



# STRONGER *Together!*



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TEXAS COURT CLERKS ASSOCIATION

## Letter from President

Dear TCCA Members,

I hope you are enjoying the Summer of 2023! Our Annual Conference is fast approaching and your TCCA Conference Planning Committee is hard at work.

As promised, we are moving the Conference to Georgetown this year. I think we are all ready for a change of scenery and the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center is a beautiful place. The rooms are very comfortable, the lobby area and outdoor space is amazing, and the parking is FREE!

Our speaker lineup this year ties in perfectly with the theme of **"Area 51: An out of This World Experience"**! We have some very exciting and fun things planned this year.

To start us out, we have Professional Speaker Randy Fox presenting The Silver Platter: **"How to Create a Culture of Excellence."** Randy's unique style earned him the recognition of being named a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) by the National Speaker Association in March 2023. I think you will enjoy his energy and walk away feeling recharged.

At the end of day one, a very familiar face, Judge Ryan Turner will present **"A Municipal Primer on Sovereign Citizens"**. I have heard amazing things about this presentation and look forward to seeing Ryan do what he does best – speaking passionately about something important to all of us.

Day two will begin with Professional Speaker Dave Davlin presenting **"Game Plan"**. His career began as a speaker in public schools across America.

Dave combines his entertainment ability with a powerful message that has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people. Fun fact – his amazing ability with basketballs landed his name and his picture in the 1990 Guinness Book of World Records! We will have our Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony in the afternoon.

Day three will begin with Randy Fox presenting **"The Call to Excellence: Going Beyond the Silver Platter"**. After speaking with Randy, I believe this presentation is a perfect fit for our group.

And finally, closing us out will be Astronaut Mike Foreman, Mayor of the City of Friendswood, presenting **"Think Universally, Serve Locally"**. I can't think of a better speaker to close a Conference with the theme of **"An out of This World Experience"** – a real Astronaut!

I would also like to remind you that voting will begin August 1st. Please watch for the email so you can cast your ballot for Officer elections and Bylaws changes.



Did you know?  
We are on Facebook!

I hope you have a safe and relaxing Summer; we all know the time goes by too fast. I can't wait to see you in person at the 2023 Annual Conference!

One State, One Team, One Dream

We are TCCA Strong!

## CURRENT BYLAWS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP WITH 5 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPTER AFFILIATION \$55.00

-EXECUTIVE BOARD: PRESIDENT,VP, TREASURER, SECRETARY, AND PAST PRESIDENT

- 6 DIRECTORS AT LARGE

-7 CHAPTER PRESIDENTS ALL ELECTED POSITIONS

- REQUIRE ELECTED CHAPTER BOARD: PRESIDENT, VP, TREASURER AND SECRETARY.

-REQUIRE FOUR (4) MEETINGS PER YEAR WITH ELECTIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS.

-QUORUM, MINUTES AND BOARD MEMBERS REQUIRED FOR CHAPTER MEETINGS

CHAPTER BUDGETS, FINANCIAL REPORTING, AND AUDITS REQUIRED ALONG WITH BONDING COSTS

THERE ARE 19 TCCA STANDING COMMITTEES

CHAPTERS RECEIVE \$15.00 OF EACH MEMBERSHIP FEE THAT DOES INTO THEIR OWN ACCOUNT AND MUST BE MANAGED AND AUDITED

ALL FUNDS ARE MANAGED BY THE CHAPTER TREASURER AND MUST BE BONDED, AUDITED AND ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE CHAPTER TREASURER AND CHAPTER BOARD

ALL FUNDS NOT USED BY THE CHAPTER BUILDS IN THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS THAT HAVE TO BE MANAGED, ACCOUNTED, BONDED AND AUDITED

ALL EDUCATION REQUESTS MUST GO THROUGH AND THEN TO THE EDUCATION CHAIR FOR APPROVAL

## PROPOSED BYLAWS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP WITH 5 LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH REGIONAL AFFILIATION \$55.00

-EXECUTIVE BOARD: PRESIDENT, VP, TREASURER, SECRETARY, AND PAST PRESIDENT.

- 6 DIRECTORS AT LARGE

-7 REGIONAL DIRECTORS ALL ELECTED POSITIONS

-REQUIRE ELECTED REGIONAL DIRECTOR WHO ASSIGNS ASST.REGIONAL DIRECTOR.

