



# STRONGER *Together!*



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TEXAS COURT CLERKS ASSOCIATION

## Letter from President

I want to thank each of you for your continued support of TCCA. The TCCA Board and its many Committee volunteers spend countless hours of their personal time to make this association successful. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary at the 2022 TCCA Annual Conference and it was **AMAZING!** You will hear all about it from our Conference Planning Chair, **Jennifer Bozorgnia**, in her update.

A special "thank you" to outgoing Board Members **Chad Eixmann** and **Chrissy Dahse**. Chad served this Board as the Central Texas Chapter President and Nominations Chair. He is always willing to step in and help wherever he is needed. Chad's wisdom and calming nature will be missed. Chrissy served as the Gulf Coast Chapter President and Scholarship Committee Chair. Her dedication to TCCA has been a blessing and her willingness to assist with all things Scholarship related was greatly appreciated. Chrissy's smile and cheerful attitude are contagious!

You may recall that Michelle Smith was appointed to complete the term for Director at Large, which ends December 31, 2022. I am pleased to report that I am not listing her as an outgoing Board Member, because – in true Michelle fashion, she has agreed to accept an appointment to finish the Director at Large, Place 5 left vacant by the resignation of Lisa Sechrest.

**Lisa Sechrest** served as the Northeast Texas Chapter President, Director at Large and Co-chair of the Public Relations Committee. Lisa has assisted in making the awards program special for all of us. Her knowledge and willingness to assist with the Conference Planning Committee will be missed.

The Northeast Chapter met at the 2022 Annual Conference and decided it was time to let their Chapter become inactive. The TCCA Board was advised of their decision at the post-con meeting. While we are sad to see this transpire, we understand the challenges the Northeast Chapter has faced over the last few years.

They have scheduled educational and testing opportunities and had very little to no response. I applaud their efforts and want each of the Northeast Members to know that the Education Committee is committed to bring education to your area next year.

Also, please join me in welcoming first time Board Member Courtney Broussard, City of La Porte. Courtney was elected as Director at Large.

I want to update you on the progress the Bylaws Committee is making on the proposed changes. These changes will be presented to the TCCA Board of Directors at our Spring Meeting in February. If approved, the proposed changes will be placed on the ballot in the Fall for the Membership to vote on. I warned you that I was going to share information on these proposed changes every chance I get, so this is the last opportunity I have... this year!

I am including a comparison chart that Lisa Howard, Immediate Past-President and Bylaws Chair sent to me. We realize it is hard to read through a document and completely grasp how the proposed changes would affect the Association. I appreciate Lisa's dedication to this project and her chart is very easy to read.



I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and an amazing New Year!

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

# Election Results

## State Election Results

President: Landra Solansky (Seguin)

Secretary: Jennifer Dorsett (Watagua)

Directors At Large

Director At Large, Place 2: Debbie Landrum (Georgetown)

Director At Large, Place 4: Jeremy Leonard (Lewisville)

Director At Large, Place 6: Courtney Broussard (La Porte)

## Chapter Election Results

### North Texas:

President: Juan Paredes (Fort Worth)

Secretary: Heather Leonard (Cedar Hill)

Director at Large: Jed Tamayo (Frisco)

### Northeast Texas:

President: Stacie Chitty (Lindale)

Secretary: Suzanne Pharr (Mount Enterprise)

### South Texas:

President: Tiffany Totah (Victoria)

Secretary: N/A

Director at Large: Crystal Vasquez (South Padre Island)

### Central Texas:

President: Tracy Ventura (Liberty Hill)

Secretary: Beth Kuentz (Horseshoe Bay)

### Freedom Trail:

President: Andrea Goff (Helotes)

Secretary: Maribel Garcia (San Antonio)

### Gulf Coast

President: Jennifer Huhn (Pearland)

Secretary: Gerri Alfaro (Kemah)

# Our Golden Jubilee – Celebrating 50 Years of TCCA

Jennifer Bozorgnia, Conference Planning Chair

“No matter where you are in the world, you are at home when tea is served.”

-Earlene Grey



## 2022 TCCA CONFERENCE

It was a fair Spring day in Deer Park, Texas on March 14, 1972 when a dedicated group of court professionals met together and officially incorporated our Texas Court Clerks Association. Led by Deer Park's own Court Clerk, Ms. Lorna Nelson, the group envisioned a state judicial system governed by the principles of dignity, unity, and integrity – especially by clerks representing our Municipal Courts to the public they served. Now, fifty-years later, those same principles are used today by more than 1,000 TCCA members to continue that same mission of public confidence.

