

## TCCA Conference 2015: "The Many Faces of Justice"

The 2015 Texas Court Clerks Conference will be held in Allen, Texas from October 11 through October 14, 2015 at the Courtyard Marriott, Dallas Allen at the John Q Hammons Center, located at 210 E Stacy Road. Registration will open mid-June. Please visit the TCCA website at [www.texasclerk.org](http://www.texasclerk.org) for registration forms.

The **Courtyard Dallas Allen at the John Q. Hammons Center** is offering rooms for 135.00 USD per night. You may reserve your room(s) via telephone by calling the central reservations line (1-800-627-7468) or hotel (214-383-1151) and ask for the "**TCCA 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE BLOCK**" or ask the reservationist for the group code **ANNC**; or you may visit their website at

[Book your group rate for TCCA 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE](#)

The cost of registration for the 2015 Conference is \$250 for TCCA members and must be received no later than August 15, 2015. If you are in need of financial assistance please visit the TCCA website for information on the Scholarship Program. All scholarship applications must be made no later than June 30, 2015 in order to allow time for this committee to review applications. If you plan on bringing a guest with you they may attend the evening events for an additional fee.

Do you need to test? Are you looking for Level I or Level II Prep Session? Both will be available in Allen. You can take a Level I or Level II Prep Session on October 10 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or if you are ready to test for Level I, II, or III testing will be offered on October 11 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration information for both of these opportunities can be found by visiting the TCCA website.

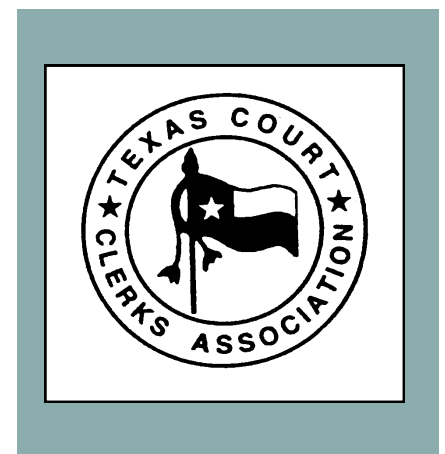
The Conference hosts are busy planning an exciting conference and you will not want to miss out. Some of the topics to be presented include: Leadership Motivation and Development, Sovereign Citizens/Domestic Terrorism Training, Is What I Said, What You Heard, and Face Reading Class. If you need to maintain your certification this conference will be eligible for 20 hours of education toward your certification renewal.

For more events and attractions that can be found in Allen, you may go to

<http://visitallentexas.com/>

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## Did You Know? Make Sure Your Judges Do!

The Court of Criminal Appeals oversees the training of all judicial personnel in Texas under the Judicial and Court Personnel Training Program. Section 56.006 of the Government Code empowers the Court to create the Rules of Judicial Education, which can be accessed at <http://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards.aspx>. According to the Rules of Judicial Education, all municipal judges (both attorney and non-attorney) must attend one accredited judicial education program every year.

### What training is required for a newly appointed or elected municipal judge?

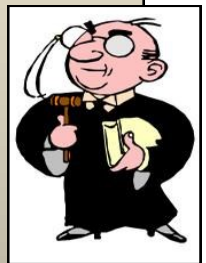
- Newly appointed or elected **attorney** judges must attend a regional seminar consisting of 16 hours of judicial education within one year from appointment or election and once every academic year thereafter. To qualify as an attorney judge, you must be licensed by the State Bar of Texas.
- Newly appointed or elected **non-attorney** judges must, within one year from the date of appointment or election, complete a New Judges Seminar consisting of 32 hours of judicial education before attending a regional seminar the next year and once every school year thereafter.

### How many hours of training are required of judges annually?

- Municipal judges are required to annually complete 16 hours of judicial education.

### Who provides the judicial training?

- The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) is the primary provider of specialized judicial education and training opportunities for Texas municipal judges. The staff of TMCEC is steadfastly committed to providing education and training so that municipal judges may administer justice with fairness, efficiency, and a thorough understanding of the law. TMCEC provides New Judges Seminars twice annually (July and December) in Austin as well as 10 regional seminars annually.

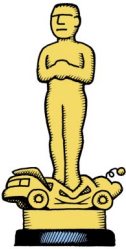


### Are there options for training other than live seminars?

- For the first two years of education, all training must consist of continuous live presentation from TMCEC.
- After judges have completed at least 2 years of required judicial education, municipal judges must complete 8 hours of continuous live presentation. The remaining 8 hours can be thought of as “flex-time” and can be satisfied through live presentation, approved online education, or any combination of approved live events and online education;
- Additionally, after two years of judicial education, municipal judges may choose to participate in relevant, approved non-TMCEC presentations of at least 8 hours of live presentation with the remaining 8 hours through live presentation, online education, or any combination thereof. The choice to “opt-out” of TMCEC training is available in alternating years. *(continued pg. 7)*

# Safety First!

Congratulations to the **Texas City Municipal Court** for receiving a Safety Award for no reportable accidents in the last year!



