

**2023 Annual  
Report for  
the Texas  
District &  
County  
Attorneys  
Foundation**

## A letter from the TDCAF Board President

In 1977 I started my career in the Harris County District Attorney's Office prosecuting misdemeanor cases. What I realized then and continue to believe now is that prosecutors are guardians of the public's trust. To retain that trust, the prosecutor must operate at the highest level every day.



**Ken Magidson**  
*TDCAF Board  
President*

Because every case that comes to a prosecutor's office is one of critical importance, every assistant district or county attorney must be fully prepared for trial from day one. However, law school classes and basic in-house training may not provide adequate preparation for the demands of justice. No matter the size or location of a prosecutor's office, time and money are always in short supply, and the kind of continued, advanced training necessary for successful advocacy may suffer as a result.

TDCAA and its supporting Foundation fill the gap. Through its conferences, both in-person and online, the Association provides complex, content-specific training on current defenses, legal issues, and trial skills critical for developing prosecutors. For more seasoned prosecutor office employees, the Prosecutor Management Institute addresses the interpersonal and leadership skills needed for supervisory management. Only TDCAA provides the specialized training that meets the immediate needs of prosecuting attorneys and office staff.

I was told by former U.S. Attorney Henry Oncken that if you wanted to be a career prosecutor, you had to give back to the system—you couldn't just take. The Foundation gives back by funding TDCAA. Please join me in this commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Magidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

## What TDCAF does

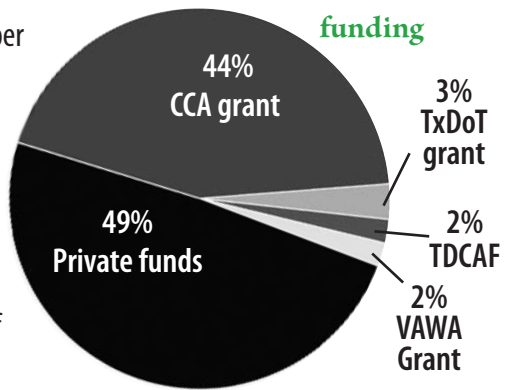
In 2023, we did more of what we do so well: training Texas prosecutors and staff to be the best they can be. In doing so, it's clear why the Foundation is so important to the mission and purpose of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA).

TDCAA is the professional association for Texas prosecutors, and it has been around for more than 100 years. Our 6,725 members—a number that seems to swell every year—include prosecutors, investigators, support staff, and law students, and they need training, technical assistance, and other help in seeing that justice is done. Without effective advocates both in and outside the courtroom, crime victims and members of the public will not get the justice they deserve.

Grants support a portion of the training we produce, and the number of prosecutors and staff who need it is always increasing. (See the chart at right for a breakdown of where our funding comes from.) Without money from other sources, such as the Foundation, TDCAA could not meet the needs of its members and law enforcement.

And this year, the Foundation helped the Association train an astonishing number of people: TDCAA ranked seventh (out of more than 1,500 CLE providers) in the state in the number of training hours we provided! Read on to find out the other ways we served Texas prosecutors and staff in 2023.

Sources of TDCAA's funding



## What TDCAF did in 2023

### Live and Online Training

In 2023, we offered quite a bit of live training, and we continued to produce a library of online courses. We are back to pre-COVID numbers with how many conferences we produced (both online and in-person), people we trained, and hours of TCOLE and MCLE we awarded:



Here's more about the training the Foundation helps support.

#### *Advanced Prosecutor Training*

To fight for victims of crime, prosecutors must be prepared to be at their best in the courtroom. To this end, and through a gift from the Harris County District Attorney's Office 15 years ago, the Foundation can sustain two critical TDCAA courses. Both are staff- and resource-intensive, and financial support from the Foundation is critical.

**Train the Trainer.** Since 2008, the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation has fully funded the food, lodging, and training of those attending this week-long conference at no cost to their offices. Highly qualified faculty teach prosecutors, investigators, and staff the principles of adult learning techniques so they can give more effective presentations to a room of their peers or a jury panel. Attendance is by invitation only and is limited to 32 participants.



