

*Erik Nielsen, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County*

11:30 a.m. **Punishment**

*Brian Baker, First Asst. District Attorney, Brazos 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.

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