## **A Message from TMCEC about Municipal Courts Week & National Night Out**

Attention Texas Court Clerks! Don't delay: order your FREE promotional materials NOW for National Night Out (August 4, 2015) and Municipal Courts Week (November 2-6, 2015)! The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, through its two grants from the Texas Department of Transportation, offers municipal courts books and promotional items for children and adults covering such traffic safety topics as impaired driving, distracted driving, pedestrian safety, bike safety, school bus safety, and much more! These materials make excellent giveaways during Municipal Courts Week and National Night Out. For more information, please visit [www.tmcec.com/dsr](http://www.tmcec.com/dsr) and [www.tmcec.com/mtsi](http://www.tmcec.com/mtsi). To order materials, please contact Ned Minevitz at (512) 320-8274 or [Ned@tmcec.com](mailto:Ned@tmcec.com).

## **NCTOG's Electronic Warrant Payments: Breaking Boundaries and Increasing Productivity for All**

If improving service for the people that your City and court serve is a priority, you may want to pay special attention and consider joining the North Central Texas Council of Government's Electronic Warrant Payments (EWP) program. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) holds a contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party collections vendor that allows the cities who have signed up for this program to take electronic payments for one another. This process allows defendants that are being held by your jail for warrants from another city to pay for those warrants electronically and the collections vendor sends the money to the appropriate city. This process expedites the defendant's payment, thus allowing them to minimize time spent in jail.

The NCTCOG's Electronic Warrant Payment program began on June 17, 2013 with five pilot program cities. These cities include: Arlington, Grand Prairie, Plano, Carrollton and Euless. As part of this program, these cities agreed to use a universal Bond Form for each other's cases. On this form, Defendants have the opportunity to bond out or pay out cases that are in warrant status. Defendants can also enter a plea on this form.

The cities involved in this pilot program soon started seeing and reporting the benefits of their cooperation. Melinda Richardson, a representative for the City of Arlington in this program reported that some of the positive outcomes from participating in this program for both the court and the jail have been that it reduced the time that defendant spent in jail and that it helped reduce the cost for staff that would normally have to process the checks that each city would mail to each other. She also stated that the court also receives the money within 24 hours instead of having to wait for it by mail. She added that since it is a more efficient method of processing jail warrant payments, it thus provides better service to the public.

From the time the pilot cities began to report success from this program, members from these cities, including Melinda Richardson from Arlington, began to visit other municipalities and give demonstrations on how this program has improved the way their cities conduct business with one another. Since those demonstrations, other cities have been added as participants, including Desoto, Cedar Hill, Pantego, Denton, Lancaster, Fort Worth, Irving, Mansfield, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, and Balch Springs. There is a real possibility that more cities will be added to that list soon.

In 2014, the cities who were a part of the pilot program had the opportunity to compete and win a NCTCOG Regional Cooperation Award. This award is given in recognition of astonishing cooperative programs and projects among local governments. The pilot program cities did not allow jurisdictional boundaries to prevent them from working together. The pilot program cities demonstrated that through their cooperative efforts they were able to be resourceful and improve their assistance method and delivery to the citizens that they serve.

*(continued on pg 8)*



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Principal Office: Austin, Texas.

The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is Mike Vallandingham.



## Did You Know? Make Sure Your Judges Do!

(continued from pg 2)

### If a municipal judge is also a justice of the peace, is education required for both?

- Municipal judges must receive their first two years of instruction pertaining to the duties of the office of municipal judge from TMCEC. Likewise, justices of the peace must obtain their first two years of instruction from the Texas Justice Court Training Center (TJCTC). Both offices have separate judicial education requirements, but a person who serves in the dual capacity as a municipal judge and as a justice of the peace may be permitted credit for each office by attending a course for either office, as long as the curriculum is pertinent to each office.
- Beginning in the third year of education as a municipal judge, a judge may be able to get municipal judge credit for instruction taken from the TJCTC under the "flex-time" and "opt-out" provisions as discussed above.

### Where can I get more information?

Information regarding education requirements is readily available at TMCEC's website: <http://www.tmcec.com/programs/judges//>

