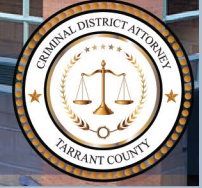


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, August 1, 2019

LAW & ORDER: TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Interested Tarrant residents offered an insider's look at prosecuting cases in the nation's 15th largest county

(Fort Worth, TX) – The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office is taking applications for its Fall 2019 Citizen Prosecutor Academy (CPA).

This free 12-week program offers residents an insider's look at the criminal justice system in Tarrant County, from the perspective of the prosecutors, investigators and staff of the Criminal District Attorney's Office. Each class focuses on a different duty of the office, from the complete trial process to the unique challenges faced by the special prosecution units, such as Intimate Partner Violence, Elder Financial Fraud, Special Victims and Gang.

Participants also learn more about the support systems in place to assist and protect crime victims and ensure that every case is handled with the utmost accountability. Speakers include attorneys from our Conviction Integrity and Protective Orders/Mental Health units, as well as our Victim Advocates and Deferred Prosecution Program for young first-time offenders.

Started in 2016 by Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson, the CPA has continued to grow in popularity, leading to the addition of a second class in 2018.

"I gained so much insight into the dynamics of the justice system through the academy. It was an enlightening experience to be introduced to the various departments, the role each played and be able to observe details of this division not being displayed thru the media. I have a more objective perspective now—what a great experience," shared CPA graduate Christine Casbeer

Fall 2019 academy classes will be held each Thursday morning or evening beginning on Thursday, September 5th. Classes are held at the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center in downtown Fort Worth, and graduation will be on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

To apply, please visit the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's website at cda.tarrantcounty.com. For more information, or with any questions, please contact Community Outreach Coordinator Amy Bearden at 817.884.3126 or ahbearden@tarrantcountytx.gov.

More response to the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney CPA:

"The CPA is a wonderful way of providing the private citizens with actual insight into our judicial system. An in-depth look into the prosecutorial side of the law, providing information as to what, why, and how cases are worked thru the system, and just how hard our courts work handling the ever-

growing backlog of cases. The Instructors, along with the DA, do a fantastic job of providing complete information, and a willingness to answer the tough questions," **said CPA graduate Vern King**

"Attendees hear from speakers in different departments who share their job duties in amazing detail. You will not be disappointed in making the time commitment to attend this class, and you will be regretful when it ends ... I know I was," **said CPA graduate Kelly Davis**

"I believe it's paramount that pastors, church staff and leaders in the community attend this Academy. It will help us to view this office from a different perspective," **shared CPA graduate Pastor Jack A. Crane, Truevine Missionary Baptist Church**

END