

Prosecutor Trial Skills Course

January 7-12, 2024
Austin

27.25 hours of MCLE, including 3 hours of ethics

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

Hotel rooms are \$140 plus tax per night; this rate is good until Dec. 16 or until 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.

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
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Prosecutor Trial Skills Course Agenda

Sunday, January 7 (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
4:30 p.m. **Case Scenario / Group Introductions**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
6:15 p.m. **Adjourn to Opening Reception**
(provided by TDCAA)

Monday, January 8 (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**
Calli Bailey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Collin 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**
Britt Lindsey, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Taylor County
2:15 p.m. **Nuts and Bolts of Jury Selection**
Grace Pandithurai, Asst. County & District Attorney, Ellis 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 9 (6.25 hours CLE)

- 9:00 a.m. **Hearings on Motions to Suppress**
Jack Choate, Executive Director, Special Prosecution Unit, & Phil Hall, Asst. Criminal District Attorney, Bastrop County
10:30 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, TDCAA Victim Services Director

Tuesday, January 9 (continued)

- 4:15 p.m. **Case Scenarios**
Faculty Directed at Each Table
5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Wednesday, January 10 (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 11 (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**
Chandler Raine, Asst. District Attorney, Harris 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 12 (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:

- \$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.