# MVBA

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**MCCREARY VESELKA  
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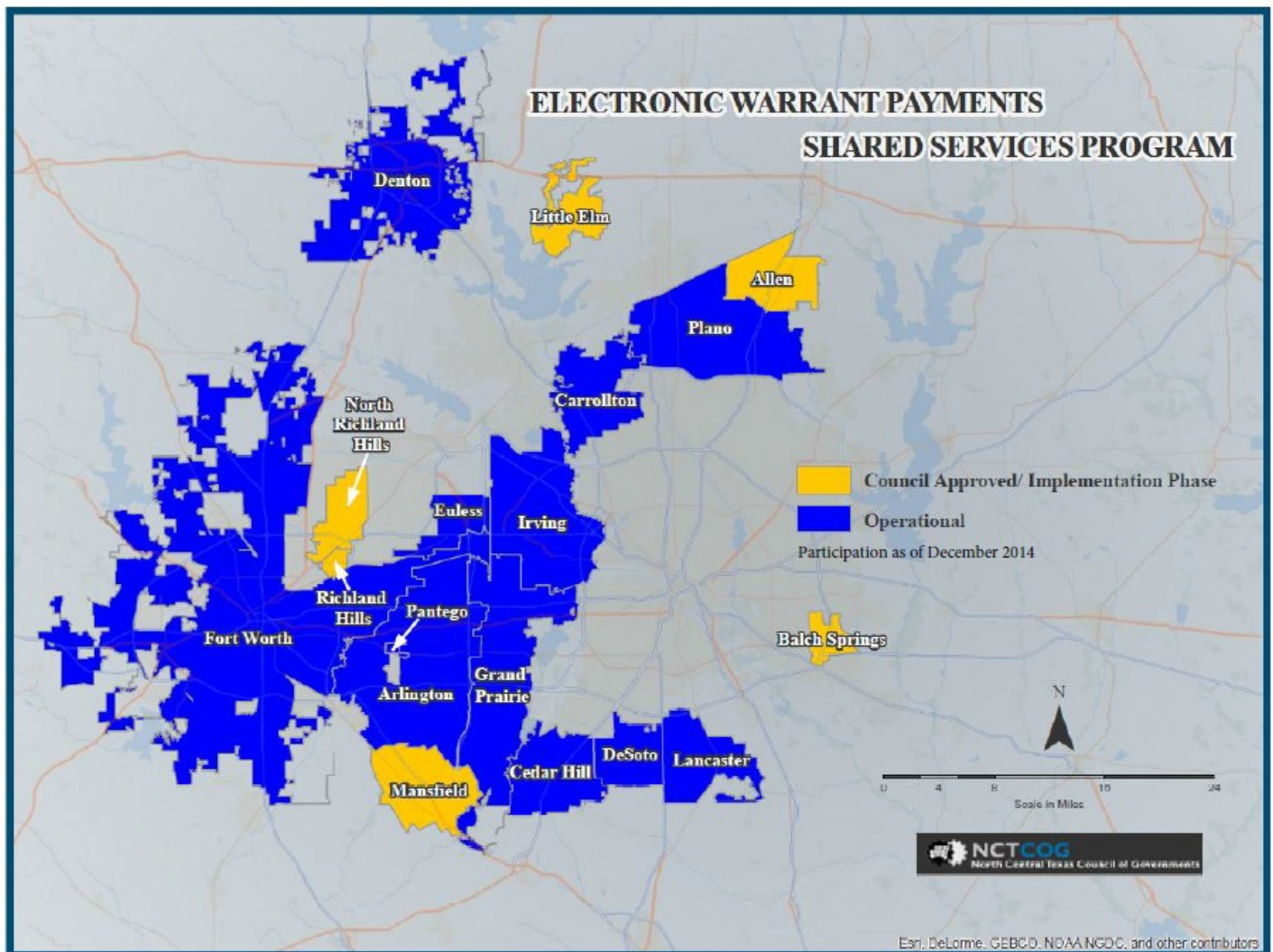
[swhigham@mvbalaw.com](mailto:swhigham@mvbalaw.com)  
[www.mvbalaw.com](http://www.mvbalaw.com)

## NCTOG's Electronic Warrant Payments: Breaking Boundaries and Increasing Productivity for All *(continued from pg 4)*

This program is important and should be given consideration by all, as it is efficient, provides improved service to defendants, and helps to ensure that payment is sent to the correct court faster. Ms. Richardson added that she urges cities, courts and jails to learn more about the program because individuals and courts would benefit greatly if more cities decide to participate in this program. She includes that in the future she looks forward to having counties on board as well, to further increase efficiency.

For more information about this program, please visit the NCTCOG's website at <http://www.nctcog.org/aa/EWP.asp>, or contact Jessie Shadowens at [jshadowens@nctcog.org](mailto:jshadowens@nctcog.org).

You may also contact Melinda Richardson, Arlington Municipal Court Customer Service Supervisor, at [melinda.richardson@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:melinda.richardson@arlingtontx.gov).



The above map can be found on the NCTCOG's website at <http://www.nctcog.org/aa/EWP.asp>



## Membership Drive

The Membership Committee has been hard at work updating all of our member information. Our goal for 2015 Membership is to reach 1,000 members for the first time in TCCA history. We came very close to reaching the 1,000 member mark last year so I believe it is possible to achieve this goal in 2015. With that being said, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please share your experiences and the benefits of becoming a Member of the Texas Court Clerks Association with Court Clerks in your area that aren't currently Members. Remind them of the networking opportunities this organization provides as well as the opportunity to attend their local Chapter Meetings/Training. Conference information, *The Scribe*, and other training opportunities are sent electronically to all TCCA Members. And remember, TCCA voting is all electronic which allows members who are unable to attend the Annual Conference have their voice heard when it comes to electing Board Members or voting on proposed changes to our by-laws.

**But wait...there's more!** The Member who is processed as the 1,000<sup>th</sup> Member will receive a **FREE 2016 TCCA Membership Voucher**!!