### 1972-2022

This year, as the 2022 Conference Planning Committee (CPC) began to design our Annual Conference, we knew we wanted a celebration – of where we started, where we've been, where we are today, and most importantly THE PEOPLE we've done it with all along the way!

For such a momentous occasion, all of us on the CPC felt a calling to ensure this conference stood out from all our others. Overall, we wanted all our past members – the leaders that led us – to know how much we appreciated them. We wanted all our current members to know how proud we are to serve alongside them. We wanted our newest members to know how much we believed in them for our future.

Our founder's story is an amazing one – filled with love, tragedy, determination, and an unwavering commitment to the highest standards in public service. Even after her courtroom days were over, Ms. Lorna generously shared her wisdom and experiences with others – usually over a cup of tea. Her actions irrevocably paved our way, elevating our profession and impacting our future. For me, knowing this and hearing about Tammy's serendipitous meeting with Ms. Lorna made the teacup presentation that opened our conference this year incredibly special – my personal favorite conference moment! Now sitting in a display case in my office, my teacup serves as continuous encouragement to utilize what makes me unique and reminds me that I'll always be “home” with the Texas Court Clerks Association.

We sincerely hope TCCA's Golden Jubilee was everything you hoped for and more! It takes a village, y'all, and I'm so very thankful for ours.

# A very special thank-you to the 2022 CPC members:

Landra Solansky	Lisa Howard	Pat Riffel
Jennifer Dorsett	Malia Elkins	Lisa Sechrest
Debbie Landrum	Tammy Odom	Mara Dudley
Jeremy Leonard	Heather Leonard	Andrea Goff
Tiffany Totah	Chrissy Dahse	Nikki Ashley

and to everyone who jumped in to help wherever it was needed while in San Marcos, and to all of our sponsors! The Conference can't happen without everything all of you do!



**We can't wait to see you at the next Conference in Georgetown for an out of this world experience!**

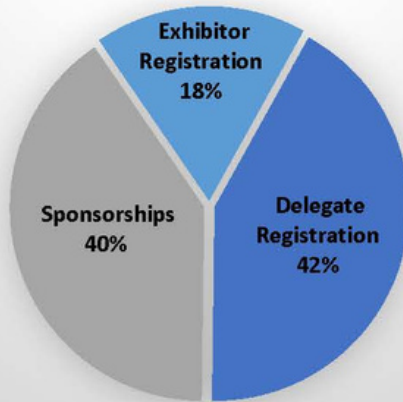
**Save the date October 29th through November 1st**



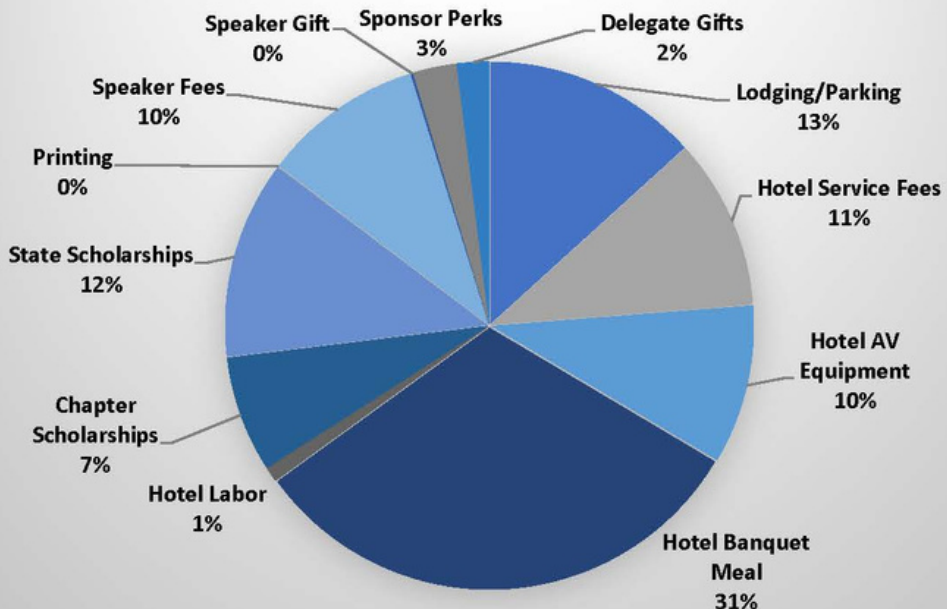
## 2022 CONFERENCE REVENUE AND EXPENSES

The Conference was made possible and a success by the generous monetary funding from our loyal sponsors and exhibitors. More than half of the revenue generated came from their dedicated support. To find out more how these vendors contribute to the efficiency of our courts, please take a look at the Exhibitor section of this newsletter. As you can see by the charts below, the Conference Planning Committee ensured fiscal accountability. Members have access to detailed financial reports online at <http://texasclerk.org/TCCA-Financials>.

