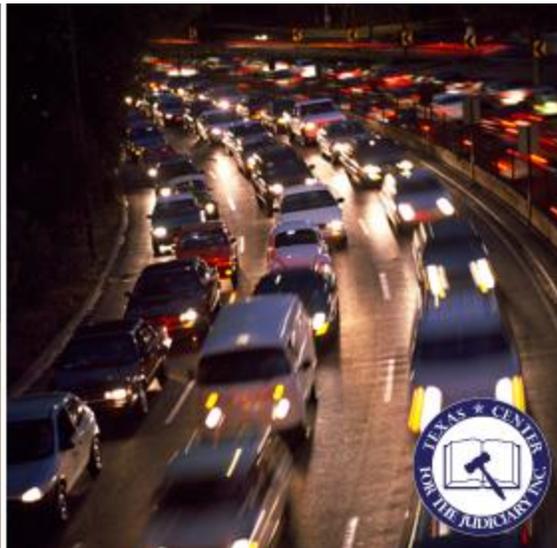


# THE DWI NEWSLETTER

*brought to you by*

THE TEXAS CENTER FOR  
THE JUDICIARY *and*  
THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION



## Winter 2012 Newsletter

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## IN THIS ISSUE



**Save a Life™**

Texas Department of Transportation

**In the Winter 2012 Edition** of the DWI Newsletter will be found information regarding the unveiling of the new website: <http://www.yourhonor.com/dwi/>. Please explore the DWI Judges Resource page, as well as the new Homepage for the Texas Center for the Judiciary. The DWI Judges Resource page includes links to a variety of resources and information for Texas judges. We will be regularly updating the page with current information.

Also included in the opening report is information on several projects and training activities involving the state's DWI Courts. The upcoming recidivism study, the result of a contract between the Traffic Safety Grant and Sam Houston State University, will be a project of major importance, both statewide and nationally.

Information is presented regarding our April DWI Court Team Training, presented by the National Center for DWI Courts.

This Newsletter shines the spotlight on one of our TxDOT Program Partners, the Reality Education for Drivers (RED) Program, aimed at young drivers.

Future Conferences containing DWI Curriculum are listed.

**In the News** provides a link to recent news articles involving impaired driving issues from sources local, statewide, national and international.

Links are provided to some other newsletters of interest to DWI judges.

Last, Judge Atkinson and Holly Doran report on the types of activities engaged in by the Traffic Safety Grant.

We hope you find information in this Newsletter interesting and helpful.

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## REPORT FROM THE TEXAS TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM

*By Judge Mark Atkinson and Ms. Holly Doran*



**As calendar year 2011** fades in the rear-view mirror, here at the home of the TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant, we reflect on the projects and activities of the past and look forward with anticipation to those ahead. In addition to educational and training conferences conducted, and technical assistance provided to judges and policy-makers, new and exciting initiatives were launched. Among these, is the unveiling of the new look of the Texas Center for the Judiciary's webpage. A link entitled, "DWI Resource" leads to the TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant webpage; or, it can be found simply by visiting [www.yourhonor.com/dwi](http://www.yourhonor.com/dwi). The DWI Resource contains information, primarily for judges, regarding upcoming educational and training opportunities, articles on current issues of law and practice and links to news stories relating to impaired driving locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. The new format is easier to keep updated

with breaking news, studies and legal opinions. We are looking forward to your feedback and input of the newly formatted website. Visit the homepage [here](#).

Specifically, with regard to Texas DWI Courts, several initiatives are in the works. First, the DWI Court judges gathered this past Fall to discuss practices in their courts. A second meeting will be held in March, 2012. Second, and relating to the first, the TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant is contracting with researchers from Sam Houston State University to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the performance of Texas DWI Courts, relying particularly on measures of recidivism of DWI Court participants. The researchers will survey the practices of the state's DWI Courts, collect data gathered by those courts, and produce a report. This study, we believe, will have national importance, as well as inform the judges as to which practices appear to produce the best



results. Third, we have established a listserv for the use of the DWI Court judges, wherein they may ask questions of each other, as well as exchange information, forms and more.