If you have any questions concerning membership, please feel free to contact me @ 830-401-2327 or [lsolansky@sequintexas.gov](mailto:lsolansky@sequintexas.gov)



## The Boundaries of Juvenile Justice (Part 2 of 2)

In Part I of this article, printed in the [December 2014 issue](#), the upper and lower age boundaries for juvenile court jurisdiction were discussed. In Part II, the focus is on the different types of transfer laws that exist among the States. Transfer laws provide exceptions to the standard jurisdictional boundaries regarding juvenile defendants. More commonly put, they allow these defendants, under certain circumstances (generally tied to age and seriousness of the offense), to be tried as an adult. There are three general categories of these transfer laws:

- **Judicial Waiver:**
  - Discretionary: juvenile courts may waive on a case-by-case basis following a hearing if the case fits into predetermined standards.
  - Mandatory: the juvenile court must transfer the case if it meets the statutory requirements
  - Presumptive: these laws presume that a certain type of case should be transferred to the criminal court, though the decision is ultimately left to the judge.
- **Prosecutorial Discretion:** transfer decision is made solely at the discretion of the prosecutor.
- **Statutory Exclusion:** these laws give exclusive jurisdiction over certain types of cases to criminal courts, even if the defendant is a juvenile.

Each state has at least one of these transfer methods, and many states have multiple ways to achieve a juvenile transfer, and even have additional transfer methods, which can include:

- **Once Adult/Always Adult:** regarding a juvenile who has been tried as an adult before
- **Reverse Waiver:** allows juvenile defendants whose cases are being tried in criminal court, to file a petition requesting their case be transferred down to juvenile court.
- **Blended sentencing:** allows juvenile court to incorporate criminal sentencing options and vice versa.

**More detailed information regarding juvenile transfer laws can be found online at:**

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: [http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/structure\\_process/qa04115.asp](http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/structure_process/qa04115.asp)

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/195420/page4.html>

### "Raise the Age" Legislation

A last effort to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction in the State of Texas from 16 to 17 failed to go the distance this legislative session. Although a provision was recently added to SB 1630 which would have done exactly that, it was removed to ensure that the original Bill, which addresses juvenile justice reform, will pass.





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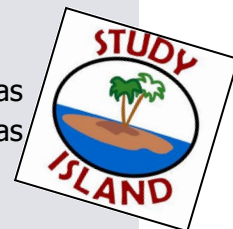
Principal Office: Austin, Texas.

The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is Mike Vallandingham.

# Training & Testing

## TCCA Training Opportunities

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Education:</b>	<b>City:</b>	<b>Chapter:</b>
June 4, 2015	Web FTA 101, Omni Base Updates	White Oak	North Texas
June 10, 2015	Tentative—Vice/Arrest Warrants, Gang Intel, Social Media, Active Shooter	Irving	North Texas
June 12, 2015	Internal Controls/Writing Court P&P	Sugar Land	Gulf Coast
June 24, 2015	Tentative –Jury Trials Part 2	College Station	Central Texas
July 10, 2015	Tentative—DPS Conviction Reporting	Bastrop	Central Texas
July 10, 2015	Amazing Face Reading/Creating Amazing Connections	Jersey Village	Gulf Coast
July 30, 2015	Cash Handling, Open Records	Frisco	North Texas
August 28, 2015	Tentative—Legislative Recap	College Station	Central Texas
August 31, 2015	Tentative—Legislative Recap		
September 9, 2015	TBD	Irving	North Texas
September 11, 2015	TBD	Gatesville	Central Texas
September 11, 2015	Basic Sign Language & Domestic Violence in Municipal Court	Sugar Land	Gulf Coast
October 28, 2015	TBD	Arlington	North Texas
November 2, 2015	Tentative—Legislative Update Review	Texas City	Gulf Coast
November 6, 2015	TBD	Cuero	Freedom Trail
November 13, 2015	TBD	Georgetown	Central Texas



## EXAM TOPICS

### Level I Exam

#### Part A

An Overview of the Courts  
Authority and Duties  
Ethics

#### Part B

Procedures Before Trial  
Trial Processes  
Post-Trial Processes

#### Part C

State and City Reports  
Traffic Law  
Communications & Stress Management

### Level II Exam

#### Part A

Equal Justice Under Law  
Overview of Processing Cases  
Legal Research

#### Part B

Code of Criminal Procedure/Penal Code  
Bond Forfeitures  
Court Technology

#### Part C

Juveniles & Minors  
Financial Management  
Records & Caseflow Management

## UPCOMING PREP SESSIONS

<b>June 8</b>	<b>Abilene</b>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>Austin</b>
<b>August 3</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>

## UPCOMING TESTING

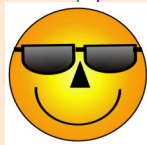
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Abilene</b>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>Austin</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Austin</b>
<b>August 4</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>
<b>August 6</b>	<b>Jersey Village</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Longview</b>



# Just For Fun!

## Fun Dates in June:

June 7th—**VCR Day** (VC what?)  
 June 15th—**Magna Carta Day**  
 June 20th—**World Productivity Day**  
*(isn't that a Saturday??)*  
 June 27th—**Sunglasses Day** *(Your future's so bright.....)*



**Have you ever tried stacking golf balls on top of each other?**

**It can be done, so give it a try!**

**Click [here](#) and see for yourself!**

## Getting To Know You~



### Last Month We Asked.. and You Answered:



#### **What was your first job?**

"My first real job was a cashier at a movie theater. This was after school and I would sit in a small booth under the theater marquee to answer the phone and sell tickets and during slow times, even able to do homework. During the week it was rather slow unless we were showing an Elvis Presley movie, then there were lines up the block each day and even longer on the weekends. I never understood why people would flock to his movies. He was a great singer but not a very good actor. (Ha) I also had the advantage of seeing all the movies for free in the theaters that were owned by the company which included several drive-in theaters and even able to take a guest as well at times. I made a staggering \$.95 an hour but I was able to save some of the money for those extra things a teenage girl "needs" and the rest I would use for school and at times, gas for my car. But the job taught me a good sense of responsibility and respect for a job well done which has carried me over into my career as a municipal court clerk. It was a great first real job with some great memories and seeing a lot of great movies!"