### Revenue \$77,580



### Expenses \$76,933



# Thank YOU Sponsors, Exhibitors, Exhibitor Committee members and TCCA Board Members

Hello to all,

What an amazing time we had at the 2022 TCCA Annual Conference. It's hard to describe the depth of this year's experience as we celebrated TCCA's 50th anniversary. To say it was the best conference ever would be a huge understatement, especially when Tammy Odom "kicked" off the event sharing her story about Lorna Nelson! We all learned so much; grew personally and professionally; ate; developed life-long memories; reconnected with old friends; made new friends; hugged; cried; laughed until our sides hurt; stepped out of our comfort zones; even were a little vulnerable as we sang karaoke! Ha!

I want to take a moment to thank the sponsors,. Without them, this event would not have been possible.

Join me in giving a huge shout out to the awesome sponsors of the 2022 TCCA Annual Conference!

## Titanium Sponsor **Tyler Technologies**

## Silver Sponsors Linebarger **MVBA** **Perdue**

## Wi-Fi Sponsor **Legal Inc / Easy** **Expunctions**

I would also like to send my most sincere thanks to your amazing Exhibitor Committee: Tammy Odom, Chad Eixmann, Mara Dudley and Tiffany Totah.

I would also like to thank TCCA President Landra Solansky, TCCA Treasurer Malia Elkins, Conference Planning Chair Jennifer Bozorgnia, and Technology Chair Jeremy Leonard. Thank you all for your hard work, your valuable assistance, and everything you did to make 2022 the best conference ever!

If you were not able to attend, know that we missed you and hope to see you next year! In the meantime, check out the Virtual Exhibitor Guide on the TCCA Website at [www.texascourterks.org](http://www.texascourterks.org) for a complete listing of all of our exhibitors. You can find the exhibitor guide under the Annual Conference tab.



Hope you and your family have a happy holiday season!

**Debbie Landrum**

**Exhibitor Committee Chair**







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Lisa Howard, Lorna Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award  
with President Landra Solansky



Jennifer Bozorgnia, Board of Directors Award,  
with President Landra Solansky

# 2022 AWARDS RECIPIENTS



Tiffany Totah, Excellence Award  
with President Landra Solansky



All Award Recipients

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



Distinguished Service Award Recipients



Extraordinary Achievement Award Recipients

## Self-Care & Your Choice To Be A Better Public Servant

By **Edinia E. Espinoza**,  
Assistant to the Municipal Court Clerk  
City of San Antonio

As stewards of the court we are entrusted to be procedural justice ambassadors. The very definition of an ambassador speaks to being a representative. If we are to be effective procedural justice representatives and administer services in such a way that commands respect for the court, it is of a critical nature what we project in our character, attitudes, and moods. You see, our exchanges with our peers, supervisors, family members, and individuals who come to court is a testament to who we are. We are defined in those exchanges. Thankfully, we are more than a moment in our lives. We are a sum of the whole. But it's in the negative moments where we make lasting impressions, and generally not for the better. We'll call these negative moments of incivility. Incivility can be characterized as rudeness, disrespect, or insensitive behavior (See footnote).

In her TED Talk, "Effects of Incivility (Disrespect or Rudeness) on People", Christine Porath, a professor of management at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, describes incivility as a bug, and "...we become carriers of it just by being around it."

She goes on to explain that incivility is caused by stress. We can reason then, that in stressful moments, we are more apt to behave in uncivil ways. I think that's probably truer than any of us would like to admit. When we neglect self-care and instead choose to prioritize other items in our lives, we invite stress to take over. Without realizing it, we begin having moments of incivility. We behave rudely towards others. We may write off disrespectful attitudes as "that's just who I am". We may even miss opportunities to show empathy and instead react insensitively to the needs or misfortunes of others.

Most, if not all of us, at some point neglect our self-care. We put it on the back burner where we devalue our wellbeing over whatever we choose to prioritize. The thing is, we don't have to choose something else over ourselves. To give self-care priority you have to be smarter about how you manage your day, your week, your month, or even your year (did anyone else sing that last bit like they were watching the Friends opening? I did.). But it's a no-brainer.

If we decide to prioritize self-care, then we will reexamine how we manage our days, and without much interruption to our lives, we'll find a way to squeeze in a few minutes for meditation, a half hour to catch up on the TBR (to be read) stack of books piling up somewhere, a moment to write in a journal, go on a walk or jog, and countless other ways we didn't realize help us to relax or release stress.