In 2012, we plan to maintain the DWI Website; host the DWI Court Operational Tune-Up Meeting; conduct the DWI College for DWI Court Team Members, Student Conduct Officers, and Administrative Law Judges; prepare, with the guidance of the DWI Curriculum Committee, and present, impaired driving judicial education sessions at Texas Center conferences, as well as develop web-based DWI Court monitoring shareware.

We believe that 2012 will be full of exciting challenges and productive activity. For a review of the types of activities conducted over the past months, since the publication of the Fall DWI Newsletter, please read "[Traffic Safety Grant Program Activities](#)." We provide it for review in order to share the types of activities the TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant engages in. We always welcome input as to new and different activities and projects, which would assist those handling impaired driving issues.

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## DWI COURT TEAM TRAINING – APRIL 23-26, 2012, HOUSTON, TX

### The Texas Center for the Judiciary will work with the [National](#)



[Center for DWI Courts](#) (NCDC) to provide training and technical assistance to assist Texas Courts in the design and implementation of an Adult DWI/Drug Court. Through practitioner-focused training programs, the NCDC will provide the core knowledge, skills, and operational focus necessary to properly plan and implement an Adult DWI Court within the parameters of established best practices in the implementation of the DWI Court model.

The training program is designed to take the Court through the various stages involved in planning and designing an Adult DWI Court, with particular attention to implementation and institutionalization issues.

The training program will incorporate interactive exercises, plenary speakers, and facilitated small group discussions. Each Adult DWI Court planning team will consist of eight members, including a judge, a coordinator, prosecutor, public defender/defense attorney, a drug treatment provider, probation officer, law enforcement representative and an evaluator. Planning teams will be expected to identify and confirm team members prior to attending the first training program. For the Court to fully benefit from the training it is recommended every team member commits to participate for the complete training program.

Please contact Holly Doran, TxDOT Program Director, at [hollyd@yourhonor.com](mailto:hollyd@yourhonor.com) if you would like to apply for this training. If your team, or members of your team, would like to revisit some key concepts from the class, the DWI Resource website has [DWI Court Team Training videos](#) available to view. (This is a secure page and you will need to log in using your Texas Center judicial profile information to view the videos).

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R e a l i t y   E d u c a t i o n   f o r   D r i v e r s

*Are you looking for another tool to use in working with young alcohol-related offenders?*

**Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center** in Waco has received a grant from TxDOT to expand its Reality Education for Drivers (RED) program to Dallas, Tarrant and Travis Counties this year. Hillcrest has been providing the RED program to Central Texas since 2008. RED is a six hour, hospital-based program which provides young people with a live “path of injury” view into what happens to victims of motor vehicle crashes along with research-based education about the affects of impaired, distracted, and unsecured driving. The program is free to all participants. For more information [click here](#).

Dallas and Tarrant Counties:

Dan Worley, RED Program Coordinator

254-202-6532

[dworley@hillcrest.net](mailto:dworley@hillcrest.net)

Travis County:

Tori Lineberry, RED Program Coordinator

254-202-6531

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## 2012 IMPAIRED DRIVING EDUCATION



### **2012 Winter Regional Conference B** *(for all judges)*

The Traffic Safety Grant will sponsor two one-hour DWI breakout sessions

February 20-21, 2012

Hyatt Regency Hill Country, San Antonio

Appearing soon on the Texas Judges' DWI Resource webpage will be articles from the Winter Regional Conference DWI sessions "Interlock 301: New Laws and Trends" and "Breath and Blood Testing, and the Effects of No Refusal Programs on the Operation of the Courts."

