



The Scribe

THE BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY TCCA

JUNE 2020

THE CONTINUING EFFECTS OF COVID-19

HOW COURTS ARE MANAGING DURING THE 2020 PANDEMIC



4 President's Letter



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ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**November
14 -17
2021**

Embassy Suites
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SAVE THE DATE

Conference News

We are excited to announce the 2021 and 2022 TCCA Annual Conference dates! The Conference will remain in San Marcos for the next two years. Plans are already being made and we have contracted with the Embassy Suites for the dates of November 14-17, 2021 and November 6-9, 2022.



A Letter From Your President



Dear TCCA Members,

For as long as I can remember, past June issues of the Scribe have been filled with exciting news about our upcoming Annual Conference. The TCCA Board is usually in full swing “Conference Mode” by now. Unfortunately, 2020 greeted us with the Covid-19 State of Disaster Declaration and a total shut down of our communities.

When the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel the conference, we knew it was the right thing to do. Out of all the factors we considered, the financial impact on our cities and counties seemed to be the major focus. In the letter to the members, I explained our discussion related to travel restrictions, budget shortfalls and the social distancing requirements.

Our city and county leaders are going to be forced to make difficult decisions during the 2020/2021 budget process. I believe our pro-active approach to cancelling this conference will show our governing bodies that TCCA appreciates and understands the difficult situation they are facing. As an association, this is our opportunity to work as partners with cities and counties to support court clerks across the State by offering alternative training opportunities during this crisis.

I want to take a moment to thank the TCCA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. Yes, we are having to postpone our conference, but that doesn’t mean their work is done for the rest of the year. There are still tasks to complete in order to hold elections, etc. This is one of the best groups I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

I find it ironic that the theme for the 2020 Conference was “Vision 20/20, Insight Into Building Valuable Relationships.” Our Conference Planning Committee did a great job with this theme and I plan to use it in my work and family life. There is no better time for us all to reflect on what a blessing this association has been for us. We have supported each other through tornados, hurricanes and floods. We have mourned and prayed for each other during times of tragedy, illness and loss. We have lifted each other up through tough times and celebrated accomplishments of our fellow members. Now, during the Covid-19 pandemic, we will once again support and encourage each other as we work through these challenges together. I am happy to be a part of the TCCA family and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon! Until then, don’t forget to check out our Facebook page and let us know how you are doing.

Sending you all virtual hugs and blessings!

LANDRA SOLANSKY
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
CITY OF SEGUIN
2020 TCCA PRESIDENT

2020 TEXAS COURT CLERKS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Term Expires 2020

Past President

Lisa Howard, Hurst
Term Expires 2020

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Kimberly Kierce, Richardson
Term Expires 2021

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Term Expires 2021

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Term Expires 2020

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Term Expires 2020

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Term Expires 2020

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Term Expires 2021

Robin Shellard, New Braunfels
Term Expires 2020

Mara Dudley, Llano
Term Expires 2021

Lisa Sechrest, Quinlan
Term Expires 2021

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

CENTRAL TEXAS

April Christiansen
Cedar Park

NORTH TEXAS

Jennifer Bozorgnia
Irving

SOUTH TEXAS

Tiffany Totah
Victoria

FREEDOM TRAIL

Andrea Goff
Helotes

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Lona Maxted
White Oak

WEST TEXAS

Vacant

GULF COAST

Christina Dahse
City of Willis

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2020 BALLOT INFORMATION

The Election Nominations Committee is currently requesting members to submit nomination(s) for those members who may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors or prospective chapters. If you would like to make multiple nominations, please submit separate applications. As a courtesy to the person you wish to nominate, please obtain their approval before submitting this form.

State nominations will open on June 1, 2020 and will close on June 16, 2020. Chapter nominations will open on June 16, 2020 and close on July 1, 2020. Please submit the nominations by the deadline to qualify for the 2020 election. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Howard at lhoward@hursttx.gov.