The ways in which we can practice self-care are as varied as we are individuals. The online, open, and independent digital publishing platform Medium gives a comprehensive look into the various types of self-care. The article, "Are You Neglecting Self Care?" explores five types of self-care and practical ways to put them into action. I recommend you give it a read.

Whether you work in a low-volume, medium-volume, or high-volume court, you have all experienced high foot traffic days. These are the days when people will not stop coming in the door, the phones are busy, the line to make a payment keeps getting longer, a judge needs you, lunch feels like its 10 hours away, and the end of the day can't arrive soon enough. Insert self-care right here. These are the moments, the stressful ones, when we need to attend to our physical and mental health. Self-care in these stressful moments is critical to the image we want our court to have in the public's eye.

**As court clerks, bailiffs,  
court administrators, and other court support staff,  
it is never okay for us to be uncivil towards the public  
we serve.**

## Self Care Continued

It also goes without saying that we should not project incivility towards our family, peers, and others around us. If incivility can damage relationships, imagine what it can do to someone's perception of municipal courts. We are representatives of the third branch of government.

As the third branch of government, we do not have the liberty of responding to citizens, our peers, or our supervisors based on our stress levels. Our roles demand patience, empathy, civility, and a lot of times going the extra mile. There is no greater moment of excellence and professionalism than when we treat individuals with patience and empathy, though we may not be having the best day ever.

Self-care is not just about the wonderful feeling of a trip to the nail salon or time at the gym. It is about the care we give ourselves to destress, recenter our mental health, and help our minds and bodies come down from high stress. However you choose to address self-care, you have to make the choice to do it! **Prioritize yourself.** Do it because the people you love and care about deserve the best version of you. Do it because you deserve the best of you. Finally, do it because of the pride you have in the role you play at work, and the level of trust placed on you by the public.

We owe it to ourselves and the public whom we have committed to serving, to choose to be the best public servants we can be. **Step one, self-care.**

## Resources

1 <https://hbr.org/2022/11/frontline-work-when-everyone-is-angry>

### Contact information

**Edinia E. Espinoza, Assistant to the Municipal Court Clerk  
City of San Antonio**

**[Edinia.espinoza@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Edinia.espinoza@sanantonio.gov)**





# THANK YOU SPONSORS



# FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE TCCA CONFERENCE





# THANK YOU EXHIBITORS



# FOR THE SUPPORT AT THE TCCA CONFERENCE



**Greetings from the Freedom Trail Chapter:**

We had a blast at our TCCA 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration this year, if you did not get to join us this time around, I hope that you will be able to join us next time in Georgetown, TX.

I hope that everyone had a very Happy Holiday Season, I would like to take a moment to thank all the Freedom Trail Chapter board members and volunteers for helping out in any capacity this year. It has been a crazy year, but we were able to enjoy it together. If you would like to join in on the fun, please reach out to any of our board/committee members to offer any comments, advice or just to have a conversation. Have a Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone! Stay healthy and safe.

Take care,

*Andrea M. Goff Fontanes*

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

**Current Board/Committee Members:**

**President**-Andrea M. Goff Fontanes (Helotes); [agoff@helotes-tx.gov](mailto:agoff@helotes-tx.gov)

**Vice-President**-Leandra Quick (New Braunfels); [LQuick@newbraunfels.gov](mailto:LQuick@newbraunfels.gov)

**Treasurer**-Stacy Martin (San Antonio); [Stacy.Martin@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Stacy.Martin@sanantonio.gov)

**Secretary**-Maribel Garcia (San Antonio); [Maribel.Garcia2@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Maribel.Garcia2@sanantonio.gov)

**Education Chair**-Leandra Quick (New Braunfels); [LQuick@newbraunfels.gov](mailto:LQuick@newbraunfels.gov)

**Membership Chair**-Robin Shellard (New Braunfels); [rshellard@newbraunfels.gov](mailto:rshellard@newbraunfels.gov)

**Historian Chair**-Christina Zelenak (Castle Hills); [czelenak@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:czelenak@castlehills-tx.gov)

**Legislative Chair**-Fred Garcia (San Antonio); [Fred.Garcia@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Fred.Garcia@sanantonio.gov)

**Nominations Chair**-Maribel Garcia (San Antonio); [Maribel.Garcia2@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Maribel.Garcia2@sanantonio.gov)

**Scholarship Chair**-Stacy Martin (San Antonio); [Stacy.Martin@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Stacy.Martin@sanantonio.gov)





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# THANK YOU TCCA MEMBERS



# FOR CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE WITH US!



# SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

With a new year comes new opportunities to broaden your horizons! Keep a close watch on the TCCA website for state and chapter scholarship deadlines early this Spring. Every year, scholarship opportunities go unawarded. The application process is simple and your employer will be delighted with the funds saved by your city. Annual Conference is a great opportunity to grow your professional network, share ideas with others, and, no doubt, a place to mentor and be mentored!