### **2012 DWI Court Operational Tune-Up Meeting** *(for DWI Court judges and*

*DWI Curriculum Committee)*

March 29-30, 2012

Harris County Criminal Justice Center/Inn at the Ballpark, Houston

## **2012 DWI Court Team Training** *(for new DWI Court teams planning to start a DWI Court)*

April 23 – 26, 2012

Westin Oaks, Houston

## **2012 Criminal Justice** *(for judges)*

The Traffic Safety Grant will sponsor three one-hour DWI breakout sessions.

May 7-9, 2012

Omni Park West, Dallas

## **2012 DWI College for DWI Court Teams, Student Conduct Officers, and Administrative Law Judges** *(for DWI Court team members)*

July 30-August 1, 2012

Omni Downtown, Austin

## **2012 Annual Judicial Education Conference** *(for judges)*

The Traffic Safety Grant will sponsor three one-hour DWI breakout sessions.

September 9-12, 2012

Westin Galleria, Houston

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## **IN THE NEWS**

### February 8, 2012 (ABA Journal) - **Brazil Sues Twitter in Bid to Ban Speed Trap and Roadblock Warnings**

The attorney general of Brazil has filed a lawsuit against Twitter in a bid to block accounts that warn drivers of police speed traps and roadblocks. [Continue reading...](#)

### February 6, 2012 (kuhf radio) - **Houston to Open A Sobering Center for Drunk Arrests**

Thousands of people are processed through the City of Houston jail system every year for public intoxication. But the city is taking steps to divert those people away from jail cells to a sobering center where they could receive social services. [Continue reading...](#)

February 3, 2012 (Fox News) - **Restaurant lobby seeks to put ignition interlock provision on ice**  
One of Washington's top trade groups for adult beverages is seeking to put on ice a provision within a House transportation bill that would require states to mandate ignition interlock devices for convicted drunk drivers. [Continue reading...](#)



### January 17, 2012 (Plano Star Courier) - **DWI Court alternative to jail time**

Nearly everyone's life has been touched in some way by someone suffering from a drug or alcohol addiction. Thanks to a treatment program implemented by Judge Ray Wheless of Collin County's 366th District Court, local courts, attorneys, probation officers and substance abuse experts are working together to help address the underlying cause of DWIs and drug offenses while holding offenders accountable for their actions. [Continue](#)

[reading...](#)

January 5, 2012 (U.S. News on msnbc.com) - **Curbing drunken drivers: Should ignition interlock be required on every car?**

Connecticut motorists convicted of drunken driving are the latest to face mandatory use of ignition interlock devices, a step seen by some as steering the nation closer to requiring alcohol detection systems as standard equipment in all vehicles. [Continue reading...](#)

December 8, 2011 (NHTSA) - **Traffic Fatalities in 2010 Drop to Lowest Level in Recorded History**  
U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced updated 2010 fatality and injury data showing highway deaths fell to the lowest level since 1949. [Continue reading...](#)

**For more news stories please visit the [DWI Resource News page here](#).**

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## OTHER NEWS IN OTHER NEWSLETTERS

To view the latest edition of the National Center for DWI Courts' quarterly newsletter, *The DWI Court Reporter*, please click [here](#).

The Winter 2012 issue of *Highway to Justice*, a joint project between the American Bar Association and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, can be found [here](#).

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## TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

**At the conclusion** of each month, Judge Atkinson and Ms. Doran collaborate to create a Performance Report, to be submitted to TxDOT. These reports highlight accomplishments relative to Grant objectives and provide a general overview of the month's activities. Please click [here](#) to read the abbreviated reports from October through December, 2011.

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## OTHER

This newsletter has been provided by the Texas Center for the Judiciary pursuant to a grant from TxDOT. If you have suggestions for items to be included in this Newsletter, or wish to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list, please contact:

Holly Doran  
TxDOT Program Director  
[hollyd@yourhonor.com](mailto:hollyd@yourhonor.com)

A printer-friendly version of the Winter 2012 DWI Newsletter can be found [here](#).

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