
T H E M I N N E S O T A
C O U N T Y A T T O R N E Y S
A S S O C I A T I O N

INCREASE TO PROSECUTOR TRAINING GRANT TO MCAA

Since the early 1980's, MCAA received a bi-annual legislative appropriation designated for prosecutor training which has allowed MCAA to train thousands of prosecutors and provided in excess of 950 live accredited classes. This grant is currently housed in the Department of Public Safety in the Office of Justice Programs and is funded at \$100,000 per year through 2025. We are requesting an increase of \$25,000 for an annual total of \$125,000 to offset the rising costs of putting on these educational programs and the increase of topics needed to cover.

How these funds are used:

- MCAA trains county prosecutors across the state of Minnesota. We are the ONLY CLE provider with a focus of training county prosecutors. We also provide opportunities for non-members and law enforcement partners to receive POST credits as well.
- MCAA provides cost effective CLE opportunities. We use training facilities like Fort Ripley or off-season state college campuses too offset costs.
- MCAA provides enough CLE credits at a low cost to cover every credit hour needed for prosecutors. This saves taxpayers money and ensures competent prosecution of cases.

On-Demand offering

- In 2023 our on-demand course generated 2,552 Standard CLE credits, 324 BIAS CLE credits, 306 Ethics credits. Along with 34 POST credits.
- YTD (11/22/24) our on-demand courses offerings have generated 2,666 Standard CLE credits, 376 BIAS credits, and 413 BIAS credits. And 6 POST credits.
- We offer these credits for 24 months after the initial live session.

Live Instruction Offerings

- In 2023 MCAA had a total attendance of 1,123 in our live sessions by hosting 14 events
- In 2024 MCAA had a total attendance of 743 in our live sessions. We also partnered with 51st Annual MFSRC/MCAA Annual Conference which had 414 attendees.

Training at MCAA

- Well trained prosecutors result in more timely and fair resolutions of cases and fewer appeals.
- Typical training year – 40 classes, webinars and on-demand events. 15 Live sessions. We have returned to pre Covid levels of in person training sessions.
- Trial school training is consistently our most highly requested course. The school is expensive due to the one to one ratio of faculty to students, use of “volunteers” with

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legal experience, travel, time out of the office, and audio-visual equipment necessary to provide instantaneous video critiquing ability (only 2 law schools in Minnesota have made the investment). It has been incredibly popular and with the pace of retirements, we need to start offering two schools per year. Given that demand, we have two courses planned for 2025. There is a presentation on “Racial disparities, Collateral consequences; Trauma-informed responses” – taught by Victor Vieth as part of the Trial School curricula.

- In the most recent survey conducted by the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, twenty-five of the forty-two respondents indicated that their states provided funding for prosecutor training with most paying for the costs to attend the training.
- MCAA membership consistently requests the organization provide as much free training as possible to help attorneys maintain their attorney license. MCAA is able to provide these as ON-Demand online sessions. We have 12-18 newly created CLEs planned for 2025.
- New legislation, case law updates and emerging issues require prompt and tailored educational opportunities for prosecutors and law enforcement.
- Newly created Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and updates to procedures. Already MCAA has reached out to DCYF to hold two online sessions in 2025 to coordinate with County Attorneys.
- MCAA is conscious of budget pressures and its charges for training are approximately one-third of that for classes offered by other continuing legal education providers.
- Training expenses are averaging an increase between \$20K - \$30K due to inflation on rooms nights and food & beverage.

2025 Proposed Courses

- Juvenile Attorney Training
- Ethics and Bias
- (1) Trial Advocacy for New Attorneys and Experienced prosecutors (Trial AD 2)
- MCAA Board Leadership Forum
- CHIPS Conference
- MCAA/MFSRC Joint Child Support Conference
- Annual Meeting
- Guardianship/conservatorship – rules, roles of County Attorney, and contested hearings.
- A criminal Rule 20/commitment crossover: what are counties doing when the Rule 20 says incompetent and the commitment team is saying no basis for commitment?
- Omnibus basics, including a refresher on some of the more common search and seizure issues

- Probation revocations and Austin factors
- Delinquency 101
- Basics of civil resources like OFPs and HROs that our victims pursue
- Reviewing sheriff contracts/agreements from third parties' vendors
- Overview of tax appeals
- Mutual aid agreements between law enforcement and other state agencies regarding emergencies
- Brady-Giglio obligations
- Most common motions-in-limine
- Nuts and bolts of voir dire
- CHIPS Training

In addition to the courses above, the civil commitment committee will be designing a webinar series to cover the changes to the civil commitment statute AKA gap legislation. This will allow prosecutors to view the information on a 24/7 basis.

Average Per Credit Hour CLE Rates

Average Annual Training Costs

- Training expenses (faculty rooms, meals, travel, CLE applications fee, meeting room rental)- \$200K
- Training expenses trial school (faculty and student rooms and meals, faculty travel, CLE applications fee, meeting room rental \$30K
- Education Salary + 23% benefits = \$127K
- Admin Cost 15% (copies, supplies, rent, etc.) = \$30K
- Total Cost = \$390K

Emerging County Attorney Issues and Training Topic

- Use of Force
- HIPAA, Data Practices
- Grant requirements in Contracts
- Rule 20 Gap Cases
- Virtual Court, Hearings and Legal Precedent
- Voting Concerns
- Cyber Security
- Hiring, retention and training in greater Minnesota
- Brady-Giglio obligations
- African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act
- Tax-forfeited Property
- Mandatory Training on Mental Health and Substance use disorder in addition to the required ethics and elimination of bias credits.