

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY

IN CHAMBERS

FEATURES:

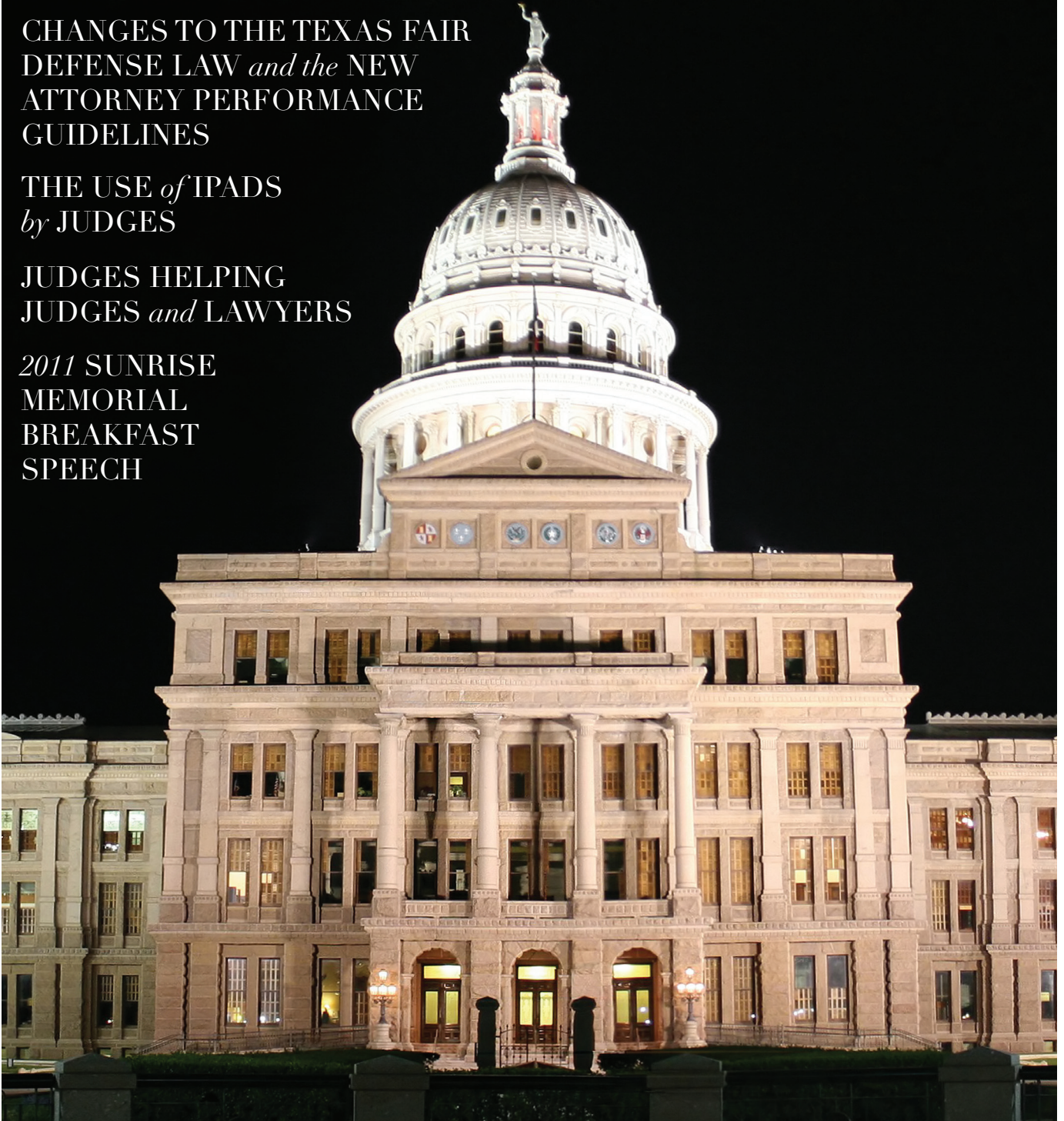
FALL 2011

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DEFENSE LAW *and the* NEW
ATTORNEY PERFORMANCE
GUIDELINES

THE USE *of* IPADS
by JUDGES

JUDGES HELPING
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IN CHAMBERS

FALL 2011



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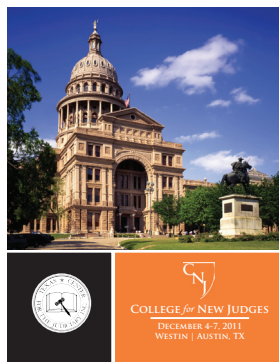
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**TASK FORCE ON
INDIGENT DEFENSE**

Serving Texas since 2002 under
the Texas Fair Defense
Act and the U.S. Constitution.



CHANGES TO THE TEXAS FAIR DEFENSE LAW AND THE NEW ATTORNEY PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

by JIM BETHKE

Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission

This is the second of a two part series. In the last article, I discussed some of the key provisions of the Fair Defense Act and the purpose of the Task Force on Indigent Defense. In this part, I will highlight key changes made by the 82nd Legislature to the Texas Fair Defense Law and address the value and purpose of the *Performance Guidelines for Non-Capital Criminal Defense Representation* adopted by the State Bar's Board of Directors on January 28, 2011.¹

During the 82nd Legislature's Regular Session, funding for indigent defense was cut by 15 percent or approximately \$8.6 million in grants to counties were eliminated. In addition, the administrative operating budget was reduced by approximately \$90,000 a year including the elimination of one or possibly two staff positions. Fortunately, the Legislature restored the funding for indigent defense grants and the administrative budget during the First Called Special Session. The Legislature also continued to fund innocence projects at the four public law schools at \$320,000 each year of the biennium (\$80,000/school), while also providing funding for one staff person to administer and coordinate the work of the innocence projects.

The omnibus indigent defense for this session was HB 1754 by Gallego. This bill reconstituted the *Task Force on Indigent Defense* (Task Force) as the *Texas Indigent Defense Commission* (Commission). The duties, responsibilities, members, and staff of the Task Force were all transferred to the Commission. The Commission remains administratively attached to the Office of Court Administration. However, the Commission was granted authority to submit its legislative appropriation request separate and apart from the Office of Court Administration (OCA). This change was needed and benefits both OCA and the Commission. The OCA can seek the funding it needs to effectively serve the courts of this State and administer its statutory responsibilities and the Commission can effectively present its case for indigent defense funding for these services without having to compete head-on with OCA for funding. Additionally, this legislation streamlined the process to create a public defender office. It also provides the statutory framework on how to establish a managed assigned counsel program—a new defense delivery system that employs the private bar but requires quality controls lacking in a traditional ad hoc assigned counsel program.

Next, SB 1681 by Ellis clarifies that the Fair Defense Act applies to attorney appointments for probation revocations and appeals, specifies procedures for withdrawal of trial counsel and appointment of appellate counsel, and authorizes any magistrate to provide warnings on rights to defendants arrested for motions to revoke probation.

A past recommendation of the Task Force also passed this session in SB 1308 by Seliger. This legislation allows the local selection committee in each administrative judicial region to review an attorney's current ability to provide effective representation when the attorney is no longer eligible to represent indigent defendants in capital cases due to a single finding of ineffective assistance of counsel.

More detailed summaries of the above bills and a complete listing of all bills passed related to indigent defense are available on the Commission's legislative information page.

In addition to these legislative changes another recent significant development relating to the representation of persons charged with criminal offenses was the promulgation of the *Performance Guidelines for Non-Capital Criminal Defense Representation Guidelines* (the Guidelines).² These Guidelines like the *Guidelines and Standards for Texas Capital Counsel*³ are intended to serve several purposes. The first is to encourage defense counsel to perform to a high standard of professionalism when representing an indigent person charged with a crime.⁴ They are also intended to alert counsel of possible courses of action and strategies. Moreover, the Guidelines may be used to provide a measure by which the performance of counsel may be evaluated and to assist in the training and supervising of counsel. The newly formed Harris County Public Defender has incorporated these Guidelines into its office procedures manual. It is likely other public defender offices and jurisdictions that supervise counsel⁵ to some degree will do the same. A number of counties have linked to the Guidelines.

Note, however, "[t]he Guidelines are not criteria for the judicial evaluation of alleged misconduct of defense counsel to determine the validity of a convictions. The Guidelines may or may not be relevant to such judicial determination, depending upon all of the circumstances of the individual case."⁶

The Guidelines are easy to understand, thorough, and in many instances a step-by-step guide on what should be done in a particular situation. The principal drafters⁷ of the Guidelines identify a multitude of ways that the Guidelines can be applied by both defense counsel and judges who want to improve the delivery of indigent defense services in their respective jurisdictions. Examples of how defense attorneys can use the Guidelines include: 1) a personal checklist of process steps for attorneys at level of experience; 2) a tool to train new criminal defense attorneys; 3) a tool for self-evaluation; 4) an objective tool for the internal evaluation of attorneys in public defender offices and managed assigned counsel programs; 5) a tool to advocate for additional resources; and, 6) possibly a persuasive tool to argue that the client did not receive effective assistance of counsel. Examples of how judges can use the Guidelines include: 1) a means to supplement the experience-based attorney qualifications; 2) incorporate into the county indigent defense plan; 3) post on county website and require all attorneys who take appointments verify annually as part of the application process that have read and are familiar with the Guidelines; and, 4) as a reference guide for setting compensation levels.⁸

The promulgation of these Guidelines is a constructive step by the State Bar of Texas in demonstrating its commitment to support defense lawyers, the Fair Defense Law, and Gideon.⁹ The requirements of the Fair Defense Law and the promise of *Gideon* go unfulfilled without capable, skilled, and committed counsel for the defense. The Guidelines should prove to be a worthy companion for the defense.

¹The Non-Capital Guidelines were developed by the Bar's Committee on Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters as a follow up/companion to the Guidelines and Standards for Texas Capital Counsel. Like the Capital Guidelines, the Non-Capital Guidelines were developed using as models similar guidelines published by national organizations and adopted in other states, and then were amended to better reflect Texas practice and in response to stakeholder comments. These are available at: <http://www.texasbar.com> and were published in 74 Tex. B. J. 616 (2011).

² Id.

³The Guidelines and Standards for Texas Capital Counsel were also developed by the Bar's Committee on Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters. and adopted by the Bar in 2006. The Capital Guidelines and Standards were adopted April 21, 2006, by the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas. These are available at: <http://www.texasbar.com> and were published in 69 Tex. B. J. 966 (2006).

⁴ 74 Tex. B. J. 616, 620 (2011).

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id.