-NO MEETING REQUIREMENTS OR QUORUM, MINUTES OR ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

NO REGIONAL BUDGET REQUIRED, FINANCIAL REPORTING, OR BONDING COSTS

THERE ARE 18 STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAPTER STEERING WAS ROLED INTO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE)

REGIONS WILL RECEIVE \$15.00 OF EACH MEMBERSHIP FEE TO USE FOR EDUCATION AND NETWORKING PURPOSES MANAGED BY THE TCCA TREASURER & ASSISTANT TREASURER

ALL FUNDS ARE MANAGED BY THE TCCA TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER AND DISBURSED TO THE REGIONS AS NEEDED ON A REQUEST BASIS. THE TREASURER MANAGES AND IS AUDITED

AT THE END OF EACH YEAR ALL FUNDS ARE SPLIT BY THE ASSOCIATION AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MEMBERS

ALL REQUESTS FOR EDUCATION GO DIRECTLY TO THE EDUCATION CHAIR FOR APPROVAL BY THE ASST. REGIONAL DIRECTOR OR REQUESTOR

# TCCA CONFERENCE 51

SHERATON AUSTIN GEORGETOWN  
OCTOBER 29TH - NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023



The 2023 Conference Planning Committee has been well underway planning this year's annual conference over the last few months. We know how special it was for everyone to celebrate TCCA's Golden Jubilee together last year, so the bar has been set high! This committee has always loved a good challenge, though, and we promise you – 2023 will definitely be an **OUT OF THIS WORLD** experience!

Here's a few things to look forward to –

## **NEW LOCATION:**



For the first time, we'll be in the beautiful Georgetown, TX! Set among the greenery of Rivery Park, the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center is Georgetown's only full-service hotel, *"effortlessly blending small-town Texas hospitality with world-class service and amenities."* Boasting accommodations with sophisticated rooms and suites that include complimentary Wi-Fi

and the *Sheraton Signature Sleep Experience*, the Sheraton also invites delegates to enjoy their outdoor heated pool, hop on one of their complimentary bicycles, go for a jog on the adjacent trails, or work out in their 24-hour fitness center.



### TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY EVENT:

TCCA's biggest event of the year will bring us together for Halloween – and we wouldn't let an opportunity like that go without planning something big! This year we're partnering with our Titanium Sponsor to party the night away with food, drinks and fun! Details are underway now. Look to our social media and the website for more information as it's available!

### RETURNING FAVORITES:

- ❖ Exhibitor Hall – We're so thankful to our valued sponsors and the many exhibitors who continue to make this conference possible! Time in our Exhibitor Hall remains a huge part of our conference agenda, so bring your questions and make sure to check out our digital *Exhibitor Guide* to learn what each has to offer.
- ❖ Excellent Education – We're excited to bring you more star speakers, featuring stellar topics that will transcend expectations. Make sure to read our "President's Letter" in this issue to learn more about each of them.
- ❖ Awards Presentation – It wouldn't be Conference without celebrating the accomplishments of our Clerks across the state over the past year! Immediately following the Annual Business Meeting, we'll begin this year's presentation, so even if you can't attend in person,

make sure to tune-in. Nominations open soon and we need to hear from you! Let us know who should be recognized!

- ❖ [Testing Opportunity](#) – Are you ready to join in the prestige and knowledge associated with being a certified clerk? Or are you ready to level-up? We're ready for you to show us what you got! Once again, we'll offer prep sessions and certification testing the weekend before Conference begins. Registration is required for both – if interested, make sure to look for more information on both.
- ❖ [New Delegate "Welcome Event"](#) – Once again, we're excited to introduce our new delegates (and remind our returning ones!) about all they can expect during the upcoming days. We'll make introductions by meeting new friends and learning a little more about TCCA!
- ❖ [Free Evening](#) – Georgetown has so much to offer! Whether it's walking across the parking lot to the many restaurants and the outdoor entertainment (featuring local artists) or making the short drive into downtown Georgetown's quaint town-square, you'll have so many great options to consider!
- ❖ [TCCA Merchandise](#) – Back again by popular demand will be NEW merchandise options and a few favorites still available! We're looking forward to spotlighting all that we'll have to offer in a sneak-peak presented by the 2023 Merchandise Committee – more details coming SOON!

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS

## JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>



# Ballot Information

The Election Nominations Committee requested members to submit a nomination(s) for those members who may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors or prospective chapters.

December 2023 completes the terms of office for the following positions:

**Vice President, Treasurer, and Three (3) Directors at Large**

As a courtesy to the person you wish to nominate, please obtain their approval before submitting this form.

State nominations opened on June 5, 2023, and closed on June 30, 2023.

Pending results of the Texas Court Clerks Association Bylaw Changes, the chapter nominations will open on November 6, 2023 and close on December 8, 2023.

Please submit the nominations by the deadline to qualify for the 2023 election. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Goff Fontanes at [agoff@helotes-tx.gov](mailto:agoff@helotes-tx.gov).

