



Turning the corner

2019 Annual Report
of the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation

From the Foundation's leadership



David Escamilla

TDCAF Board
President &
County Attorney
in Travis County

2019 was a year of sustained growth for the Foundation: staying the course and moving forward. It's good to have those seasons where progress is steady and our heading is sure. The next year, 2020, looks to take the Foundation in a new direction. Not hopping off the path and diving into the wilderness by any means, but rather pivoting and proceeding to a different part of the horizon. A few cases in point:

The Prosecutors Management Institute (PMI), the first and only training designed specifically for prosecutors who supervise others in the office, hosted its first course aimed only at elected county and district attorneys. (We called it PMI: Elected Edition.) Not only did demand for seats far outstrip supply (PMI courses can accommodate only around 40 students), but there has been a call for more—maybe even annual—encores of this course. Texas's elected prosecutors have made it clear that they value help with management and leadership, and the Foundation is ready to provide it.

We also want to meet the demand for non-elected prosecutors and staff who need training in supervising, managing, and leading subordinates. Though it's still in the planning stages, we are looking at offering a yearly course in Austin for anyone who is new to management. Such a course will require more trainers and a dependable location for hosting it, and we are exploring the possibilities.

Lastly, the Texas Prosecutors Society (TPS), which launched in 2011 to recognize those people who made a mark on the profession of prosecution, is nearing its 10-year anniversary. About 190 people have joined its ranks—many of them retired prosecutors and those who entered private practice years ago—and we are grateful for every last one. In 2020, we'll turn our attention to those prosecutors still in the rank and file as potential new TPS members—people mid-career who have made prosecution their profession (and likely their passion) and should be recognized for the contributions they're already made—and what they'll do in the future. It's time to invite them into the fold!

We can't wait to see what's around the corner in 2020! And as always, I thank you for your continued support.

What is TDCAF?

The Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation (TDCAF) was created in 2006 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its sole purpose is to financially support the educational mission of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA).

OK, then what is TDCAA?

TDCAA is the professional association for Texas prosecutors. Our 6,363 members include prosecutors, investigators, support staff, defense attorneys, judges, and law students.

A key to achieving justice for crime victims and society at large is a well-trained cadre of professional prosecutors and support staff. Without effective advocates, our children, crime victims, and members of the public will not get the justice they deserve.

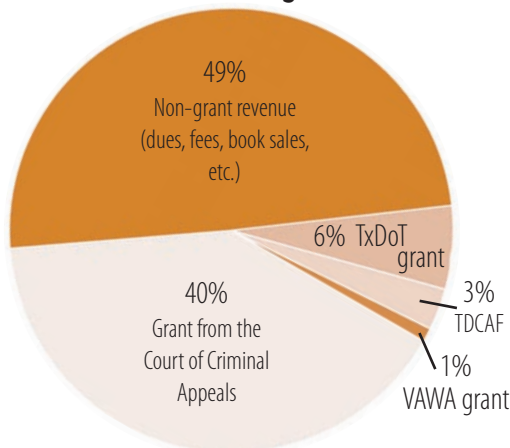
Lawyers and peace officers, like many professionals, require continuing education hours every year to keep their licenses, and in 2019 we provided that training at 68 conferences. Some of them are geared toward prosecutors right out of law school, while others target elected district and county attorneys. Two courses per year are on specialty topics, such as crimes against children and homicide, while

others cater to investigators, support staff, and those who want to develop greater skill in trial and appellate advocacy. In 2019, TDCAA trained more than 7,273 prosecutors, staff, and law enforcement officers with a total of 53,191 hours of training, making TDCAA a top provider out of about 1,500 accredited legal training organizations statewide. Grants support a portion of that training, but without funding from other sources, such as the Foundation, TDCAA could not meet the needs of its members and law enforcement.

Another key to educating prosecutors is publications. In 2019 TDCAA produced 20 criminal law books and manuals for prosecutors and law enforcement officers—a new TDCAA record! The Foundation has been instrumental in getting many of these manuals into the hands of the professionals that need them.

Why we formed the Foundation

Sources of TDCAA Funding



When a Texas prosecutor stands up and announces "ready" for the State, the community needs to know that that prosecutor is truly prepared to see justice done. With government funding for training ever-decreasing, the Foundation can step in to support excellence in Texas prosecution. The Foundation's leadership believes that Texans share our vision of a safer state, and having well-trained and equipped professional champions in the courtroom can make a real difference.

What the Foundation does

The Foundation provides key support in the following areas.

Advanced Prosecutor Training

To fight for crime victims, prosecutors must be prepared to be at their best in the courtroom. To this end, the Foundation can sustain two critical TDCAA courses.

Train the Trainer. Since 2008, the Foundation has fully funded the food, lodging, and training of those attending this week-long seminar 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 oral presentations to a room of their peers or a jury panel. Attendance is by invitation only and is limited to 32 participants.

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 real 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 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.

Both Train the Trainer and Advanced Advocacy Courses are instructor- and resource-intensive, and financial support from the Foundation is critical.

