



Texas District and County Attorneys Association

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

## July 9–14, 2017

### Omni Southpark Hotel Austin, TX

**27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics**

**Registration for this seminar is online only at [www.tdcaa.com/training](http://www.tdcaa.com/training).**

**Host hotel information:** This seminar will be held at the Omni Southpark Hotel, located at 4140 Governor’s Row, in Austin, TX 78744. Rooms are \$114 plus tax per night for single or double occupancy; this rate includes complimentary self-parking and Internet access. The hotel also offers free airport shuttle service. This rate is good until June 19, 2017, or until the block is sold out, whichever comes first. To make reservations, call 888/444-6664 and reference the 2017 TDCAA Prosecutor Trial Skills Course to get the group rate.

**Reimbursement:** TDCAA will reimburse only eligible prosecutors and prosecutor office employees up to \$40 per night for five nights’ stay at a hotel and up to \$20 a day for meals not provided at the conference. TDCAA will not reimburse for travel, registration fees, hotel tax, parking, taxi costs, or other extraordinary expenses. All meals not provided by TDCAA and other expenses are your own.

**Dress:** Casual dress is acceptable for all TDCAA trainings unless otherwise noted.

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## Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

### Sunday, July 9 (2.00 hours MCLE)

- 4:00 p.m. Welcome and 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, DWI Resource Attorney, TDCAA, Austin*  
 6:15 p.m. Adjourn to Opening Reception (provided by TDCAA)

### Monday, July 10 (6.75 hours MCLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update  
*Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County*  
 10:30 a.m. Pre-trial Issues  
*Lauren Black, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Rockwall 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  
*Melinda Westmoreland, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Tarrant County*  
 2:15 p.m. Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection  
*Jo Ann Linzer, Asst. District Attorney, Grimes 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, July 11 (6.25 hours MCLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Hearings on Motions to Suppress  
*Tom Bridges, Former District Attorney, Aransas & San Patricio Counties (Ret.), and Ted Wilson, Former Asst. District Attorney, Harris County (Ret.)*  
 11:15 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
 Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
 1:00 p.m. On Difficult Relationships  
*Rocky Jones, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*  
 1:45 p.m. Your VAC and You  
*Jalayne Robinson, LMSW, Victim Services Director, TDCAA*  
 2:30 p.m. Effective Opening Statements  
*Justin Wood, Asst. District Attorney, Travis County*  
 3:30 p.m. DEMO: Opening Statement  
 4:00 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

### Wednesday, July 12 (3 hours MCLE)

- 9:00 a.m. DWI: Presenting the Case  
*Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*  
 10:45 a.m. Cross-Examination & Impeachment  
*Ryan Calvert, Asst. District Attorney, Brazos County*  
 12:15 p.m. Adjourn

### Thursday, July 13 (6.5 hours MCLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Prosecuting Domestic Violence Cases  
*Stephanie Fargo, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas County*  
 10:30 a.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
 11:15 a.m. Probation Revocation Hearings  
*Tiana Sanford, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*  
 Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
 1:00 p.m. Plea Negotiation & Plea Bargaining Workshop  
*Sheri Culberson, Asst. District Attorney, Montgomery County*  
 3:15 p.m. Predicate Prosecutor Feud  
*Scott Simpson, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bexar 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, DWI Resource Attorney, TDCAA, 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, July 14 (2.75 hours MCLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Punishment Evidence  
*Bill Wirsky, First Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County*  
 10:15 a.m. Final Argument  
*John Jordan, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*  
 Noon Adjourn

### 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 Monday reception and lunch on 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.

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