
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 900 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.

- Typical training year – 40 classes, webinars and on-demand events. Throughout the pandemic, MCAA continued to offer high quality virtual training.
 - In 2020, MCAA delivered 4 virtual conferences, 30 webinars and 51 on-demand sessions.
 - MCAA's 2021 training consisted of 3 virtual conferences, 34 webinars and 53 on-demand sessions. We were able to return to in-person training at the end of 2021, offering 2 live conferences and 1 hybrid event.
- 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 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 courses per year.
- County Attorney Offices are experiencing an enormous increase in retirements and a lack of seasoned applicants. This has created a training need for New Attorney topics.
- In addition, MCAA is experiencing a reduction in the number of seasoned faculty who are available to train the next generation of prosecutors. As a result, MCAA needs to offer Train the Trainer courses to increase the availability of seasoned faculty.
- 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.
- New legislation, case law updates and emerging issues require prompt and tailored educational opportunities for prosecutors and law enforcement.
- 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.

- Because of the small number of CAs (slightly over 700), there is not a large pool of attendees to draw from to recover our costs (average class size is 40 or approximately half the counties).
- Well trained prosecutors result in more timely and fair resolutions of cases and fewer appeals.

I. 2022 Proposed Courses

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Juvenile Attorney Training | May 13 |
| • Train the Trainer | May 18 - 20 |
| • Ethics and Bias | June 3 |
| • Trial Advocacy for New Attorneys | Aug 22 - 26 |
| • MCAA Board Leadership Forum | Sept. 7 - 9 |
| • CHIPS Conference | Sept. 28-30 |
| • MCAA/MFSRC Joint Child Support Conference | Oct. 3-5 |
| • Annual Meeting | Dec. 7 - 9 |

II. 2022 Webinars Courses

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Domestic Terrorism | Jan 26 |
| • Veteran's Act – Part 1 | Feb 23 |
| • Veteran's Act – Part 2 | Mar 30 |
| • Traffic Safety Topic | Apr 27 |
| • Child Support | May 25 |
| • Making a record in the District Court | June 29 |
| • Legislative Update | July 27 |
| • Traffic Safety Topic | Aug 31 |
| • Ethical Considerations in the Prosecution of Gender-Based Crimes | Sept 28 |
| • Bias Session 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm | Sept 28 |
| • Pretrial Publicity | Oct 26 |
| • Juvenile Arson | Nov 30 |
| • Leica Geosystems 3D Rendering of Crime Scenes | Dec 28 |

III. Average Per Credit Hour CLE Rates

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| • MCAA | | |
| ○ Webinar | Member Free | |
| ○ On-demand | Member Free | |
| ○ Live CLE | Member \$11 - \$15 | |
| • Minnesota Bar Association | | |
| ○ Webinar | Member Free - \$20 | Non-member \$30 |
| ○ On-demand | Member \$29.95 | Non-member \$64.95 |
| ○ Live CLE | Not being offered at this time | |
| • MN CLE | | |
| ○ Webinar or On-demand | Standard Price \$65 | |

IV. Average Annual Training Costs

- Training expenses (faculty rooms, meals, travel, CLE applications fee, meeting room rental)- \$149K

- Education Salary + 23% benefits = \$105K
- Admin Cost 15% (copies, supplies, rent, etc.) = \$26K
- Total Cost = \$280K

Average Yearly Training Cost Increase

- Training expense average increase \$10K - \$20K per year pre-covid and is rebounding in 2022 in demand

V. 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