Victim Services

The Foundation helps underwrite our Victim Services Director position to improve legislatively mandated but largely unfunded crime victim services in prosecutor's offices. In 2019, Jalayne Robinson, our Victim Services Director:

- traveled to 16 prosecutors' offices to train 113 victim assistance coordinators (VACs) individually and in groups;
- presented victim services workshops training 667 prosecutors, prosecutor office staff, and VACs at TDCAA's Newly Elected Boot Camp, two Prosecutor Trial Skills Courses, Annual Criminal & Civil Law Update, Key Personnel & Victim Assistance Coordinator Seminar, and the Office of the Attorney General 2019 Crime Victim Services Conference;
- provided ongoing daily email and telephone support to Texas VACs;
- served as project director for TDCAA's Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division VAWA grant, including grant writing and grant administration;
- assisted in developing VAWA grant training;
- helped coordinate the TDCAA Key Personnel-Victim Services Board, including meeting and corresponding with Board members;
- wrote a regular column for TDCAA's journal, *The Texas Prosecutor*;
- moderated discussion forums at TDCAA's Annual Criminal & Civil Law Update and Key Personnel & Victim Assistance Coordinator Seminar;
- served on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee; and
- represented TDCAA in policy development and service coordination with state agencies and other nonprofits assisting victims.



Prosecutor Management Institute

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 multiple counties' caseload.

To date, the course has been delivered to more than 190 supervisor-level prosecutors. Other counties are currently scheduled, and even more offices have expressed a desire to attend the course. We even hosted 40 elected prosecutors in December at our first-ever PMI: Elected Edition conference. (See some photos from it at left.) Demand was so great for the course that we had to put some people on a waiting list; the training will almost certainly become a regular part of our rotation.

As we develop additional facilitators, expect more and more counties across the state to take advantage of this one-of-a-kind training. (Literally. No other state offers such a course.)

We remain committed to future course development, and future modules are in the works. With the solid base provided in the Fundamentals course, prosecutors will be able to attend courses that offer more advanced managerial skills and concepts tailored to their individual responsibilities.

In short, the Foundation will support TDCAA in its mission to assist Texas prosecutors in achieving their goal of a safer Texas.

Texas Prosecutors Society

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 invitation was for those who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to improving prosecution and training in Texas.

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.

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Terese Buess

Each year, new inductees of the Society are recognized at a special reception at TDCAA's Elected Prosecutor Conference in December. By the end of 2019, 192 members had accepted the invitation to the Texas Prosecutors Society. It will continue to grow as more prosecutors and distinguished alumni are invited to join every year. Listed on these two pages is the current membership of the Texas Prosecutors Society with the 2019 inductees in **bold** (and there's a photo of the Class of 2019 who attended the Elected Conference reception, below). Additional photos from that reception are on the next two pages.



Texas Prosecutors Society

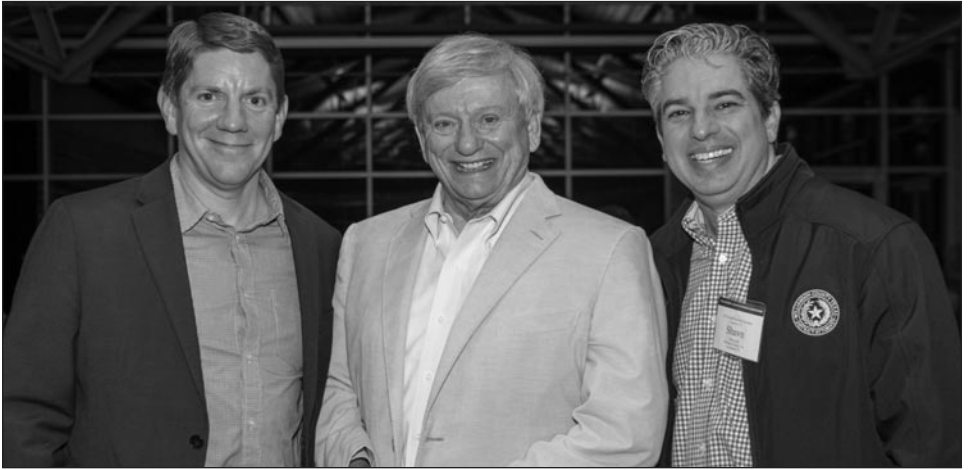
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Danny Buck Davidson
A.W. Davis
Don Davis
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Rick Miller
Sunni Mitchell
Mindy Montford
Kris Moore
Larry Moore
Margaret Moore
Karen Morris
Amanda Navarette
John Neal
Murray Newman
Kim Ogg
Denise Oncken
Jarvis Parsons
Sherri Wallace Patton
Rene Pena
Lisa Peterson

Kevin Petroff
John Pool
Ed Porter
Matt Powell
G. Dwayne Pruitt
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Judge Susan D. Reed
Steven Reis
Julie Renken
Jack Roady
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Photos from the TPS reception





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TDCAF by the numbers

	FY 2019	Budget	% of Budget
Unrestricted Funds			
Income	\$52,300	\$60,000	87%
Expenses	\$51,341	\$27,250	188%
Net Unrestricted Income	\$959	\$32,750	
Restricted Funds*			
Income	\$140,250	\$100,000	140%
Expenses	\$110,395	\$75,000	147%
Net Restricted Income	\$29,855	\$25,000	
Fund Balances			
Restricted	\$617,245		
Unrestricted	\$96,175		
Endowment	\$380,909		
Total All Funds	\$1,094,329		

* Restricted funds are from gifts designated for specific purposes by the donor.

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