PRESENT STATE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:

1. PRESIDENT: (LANDRA SOLANSKY)
2. SECRETARY: (JENNIFER DORSETT)
3. DIRECTOR AT LARGE PLACE #2 (TIFFANY TOTAH)
4. DIRECTOR AT LARGE PLACE #4 (ROBIN SHELLARD)
5. DIRECTOR AT LARGE PLACE #6 (JEREMY LEONARD)

CHAPTER NOMINATIONS GO OUT: JUNE 16-30 2020: CLOSE JULY 1, 2020

DECEMBER, 2020 COMPLETES THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

STATE positions up for election are President, Secretary, and Three Directors at Large.

CHAPTER positions up for election are President, Secretary, and Directors at Large.

STATE:

PRESIDENT:
SECRETARY:
DIRECTOR AT LARGE

SOUTH TEXAS:

PRESIDENT: (TIFFANY TOTAH)
SECRETARY: (AMANDA ELLIS)
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: (VACANT)

GULF COAST:

PRESIDENT: (CHRISSY DAHSE)
SECRETARY: (COURTNEY BROUSSARD)

CENTRAL TEXAS:

PRESIDENT: (APRIL CHRISTIANSEN)
SECRETARY: (CRYSTAL MARTINEZ)

NORTH TEXAS:

PRESIDENT: (JENNIFER BOZORGNIA)
SECRETARY: (MELISSA RODRIGUEZ)
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: (LANA VIDAKOVIC)
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: (JUAN PAREDES)

FREEDOM TRAIL:

PRESIDENT: (ANDREA GOFF)
SECRETARY: (CLAUDIA CARRERA)

NORTHEAST TEXAS:

PRESIDENT: (LANA MAXTED)
SECRETARY: (CINDY BEALL)

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 1ST THROUGH 31ST BALLOT PREP AND VETTING NOMINATIONS/ TESTING OF BALLOTS

STATE VOTING OPENS: AUGUST 1ST THRU 15TH 2020

CLOSE STATE VOTING: AUGUST 16TH 2020

CHAPTER VOTING OPENS: AUGUST 16TH THRU 31ST 2020

CHAPTER VOTING CLOSES: SEPTEMBER 1ST 2020

2020 PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Proposed change: ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

D. Emeritus. Any non-exhibitor person who has made a significant contribution to the science of court administration or rendered distinguished service in related fields ~~may be elected as an Emeritus in the Association by a majority vote of the membership via online voting.~~ **may apply for Emeritus membership through an application process. Applications for Emeritus shall be submitted to the Membership Chair and voted on by the Board of Directors as applications are received. The results will be announced at the annual meeting. The applicants and membership will be notified of the results after the vote by the Board of Directors.**

An Emeritus shall be entitled to receive copies of the association newsletter. An Emeritus may not hold another class of membership in the Association and does have the right to attend the Annual Business Meeting and chapter meetings but may not vote or hold office. An Emeritus may serve on a committee.

Current Bylaw:

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Proposed change: ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

3. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect, receive and have custody of all funds of the Association with the exception of the Certification Program Funds (see ARTICLE IX; Paragraph 14). He/She shall deposit such funds in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and shall provide for the expenditures of such funds. He/She shall make a semi-annual financial report to the officers and Board members of the Association and shall make a report to the Association at the Annual Meeting. He/She shall assume such duties in connection with the work of Treasurer as shall be designated, specified or assigned by the Board of Directors.

He/She shall deliver to his successor all Association property and records in his/her possession immediately after the installation of a new Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall be required to furnish bond in such amount as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The premium of said bond shall be a proper expenditure of Association funds. All checks shall have the signature of the Treasurer or President, and on the unavailability of the either, the Vice-President.