⁷Jeff Blackburn and Andrea Marsh were the principal drafters of the Guidelines. Mr. Blackburn is the chair of the State Bar Committee on Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters. Ms. Marsh chaired the subcommittee that drafted the Guidelines. Mr. Blackburn is a criminal defense and civil rights lawyer. In 2009, he represented the family of Timothy Cole, a young man falsely accused of rape who died in prison, and got the first posthumous exoneration in Texas. He has received the Frank Spurlock award, the Henry B. Gonzales award, and the Maury Maverick award for his civil rights work. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Ms. Marsh serves as the executive director of the Texas Fair Defense Project. Her organization works to improve the fairness and accuracy of the criminal justice system in Texas, with a primary focus on improving access to counsel and the quality of representation provided to poor people accused of crime. She was recognized by Texas Lawyer Magazine as one of 30 Extraordinary Women in Texas Law in September 2008 and received the Texas Law Fellowships 2009 Excellence in Public Interest Award.

⁸ 74 Tex. B. J. 616, 617-618 (2011).

⁹ 372 U.S. 335 (1963).

THE USE OF IPADS BY JUDGES

Posted on iPhoneJD.com as a guest blog on June 14, 2011



by HON. DAN HINDE

269th District Court, Harris County

As courts go, the Civil District Courts in Harris County, Texas are relatively high-tech. We have fairly modern audio-visual equipment in each courtroom. Lawyers can electronically file documents, and since around 2008, all of the courts are “paperless.” By this I mean that our case files are now kept digitally. Electronic filings go straight to the file without being printed out, and paper filings are scanned into each case file. Thanks to the Harris County District Clerk’s Office, lawyers can access documents in case files on the internet.

This has greatly diminished the volume of paper handled by the Civil District Courts. But it does not mean the judges have less to read. (The number of new cases in Harris County has actually risen since 2008.) Instead, it has led us judges to change how we read, absorb, and analyze materials submitted for our consideration. We all pretty much read case files on our desktop computers. We can also access our files remotely on laptops via several options for secure access. And a few of us have started using iPads to review briefs and motions. But I think this is just the start.

I received my iPad 2 in April and have worked with the IT departments of the District Courts and the District Clerk’s Office to find some great ways to securely access briefs and exhibits in an organized, efficient way. I can now download all the briefs and exhibits related to any motion on my docket onto my iPad to review later using

an app called GoodReader. If I need to review any additional materials for a case, I can access them securely on my iPad through a VPN connection or a Citrix client app.

Legal research has become even more efficient. I now have the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as well as the entire set of Texas statutes, including the Texas Constitution, all of the Texas codes, and the Revised Civil Statutes, on my iPad via RealTek's Texas Rules and Texas Statutes apps. (The printed volumes take up about 8-10 bookshelves in my office.) So instead of having to run back to my chambers in the middle of a hearing to look up an obscure statutory reference (or as an alternative to logging onto Westlaw or Lexis), I can simply open up these apps and look up the rule or statute being cited to me.

Similarly, case research has become much more handy. I recently have begun using Westlaw's iPad app, WestlawNext, for research and have found it quite useful at times. If all you need is a particular case and your Westlaw subscription does not cover WestlawNext, Fastcase has published an iPad app that provides quick access to cases, albeit without any headnotes or subsequent history information.

“LEGAL RESEARCH HAS BECOME EVEN MORE EFFICIENT. I NOW HAVE THE TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE SET OF TEXAS STATUTES, INCLUDING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION, ALL OF THE TEXAS CODES, AND THE REVISED CIVIL STATUTES, ON MY IPAD VIA REALTEK'S TEXAS RULES AND TEXAS STATUTES APPS.”

You can even get law dictionaries on your iPad. While the Black's Law Dictionary app is a little pricey for me (I tend to download only free apps or iBooks), I do have Nolo's free law dictionary for use when I need to know the difference between a *cestui que use* and a *cestui que trust*.

Of course, I have downloaded one of the free Constitution apps available on iTunes. And through iBooks, I have a free copy of certain secondary authorities, like *The Federalist Papers and Democracy in America*.

But I see so much more potential for this device. As lawyers and parties look for ways to reduce costs, I think videoconferencing may become more prevalent. Before the iPad, equipment costs made videoconferencing cost-prohibitive under our tight budgets. But now it is an option worth considering for hearings and status conferences given the number of videoconferencing apps like FaceTime, Skype, WebEx, and Yahoo Messenger, among others.

District judges in Texas have a very small staff. Few, if any, have a secretary, so having speech-recognition software like Dragon Dictation's iPad app could help us draft materials more quickly. The various note-taking apps give us the opportunity to take notes on the bench or at home while listening to arguments and testimony or reading briefs and keep these notes in an organized manner and close to hand.

These are just some of the uses I have for the iPad as a judge. I am sure there are more on the way. I look forward to exploring them.

JUDGES HELPING JUDGES AND LAWYERS

*by the State Bar of Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program
Judicial Initiative Subcommittee*

What's A Judge To Do?

The behavior of a lawyer who has practiced in your court for years has clearly changed and now you think that the problem must be alcohol, drugs, depression or something serious. What should you do? The short answer is to make confidential contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) through its Judges' hotline: 800-219-6474.

TLAP has been providing confidential, respectful and discreet assistance to judges, lawyers and law students since 1989. As the approved peer assistance program for lawyers, all communications are confidential by virtue of the protections afforded by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 467, et. seq. TLAP staffs two hotlines – one for judges (800-219-6474) and one for lawyers (800-343-8527). A judge can call about him/her self, another judge or a lawyer in the community about whom the judge is concerned. TLAP receives over 1,000 calls each year and provides assistance to individuals who are challenged by issues of alcohol, drugs, substance abuse, anxiety, depression, stress, burnout, aging and the myriad mental health issues affecting legal professionals in the 21st century. TLAP staff, all three of whom are lawyers, will work with the caller to help evaluate the situation, offer concrete suggestions and solutions and make a plan to help.



Why Should A Judge Call TLAP?

Confidential assistance and immunity protections:

All communications are confidential by law as set out in the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 467, et. seq. The confidentiality protections are available to the lawyer or judge seeking help and to the judge making a call of concern or referral. Additionally, a report in good faith to TLAP gives the judge statutory immunity from suit. Reports to TLAP are not discoverable. TLAP does not disclose the name of the reporting person without express permission. Confidentiality is absolute.

One on one contact and an offer of assistance:

After a judge contacts TLAP, a staff member or trained TLAP volunteer (either judge or lawyer) who is also bound by the confidentiality, will contact and seek to meet with the impaired person and offer assistance. Usually, a judge volunteer will contact a judge and a lawyer volunteer will contact a lawyer. These contacts and conversations are also confidential. Not every judge or lawyer acts on help offered, but many do. Helping colleagues on the bench and members of the Bar is the right thing to do.

Fulfill a duty to report:

Currently, *The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct*, Canon 3 (D) contains no specific duty to report issues of impairment of a judge or another lawyer. However, *The ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct* was amended in 2007 to include Rules 2.14 and 2.15 relating to a judge's duty to report impaired lawyers and judges, making it clear that some corrective action with regards to a judge's or lawyer's impairment is warranted. Although this is only a model rule so far, we believe that this is a harbinger of things to come in Texas.

The *Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct* does contain a specific duty to report. In certain cases, a judge or lawyer can fulfill this duty to report by contacting TLAP – as provided thru TDRPC Rule 8.03(c): If you have a duty to report misconduct and have knowledge or suspect the lawyer or judge is impaired by alcohol or drugs or other mental illness, Rule 8.03(c) allows you to call TLAP to fulfill this ethical obligation.

From A Judge's Perspective:

Texas Judges speak about what happens when a judge calls TLAP



Calling TLAP about a lawyer:

“I recently observed a lawyer practicing in my court exhibiting some erratic behavior. I contacted TLAP and was given a full range of options to consider, including resources that are available. TLAP connected me with a TLAP volunteer lawyer willing to talk to the lawyer appearing in my court. Counseling and treatment options were made. Some weeks later I approached the lawyer to express care and concern, and she shared some issues in her life. She was grateful for the help she had gotten and is doing much better now.”

“It happens – there before you is an impaired lawyer, and although you may not be certain what the problem is, something is definitely wrong and you need to know your options. Depending on your comfort level, you can meet with the lawyer privately and gently express your concern. If you desire personal contact but don't want to pry into their circumstances, you can encourage the lawyer to call TLAP. Or you can call TLAP yourself, remaining anonymous if you want. By working through TLAP to get help, statutory immunity applies. Or you can even find another judge or lawyer to meet with them or call TLAP. Under the Model Judicial Conduct Code, taking no action is not an option.”

Calling TLAP about another Judge:

“My judicial colleague did not appear healthy and was drinking heavily. His behavior had deteriorated to intimidation and rudeness. I felt that the Judge might be suffering from depression or substance abuse and needed help. I called TLAP which had resources to help him. They arranged for a trained volunteer Judge to meet with him to offer crisis counseling, referrals to professionals, peer assistance, and support groups. Through TLAP, judges can get the help they need, and all services are confidential.”

“I am a sitting District Judge and a recovering alcoholic. I received a confidential call from TLAP about a judge who thought he had a drinking problem. I called on him and shared my story of recovery. That was 14 years ago and today he is a sober and respected member of society.”

“A visiting judge was acting erratically on the bench. A judge in the neighboring court brought him to her office. After contacts with TLAP, the disabled judge obtained treatment. He is now in recovery and returned to the bench.”

“A Judge charged with DWI was counseled by TLAP and volunteers. Convinced that he could ‘handle’ the problem alone he refused assistance. A year later, after continued adverse events, he was removed from office.”

“A Judge who had continuing personal problems with alcohol and was diagnosed as suffering from depression, obtained treatment as a result of the example of a colleague who was a judge volunteer for TLAP. Fifteen years later, she retired from the bench as a valuable and respected judge.”

It's A National Trend:

TLAP staffs the ABA CoLAP's National Judges Helpline

TLAP staff volunteers to answer the National Judges' Assistance Helpline (800-219-6474), a service of the American Bar Association and the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs Judicial Assistance Initiative.

Judges throughout the United States and Canada, who need assistance because of alcoholism, substance abuse, addiction or mental health issues, may call the confidential helpline and be put in touch with other volunteer judges located elsewhere throughout the US and Canada. These volunteer judges, who are in recovery from either substance abuse or depression, have volunteered to be a personal resource to other judges and are uniquely positioned and prepared to confidentially share their experiences, strengths and hope with their colleagues in crisis.

Final Thoughts: Judges, Stay Healthy!