**~Connie Crenshaw, Municipal Court Clerk Administrator, Luling, TX**

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 ☆ **Thanks for sharing Connie!!** ☆  
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**Next Month We Want To Know:**  
**What was your favorite TV show growing up?**



Send your responses for the next issue of *The Scribe* to [april.christiansen@cedarparktexas.gov](mailto:april.christiansen@cedarparktexas.gov)

## **Court Security Tips** (continued from pg 6)

security in place to restrict entry at these points of access. Any visitors should be escorted through these areas by authorized personnel at all times.



### ***Courtroom Decorum***

Your Presiding Judge should set the rules for how people should conduct themselves in their courtroom. Courtroom Decorum is one way to set the rules and regulations in the courtroom. It can include rules such as prohibiting cell phone or electronic devices in the courtroom, and should address security issues such as prohibiting multiple entrances and exits in the courtroom, and weapons in the courtroom. It is also helpful to post signs throughout the courthouse that inform the public that all weapons are prohibited in the courthouse.

### ***Panic Buttons***

Courts should have panic or duress buttons located throughout the courthouse; specifically in the cashier area and in the courtroom near the clerk, judge, and prosecutor. In the event that an incident occurs, these individuals should be able to call out for help as quickly as possible. In an emergency, every second counts.

Panic buttons should be tested at least once every month to ensure that they are still operating properly. Failure to test these devices periodically could result in the devices not working when a security incident arises.



### ***Security Officers***

It is important that during court proceedings that you have at least a Bailiff or one Security Officer in the courtroom at all times. This presence shows the public that the court is serious about maintaining order in the courtroom and that they are in a safe place to conduct business.

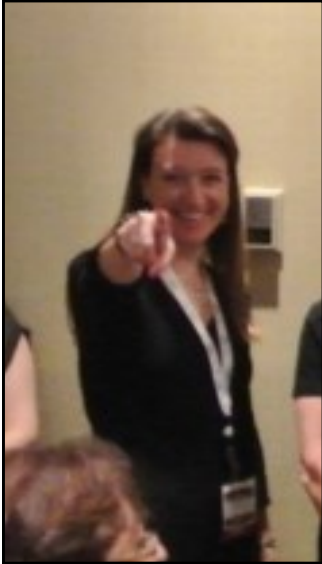
Some courts have a security station at the front entrance of the courthouse, which are normally monitored by Peace Officers or Security Officers. Security checkpoints in the courthouse are an excellent way to reduce the number of weapons and other unauthorized objects from entering the courthouse. Typically these security checkpoints have metal detectors and x-ray machines. It is a good practice to have at least three Officers at a security checkpoint so that one Officer is monitoring the foot traffic coming into the courthouse, another Officer is monitoring the people walking through the metal detector; and the third Officer is checking bags going through the x-ray machine.

### ***Observe Your Surroundings***

One of the most important things you can do is always observe your surroundings; this is a key component to any court security plan. Do not bury your head into whatever particular task you are performing. It is crucial that you observe the actions and behaviors of others.

*(continued pg 18)*

# Get Involved!



**Are you interested in joining one of TCCA's Committees? If so, DO WE HAVE A COMMITTEE FOR YOU!**

Are you a people person? Do you make sure to stop by and visit with all of our awesome Vendors at Conference? The **Vendor Committee** may be for you.

Do you love your Chapter and want to help others find a Chapter to love? Contact our **Chapter Steering Committee** to see how you can help!

Want to help spread the word about TCCA and help encourage others to join? Our **Membership Committee** may be just the ticket.

**See page 21 for a complete listing of Committees and contact info!**

## Do You Like To Write??

**Extra, Extra, read all about it!!** Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Do you love to tell stories? Do you blog, tweet, and post until the wee hours of the morning?? Then the Publications Committee might be for you!



### **Publications Committee**

**Committee Chair:**

**April Christiansen**

Cedar Park Municipal Court

[april.christiansen@cedarparktexas.gov](mailto:april.christiansen@cedarparktexas.gov)



### **We Want to Know What YOU Want to KNOW!**

Please tell us if you have a suggestion, topics or issues that you would like to see covered in a future edition!

The next edition of TCCA's newsletter **The Scribe** will be published in December 2015. **The Scribe** will be published on the TCCA's website. The deadline to submit an article for this edition is November 15th, 2015.

### **The Publications Committee Needs YOU!**

If you would like to write for us, or would like to see a topic covered in **The Scribe**, please email me!!