The Treasurer shall present a proposed line item budget for the next fiscal year to the membership at the Annual Meeting **for discussion. The Board of Directors shall vote on the budget at the Post-Conference meeting.** A simple majority of members present shall be deemed sufficient to adopt said budget. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to perform a line item transfer, providing the transfer does not result in exceeding the overall budget. Any realized line item overage shall require the Treasurer to submit a revised budget for Board approval as stated above. This may require Board approval by email. There shall be a full compliance review of all books and records of the Association each year. IRS tax forms shall be completed in compliance with current Federal law, and appropriate tax documents shall be filed by the Treasurer annually with the CPA for filing of taxes with the IRS.

2020 PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

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- Bankruptcy Representation
- Minerals Department
- Property Value Study
- Taxable Value Audit
- Truth-in-Taxation

McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen P.C. Attorneys at Law mvbalaw.com

MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID. BE KIND TO YOUR MIND.

By Darlena Wills, Deputy Court Clerk
Georgetown Municipal Court

It seems like just yesterday we were saying goodbye to 2019 and ringing in the “Roaring 20s,” 2020s that is. Almost as quickly as the Waterford crystal ball dropped in Times Square at the stroke of midnight did the world enter the uncharted territory of a Pandemic. The COVID-19 Crisis of 2020 has taken us all by surprise and has disrupted our way of life, both on a personal level and professional level.

It’s really hard to achieve a work-life balance when our entire way of life has changed, and keeps changing. Although we may feel helpless with all that’s going on in the world around us, there are a few things that we can do to help shepherd us through the insecurities and uncertainties of the COVID-19 crisis.

Maintain a routine

Whether you’re working at home or still going into the office, keeping a routine will help you maintain a sense of normalcy. Many Prisoners of War (POWs) write that maintaining a routine while in captivity helped them maintain their sanity and get them back home with most of their mental faculties intact.

Limit media exposure

Repeated exposure to negative media (TV and radio) and social media has negative consequences on one’s mental well being. Subscribe to some “feel good” sites or pages and make sure you consume a balanced media diet. If you immerse yourself in nothing but doom-and-gloom, it’ll adversely affect your mood.

Utilize your Employee Assistance Program’s counseling benefit

Many city governments offer a multi-faceted Employee Assistance Program (EAP), one of the benefits of an EAP is no-cost or low cost counseling up to a certain number of sessions. Sometimes just speaking out loud to another human and sharing your feelings can make you feel less anxious and more able to cope with what’s going on in your life.

Take time to laugh

Laughter does a soul good. At least twice a day, take a short “laugh break.” Something as simple as watching



a short video of your favorite comedian, a silly puppy howling at a siren, a kitten with wet paws “shaking it out” or watching Lucy & Ethel work an assembly line of chocolate candies on a conveyor belt. Just a little laughter can release the feel-good brain chemical serotonin and help put you at ease. As the old adage says, “laughter is the best medicine.”

Smell something good

Keeping nearby something vanilla or citrus scented, like an essential oil, a diffuser, a hand crème or a candle may help alleviate tension. Studies have shown that these scents work on receptors in your brain to produce happy feelings or feelings of satisfaction.

Music that heals

Many studies have shown that adding music helps calm anxiety, prevent depression, elevate mood and promote relaxation. Tune it up and turn it up.

Journaling through COVID-19

Journaling through any crisis is often helpful with sorting out your thoughts and feelings, but journaling through a Pandemic serves two purposes. Bearing witness to the pandemic and recording how it affected you may not only help you sort through your anxiety and fears, but provide also an interesting retrospective years from now.

Using these tools and intergrating them into your daily activities may very well bring you a little more peace and calm, it may also help you become more mindful. In the meantime, take care of yourself, and of each other.

SOUTH

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Hello South Chapter!