By staying healthy, a judge can be of greater service to the profession, the public as well as to family and friends. Throughout the past year, TLAP has asked Texas judges to share their wisdom on the subject of "mental health." Here are some specific gems from the collected comments:

"The term 'mental health' refers to your general psychological well-being. This includes the quality of your relationships with others, the way you perceive yourself and your ability to manage your emotions and deal with difficulties. It is not the absence of problems but the presence of positive characteristics that help you deal with difficulties when they arise."

"People with "good" mental health have characteristics such as the ability to laugh and have fun, the ability to bounce back from adversity, flexibility to learn new things, self-confidence and self-esteem and a balance between work and private life. In order to maintain or strengthen your mental health, it's important to pay attention to your own needs and feelings. That sounds simplistic, but many judges spend so much time focused on the issues of others, they ignore their own needs."

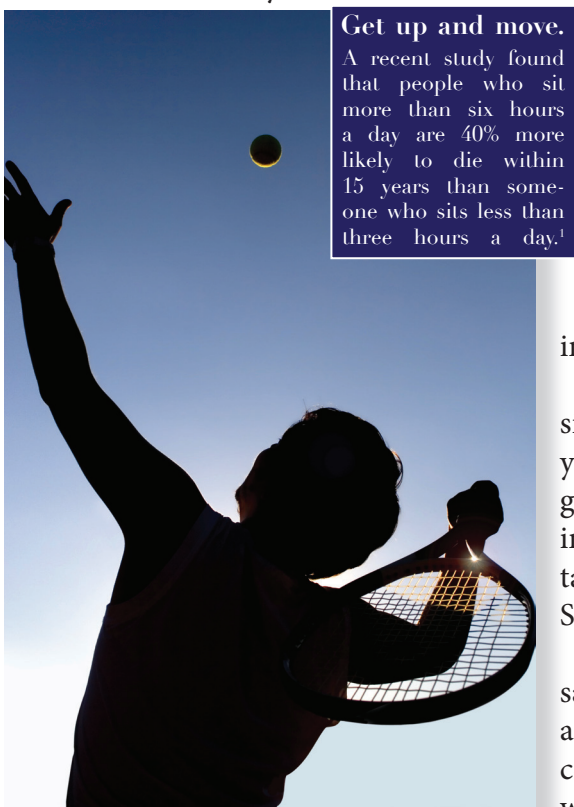
"There are two particular areas of life that are crucial to maintaining mental health, physical health and supportive friendships:

1. Get up and move. A recent study found that people who sit more than six hours a day are 40% more likely to die within 15 years than someone who sits less than three hours a day.¹ This is not good news for judges. Exercise will counteract this to a degree and increase endorphins, which make us feel better. You don't have to take up yoga, rock climbing or skydiving. A 20-minute walk will do. Stake out your exercise time and be selfish about it.

2. Stay connected with friends. Sometimes this is easier said than done, especially during a long trial or time when you have a monster docket. Judges can get in a rut of seeing only court-house colleagues (who are often not the same people with whom one would want to discuss personal stress). Facebook and other social media

are a great way to reconnect with old friends and stay connected with current ones. This facilitates a quick, virtual interaction at those times when you can't see someone in person or spend time catching up on the phone. This is not just for college students and it's easy to do. Many judges are already setting up pages for campaigns, but you can also establish a personal, friends-only page."

And lastly but not least: "Judges! Today is the day to follow these suggestions to help yourself and others in need in the legal community!"



Get up and move.
A recent study found that people who sit more than six hours a day are 40% more likely to die within 15 years than someone who sits less than three hours a day.¹

¹ See <http://mashable.com/2011/05/09/sitting-down-infographic/>

2011 SUNRISE MEMORIAL BREAKFAST SPEECH

Given at the Annual Judicial Education Conference
September 19, 2011 - Dallas

by HON. HARRIET O'NEILL

A district court judge was riding the circuit one particular morning, hearing cases across a 5-county area – a task he shared from time to time with other circuit-riding judges. He called the docket. His first matter was a child-protection case. The forensic evidence showed that the child, barely one year old, had both arms broken. Clean fractures indicating they had been deliberately snapped. The child was in foster care, unaware at her young age of what had happened, why she had been torn from her home, and who these strangers were she was now living with.

Sadly – an all too familiar situation for this road weary judge. The mom had voluntarily relinquished her parental rights to the child. And the grounds for terminating the father's rights had been met. The only thing standing in the way of beginning the adoption process to find the child a permanent home was the purported father's belated claim that he was not her father. That was the hearing over which this particular circuit judge found himself presiding.

The judge ordered a blood test and re-set the hearing in 30 days pending the results. He finished up the rest of the day's docket, and then drove back to his home.

A year later, he found himself back on the circuit. When he called the first case, he was surprised to see the same defendant before him – no blood test had been done, and the paternity question remained open. The defendant claimed the health department was closed at his appointed time, and no one had followed up with him. In the meantime, the case had fallen through the cracks – and the child remained in foster care. In limbo.

That was a turning point for the judge. He had the defendant instantly escorted to the lab, expedited the results, which established the defendant was indeed the father, and signed the order terminating his rights. He then picked up the phone. He knew of a couple who had been wanting to adopt. In short order, the necessary procedures took place and the little girl found herself in a permanent and loving home. To this day, that judge carries a picture of the child in his wallet. A smiling now-10 year old, beautiful girl – in her cheer-leading suit -- whose life was forever changed by this judge's actions.

Judges make difficult and life-changing decisions like these every day. Decisions that affect employment, family life, our parents, our children, the conduct of business, health and safety, and preserving the freedoms we're so very blessed with in this country. Judges empower the disadvantaged by hearing their voices, deciding dispassionately and without favor, and affording equal justice under the law. Judges are also leaders in their communities – standing as bulwarks against prejudice and intolerance.

When an African American postal worker from Houston was denied admission to the University of Texas School of Law in 1946, it was courageous judges who struck down



the system of separate-but-equal graduate school education. Those judges paved the way for the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. A landmark case that opened the door of equal opportunity to millions.

Paving the way to justice – keeping our courthouse doors open to all regardless of income -- is what judging is all about.

A bright young lawyer, Beth Klusmann, spoke a few years ago at the Texas Supreme Court swearing-in ceremony admitting new lawyers to the

bar. She spoke of a National Geographic special she had seen on TV about a group of scientists who lived and worked in Antarctica. Their job was to pound wooden stakes into the ice and measure how far those stakes moved each year - which was no more than a couple of feet. These scientists braved the cold and the harsh elements. They patiently recorded their observations year after year.

Who would want that kind of job?

A twenty or thirty-year career could be summed up in a whopping 50 to 60 foot movement of a little piece of wood. And someone sometime in the future would gather all that data, write a paper and have a theory named after them. By then, the scientists who had hammered the original stakes would merit little more than a footnote in history.

But those original scientists knew they were part of something bigger. If critical knowledge about our planet was to be gained, someone had to go to Antarctica and pound those stakes. These individuals were willing to sacrifice their time and effort to lay the foundation for something bigger than themselves.

I thought her metaphor was perfectly suited to describing what we as judges do. Legal decisions don't spontaneously spring forth from our individual genius. They are carefully built and crafted on decisions that went before. When woven together, these opinions form the fabric that cloaks this great country in the rule of law.

Today, we remember – and we honor – those judges who are no longer with us. Judges Anderson, Bedard, Bender, Dempster, Drago, Garcia, Garwood, Guarino, Hammond, Hartman, Hatem, Lawrence, McKim, Moore, Mormino, Purcell, Plunk, Snodgrass, Street, Villarreal and White. Each of these fine jurists chose to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They made the tough choices, the difficult decisions that sometimes forced them to weather the harsh elements of public opinion. They pounded the stakes by which we measure the law today. Our state, and our nation, are better for their service.

And let us not forget the families, the friends, and the colleagues of these judges. If you would please stand. Your sacrifices, your support, your friendship, your encouragement were essential to these judges as they carried out their duties and tackled the rigorous schedules that our courts demand. From each of you these judges drew tremendous strength and inspiration – so you, too, are a part of the fabric of our rule of law.

The law defines a legacy as a gift given by someone after death through a will. These judges gave us their gifts of wisdom and committed service. What a legacy.

How fitting it is that at the annual Judicial Conference you honor these fellow jurists who have departed. Now I know that the theme of this year's conference is "The Changing Courts." But some things never change. Judges' contributions – your contributions -- to the jurisprudence, to the people of Texas, to the fabric of this nation are timeless. They are your legacy, and they will be remembered in the hearts of those who follow for years to come.

Thank you for your service.



FAMILY VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

June 27-28, 2011

Lost Pines, Texas

Family Violence
Conference Attendees



The Family Violence Conference has always been one of our most popular conferences and this year did not disappoint. One hundred and seventy-three judges from throughout Texas attended the program. The curriculum is designed to assist judges in meeting the requirements of §22.110 and bring them up-to-date in laws and trends relating to family violence cases.

The conference opened with a dueling look at the Top Ten Things a Judge Should Know in a family violence case from both the prosecutorial and defense attorney's perspective. Many of the judges enjoyed hearing the different points of view on the over-arching topics. In the afternoon part of the program, judges enjoyed listening to "The Psychology of an Offender," presented by Hon. Mike Denton. Most found this especially interesting because it included watching a clip of Jennifer Lopez in the movie "Enough."

We were very fortunate to have the conference at Lost Pines this year. Next year the Family Violence Conference will be back at the Tremont House in Galveston. Attendance is limited at this location so make sure you register early!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

June 29, 2011, *Lost Pines, Texas*

In conjunction with the Family Violence Conference, the Texas Center offered a human trafficking program designed to educate judges on the nature of the offense, new legislation, and unique trial issues that will arise in such cases. It was one of the first programs in Texas designed specifically for judges on this topic. The most outstanding aspect of the program was the exceptional faculty which consisted of both local and national human trafficking experts. Each of them has come face to face with realities of human trafficking and are fighting to raise awareness of the problem in states and local communities. Here are just a few pieces of the information they shared with judges:

- Human trafficking is the second largest crime after drug trafficking. The industry makes \$32 billion in profits yearly, with 12.3 million people enslaved around the world, and only 4,166 successful prosecutions in 2009;
- Texas is a major hub for trafficking into the U.S., with an estimated 1 of 5 victims trafficked via I-10 corridor;
- Texas has a human trafficking law, codified in 20A of the Penal Code, which was recently amended. The Code of Criminal Procedure and the Civil Practice & Remedies Code were also amended in the last legislative session related to human trafficking;
- There is an underlying conflict in human trafficking: victims have often committed crimes and are considered criminals themselves, which makes these cases extremely challenging to prosecute and to preside over;
- The most common medium for traffickers to recruit and sell women is the internet, usually the website www.backpage.com.