~April



## Important Education and Certification Announcements

### PREP SESSIONS AND TESTING TO BE OFFERED AT THE 2015 TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS ASSOCIATION (TMCA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For the first time ever, prep sessions and testing will be offered at this year's TMCA Annual Conference in Corpus Christi. Level I and II prep sessions will be held from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (3 hours of credit will be given) on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and testing will be held from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that you *do not* need to be registered to attend the conference if you wish to attend the prep sessions and/or testing only. It will be your responsibility to reserve a room at an area hotel. Please watch your emails as a link will be sent out to register for the prep sessions and/or testing.

For those wanting to attend the Conference, it will be held August 2-4, 2015 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. The registration fee is \$135.00 prior to July 11<sup>th</sup> and \$150.00 after this date. A special room rate of \$103/single and \$139/double for conference attendees is being offered by the Omni. If attending, be sure to reserve your room early as the room block at such low rates tends to sell out quickly. For additional information, agendas and to register online for the Conference, please visit the TMCA website at [www.txmca.com](http://www.txmca.com).

### Have you renewed your certification?

The deadline to renew your certification is **August 31<sup>st</sup>**. If needing additional education hours, please see the list of upcoming education as time and education opportunities are running out.

If unsure as to whether you submitted your certification renewal, you may log onto <http://register.tmcec.com/web/online> four to six weeks after attending a TMCEC seminar or submitting certification renewal paperwork. Once logged in, click on the "Certification Renewal" tab to show the most current year renewed. For example, if you have already renewed for FY15 it will say "2014-2015 Yes".

Letters confirming renewals **will no longer** be sent as clerks are encouraged to verify their renewal status online.

### Testing Fees to Increase on September 1st

Beginning September 1, 2015, testing fees will increase to **\$75.00** for TCCA and TMCA members and **\$150.00** for non-members. Please budget accordingly if you will have staff participating in the certification program. As a reminder, all testing fees are non-transferable and non-refundable.

### 8 Hour Seminar to be Held in West Texas this Fall

Mark your calendars! The TCCA Education Committee in partnership with TMCEC will be conducting an 8 hour seminar in Midland this Fall. The seminar will be held in November; however, an exact date is yet to be determined. Please watch your email for registration and additional information on this training. TMCEC and the TCCA Education Committee will also co-sponsor 8 hour seminars in the South Texas and Northeast Texas regions in the Winter and Spring of 2016.



## SPOTLIGHT on Webster Municipal Court!

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

**To the City of Webster Municipal Court** for being the only Municipal Court in the State of Texas to have three (count 'em 3!) Level III, Certified Municipal Court Clerks! Congratulations are also in order for **the City of Webster's Court Administrator Luane Anders**, who will be retiring after serving the City of Webster for over 25 years!

"I left the private sector to begin working at the City of Webster 25 + years ago. I started out in 1989 as a Deputy Court Clerk, and was promoted to Court Administrator in 1997. To have been given the opportunity to work with so many wonderful folks for more than 25 years in a career that has been very fulfilling and rewarding, has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I couldn't be more proud of Webster's court staff as, among other accomplishments, all 6 embraced the certification program. We currently have 3 Certified Municipal Court Clerks, 2 Level II clerks, and 1 Level 1 clerk. I will be retiring at the end of June with no current plans other than to sleep past 5:30 every morning! I will miss the day-to-day interactions with the many friends I've made over the years through the TCCA, and the Gulf Coast Chapter, and wish everyone continued success.

I feel any success I've had as a Court Administrator is due in large part to the many smart and helpful colleagues from across the State who quickly respond to questions and issues and have been the most valuable resources. I thank them all for their great support." ~Luane Anders, CMCC, CCM



Shown above: Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerks from the City of Webster, Patty Stav, Luane Anders, and Shannon Wagner.

## Court Security Tips *(continued from pg 14)*

Body movement and facial expressions are important indicators that help you determine a person's mood or temperament. If your desk is near a window, make sure that you periodically observe what is going on outside of your office or cubicle; if you notice any unusual activity outside of the courthouse, report it immediately. It is much better to stop a dangerous person outside of the courthouse than to allow them the opportunity to make it inside your doors.

Lastly, threats are also good indicators that something could happen to you or others at the courthouse. It is important that you always report suspicious activity to your Security Officer. When you have a "gut feeling" you should listen to it. Your gut feeling could very well save your life and the lives of others.

**Be prepared...Stay alert...Stay alive!**

**For more information and a list of resources regarding Court Security, see [The National Center for State Courts online Court Security Resource Guide](#).**

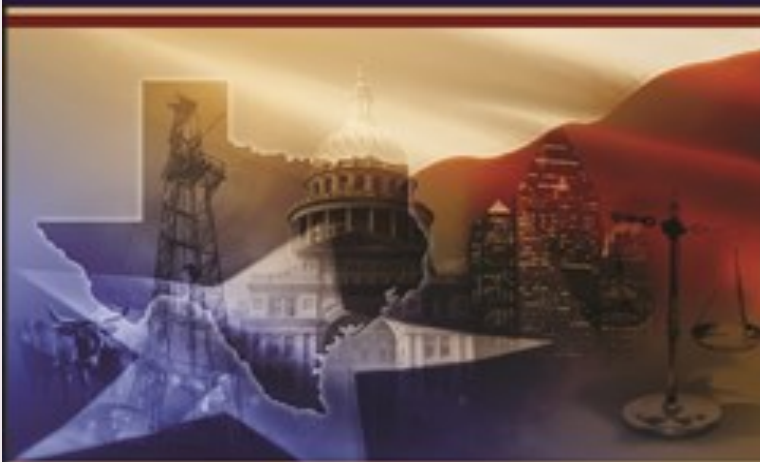
**The Guide includes information on a number of topics including:**