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you all as the interim South Chapter President. My name is Tiffany Totah and I am the Court Administrator for the City of Victoria. I am currently serving as a Director at Large for TCCA. Effective back in February, I was appointed by the Board of Directors for TCCA as the interim Chapter President for the South Chapter. Shortly after, the COVID pandemic swept the nation. If there is one good thing that happened from all this, it’s we are learning along the way and we are all in this together! I wanted to take a minute and introduce the board to you all. Should you have any questions or need any assistance please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the other board members:

- Tiffany Totah, City of Victoria, interim President
- Adrienne Dill, City of Corpus Christi, Vice President
- Amanda Ellis, City of Cuero, Secretary
- Elizabeth Montes, City of Victoria Treasurer
- Laura Garza, City of Corpus Christi, Immediate Past President

I can be reached at by phone at (361) 485-3050 or e-mail at ttotah@victoriatx.gov. I look forward to working with the South Chapter! I hope you all are staying safe and well during this time.



NORTHEAST

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Court life during COVID-19



In these challenging times, we are all navigating through uncertainty for ourselves, our loved ones and our community. The North East Texas Chapter hopes you are staying healthy and safe!

NORTH

North Texas Chapter Members,

Wow! 2020 has certainly turned out differently than any of us expected. If your Court is anything like ours, TMCEC webinars have been constant, Zoom meetings are plentiful, and revenue is nonexistent. From court shut-downs to learning a whole new way of balancing work and home obligations, “social distancing” and “unprecedented” have become the words of the year. I know we’ve each been impacted by this in different ways, and I’m hoping each of you have found silver linings in the struggles you’ve endured.

I know I’ve learned a lot about myself and reinforced what I already knew about our profession. First, I now know I will NEVER homeschool my children! We all have things we’re good at... but I am definitely not good at that. Next, a positive attitude is EVERYTHING! As court clerks, I’ve seen our resilience, our creativity, and our ability to problem solve! So proud to serve our communities alongside all of you!

Congratulations to those who have achieved certification milestones and other significant accomplishments. We’ll make sure to find creative ways to recognize your hard work. If you know of someone you think deserves a shout-out, PLEASE send me an email with the details! I’d love to compile these and create something special.

If nothing else, throughout all of this, the new memes created have been great! Many of the best have been inappropriate, but I’ve included some of my favorite that are not. ☺ I hope that each of you are finding time to laugh. When we get through this, our normal may look a little different, but it won’t change our mission or our level of service to our members. I’m looking forward to seeing you all LIVE and IN PERSON soon! Stay safe, North Texas!

- Jennifer Bozorgnia, NTX Chapter President

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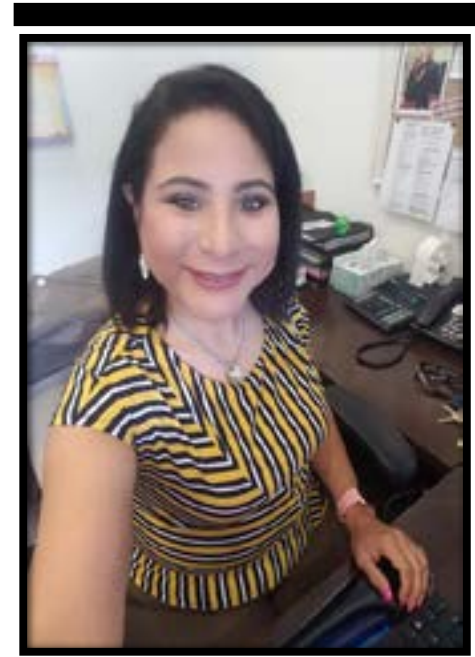


Homeschool day
1:
Wondering how I
can get this kid
transferred out
of my class.



FREEDOM TRAIL

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It's Not Goodbye....It's I'll see you later!!