*At left are photos of attendees and faculty advisors at Train the Trainer in Fredericksburg.*



**Advanced Advocacy Courses.** Here, seasoned prosecutors further their skills in an intensive, week-long session at Baylor School of Law in Waco. Through presentations, demonstrations, and directed workshops in mock courtrooms, experienced faculty guide participants through detailed felony case scenarios. This course addresses many challenges that arise in the most difficult cases we try. TDCAA offers both trial and appellate advocacy courses so that prosecutors with different specializations can enrich their skills. These courses are limited to 40 hand-selected students and are fully funded by the Foundation so there is no cost to attendees or their offices.

*At right and below are attendees at our Advanced Trial Advocacy Course at Baylor School of Law.*



### *Prosecutor Management Institute (PMI)*

The Texas Prosecutor Management Institute (PMI) continues to offer its bedrock module, Fundamentals of Management. This 2½-day course is designed to give prosecutors the personal insight and tools they need to successfully lead their teams. The concepts we cover translate to all prosecutors, whether they are running their first court, overseeing a cadre of attorneys and administrative personnel, or even operating as a solo elected prosecutor with responsibility for an entire county's caseload. We have also offered three "elected editions" of this course exclusively to elected county and district attorneys, and they were a big hit.

To date, the course has been delivered to 320 supervisor-level prosecutors. Other courses are currently scheduled, and even more offices have expressed a desire to attend it.



*At left and below are attendees at our PMI: Fundamentals of Management courses.*





**Joe Hooker**  
*TDCAA Assistant  
Training Director*

### ***Online Training***

TDCAA hired an assistant training director, Joe Hooker, in October to help the training team at live TDCAA conferences, maintain our online library, and produce content for both new and veteran prosecutors. Two new ethics training videos will be available in the coming weeks as well as courses on juvenile law. In addition, be on the lookout for a series on courtroom procedures and motions that will be helpful to new prosecutors and a good refresher for experienced ones. These new videos, as well as our existing online library, are available at [www.tdcaa.com/training/#online-training](http://www.tdcaa.com/training/#online-training), and many of them are free of charge.



**Jalayne Robinson,**  
**LMSW**  
*TDCAA Victims  
Services Director*

### **Victims Services**

The Foundation helps underwrite our Victims Services Director position to improve legislatively mandated but largely unfunded crime victim services in prosecutor's offices. TDCAA's Victim Services Director, Jalayne Robinson, provides training to individuals and groups on topics related to victim services and crime victims' rights. Jalayne is available daily for TDCAA members who need technical assistance via phone and email.

In 2023, Jalayne:

- trained 715 victim services personnel, prosecutors, and prosecutor office staff at TDCAA conferences and via individual and group trainings;
- provided ongoing daily email and telephone support to victim assistance coordinators (VACs) and prosecutors;
- served as project director for our Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division VOCA grant, including grant writing and grant administration;
- assisted in developing VOCA grant training;
- assisted with coordinating TDCAA's Key Personnel—Victim Services Board, including conducting board elections and meetings and corresponding with board members;



- wrote a regular column for TDCAA's journal, *The Texas Prosecutor*;
- represented TDCAA in policy development and service coordination with state agencies and other nonprofits assisting victims;
- served on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division 2023 Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee; and
- oversaw our VAWA grant video project where prosecutors and victim assistance coordinators describe the importance of victim services, especially in domestic violence and sexual assault cases.



*At left are behind-the-scenes photos from a VAWA video shoot. Several elected prosecutors and victim assistance coordinators participated, and the resulting video is in the Victim Services section under the Resources tab at [tdcaa.com](http://tdcaa.com).*

## **Publications**

Another key to educating prosecutors is publications. In 2022, TDCAA provided three grant-funded criminal law books for prosecutors, two of which went to all prosecutors and one that was mailed to all victim assistance coordinators. TDCAA published 17 books and manuals in 2023, including electronic versions of code books, to educate prosecutors and staff on a wide breadth of criminal law topics.

All told, 2023 was a busy year that supplied Texas prosecutors and staff with the high-quality training they need while also growing our online training library and producing high-quality in-person conferences.

## Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS)

In 2011, under the direction of then-Board Chair Dan Boulware and Endowment Chair Tom Krampitz, the Foundation established a select group of supporters called the Texas Prosecutors Society. This recognition was for those who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to improving prosecution and training in Texas, whether they serve as current prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, or judges; they practice in another area of law; or they are enjoying retirement. We are proud that so many current and former prosecutors have joined these ranks.



Texas Prosecutors Society members have pledged \$2,500 each to create an endowment fund for the Foundation—a forward-thinking strategy for building stability and growth for both the Foundation and the Association. The endowment's purpose is to collect and invest funds for the future to provide critical support to the Association.

Each year, new Society inductees are recognized at a special reception at TDCAA's Elected Prosecutor Conference in November. In 2023, we celebrated a new class, bringing the number of TPS members to 261. (See the photo, below, of the Class of 2023.) It will continue to grow as more prosecutors and alumni are invited to join every year. Listed on the next two pages is the membership of TPS with 2023 inductees in **bold**.



## Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS)

W. Clay Abbott  
Johnnie Actkinson  
Chilo Alaniz  
Jay Aldis  
Carolyn Allen  
Richard Alpert  
Alva Alvarez  
Bernard Ammerman  
James Michael Anderson  
Gordon Armstrong  
Eduardo Arredondo  
Charles Aycock  
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Steve Baldassano  
Nelson Barnes  
Patrick C. Batchelor  
Art Bauereiss  
Diane Beckham  
Elmer Beckworth  
Traci Bennett  
Bobby Bland  
Murff Bledsoe  
Joe Edd Boaz  
Dan M. Boulware  
Dusty Boyd  
Kathy Braddock  
John Bradley  
Richard Brainerd  
Grant Brenna  
Tom Bridges  
Alice Brown  
Joe Brown  
C. Scott Brumley  
Terese Buess  
**Kriste Burnett**  
Michael Butera  
Celeste Byrom  
Katherine A. Cabaniss  
Ryan Calvert  
Donna Cameron  
Stephen H. Capelle  
Gerald C. Carruth

James L. Chapman  
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Laurie English  
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Jaime Esparza  
Jen Falk  
**Erin Faseler**  
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Gerald Goodwin  
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Stephanie Greger  
Michael J. Guarino, II  
Rene Guerra  
Tony Hackebeil  
Dan Hagood  
Dale Hanna  
Tom Hanna  
Lynn Hardaway  
Russell Hardin Jr.  
Ira Royal Hart  
**Roger Haseman**  
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Kyson Johnson  
Ed C. Jones  
Jana Jones

## Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS)

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James Keeshan  
Rob Kepple  
Charles Kimbrough  
John Kimbrough  
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Natalie Koehler  
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Jim Kuboviak  
Landon Lambert  
Pete Laney  
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Brett Ligon  
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Crawford Long  
Lance Long  
Audrey Louis  
Doug Lowe  
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## How to give

There are three easy ways to contribute toward the Foundation’s mission of supporting TDCAA and its purpose in helping prosecutors and staff see that justice is done in their communities.

- You can send a check made payable to TDCAF to LaToya Scott, TDCAF, 505 West 12th Street, Ste. 100, Austin, TX 78701.
- Give online with a Visa or Mastercard at [tdcaf.org](http://tdcaf.org).
- Donate asset forfeiture funds. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 59.06(d-2) allows elected prosecutors to donate these funds to an entity that provides training or education related to the detection, investigation, or prosecution of a crime or abuse. We are grateful for these contributions (when local needs have already been met) and have committed that all such funds are “restricted”—meaning, they are used only for training, without any expenditures for Foundation overhead and the like.

## TDCAF by the numbers

	2023	Budget	% of Budget
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
Income	\$92,710	\$60,000	155%
Expenses	\$46,244	\$39,500	117%
<b>Net Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>\$46,466</b>	<b>\$20,500</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Income	\$40,765	\$90,000	45%
Expenses	\$58,865	\$50,000	118%
<b>Net Restricted Income</b>	<b>(\$18,100)</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Restricted	\$569,290		
Unrestricted	\$141,682		
Endowment	\$773,871		
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$1,484,843</b>		

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