If you are interested in learning more about human trafficking and how it is affecting Texas, please contact Courtney Gabriele, Program Attorney, at courtneyg@yourhonor.com or (512) 482-8986. She will provide you with a copy of the materials from the program.

BEYOND THE BENCH CONFERENCE



August 24-26, 2011

Barton Creek Resort and Spa - Austin, Texas

Beyond the Bench encourages participants to find opportunities for collaboration and coordination in order to build and strengthen services to children, youth and families impacted by the child welfare system. A fundamental tenet for this conference is the belief that judges must take an active leadership role in improving court processes in child protection cases. With their guidance and authority, judges have the greatest ability to improve the lives of children through systems change and procedural improvements within their courts. By creating an open conversation with local stakeholders, judicially-led teams can discuss current processes, identify common concerns and explore innovative, coordinated solutions.

Beyond the Bench utilizes a unique format to promote and enhance dialogue among key stakeholders in the Texas child welfare. *Beyond the Bench* utilizes a moderator, an “expert” faculty panel, and a video case study approach to introduce the issues for discussion. The case study format helps to fully explore all issues that arise when a family encounters the child welfare system. The panel of experts sets the stage for a lively discussion of the intersections of the various organizations and agencies within a particular scenario. Facilitators then guide each local interdisciplinary team to promote cross-system dialogue and solution building.

The most recent *Beyond the Bench* was held August 24-26, 2011 at Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin. In the opening session, the program moderator, Hon. F. Scott McCown, introduced panelists and team members to the Martinez family, a fictitious family who had just come to the attention of law enforcement due to a report of family violence. Throughout the 2.5 day program, participants followed the Martinez family as they became increasingly entrenched in the child welfare system. Judge McCown’s thoughtful and often provocative engagement with participants stimulated meaningful conversation and new insights into how the child welfare system is serving children and families. Judge McCown’s quick wit and sharp humor kept participants on their toes and fully engaged in the discussion. This program owes much of its success to the tireless dedication and skill of Judge McCown.

Participating teams were led by Hon. Karin Bonicoro, Hon. Darlene Byrne, Hon. Gary Coley, Hon. Rob Hofmann, and Hon. Cathy Morris. At the end of the conference, the judges reported back ideas that their teams would take back and implement in their jurisdictions. While teams generated strategies tailored to the specific issues and circumstances experienced in their jurisdiction, some common themes emerged. Teams shared strategies to empower families as soon as they come into to contact with child protective services. Recommendations for immediate implementation included increasing the use of Family Team Meetings and using this forum to set clear expectations about the process and what parents will have to do in order to be successful, front-loading

“ IN 37 YEARS OF ATTENDING STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES REGARDING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS, THIS IS THE MOST INSTRUCTIONAL AND IMPACTFUL CONFERENCE I HAVE ATTENDED. ”

parent services, and increasing visitation opportunities when appropriate. Longer term strategies involved exploring ways to build trust and to change parents' and the broader community's perception of CPS.

Every team also expressed a commitment to the continuing the conversation after the conference. For teams newer to collaboration, Beyond the Bench provided their first opportunity to sit down and brainstorm with the representatives on their team. These teams left the conference with plans to bring their teams back together on a quarterly basis. Other teams already routinely engaged in collaborative meetings also expressed their desire to incorporate aspects of the Beyond the Bench program into their current collaborations. For example, one team is planning to hold a “mini” Beyond the Bench using an actual case from their jurisdiction to continue to identify areas in need of improvement.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT CONFERENCES

July 11-13, *the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center*

This July the Texas Center's Traffic Safety Grant Program hosted its DWI College for Trial Judges, July 11-13, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. Judge Mark Atkinson, Judicial Resource Liaison, and Ms. Rebecca Pitts, former TxDOT Program Director, worked with Judge David Hodges, Judicial Projects Director, Ms. Leah Magnus, Judicial Education Program Manager, and Ms. Michele Ewerz, Judicial Education Project Coordinator, from the Texas Association of Counties, to educate both County Court at Law and Constitutional County Judges on the latest impaired driving law and information. Highlights included a round of Judicial Jeopardy and a DWI mock trial that will be available for viewing on the DWI Website in November.

The end of August also provided education and training to the judges of Texas DWI Courts and their team members with two different conferences. The 2011 DWI Court Judges Conference: Legal and Ethical Issues in Conducting DWI Courts, was held immediately prior to the 2011 DWI College for DWI Court Teams and Student Conduct Officers. Judge Mark Atkinson, and Texas Traffic Safety Grant Program Director, Holly Doran, organized the DWI Court Judges Conference in an effort to revisit the practices and protocols of all of the state's DWI Courts. The 18 attending judges were surveyed, in advance of the session, regarding the practices of their courts in a variety of aspects. The meeting was led by Judge Atkinson and featured several speakers, including two representatives of the Governor's Criminal Justice division, regarding the recently enacted Specialty Courts Council. The judges were advised that their input would be valuable to the Council, whose members will be appointed by the Governor. The purpose of the Council will be to determine which applications for grant funds, relative to local specialty courts, should be approved or denied. Also attending and observing the meeting of the DWI Court Judges, was Assistant Attorney General David A. Harris. Mr. Harris has had the duty of representing judges, and other state agencies, in lawsuits. He was allowed to hear the discussion of the various practices of the DWI Court judges, after which he gave guidance and feedback to the judges regarding those practices.

The DWI College for Court Team Members and Student Conduct Officers offered twelve hours of continuing education to almost 100 DWI Court team members, which included judges, attorneys, probation personnel, treatment providers, law enforcement personnel, data evaluators and student conduct officers. Conference topics included motivational interviewing, incentives and sanctions, and an introduction to addiction and pharmacology.

2011 ANNUAL JUDICIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

September 2011, *Dallas, Texas*

In September, the 2011 Annual Judicial Education Conference was held in Dallas. Attendance was 546 judges from all around the State of Texas including 55 appellate justices and judges. Also attending their first annual conference were many members of one of the largest classes of the Texas College of New Judges.

On Sunday, the Pre-Judicial Conference Golf tournament was held at Cowboys Golf Course in Grapevine, the only NFL themed golf course in the world. Congratulations to all of the participants. Later that day, our opening reception was graciously funded and hosted by the Dallas Bar Association at the magnificent Belo Mansion.

The Silent Auction was again organized by the Texas Court Reporters Association. They have sponsored the silent auction for many years, always offering an excellent varied array of items. Their contributions to the Texas Center for the Judiciary and our education funding have, as an understatement, been considerable.

The educational programs offered something for almost every judge. As we know, Texas judges vary widely in the types of cases which pass through their courts. The curriculum committee and the Texas Center staff attempt to work within the parameters of the requirements of the annual conference to present programs of interest to all of the judges who attend. The first day of the annual conference is sponsored by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation and the programs funded by that grant attempt to appeal to a broad spectrum of our judges. Later in the conference programs are presented which are directed at the types of cases that some but not all of our judges hear in their courts – criminal, civil, family, juvenile and probate.



Again this year, a big thank you to the staff of the Texas Center for the Judiciary for their organization and operation of the annual conference. If you had a good time, if you learned anything of value at the conference, or if you had such a good time that you don't remember the conference, let our executive director, Randy Sarosdy, or any member of the staff of the Texas Center know that you appreciate the job that they did at the annual conference and that they do at every conference they organize for us.

THE TEXAS CENTER HONORS OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND JURISTS

Texas Center for the Judiciary's 2010-2011 Chair's Awards: Hon. David Garcia and Hon. Steve Ables

Hon. David Garcia

Judge Garcia has served as the judge of County Criminal Court #3 in Denton County, Texas since his appointment on September 1, 1997. He received his JD from the University of Texas School of Law in 1984 and a BA from Texas Tech University in 1981. Prior to taking the bench, he was in private practice in Denton. He has served as Chair of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, dean of the Texas Judicial College for the Study of Alcohol and other Drugs, a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, member of the Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial Education Committee, and he serves on the Judicial Advisory Board for the Texas Association for Court Administration. He is a member of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Association of County Court at Law Judges, the Denton County Bar Association, and the American Judge's Association. Judge Garcia has served on several judicial legislative and curriculum committees and other state-wide committees affecting the judiciary.



Hon. Steve Ables

Judge Stephen B. Ables serves as presiding judge of the 6th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas. He has undergraduate and law degrees from Baylor University and was named Outstanding Young Alumnus of Baylor in 1989. In addition, Judge Ables and his wife, Lynda, were named Baylor Parents of the Year in 1999–2000. The State Bar Judicial Section also honored Judge Ables in 1999–2000, naming him Criminal Judge of the Year. In September, 2002, the Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce named Judge and Mrs. Ables as Outstanding Citizens of the Year. Currently, Judge Ables serves on the State Foster Care Task Force and coaches the three-time State Champion Kerrville Tivy High School mock trial team. Judge Ables is a past chair of the Judicial Section State Bar of Texas and the Texas Center for the Judiciary. However, Judge Ables says his biggest claims to fame are once playing golf with Tiger Woods, sitting on the Supreme Court, and singing in the Vatican.

2010-2011 Exemplary Judicial Faculty Award: Hon. Kathleen Hamilton

Judge Kathleen A. Hamilton serves as a judge of the 359th District Court in Conroe. Prior to taking the bench in 2003, she was managing attorney for the Montgomery County Women's Center (1997–2003) and first assistant district attorney (1993–97), assistant district attorney (1990–93), and assistant county attorney (1987–90) for Montgomery County. Judge Hamilton is a frequent lecturer at continuing education conferences on the subjects of family and juvenile law, family violence and protective orders, and the criminal justice system. Judge Hamilton is a graduate of Texas Tech University (earning both a BA and an MA), Sorbonne (diplôme supérieur), and University of Houston Law Center (JD).



2010-2011 Exemplary Non-Judicial Faculty Award: Mr. Craig Ball

Craig Ball of Austin is a Board Certified trial lawyer, certified computer forensic examiner and electronic evidence expert. He's dedicated his globe trotting career to teaching the bench and bar about forensic technology and trial tactics. After decades trying lawsuits, Craig now limits his practice to service as a court-appointed special master and consultant in computer forensics and electronic discovery, and to publishing and lecturing on computer forensics, emerging technologies, digital persuasion and electronic discovery. Craig writes the award-winning Ball in Your Court column on electronic discovery for Law Technology News and is the author of numerous articles on e-discovery and computer forensics, many available at www.craigball.com. Craig Ball has consulted or served as the Special Master or testifying expert in computer forensics and electronic discovery in some of the most challenging and well-known cases in the U.S. Craig is a recipient of the Presidents' Award, the State Bar of Texas' most esteemed recognition of service to the profession and of the Bar's Lifetime Achievement Award in Law and Technology.