It is with great sadness that effective June 5, 2020 I will resigning from my position as President of the TCCA Freedom Trail Chapter. It was an honor serving each and every one of you, and I have enjoyed the friendships I have made along the way. I will be retiring in September with 20 years of service in Municipal Government, and I will be moving to the beautiful hill country of Boerne, Texas. Andrea Goff Fontanes with the City of Helotes will be filling my position as Interim President, until the position can be permanently filled. I had so much fun at Conferences, Chapter Meetings, and Training Events. I'm sure I will be seeing you in the future in a different capacity, and we will pick up right where we left off. It certainly was my pleasure working with each you...Keep on Smiling and Keep on Shining!!!

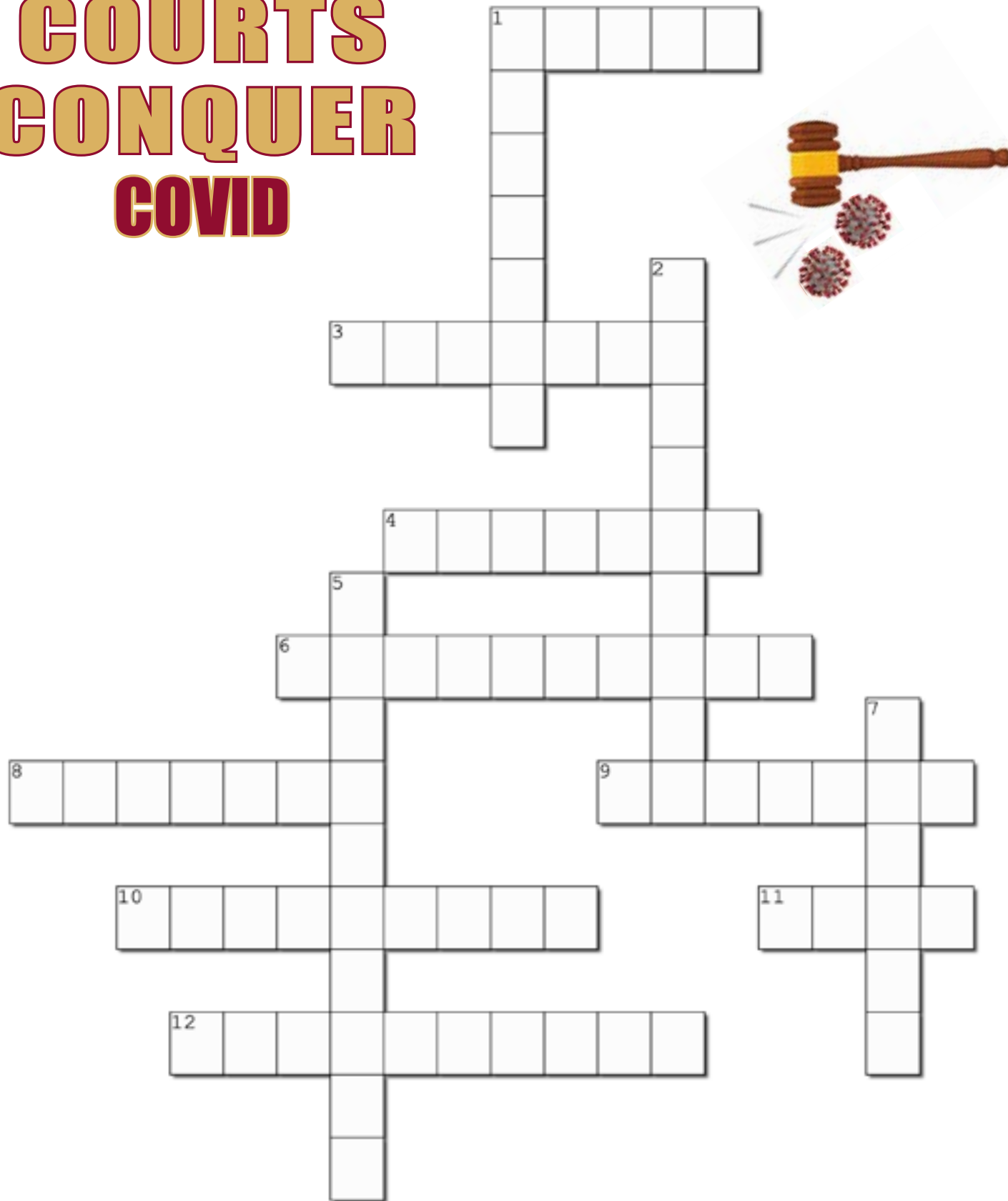
Viviana Farnsworth, City of Terrell Hills Municipal Court