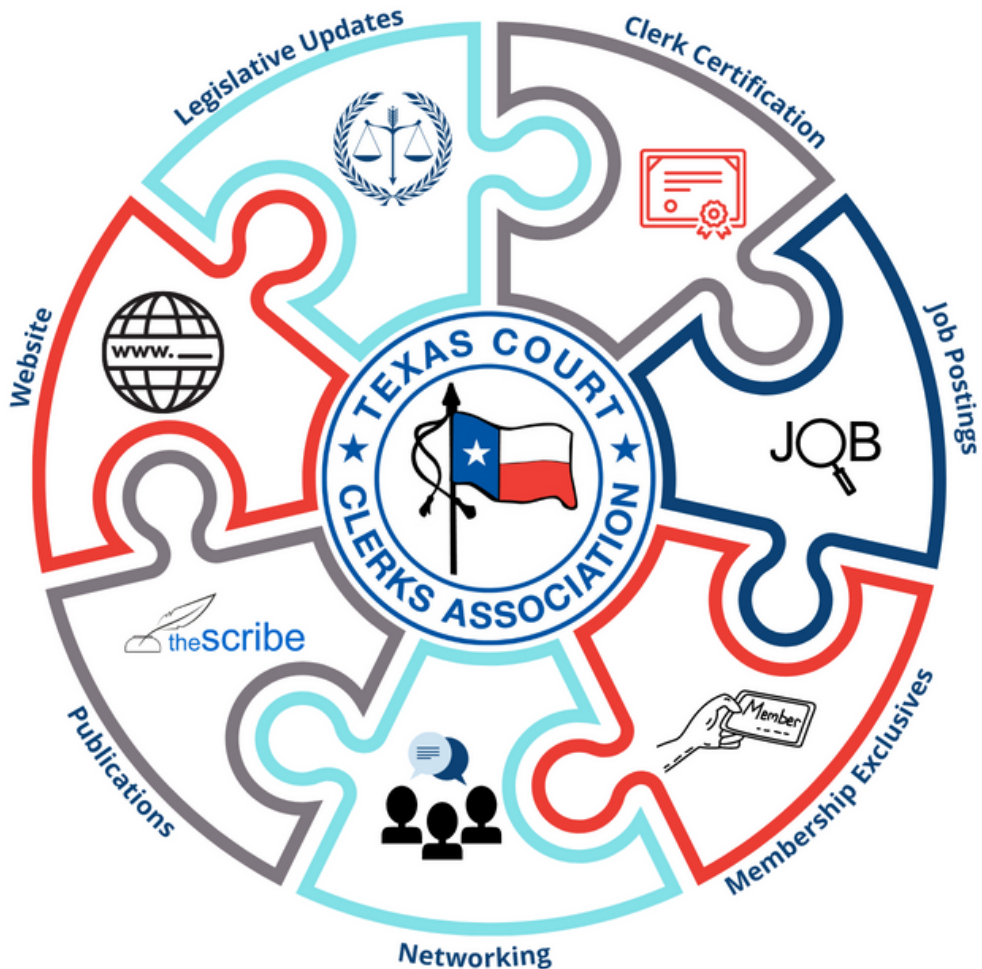


I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be your Scholarship Chair for the past several years and introduce your new chair, Jennifer Huhn of Pearland!



**Chrissy Dahse,  
your past Gulf Coast  
Chapter President and  
Scholarship Committee  
Chair**

A TCCA MEMBERSHIP IS THE  
MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT  
YOU CAN MAKE IN YOUR CAREER

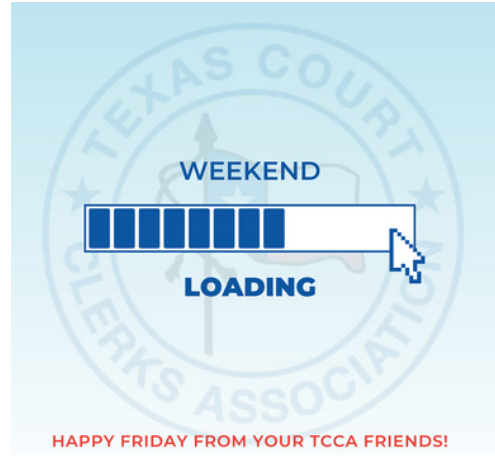


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