2010-2011 Exemplary Article Award: Hon. John Hyde

Judge John Hyde received the Exemplary Article Award for his article "Trends in Oil and Gas Law," presented at the 2011 Texas College for Judicial Studies. Judge John Hyde has been on the bench of the 238th District Court since May 1990. Judge Hyde received his undergraduate degree from Hardin-Simmons University and was awarded a JD from the University of Texas School of Law.

2010-2011 Mari Kay Bickett Judicial Excellence Award: Hon. Chris Oldner



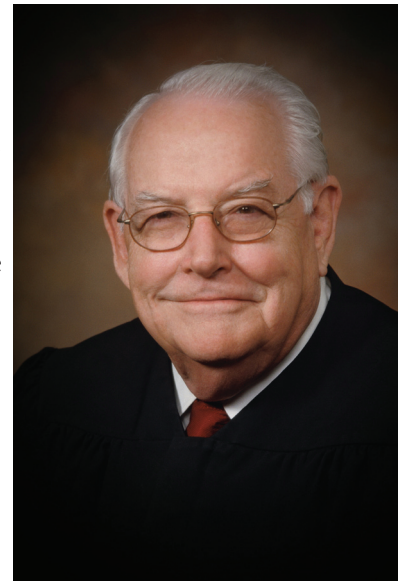
Judge Oldner was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as the first judge of the 416th Judicial District Court in 2003. Before he was appointed to district court, he presided over County Court at Law No. 5 for over 3 years. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Oldner was the Chief Felony Prosecutor for Crimes Against Children in the Collin County District Attorney's Office. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Judge Oldner's professional activities and awards include serving as the chair of the Curriculum Committee for the Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ); serving on the TCJ Board of Directors; recipient of the Outstanding Judicial Faculty Award; serving as Local Administrative Judge for Collin County District Courts; recipient of the State Bar of Texas President's Award of Merit; serving on the Judicial Advisory Board for the Texas Association of Court Administrators; serving on the Board of Directors for the Collin County Bench/Bar Foundation; recipient of the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Collin County; serving as a Director for the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA); serving as the President of the Collin County Young Lawyers Association; and recipient of the TYLA President's Award of Merit. Judge Oldner received his B.A. from Baylor University and his J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law.

He has been married to his wife Cissy for 17 years and they have three beautiful daughters, Claire Elizabeth (10 years old), Olivia Grace (7 years old) and Lily Maydelle (3 years old).

RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN BOYD RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Judicial Section of The State Bar of Texas presented the second Lifetime Judicial Achievement Award to retired Chief Justice John Boyd at the Annual Judicial Education Conference in Dallas, Texas on September 18-21, 2011.

Chief Justice Boyd is the retired Chief Justice of the 7th Court of Appeals in Am- arillo. Prior to joining the 7th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Boyd served as judge for the 64th District Court from 1969 to 1981. He has served as a faculty member for the College of New Judges since 1976. He was chair of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas and chair of the Board of Directors of the Texas Center for the Judiciary in 1978-79. He was a member of the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct and was vice-chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Conduct. He also serves as a member of the Supreme Court Judicial Selection Task Force, and as a member of the board of trustees of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism. Chief Justice Boyd completed The National Judicial College of State Judiciary Basic Skills Course (1969), Advanced Criminal Law Course (1972), New Trends in Law (1977), The National College of Juvenile Justice (1976), and American Judicial Academy (1980). He was named Baylor Lawyer of the Year in 1995 and also received the Bay- lor University Alumni Association's Price Daniel Distinguished Public Service Award for an elected or appointed official who exemplifies "the spirit of selfless dedication to public service." He received his JD from Baylor Uni- versity School of Law in 1950 and an LLM from the University of Virginia in 1988.



The Judicial Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to a current or former Texas judge who is recognized by his or her peers as having a reputation for and commitment to judicial excellence, has achieved a significant length of service as a judge in Texas and has demonstrated a long term, consistent and significant contribution to the betterment of the judiciary, access to justice and the system of justice in Texas.

HON. JOHN MCCLELLAN MARSHALL RECEIVES SCOTTISH RITE OF HONOR

On Tuesday, July 19, it was officially announced that the Honorable John McClellan Marshall, Senior District Judge, was elected to receive the Thirty- Third Degree of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. This degree is the highest degree of the Scottish Rite and is an honor that is granted to very few Masons. Judge Marshall, a third generation Scottish Rite Mason, lives in Dallas and has been a member of the Scottish Rite since 1978. The degree was conferred in Washing- ton, D.C. in August with a celebration in Dallas on October 1st.

Judge Marshall served as District Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District Court of Texas from 1981 through 2000. He is an Honorary Professor of Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland, where each year since 1993 he has taught a course on American history and Constitutional Law, including a mock jury trial with attorneys from the United States. He has also taught as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Transylvania, Brasov, Romania; Nicholas Copernicus University, Torun, Poland; Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland; University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland; Wrocław University,



Wroclaw, Poland; Alexander Pushkin State University, Brest, Belarus; and the University of Riga, Latvia.

Judge Marshall is a Fellow of the College of the State Bar of Texas; a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation; a Charter and Life Fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation; a member of Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity; a Colonel in the Texas State Guard; and holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Judge Marshall received his B.A. from Virginia Military Institute in 1965 where he was class Valedictorian; he received his M.A. from Vanderbilt University in 1966; his J.D. from Southern Methodist University in 1975; and he was awarded an honorary LL.D. from the *Academia Mexicana de Derecho Internacional* in 1985.

HON. JOSEFINA RENDON NAMED RECIPIENT OF STATE BAR OF TEXAS' JUSTICE FRANK EVANS AWARD

District Judge Josefina Rendon was the recipient of this year's Justice Frank Evans Award at the State Bar of Texas convention. The Evans Award was created and dedicated as a living tribute to Justice Frank G. Evans who is considered the founder of the alternative dispute resolution movement in Texas. The award is given annually to persons who have performed exceptional and outstanding efforts in promoting or furthering the use or research of alternative dispute resolution methods in Texas. The recipients are persons who are recognized leaders in the field of Dispute Resolution.

Earlier this year Judge Rendon was also honored by the Texas Association of Mediators with the Susanne Adams Award for her work for mediation in Texas. Similar to the Evans Award, the Adams Award is dedicated as a living tribute to Susanne C. Adams, a visionary, leader and pioneer in mediation. It is given annually to those who set an example for the rest of the mediation community in Texas to follow.

Judge Rendon, a former president of the Texas Association of Mediators and former board member of the Texas Center for the Judiciary, was a mediator for 15 years as well as a judge of the City of Houston Municipal Courts before becoming the Judge of the 165th District Court in 2008 in Harris County.



JUSTICE ANN MCCLURE BECOMES 1ST WOMAN CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE 8TH COURT OF APPEALS

Justice Ann Crawford McClure of the Texas Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso has been appointed the court's chief justice by Gov. Rick Perry, making her the court's first woman chief justice.

McClure's appointment will be effective on Oct. 12. She succeeds Chief Justice David Wellington Chew, who announced his resignation effective Oct. 11 earlier this month.

The 58-year-old jurist will become the first woman chief justice in the court's 100-year history, and the 14th chief justice overall in the court. Attorney Chris Antcliff, former judge of the 168th District Court, has been appointed by Perry to replace her. Both Antcliff and McClure will seek election to their appointed benches.

On Monday, McClure said she was "thrilled and delighted" with the news of her appointment. She has been on the bench of the appellate court since 1995.

"During the last 20 years, we've seen tremendous diversity on the bench," McClure said during an interview

in her office on the 12th floor of the El Paso County Courthouse. State Criminal Court of Appeals Judge "Morris Overstreet used to call us the 'Rainbow Coalition.' "

In the past 20 years, the El Paso appellate court has seen its first appointed Hispanic justice (Albert Armandariz Sr.), first Hispanic appointed and elected chief justice (Richard Barajas), and the first Hispanic woman justice (Guadalupe Rivera). Chew himself is half-Hispanic and half-Asian.

"Up until the early 1980s, the bench was limited to Anglo males," McClure said.

McClure said she's looking forward to working with the state's Council of Chief Justices to work on a new budget, which will be approved by state legislators during the next session. She wants to improve technology that will allow justices to cut back on travel time and expenses, and at the same time expand educational opportunities to law students in other cities such as San Antonio and Dallas, as well as El Paso, McClure said.

Expanded video conferencing capabilities will also allow members of the public to watch court hearings such as oral arguments, she said.

"Not many people in El Paso know we have two high courts in Texas, yet we stand for election," said McClure, a former president of the El Paso Bar Association. "We are an open court. We welcome public interest."

The Eighth Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over Texas' 17 westernmost counties, from El Paso to Ozona. The court serves in an "error correction" capacity, meaning that during the appeals process, the three justices on the bench in El Paso are responsible for looking at a trial to make sure it was fair, and that the rules of evidence and procedure were followed.

The court hears appeals from all civil and criminal cases, except cases where the death penalty has been recommended, McClure said.

McClure started her law career in Houston, where she graduated from the University of Houston's Law Center. She worked for a private law firm, primarily in family law, during which time she met her husband David McClure, also an attorney.

The couple moved to El Paso in October 1983, or "as soon as I could" as McClure describes it. She is a past chair of the Appellate Section, Family Law Section, and the Appellate Division of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, and has served as president of the El Paso Bar Association and the Trans-Pecos Bar Association.

She is the chair of the Texas Center for the Judiciary Judicial Education Committee.

She has been given the Distinguished Alumnus Award by Texas Christian University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in communications, and the Civil Rights Award from the El Paso chapter of the NAACP.

She and her husband have two children, Kinsey, 33, and Scott, 25.

Of Chew, who will continue to serve as a judicial officer subject to assignment, McClure said she will "miss him terribly."

Chew is planning to move to South Texas, where he would pursue commercial real estate development with a former law partner, McClure said.

Adrian M. Chavez, El Paso Judge is 1st Woman Chief Justice of Texas Eighth Court of Appeals, El Paso Times, Sept. 20, 2011, available at http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_18932780.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, HON. GINA BENAVIDES

Dear Judges,

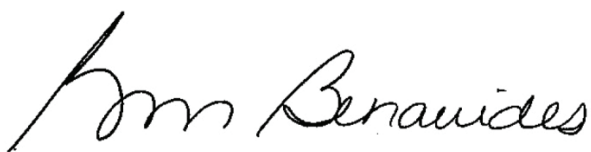
After a successful annual meeting, your new Board of Directors met to plan a great year for the Texas Center for the Judiciary. I begin by making appointments to the committees who do all the wonderful work of the Center. In making these decisions, I made a lot of calls asking for advice and suggestions from my fellow judges. One of the people I called was Rusty Ladd. Rusty Ladd was a County Court at Law judge in Lubbock whom I met when I began working with the Texas Center. In the past six years, Rusty and I became great friends. His loyalty and commitment to the Judiciary was unwavering. He used to say that the work we all do on the bench is a calling.