CENTRAL

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COURTS CONQUER COVID



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Across

1. you don't want it on your computer or in your body
3. night time wardrobe or work from home wardrobe
4. internet sensation of whipped coffee delight
6. binged series during pandemic
8. it's not just for entertainment anymore
9. a group of similar things occurring together
10. we worked hard to do this to a line that deviates from being straight
11. to go quickly, to make larger or to meet virtually
12. sums it up since mid-March

Down

1. almost as described or the new norm
2. of course we are!
5. keeping open court open
7. far, far away or working from home

Two winners will be selected. Please email your answers to mdudley@cityofllano.com by June 15, 2020. The winner will be announced in our Facebook group and will be contacted directly by Mara on June 30, 2020. Good luck!

OMNIBASE

Services of Texas, LP

OmniBase Services of Texas maintains and administers the central database for the cities and counties contracted to use the Department of Public Safety's Failure to Appear Program. The FTA program as authorized by Chapter 706 of the Texas Transportation Code, provides an effective collection and enforcement tool by restricting the violator's ability to renew their drivers license for outstanding violations.

Online Dispute Resolution – Covid-19 Resistant Court

By Kevin Barrett, Court Administrator
City of Farmers Branch



Have you ever heard in your many telephone calls, court appearances or citizens at the window ask this question:

“Why can't I just do this online?”

Well in the City of Farmers Branch we heard that continuously for years and years. Yes we had some capabilities such as online payment, online deferred and a jury portal, but we did not have a window into our court that a person could reach us just as though they walked into the courtroom. That is what ODR has done for Farmers Branch. After studying the issue at length we finally discovered that an Online Dispute Resolution could provide us what we really needed to move forward and give our citizens what they desperately wanted.

We worked closely with a vendor who allowed us to customize our entire system. Many of the setup calls started out describing steps of what happened from the moment a person walks into our courthouse. We wanted to ensure that anything you could do in person could be done through our online system. We have continued to develop and add features as we learn more about what our public needs and what works best for the court. The

ability to customize this project has allowed us to write in procedures and standing orders within our code. Our community has been thrilled with the results and so am myself. One citizen comments:

“the repeated text messages were great in reminding me to take care of business before the expiration date! this was the easiest governmental process I have ever encountered. thank you!!!”

When Covid-19 began to emerge in North Texas I did not have many concerns with how we would be able to function. In fact, our city made the decision to shut the doors to the public on March 20, 2020 and we sent most employees home. What that could mean for many courts are huge backlogs in cases? We began at that

time to reach out to people with court cases and personally invite them by phone to our eCourt website to complete their process.

We have been able to finish most all of the processes

that we would normally do in person (except things like juveniles or assault family violence charges of course).

We had already found that our daily volumes had decreased substantially after the launch of the eCourt website as well. When given the option, majority of citizens had begun to “appear” through our portal. Our docket weights have decreased in size and we found that more people were taking care of things quicker and not waiting for their court dates. We have modules for Traffic, Code Enforcement, Arrest Warrant and Failure to Satisfy Judgment modules that cover majority of all of our cases.

During the Covid-19 crisis the court already had the ability to work easily from home since our ODR is a web application. Every day, the clerks log into the system and begin to work the cases and forward them to the judge or prosecutor or vice versa depending on workflow. This has allowed for everyone to stay home and stay safe as our city administration has directed us to do.

