

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

**January 12-17, 2025  
Austin**

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

**The host hotel:  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
6505 N. IH-35  
Austin, TX 78752  
800/866-3126**

**Rooms are \$140 plus tax; this rate is good until December 13 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first.**

Anyone who is new to a prosecutor's office 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 new prosecutors for their work both in the courtroom and out. Seasoned faculty advisors are assigned to small groups of attendees to answer questions and lead guided discussions. New prosecutors won't want to miss this intensive, high-quality training customized especially for them!

**Registration for this conference 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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**Texas District & County Attorneys Association**  
505 W. 12th St., Ste. 100  
Austin, TX 78701

# Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

## Sunday, January 12 (2 hours CLE)

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

## Monday, January 13 (6.75 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. Identifying & Overcoming Cognitive Bias  
*Jarvis Parsons, District Attorney, Brazos County*  
10:30 a.m. Pre-Trial Issues  
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  
*Britt Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County*  
2:15 p.m. Nuts & Bolts of Jury Selection  
*Sepi Zimmer, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*  
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  
*Jack Choate, Executive Director, Special Prosecution Unit, Huntsville*  
10:45 a.m. DWI Caselaw Update  
*Jessica Frazier, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Comal County*  
Noon Lunch (provided by TDCAA)  
1:00 p.m. Case Scenarios  
*Faculty Directed at Each Table*  
2:15 p.m. Effective Opening Statements  
*Sunni Mitchell, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend County*  
3:45 p.m. Your VAC and You  
*Jalayne Robinson, LMSW, TDCAA Victim Services Director*

## Tuesday, January 14 (cont'd)

- 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  
*Alison Baimbridge, Asst. District Attorney, Fort Bend 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  
*Jerry Varney, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Dallas 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*  
3:15 p.m. Predicates & Objections  
*Jon English, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Hays 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  
*Dewey Mitchell, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin County*  
10:30 a.m. Final Argument  
*John Jordan, Asst. District Attorney, Harris County*  
Noon Adjourn

### Payment options:

- \$500 Registration** (\$250 Registration fee + \$250 Association fee): For CAs, DAs, CDAs, C&DAs, and their office personnel. The TDCAA fee of \$250 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.
- \$250 "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.
- \$750 Registration:** For everyone else.