On September 30th, Rusty passed away in a tragic accident. I was devastated and the Center was shocked at the loss of a great man. Many of us were taught at the College of New Judges or at a conference by Rusty. He will be greatly missed. As we move on, we must remember and carry what Rusty taught us. As judges, we are public servants beholden to our constituents to do our best with integrity and fairness. Judicial education is critical to have a judiciary that is responsive to the needs of our community. As you are called upon to serve, please remember our role as judges must be beyond reproach.

As I make my appointments for committees, I thank all of you. Some of you volunteered; some of you were recruited; and some of you were surprised by your e-mails—but all of you have said yes. Of course I would not have taken no for an answer! Your time and commitment are appreciated.

I, along with the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Texas Center of the Judiciary, am working hard to make this year a very successful year. I know with all of us working together, we can accomplish this goal. If there is anything you need or want to contribute, please call us.

Best Regards,



Hon. Gina Benavides
Justice
13th Court of Appeals
100 N. Cano Street, 5th Floor
Edinburg, TX 78539



HONORABLE LARRY BROWN (*RUSTY*) LADD

Obituary

Honorable Judge Larry Brown (Rusty) Ladd went home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 30, at the age of 59. A dedicated jurist, a devoted husband and father, and a deeply faithful man of God, Rusty was known and loved by many, and our sadness at his passing is only surpassed by our joy at knowing he is with his Heavenly Father.

Rusty Ladd was born in Breckenridge, Texas on August 8, 1952. He graduated from Lubbock Christian College with a degree in Biblical Studies in 1975, and in August of that same year, he married Irene Zouella Silvey, his wife of 36 years. In 1977 he joined the police force, first in southern California and then in his native West

Texas. He graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1988 and he began his law practice as a defense attorney in Dallas, then as a prosecutor in Amarillo and Plainview. He returned to Lubbock in 1996, where he continued his practice as Assistant and then Deputy District Attorney at the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office.

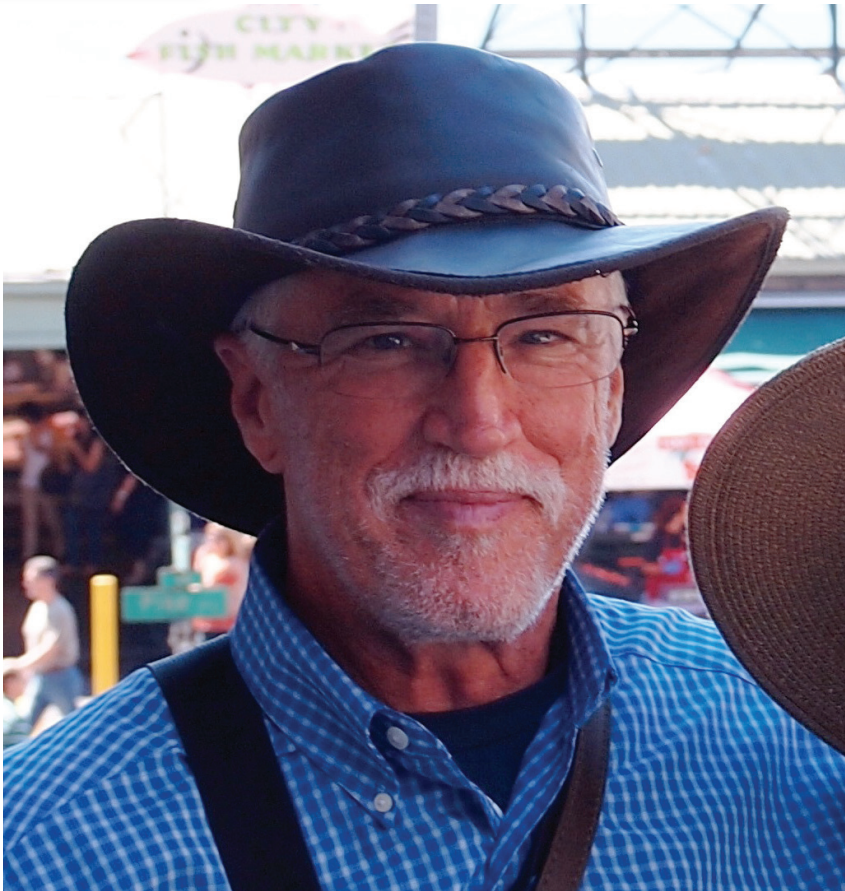
In 1999, Rusty took the bench as the judge of Lubbock County Court at Law No. 1, where he remained in office until his death. In addition to his work on the court, he served from 2010 on the Board of the Texas Center for the Judiciary and as Vice President of the Texas Association for Drug Court Professionals. He was formerly a member of the Curriculum Committee for the Texas Center for the Judiciary, where he was instrumental in providing innovative education programs to the Texas judiciary, and in September he was appointed to the Center's DWI Curriculum and Budget Committees. He was a member of the Lubbock County Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas, as well as a nationally recognized speaker on providing adequate counsel to those accused of crimes.

Rusty will be remembered not only as a diligent public servant, but also as a tireless advocate for Lubbock's homeless population. He worked with the homeless for over a decade at Carpenter's Church in downtown Lubbock and since 2010 he served on the homelessness committee of the Lubbock City Council. He was also a member and elder for many years at Broadway Church of Christ. Those who knew him well will also remember him as a devoted father, husband and son, as well as a man of strong Christian faith, whose love for his family was inseparable from his love for God, and who strove to make his life's work a light for the Lord.

Rusty is survived by his loving wife, Irene; their daughter, Katie Kendle and her husband Josh; their sons, Matthew, Joshua and Paul Ladd; their grandchildren, Gabriel and Anna Kathryn Kendle; his mother, Nelwyn R. Ladd; his beloved uncle, Joey Sherman; and his brothers and sisters, Janell Smith, Kathleen Davis, Clifton Ladd, Laura Anciso and David Ladd.

Rusty was preceded in death in 2007 by his father, Clifton Ray (Red) Ladd.

Published in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal on October 3, 2011, available at <http://lubbockonline.com/obituaries/2011-10-02/rusty-ladd#>. Tomz5Q2Fl6w.email





SPOTLIGHT ON THE TEXAS CENTER STAFF

Marlon Drakes

Marlon Drakes is the Associate Director of the Texas Center. Marlon is from Trinidad and Tobago and came to the United States on a basketball scholarship to the University of Texas where he played under Coach Tom Penders and Coach Rick Barnes. After receiving his B.A. in Kinesiology from the University of Texas in 2002, Marlon went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2005. Marlon came to the Texas Center in September 2010 from the Justice Court Training Center where he was the education manager. As Associate Director Marlon handles the day to day administration of the Texas Center.

Courtney Gabriele

Courtney Gabriele is currently the Program Attorney for the Texas Center for the Judiciary. She is licensed to practice law by the State Bar of Texas and previously litigated with a boutique commercial litigation firm located in Houston, Texas. Ms. Gabriele earned her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center in 2009 and served as an editor on the Houston Journal of International Law. Prior to attending law school, she graduated summa cum laude from Lamar University with a B.S. in Political Science. She was the recipient of the Lamar University Academic Excellence Scholarship and Jack Brooks Scholarship. She is admitted to practice in the Northern and Southern districts of Texas.

Holly Doran

The Texas Center for the Judiciary's Traffic Safety Grant is pleased to introduce Ms. Holly Doran as the newly appointed Program Director. Holly is a native of Southern California; however, she now considers Austin home. She first moved to Austin to attend the University of Texas, where she played volleyball for the Longhorns and earned her B.A. in English. Before joining the Texas Center for the Judiciary in December of 2010, Holly lived and worked in a variety of places including New Jersey, Washington D.C., and China. Having grown up with a mother who worked as a counselor for an alcohol and drug addiction treatment center, Holly takes a special interest in the Traffic Safety Grant's mission to reduce the number of alcohol-related fatalities in the State of Texas. She is looking forward to providing innovative and valuable training to judges and court staff across Texas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2011

College for New Judges

December 4-7, 2011 | Westin Austin at the Domain | Austin

JANUARY 2012

Regional A

January 26-27, 2012 | JW Marriott | San Antonio | Regions 1, 4, 5, 8

FEBRUARY 2012

Implicit Bias

February 6-7, 2012 | Omni Hotel | Austin

Regional B

February 20-21, 2012 | Hyatt Hill Country | San Antonio | Regions 2, 3, 6, 7, 9

MARCH 2012

Family Violence

March 27 - 29, 2012 | Tremont House | Galveston

APRIL 2012

Texas College for Judicial Studies

April 9-11, 2012 | AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center | Austin

DWI Court Team Training

April 23-26, 2012

MAY 2012

Actual Innocence

May 6-7, 2012 | Omni Hotel - Park West | Dallas

Criminal Justice Conference

May 7-9, 2012 | Omni Hotel - Park West | Dallas

Evidence Summit

May 29-31, 2012

JUNE 2012

Child Welfare Judicial Conference

June 4-6, 2012 | La Cantera | San Antonio

Professional Development Program (PDP)

June 17-22, 2012 | Westin Austin at the Domain | Austin

JULY 2012

DWI College for DWI Court Teams, ALJs, and SCOs

July 30-August 1, 2012 | Omni Hotel | Austin

SEPTEMBER 2012

Annual Conference

September 9-12, 2012 | Westin Galleria | Houston



OCTOBER 2012

Beyond the Bench

October 2012

JUDICIAL SECTION OF THE STATE BAR

Chair-Elect

Alfonso Charles District Judge Longview 1st Region

Place 2

Justice Pat Pirtle 7th Court of Appeals Amarillo 9th Region

Place 3

Judge Kelly Moore District Judge Brownfield 9th Region

Place 4

Judge Robert Kern District Judge Richmond 2nd Region

TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY

Chair-Elect

Judge Linda Chew District Judge El Paso 6th Region

Secretary-Treasurer

Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza District Judge El Paso 6th Region