PRESENT STATE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:

1. VICE PRESIDENT: Jennifer Bozorgnia, Irving
2. TREASURER: Malia Elkins, Woodway
3. DIRECTOR AT LARGE PLACE #2: Mara Dudley, Llano
4. DIRECTOR AT LARGE PLACE #4: Sheli Masterson, Irving
5. DIRECTOR AT LARGE PLACE #6: Heather Leonard, Cedar Hill

## IMPORTANT DATES

**JULY 1ST THROUGH JULY 31ST BALLOT PREP AND VETTING NOMINATIONS**

**STATE NOMINATIONS OPEN: JUNE 5, 2023**

**STATE NOMINATIONS CLOSE: JUNE 30, 2023**

**STATE VOTING OPENS: AUGUST 1, 2023**

**STATE VOTING CLOSSES: AUGUST 30, 2023**

## Education Committee News

Hello TCCA friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to give you some information on the Education/Certification Committee and update you on some exciting things we have been working on.

The TCCA Education/Certification Committee members are: Pat Riffel (Friendswood), Chair & Certification Financial Manager; Landra Solansky (Seguin), TCCA President & Co-Chair; Lisa Howard (Hurst), Tracy Ventura (Liberty Hill), Jennifer Bozorgnia (Irving), Jennifer Billings (Dayton), and Tammy Odom (Texas City). Ex Officio Members are Bonnie Townsend, Texas Municipal Courts Association Representative; Ryan Turner, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) Executive Director; Mark Goodner, TMCEC General Council/Director of Education; Tayler Adams, TMCEC Program Coordinator.

During our recent meeting on, June 16, 2023, TCCA President Landra Solansky announced that Pat Riffel has resigned as the committee chair effective, December 31, 2023. Pat will continue to serve as Certification Program Financial Manager. I am honored that Landra has asked me to step in and serve as Chair for 2024. Jennifer Bozorgnia will serve as co-chair. I know I speak for the entire membership when I say that Pat has done an amazing job and has brought the certification program to an excellent level of professionalism. Pat has set the bar very high, and we will do our best to maintain the superior level of commitment that Pat has given this committee during her tenure.

Just prior to our meeting, we also received notice of the resignation of another of our committee members, Matthew Freeman. Matt has been a valued member of this committee for several years and his service will be forever appreciated. Thank you, Matt for your dedication and commitment.

Taylor advised the committee that effective, May 31, 2023, the number of clerks certified at each level are:

Level I – 614 Level II – 658 Level III – 106 (134 total)

She also advised that there were 645 clerks who had yet to renew certification for this academic year. The committee discussed possible reasons for nonrenewal and committee members will reach out to those clerks that are not renewed by July 1, 2023. If you are a certified clerk and have not renewed your certification, please take a moment to do so now.

Tracy Ventura stated there is a need for a Level III Mentor in the West Texas area. If you are a Level III clerk living in or near this area, please reach out to Tracy to volunteer to assist.

There was also discussion about the TCCA 2023 Annual Conference. Mark your calendars for our 51st Annual Conference to be held in Georgetown on, October 29 – November 1. The committee will be providing some amazing speakers and you don't want to miss the "Out of This World" Halloween night event that will be co-hosted with our Titanium Sponsor Tyler Technologies! Also remember, if you are not able to attend the conference you can still attend the business meeting virtually and receive two hours of education credit.

The committee will meet again in September to continue working hard to serve the membership. If you have any issues or concerns that you would like to have discussed, please send those to me at [todom@texascitytx.gov](mailto:todom@texascitytx.gov) and we will get them on the agenda.

**Enjoy your summer!**  
**Tammy**



*Did you know?*  
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**We are TCCA Strong!**





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**Food for Thought**  
**By Landra Solansky**  
**City of Seguin**  
**President of Texas Court Clerks Association**

I, like many of you, have had the pleasure of working with the same Judge for over 15 years. I am sad to say that after a hard-fought battle with cancer, Seguin Municipal Court Judge Kevin Kolb died in March 2023 at the age of 56.

I thought I would share the things I wish I knew before I needed to know them. Until last year, the City of Seguin Charter required our Judge to be an attorney and live within the City Limits. The City Attorney and I realized a few years ago that we needed to get this item on the ballot and hoped we could get the Charter changed to remove the requirement of residency. Seguin has many very talented and capable attorneys, but they were not lining up to be our Municipal Court Judge. Most of them were unable to commit to the time and scheduling requirements. We were successful in our mission and the Charter was changed in 2022.