- Emergency Management
- Facilities
- Incident Reporting
- Risks to Judges
- Screening Policies
- State Reports
- Terrorism and Homeland Security
- Threat Assessment
- Training
- Transporting Prisoners
- Workplace Violence



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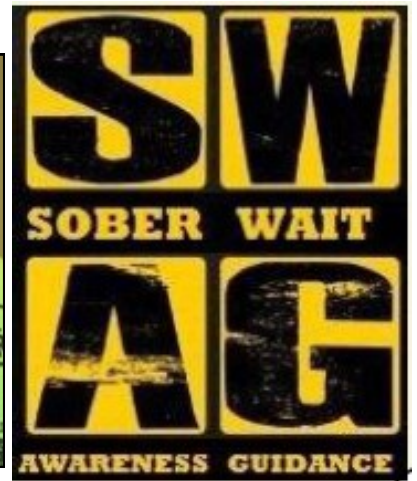
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## Burleson Municipal Court's SWAG Affair

The Burleson Municipal Court and City Marshals will be hosting their 4th Annual SWAG Affair on Thursday, September 3rd, 2015 from 4pm to 8pm. The SWAG Affair is a free event that focuses on issues that families today must face: Sober—Wait—Awareness—Guidance. A host of vendors, community groups, government agencies, and military representatives participate in this event, which provides teens and their parents with plenty of educational and fun information, as well as food, fun prizes, and giveaways!! For more information on this event, contact Director of Court Services, Constance White, at [cwhite@burlesontx.com](mailto:cwhite@burlesontx.com).



### TCCA to Sponsor Education Session at 2015 Texas Municipal League (TML) Conference

TCCA will sponsor an education session at this year's TML Conference. Ron McPherson, a Department of Homeland Security Specialist, will conduct the class on "How to Survive an Active Shooter." The session will be held from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. Please encourage any city staff who may be attending this year's Conference to plan to attend this session!



# TCCA Board of Directors

## Executive Board:

President	Lisa Howard, Hurst	lhoward@hursttx.gov
Vice President	Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham	rkuehn@cityofbrenham.org / TML Rep., Certification & Education
Immediate Past President	Tammy Odom, Texas City	todom@texas-city-tx.org / Conference Planning Chair / Advisory
Treasurer	David Preciado, Arlington	david.preciado@arlingtontx.gov
Secretary	Melissa Pace, Haltom City	mpace@haltomcity.com

## Directors At Large:

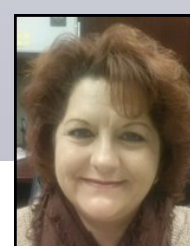
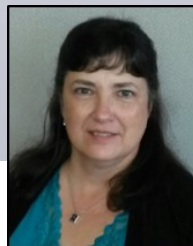
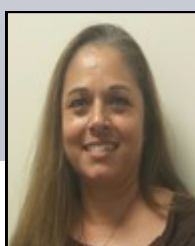
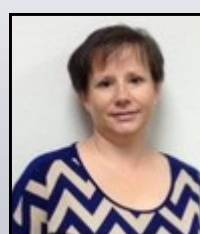
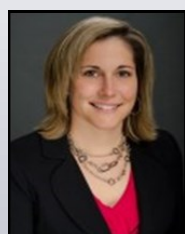
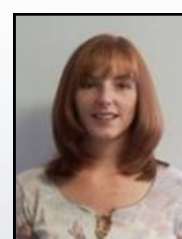
April Christiansen, Cedar Park	april.christiansen@cedarparktexas.gov
Paul Rex, Jersey Village	prex@ci.jersey-village.tx.us
Luevada Posey, Killeen	lposey@killeentexas.gov
Gloria Carter, Dallas	g.carter@dallascityhall.com
Wende White, Cameron	wwhite@camerontexas.net
Jaime Brew, Sugar Land	jbrew@sugarlandtx.gov

## Committee

Publications Chair, Legislative  
 Public Relations Chair, Bylaws Chair  
 Vendor Chair  
 Chapter Steering Chair  
 Scholarship Chair, Vendor  
 Certification & Financial Program Mgr.,  
 Education, Membership, Publications, PR

## Chapter Presidents:

Veronica Brockington, Round Rock	vbrockington@roundrocktexas.gov	Central Texas Chapter, Legislative Chair
Landra Solansky, Seguin	lsolansky@seguintexas.gov	Freedom Trail Chapter, Membership Chair
Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham	rkuehn@cityofbrenham.org	Gulf Coast Chapter
Delena Franklin, Allen	dfranklin@cityoffallen.org	North Texas Chapter
Karen Armstrong, Greenville	karmstrong@ci.greenville.tx.us	Northeast Texas Chapter, Historian
Jeanne Wilson, Big Spring,	jwilson@mybigspring.com	West Texas Chapter, Nominations Chair
Kimberly Jozwiak, Corpus Christi	kimberlyj@cctexas.com	South Texas Chapter, Merchandise Chair



## Chapter's Corner

Chapter's Corner is a new feature in *The Scribe* which gives each Chapter the chance to announce events, share any news from their region, showcase any honors or awards, or just provide information in general.