Place 1

Justice Lee Gabriel 2nd Court of Appeals Fort Worth 8th Region

Place 2

Justice James T. Campbell 7th Court of Appeals Amarillo 9th Region

Place 3

Judge Randy Clapp District Judge Wharton 2nd Region

Place 8

Judge Eric Shepperd County Court at law Judge Austin 3rd Region

Place 9

Judge Thomas A. Spieczny County Court at Law Judge El Paso 6th Region

Place 10

Judge David Peeples Senior District Judge San Antonio 4th Region

NEW JUDGES

as of October 31, 2011

Hon. Christopher Antcliff	8th Court of Appeals	El Paso
Hon. Rolando Cantu	County Court at Law No. 7	Edinburg
Hon. Rebeca Huddle	1st Court of Appeals	Houston
Hon. Daniel Eric Kalenak	11th Court of Appeals	Eastland
Hon. Debra Ibarra Mayfield	Civil Court at Law No. 1	Houston
Hon. Missy Medary	347th District Court	Corpus Christi
Hon. Amanda Doan Puttman	County Court at Law	Corsicana
Hon. Tom Rugg, Sr.	County Court at Law No. 1	Beaumont
Hon. James Rush	244th District Court Judge	Odessa
Hon. Steven Ray Thomas	356th District Court	Kountze
Hon. Stephen Wren	County Court at Law No. 2	Bridgeport
Hon. John Youngblood	20th District Court	Cameron

IN MEMORIAM

as of October 31, 2011

Hon Rusty Ladd	County Court at Law #1	Lubbock
Hon. Jim Lovett	Retired Judge	Paris
Hon. R.E. Thornton	Senior District Judge	Weatherford

CONTRIBUTIONS IN HONOR

as of October 31, 2011

Hon. Donald Smyth in honor of Mrs. Lydia Smyth

Hon. Thomas A. Spieczny in honor of Hon. Herb Cooper

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY

as of October 31, 2011

Mr. and Mrs. Art Brender in memory of Hon. John Street

Hon. Wayne Bridewell and Mrs. Debbie Bridewell in memory of Hon. Bill Anderson

Hon. Robert Brotherton in memory of Hon. Rusty Ladd

Hon. Robert Brotherton in memory of Hon. Graham B. Purcell

Hon. David Mendoza in memory of Gibbs Spiller

Hon. Roger Jeffrey Walker in memory of Hon. Scott Moore & Hon. John Street

LEVELS OF GIVING

as of October 31, 2011

2011-2012

BRONZE

Hon. Dick Alcala

Hon. William H. Heatly

Hon. Lana Myers

Hon. Ronald R. Pope

Hon. Wayne Bridewell

Hon. Richard Mays

Hon. Robert Newsom

Hon. Milton Gunn Shuffield

Hon. Robert Brotherton

Hon. Albert McCaig

Hon. Mickey Pennington

Hon. Enrique Fernandez

Hon. Bill Meier

Hon. Leon F. Pesek, Jr.

Hon. Eduardo A. Gamboa

Hon. Maria Salas-Mendoza

Hon. Donald Pierson

CONTRIBUTORS

Hon. Alvin Khoury

Hon. James T. Campbell

2010-2011**DIAMOND**

Hon. Nancy Berger	Hon. Robert Ramirez	Hon. Douglas Robison	Hon. Donald Smyth
Hon. Ana Lisa Garza	Hon. Israel Ramon, Jr.	Hon. David Sanchez	Hon. Jerry D. Webber
Hon. Guy Griffin	Hon. Bonnie Robison	Mr. Randall L. Sarosdy	

PLATINUM

Hon. Gladys Oakley	Hon. Don Stricklin
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GOLD

Hon. Leonel Alejandro	Hon. Guadalupe R. Flores	Hon. Claudia Laird	Hon. Robert Christopher Wilmoth
Hon. J.A. Bobo	Hon. Jose Roberto Flores	Hon. Sherry Radack	
Hon. Thomas Culver	Hon. Mike Hrabal	Hon. Dion Ramos	

SILVER

Hon. Dick Alcala	Hon. Glenn Devlin	Mr. Michael Henry	Hon. Bob Perkins
Hon. James Birdwell	Hon. Aida Salinas Flores	Hon. Gregory King	Hon. Neel Richardson
Hon. Robert Blackmon	Hon. Tom Fuller	Hon. Michael LaHood	Hon. Dale Tillery
Hon. Todd A. Blomerth	Hon. David D. Garcia	Hon. James Martin	Hon. R.H. Wallace
Hon. Robert Brotherton	Hon. Robert Garza	Hon. Amy Meachum	Hon. Loyd Wright
Hon. Gary Butler	Hon. Daniel Gilliam	Hon. Judy Parker	
Hon. Kenneth DeHart	Hon. Jack Hampton	Hon. Carl Pendergrass	

BRONZE

Hon. Stephen B. Ables	Hon. Susan Patricia Baker	Hon. G. Timothy Boswell	Hon. Travis B. Bryan
Hon. George Allen	Hon. Robert Barton	Hon. William J. Boyce	Hon. Jay Burnett
Hon. Robert S. Anchondo	Hon. Ogden Bass	Mr. & Mrs. Art Brender	Hon. Charles Butler
Hon. Frank Andrews	Hon. Ron Blann	Hon. Gerald M. Brown	Hon. R. Jack Cagle
Hon. A. D. Azios	Hon. Charles Bleil	Hon. Robin Brown	Hon. Paul Canales

BRONZE CONTINUED

Hon. Carlos Carrasco	Hon. Craig Estlinbaum	Hon. Brenda P. Kennedy	Hon. Robert Newsom
Hon. Solomon Casseb, III	Hon. Drue Farmer	Hon. Alvin Khoury	Hon. Charles Nolen
Hon. Randy Catterton	Hon. John Fleming	Hon. Larry B. Ladd	Hon. Jesse Oliver
Hon. F. Alfonso Charles	Hon. Anne L. Gardner	Hon. Monte Lawlis	Hon. John Ovard
Hon. Phil Chavarria	Hon. Gary Gatlin	Hon. John Lipscombe	Hon. Lauren Parish
Hon. Patricia Chew	Hon. David Gaultney	Hon. Lora J. Livingston	Hon. Tonya Parker
Hon. Linda Chew	Hon. Ruben Gonzalez, Jr.	Hon. Jose Longoria	Hon. Bob Parks
Hon. Randy Clapp	Hon. Aleta Hacker	Hon. Leticia Lopez	Hon. Juan Partida
Hon. Joe Clayton	Hon. Shane Hadaway	Hon. Ed Magre	Hon. Robert Pate
Hon. Daryl Coffey	Hon. Buddie Hahn	Hon. Frank Maloney	Hon. Sam Paxson
Hon. B.F. Coker	Hon. David Hall	Hon. Albert McCaig	Hon. Peter Peca
Hon. Margaret Cooper	Hon. Kathleen A. Hamilton	Hon. Lamar McCorkle	Hon. K. Kyle Peeler
Hon. Lonnie Cox	Hon. Lee Hamilton	Hon. Renee McElhaney	Hon. Pete Perez
Hon. Vann Culp	Hon. Mackey K. Hancock	Hon. Ray McKim	Hon. Lloyd Perkins
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Hon. Rex Davis	Hon. Richard David Hatch	Hon. Donald Metcalfe	Ms. Rebecca Pitts
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Hon. Sherill Dean	Hon. Bill Hughes	Hon. John Miller	Hon. Mark Price
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Hon. Vincent Dulweber	Hon. John Jackson	Hon. Robert Moore	J Hon. Josefina Rendon
Hon. C.W. Duncan	Hon. Robert D. Jones	Hon. John Hardy Morris	Hon. George Philip Robertson
Hon. M. Benton Eskew	Hon. Joseph Patrick Kelly	Hon. Victor H. Negrón	Hon. Mary Roman

BRONZE CONTINUED

Hon. Dean Rucker	Hon. Ross Sears	Hon. Timothy Sulak	Hon. Phillip Vick
Hon. Jerry Sandel	Hon. Jerry Shackelford	Hon. Ralph Taite	Hon. Joaquin Villarreal
Hon. Roland Dale Saul	Hon. Steve Smith	Hon. Martha Tanner	Hon. Roger Jeffrey Walker
Hon. William R. Savage	Hon. William Smith	Hon. Larry Thorne	Hon. Ralph Walton
Hon. Daniel Schaap	Hon. Thomas A. Spieczny	Hon. Roger Towery	Hon. Laura A. Weiser
Hon. Robert Schaffer	Hon. Jeff Steinhauser	Hon. Harold Towslee	Hon. Claude Welch
Hon. Carter T. Schildknecht	Hon. Kathleen Stone	Hon. Mary Ann Turner	Hon. Carroll Wilborn
Hon. Bob Schulte	Hon. Cathleen Stryker	Hon. Robert Updegrove	Hon. James Timothy Womack
			Hon. Ronald Yeager

CONTRIBUTORS

Hon. Amado Abascal	Hon. David Gonzales	Hon. Arturo Nelson	Hon. Al Walvoord
Hon. Philip Barker	Hon. Nelva Gonzales Ramos	Hon. Kathleen Olivares	Hon. Tod Weaver
Hon. Laura Betancourt	Hon. Monica Gonzalez	Hon. Michael Peden	Hon. DarlenebWhitten
Hon. Dan Bird	Hon. Randy Gray	Hon. Leon F. Pesek, Jr.	Hon. Greg Wilhelm
Hon. Jan Breland	Hon. David Wesley Gulley	Hon. Putnam Kaye Reiter	Hon. Sharen Wilson
Hon. William Brigham	Hon. Bonnie Hellums	Hon. W.F. Roberts	Hon. W.G. Woods
Hon. Jack Carter	Hon. Martha Huerta	Hon. Rodney Satterwhite	
Hon. Elizabeth E. Coker	Hon. Jon Hughes	Hon. Stella Saxon	
Hon. Carlton Dodson	Hon. Oliver Kitzman	Hon. Pamela Cook Sirmon	
Hon. Camile G. DuBose	Hon. Paula Lanehart	Hon. Charles Stephens	
Hon. Stephen Ellis	Hon. Janet Leal	Hon. Ralph Strother	
Hon. Harold Entz	Hon. Gracie Lewis	Mr. Jimmy Sutherland	
Hon. Deborah Oakes Evans	Hon. John MacLean	Hon. George M. Thurmond	
Hon. David Farr	Hon. Delwin McGee	Hon. Clifford James Vacek	
Hon. Enrique Fernandez	Hon. F.B. "Bob" McGregor	Hon. Dibrell Waldrip	

COMING SOON: NEW WEBSITE AND DATABASE

The Texas Center has been working hard to create a new, user-friendly website and it is almost here! The new site will have advanced features so that each Judge will have easy access to his or her own profile. With the new website users can:

- View transcripts and up to date CJE hours
- Request credit for out of state conferences
- View the status of pending reimbursements
- Manage e-mail subscriptions to News Alerts, Opinion Alerts and more
- Register for conferences online
- Modify or cancel conference registration
- Update contact information

The website is currently undergoing beta testing and will be launched at the beginning of the year.

TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY

HOME ABOUT US RESOURCES CONFERENCES IN CHAMBERS BENCH BOOKS


PROFILE

PERSONAL

TRANSCRIPTS

CONFERENCES

CONTRIBUTIONS



Hon. John D. Smith
Judge
123rd District Court

CJE Hours Print Transcripts

Course Date	Conference Title	Ethics Hours	FV Hours	Part. Hours
09/19-9/21/2011	Annual Conference	2.5	1.5	12

My Progress

You have completed 12 out of 16 hours for FY 2011-12. You have until 8-31-2012 to meet your CJE requirement.

You have completed 1.5 out of 12 hours for your current four year term.

NAVIGATION

BOARD MINUTES

REIMBURSEMENTS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

CHANGE PASSWORD

TEXAS CENTER RESOURCES

Bench Books

Texas Bench Book

The Texas Bench Book is a practical aid and quick reference for trial court judges in performing their judicial responsibilities. It contains a compilation of information by the Texas Center for the Judiciary's Bench Book Committee and Texas Tech School of Law. Texas trial court judges will find several resource formats, including checklists, sample scripts for hearings and trials, and guidelines. Note that the Texas Bench Book is not designed to dictate judicial procedures, but is meant to assist a trial court judge while on the bench.

Capital Cases Bench Book

The Capital Cases Bench Book is written by Texas judges for the benefit of Texas judges presiding over a capital trial. Judicial authors, Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Texas Wesleyan Law Review editors, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals staff counsel, and the Texas Center for the Judiciary staff collaborated to write, proof, make suggestions, and edit the Capital Cases Bench Book. It is reviewed and updated on-line under the supervision of the Texas Center for the Judiciary and through the collaborative efforts of Texas judges and the Texas Wesleyan Law Review editorial staff. Note that the Capital Cases Bench Book is not designed to dictate judicial procedures, but is meant to assist capital case trial court judges. Judges presiding over capital cases should always double check the suggested substantive and procedural law for any changes in the law or unique differences in the specific case over which they are presiding.

CPS Bench Book

Judges across the state now have access to essential information on child welfare law in a user-friendly, online CPS Bench Book. The Bench Book, which is the first of its kind, allows judges to navigate the bench book like a website. It was authored by seasoned district and associate judges with dozens of years on the bench presiding over CPS cases. The book is designed to benefit new judges and experienced judges alike. When researching with the Bench Book, a judge is able to search chronologically by event (e.g., investigations, removals, adversary status, permanency, placement, final hearing, appeals, and adoption) and topically (ICPC, ICWA, Medical Care, or Permanency Care Assistance). The information is set out in a simplified format to facilitate real-time use from the bench. Or if further research is needed, all of the case law and statutory references are directly linked to Lexis/Nexis, free of charge. Through the Texas Center for the Judiciary's website, the CPS Bench Book provides secure access to checklists, practice notes, national and statewide policies, and numerous links to helpful guidelines, forms and other websites.

Public Health Law Bench Book

The purpose of this bench book is to serve as a guide for judges who evaluate public health control measures, such as quarantine and isolation, particularly in the face of a catastrophic event such as a pandemic flu. The Texas Constitution discusses Texas' open courts policy, which is based on the importance of everyone having access to justice and to a day in court. The likelihood that this important aspect of our society could be disrupted during a public health emergency, such as a major hurricane or a more long-term emergency such as a pandemic flu, has led to the creation of this bench book and the forms included in its appendix. This book briefly lays out which laws govern during a public health emergency and what role the courts play in ensuring that the balance between public safety and individual rights is not forgotten.

Family Violence Bench Book

This bench book provides the Texas judiciary with a single, comprehensive reference for family violence law. In addition to identifying and organizing the relevant primary sources (state and federal statutes annotated with case law), the benchbook also takes advantage of current technology by providing hyperlinks to the online resources discussed in each chapter's comments section. It is a project of the Office of Court Administration and funded with a grant from the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women's STOP program.

Judicial Resources

American Bar Association

The ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public.

Employees Retirement System of Texas

Visit this website to review the JRS-II booklet which provides information regarding retirement benefits available to eligible justices, judges or commissioners of specified courts in the State.

JERITT

The Judicial Education Reference, Information and Technical Transfer (JERITT) Project is the national clearing-house for information on continuing judicial branch education for judges and other judicial officers; administrators and managers; judicial branch educators; and other key court personnel employed in the local, state, and federal courts.

Judicial Committee on Information Technology

Judicial Ethics Opinions

This section of the OCA website lists all the current opinions given by the Committee on Judicial Ethics.

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas

The Office of Court Administration

The Office of Court Administration (OCA) is a state agency that provides administrative support and technical assistance to all of the courts of Texas. The agency was created in 1977 and operates under the direction of the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Out-of-State Meal and Lodging Rates

Traveling to a conference out-of-state? Find out how much is authorized for meals and lodging.

Secretary of State, Elections Division

State Commission on Judicial Conduct

The 2010 State Commission on Judicial Conduct is the independent Texas state agency that is responsible for

investigating allegations of judicial misconduct or judicial disability, and for disciplining judges.

Texas Courts Online

Case Law, Rules and Statutes

Court of Criminal Appeals Opinions

Court of Criminal Appeals Summaries 2007-2008

Family Violence Judicial Training Statute

Procedures and Rules Revisions

Rules of Judicial Education

SCOTUSblog

Texas Constitution

Texas Registrar

Texas Rules of Appellate Procedures

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

Texas Rules of Evidence

Texas Statutes

Texas Supreme Court Opinions

Legal Research

Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

The site features the U.S. Code and state constitutions and codes, a collection of all recent opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court and state judicial opinions, overviews of various legal topics, and links to sites offering court decisions, statutes, regulations and other legal materials.

Federal 5th Circuit Opinions

Visit FindLaw's searchable database of the 5th Circuit Court decisions since July 1997. Also, review an archive of Opinion Summaries since September 2000. Browsable by year and searchable by docket number, case title, and full text.

findlaw.com

This website offers resources on general laws and various legal topic.

law.com

A comprehensive legal destination, law.com allows visitors to track breaking developments in the law, research issues and cases, explore nationwide job openings in the legal industry, and much more.

Texas Legislature Online

Publications

Indigent Defense Archives

Standardized Felony Judgment Forms

The Office of Court Administration, in collaboration with Texas criminal justice professionals, has prepared and promulgated the standardized felony judgment forms pursuant to Section 42.01 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Effective 01/11/02.

Mechanisms of Injury in Childhood

Mechanisms of Injury in Childhood is now available on the Texas Center's website. This DVD resource utilizes sophisticated and detailed medical illustrations and animation as well as radiographs to demonstrate the location, characteristics, and biomechanics of injuries in young children that involve internal structures (fractures, head injuries, abdominal injuries). This DVD provides a realistic demonstration of injury mechanisms that go well beyond the capabilities of the typical two-dimensional illustrations. The goal for users of the DVD is an improved knowledge of injuries and findings in abuse cases, an understanding of the actual physical mechanisms of the injuries, and increased confidence in the assessment and investigation of cases of suspected child abuse. The DVD was produced by the UT Health Science Center under the direction of Dr. James D. Anderst, MD MSCI and Dr. Nancy D. Kellogg, MD and made possible by a grant from the Texas Children's Justice Act program.

Associations, Institutes, & Agencies

ABA Family Law Section: Military Committee

Find the Military Committee's Judges' Guide to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act here.

Correctional Management Institute of Texas

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas is responsible for developing and delivering professional development training programs for personnel in juvenile and adult institutional and community corrections agencies.

Department of Information Resources

Judicial Family Institute

The Judicial Family Institute serves as a clearinghouse for judicial officers and their families to be in contact with individual state and national judicial educational organizations for answers to questions that arise ranging from ethical issues to practical matters.

Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas

The Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas

National Association of Women Judges

Founded in 1979, NAWJ is a non-profit organization with more than 1,400 members, including both female and male judges, from every state and all levels of the judiciary. The association's mission is to provide strong, committed judicial leadership to improve the administration of justice and to ensure fairness, gender equality and diversity in American courts.

National Center for State Courts

Founded in 1971 by U.S. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is a non-profit organization that promotes justice through leadership and service to the state courts. Through numerous programs and divisions, the NCSC is committed to improving the administration of justice in the United States and abroad.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is dedicated to serving the nation's children and families by improving the courts of juvenile and family jurisdictions. Our mission is to better the justice system through education and applied research and improve the standards, practices and effectiveness of the juvenile court system.

The National Judicial College

Since 1963, The National Judicial College has provided educational and professional development opportunities to over 58,000 judges worldwide. From limited jurisdiction judges to U.S. Supreme Court justices, attendees from all areas of the judicial system have benefited from the very best in judicial education offered at the College.

State Bar of Texas

The State Bar of Texas is an administrative agency of the judicial branch in Texas. Every licensed attorney is a member of the State Bar, which provides a wide array of services to its members and the public.

State of Texas

The State of Texas website is intended to serve as the official compilation of Texas government electronic resources, both at the state and local levels, and as an index of Texas governmental or taxing authority web sites and services.

Texas Access to Justice Commission

The Supreme Court of Texas created the Texas Access to Justice Commission to coordinate services for people who need legal help but may not be able to afford it or find it. The Commission's goals include reducing barriers to the justice system and increasing resources and funding for Legal Aid.

Texas Association for Court Administration (TACA)

TACA is organized to encourage and promote continuing education and maintenance of professional standards for Court Administration in the State of Texas.

The Texas Association of District Judges (TADJ)

Texas CASA

Texas CASA advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system through the development, growth and support of local CASA programs.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Texas Ethics Commission

Texas Lawyer Press

Texas Lawyers for Children

Texas Lawyers for Children provides statewide assistance to judges and attorneys who handle child abuse and neglect cases. TLC's mission is to improve case outcomes for abused and neglected children by enhancing the quality of legal services they receive.

Texas State Cemetery

The Texas State Cemetery serves as the burial ground for Texas' most notable sons and daughters. The Cemetery includes the graves of 11 Governors, three Lieutenant Governors, two American Revolutionary War veterans, 64 Republic of Texas veterans, and 2,200 Confederate veterans and their spouses.

Texas Statutes

These files include revisions to the Texas Statutes through the 81st Regular Session of the Texas Legislature.

Texas Trial Lawyers Association