

T D C A A

Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

January 12-17, 2020

27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics

The host hotel:
Omni Southpark
4140 Governors Row
Austin, TX 78744
512/383-2622

Rooms are \$124 plus tax (good until December 23 or the block is sold out, whichever is first).

Anyone who is new to a prosecutor's office—or who needs a refresher—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 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 jury selection and opening statement are demonstrated by veteran prosecutors. Both new and experienced prosecutors won't want to miss this intensive, high-quality training customized especially for them!

Registration for this seminar and other information is at tdcaa.com.

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 12 (2 hours CLE)

- 4:00 p.m. **Welcome & Course Introduction**
4:15 p.m. **Case Scenario / Group Introductions**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
4:30 p.m. **The Ethical Prosecutor**
W. Clay Abbott, TDCAA DWI Resource Prosecutor, Austin
6:15 p.m. **Adjourn to Opening Reception**
(provided by TDCAA)

Monday, January 13 (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**
Grace Pandithurai, Asst. County & District Attorney, Ellis 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**
John Wakefield, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
2:15 p.m. **Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection**
Marissa Hatchett, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas 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 14 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Hearings on Motions to Suppress**
Brent Chapell & Sheri Culberson, Asst. District Attorneys, Montgomery County
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, Brazos County, & Bill Wirsky, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County
2:15 p.m. **Effective Opening Statements**
Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Williamson County
3:15 p.m. **DEMO: Opening Statements**

Tuesday, January 14 (cont'd)

- 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 15 (3 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **DWI: Presenting the Case**
Ray Duke, Asst. District Attorney, El Paso 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 16 (6.5 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Punishment Evidence**
Lauren Sepulveda, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hidalgo County
10:15 a.m. **Case Scenarios**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
11:00 a.m. **Probation Revocation Hearings**
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. **Predicate 101**
Erik Nielsen, Asst. District Attorney, Travis 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 17 (2.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Cross-Examination and Impeachment**
Ryan Calvert, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County
10:30 a.m. **Final Argument**
John Jordan, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County
Noon **Adjourn**

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This program is funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association.

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 Sunday's reception and lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.
- \$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.