If you have any information or news from your Chapter, please share it with us so we can share it with everyone!

### Central Texas



College Station Municipal Court's Operations Supervisor, Marie Barringer was recently honored with a "Hometown Hero" Award by the Bryan –College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau. The "Hometown Hero" Award is given annually to a community member who has gone above and beyond in the hospitality area. Marie was recognized for her outstanding work in planning and organizing the 2014 TCCA Conference, which brought more than 200 visitors into her City. **Congratulations Marie!** Your Central Texas Chapter, and your Association are proud of you!

## Chapter's Corner

### Freedom Trail

#### Greetings from the Freedom Trail Chapter!

We held our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Clerks and Judges Brunch on May 15, 2015. Approximately 25 people were in attendance. The Seguin Municipal Court hosts this meeting every year in May to give Clerks, Judges, Prosecutors and Bailiffs the opportunity to come together for training, networking and of course FOOD. Two hours of education were provided, with topics including a course on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ~ PTSD.

The Freedom Trail currently has 41 members in our Chapter. If you know someone in our area that is not currently a member and you think they would be interested in joining the Freedom Trail Chapter, please contact Landra Solansky @ 830-401-2327.

### West Texas

The West Texas Chapter currently has 27 members and holds five meetings per year. We also hope to offer a training session before the end of 2015.

If you would like to host a chapter meeting and or a training session in your City, please contact Jeanne Wilson at [jwilson@mybigspring.com](mailto:jwilson@mybigspring.com).

### Gulf Coast

Congratulations go out to Shannon Wagner (Webster) and Rosemary Bell (La Marque) on achieving Level 3 Certification! Way to go ladies!!

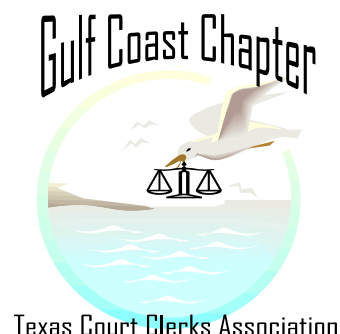
#### Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

(Chapter meetings are now held at the Sugar Land Municipal Court, 1200 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX)

June 12th

September 11th

December 11th



## Warrant Round Up

# Results from the 2015 Great State of Texas Warrant Round Up:

<u>Total Agencies</u>	<u># Warrants Cleared</u>	<u>Total Gross Collections</u>
<b>323 Participated, 239 Reported</b>	<b>144,134</b>	<b>\$28,240,703.55</b>

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## Letter From the President

TCCA President

**Dear Fellow Court Clerks,**

We are well into 2015 and things have been very busy around this great State of ours. The Legislative session has been busy filing and passing Bills right and left. It has been a very interesting session thus far with many Bills affecting various aspects of our daily jobs such as failure to attend, texting and driving, red light cameras, and rights to openly carry firearms. Legislative years tend to be very busy for us all; however, I wanted to make sure you remember to mark your calendars for some important events coming up this year. We have the Legislative Updates in Lubbock August 7<sup>th</sup>, Houston August 14<sup>th</sup>, Dallas August 17<sup>th</sup>, and Austin August 21<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, we have Conference in the City of Allen, October 12<sup>th</sup> thru the 14<sup>th</sup>, offering lots of education, good times, and most importantly, a night on your own to shop and spend your free time enjoying the City. I am looking forward to seeing you all there in October!!



Your local Chapters are doing a great job providing continuing education so that those of you that need continuing education hours towards certification have an opportunity to meet the requirements without having to dig deep into your pockets for travel dollars. Please check your Chapter websites for those dates, times, and topics.

Thank you to those that have already renewed your membership. Memberships run from January thru December each year and if you haven't renewed this year, please take a moment to do that before voting and nominations open. Your voice is important to this Association and to me.

I would like to encourage each of you to get involved in some way or another, either on the Chapter level or the State level. You can volunteer for a committee or run for office, whichever one you prefer, but TCCA really needs you! It is very rewarding to accomplish tasks for all the members of the best Association I have had the pleasure to serve! We work hard, but we play hard too!

Calling all mentors and "tenured" court personnel to be available to those "newbies" that are just coming into the court profession. Those "newbie's" will need you in the coming months and years to share your knowledge and experience with them so that they can gain from the information you share with them. Please step out of your comfort zone and share yourself with others. You have no idea what a blessing you will be to those who feel alone or unsure of what they are doing. Some people just need encouragement and guidance from someone who has been around the block a time or two. I want to encourage you "experienced" court personnel to reach out to others and give of yourself. I promise you it will fulfill a portion of your heart you didn't realize needed filling!

Please try to take the time to thank your Chapter Board Members for all their hard work behind the scenes trying to make this a great experience for all their members.

I would like to thank the Board for a very successful mid-year meeting. We worked very hard to ensure bylaws reflect current policies and procedures, update job descriptions, implement audit recommendations and provide an educational annual conference for all the members across the State.

Many Blessings to you all until we meet again in Allen!