We were in no hurry to appoint an Associate Judge – which ended up being a mistake. Two years ago, Judge Kolb confided in me that he had cancer. His treatments were going well, he looked great and he never missed a day in Court.

He asked me not to tell anyone because he was afraid his private practice could be affected if word got out to his clients. As a friend, of course, I agreed to keep his secret – I didn't even tell my staff.

Fast forward to August 2022, the treatments stopped working and Judge Kolb and his doctors decided to opt for an experimental treatment. At that point, I had to let City management know what was going on. I also confided in my Security Team in case something happened while court was in session. City Council was notified and we began the process of appointing an Associate Judge. As with most things in Municipal Government, that process was slow. We finally made the appointment in December, but decided out of respect for Judge Kolb that we wouldn't bring the Associate in until we needed to.

Judge Kolb presided over his last Court on February 21st and was placed on hospice care that same week. We cancelled dockets and worked with the new Associate Judge to come up with a schedule for March. I was so relieved that we had taken care of "everything".

Little did I know, we weren't even close to having everything taken care of. I gave the oath to the new Judge the morning of March 28th, right before we started the docket. Judge Kolb passed that same morning. I believe that he held on just long enough for us to complete that process.

As all of us worked through the grieving process, we began to realize the challenges we were facing.

· Things that seem small, like changing a name on a document, not a big deal, unless your Court is like mine and has your Judge's name on EVERY document. It took days to change all our documents to read "Presiding Judge".

· We were unable to process cases on Judge Kolb's standing orders, because I was still working with our new Judge to refine his standing orders.

· We had orders and judgments waiting on a Judge's signature – understandably, our new Judge was hesitant to sign orders that were not his own.

· Warrants that had been processed but not signed, had to be reprinted because the dates didn't coincide with the date the oath was given.

· I added the new Judge into our case management system, not realizing until weeks later, I didn't change one setting correctly and cases showed the incorrect Presiding Judge. I am very thankful to have an amazing staff that stopped everything they were doing and manually changed hundreds of cases to reflect the proper information.

**This list could go on and on, we are still working through issues as they arise. I share this with you in case you work in a Court similar to mine. We learned several valuable lessons during this process and if our story can help just one of you, it will be worth the share. The one thing I would recommend to everyone is have an Associate Judge or at least a plan B... in case your Presiding Judge wins the lottery and moves to Belize!**

The Regular Session of the 88th Legislature convened on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Just over 11,800 bills and resolutions were introduced. Here are just a couple of bills that impact municipal courts.

H.B. 2015 – Effective 9/1/2023, Section 62.106 (a) was amended by increasing the age of exemption of petit jurors from 70 to 75 years of age.

H.B. 2195 – Effective 9/1/2023, increases the penalty for wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plates

H.B. 898 – Effective 9/1/2023, increases the penalty for passing certain vehicles on a highway

H.B. 1819 – Effective 9/1/2023, repeals the authority for cities to adopt or enforce juvenile curfews

H.B. 3186 – Effective 1/1/2024, the Texas Youth Diversion and Early Intervention Act. This legislation applies to a child between ages 10 – 16 for all non-traffic fine-only violations. The legislation lays out diversion strategies, requirements of an adopted written diversion plan, diversion agreement, administrative fee, reporting requirements, and funding sources. Courts must implement the youth diversion plan no later than January 1, 2025, and will only apply to violations committed after that date.

## Greetings from the Freedom Trail Chapter

2023 is already halfway, and Summer is just upon us. I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. TCCA's 51st Annual Conference will be held in Georgetown, TX, and the dates are set for October 29-November 1, 2023. The theme will be Area 51: An Out of This World Educational Experience. I hope that you will be able to attend this year, there are a lot of fun items planned for this conference. I hope you all have a safe and fun summer; keep cool.

If you ever need anything, have any concerns, or may be interested in helping out the Freedom Trail Chapter reach out to me anytime by email: [agoff@helotes-tx.gov](mailto:agoff@helotes-tx.gov) or by phone: 210-695-5902. We look forward to visiting with you soon; it takes us even further when we all work together.

Take care,

***Andrea M. Goff Fontanes***

Andrea M. Goff Fontanes, CMCC, CCM  
Helotes Municipal Court Administrator



### FREEDOM TRAIL BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- President-Andrea M. Goff Fontanes (Helotes)
- Vice-President-Leandra Quick (New Braunfels)
- Treasurer-Stacy Martin (San Antonio)
- Secretary-Maribel Garcia (San Antonio)
- Education Chair-Leandra Quick (New Braunfels)
- Membership Chair-Andrea M. Goff Fontanes (Helotes)
- Historian Chair-Christina Zelenak (Castle Hills)
- Legislative Chair-Fred Garcia (San Antonio)
- Nominations Chair-Maribel Garcia (San Antonio)
- Scholarship Chair-Stacy Martin (San Antonio)



Greetings, North Texas Chapter.

We're halfway through the year! I wish everyone has an opportunity to enjoy some summer R&R. I know many of us are just about wrapping up or putting the finishing touches on our budgets for next year. I hope you all have been able to attend testing and training hosted this year, with a few more dates coming up in July and forward. Don't forget this year's annual conference and the proposed updates to the bylaws! Please reach out to us if you have feedback for the chapter. The NTC board links are on the chapter webpage.

Juan Paredes  
North Texas Chapter President



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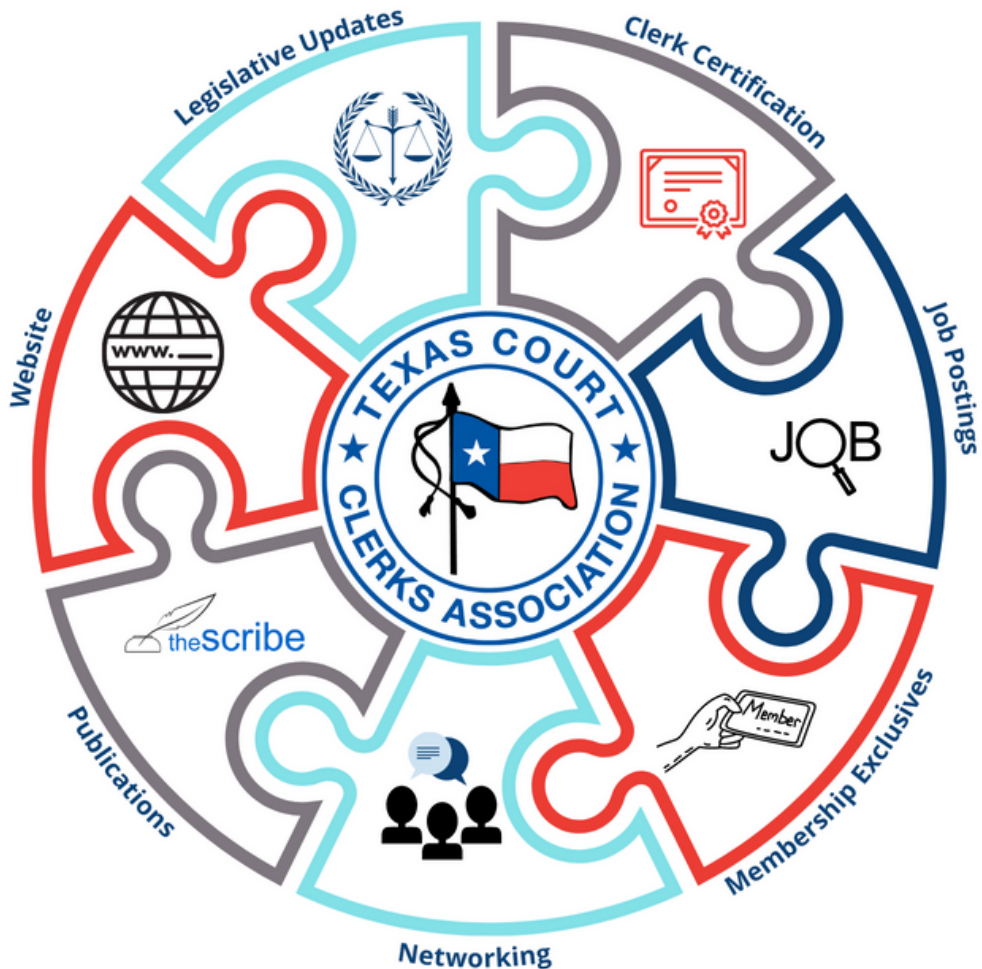
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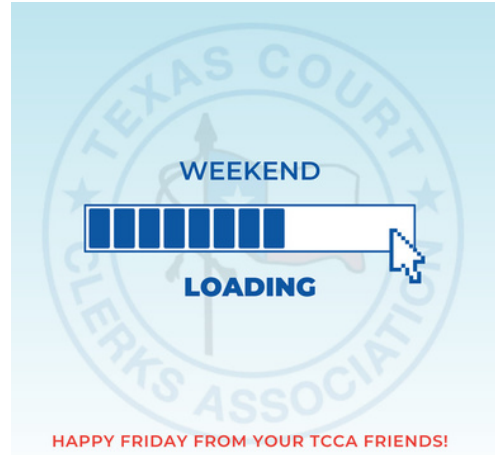


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