A few interesting things that should be looked at that surprised me when we surveyed people who utilized our system. MORE than 50% of those who engaged in the eCourt system stated they would NOT have been able to get off work and no other way to handle the citation. Further, nearly 80% of people who engage

with our system do so on a mobile device, not a PC. I find this interesting and it shows that many people are on the go and rely heavily on technology to complete important tasks such as handling criminal citations.

The simple fact that we have been live with an ODR solution since 2018 and before COVID-19 coming onto the scene, it has allowed our court to maintain some amount of continuity in an uncertain world. We continue to adjudicate cases and continue to offer a virtual lobby and courtroom to our citizens. I am grateful we did not have to shut our eyes and ears with our doors simply because we were not already listening to what our community was asking us for.

ODR has given the court to the people, for the people and on the people's schedule when so much has been taken away from them right now.

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- Constituent focus** — Our modern, supportive, and compliant solutions ensure constituents understand and meet their obligations.



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Jordan Freytag,
Vice President,
Business
Development

Jordan.Freytag@gilacorp.com
(512) 323-4301

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TMCEC Attorneys Discuss Municipal Court in the Time of COVID-19

The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced courts to re-examine fundamental processes and procedures in unprecedented ways. Six months ago, who would have thought that Texas courts would be, in some cases, conducted all court business remotely? This has raised numerous questions for municipal courts throughout the state. In this column, TMCEC Deputy Counsel Robby Chapman and General Counsel Mark Goodner sat down to discuss answers to three common questions about conducting municipal court during a pandemic.

(QUESTION 1) The Office of Court Administration issued guidance on May 4 that requires submission of an “operating plan” to the Regional Presiding Judge for the Administrative Region. What or Who is a Regional Presiding Judge?

RC: Anyone that has processed a motion to recuse or disqualify has worked with the Regional Presiding Judge for the Administrative Region. This is the judge that assigns a different judge to hear a motion to recuse or disqualify or hear a case in which the original judge is recused or disqualified. Outside of that process, most court personnel likely have not encountered their Regional Presiding Judge. There are 11 regions and one presiding judge for each region. The Governor ultimately appoints the judge under authority laid out in Section 74.005 of the Government Code.

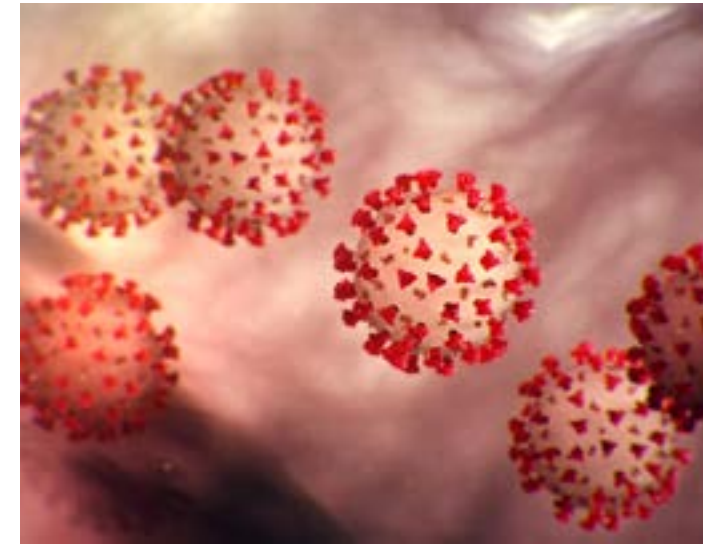
MG: Typically, this information is readily available here: <https://www.txcourts.gov/organizations/policy-funding/administrative-judicial-regions/>. Unfortunately, on Friday, May 8, 2020 a ransomware attack on the judicial branch network operated by OCA led to the disabling of the branch network by OCA IT staff. Currently, much of the Texas Judicial Branch websites are still down. This makes it a bit more difficult to identify Regional Presiding Judges. The Administrative Judicial Regions themselves, however are listed in Section 74.042 of the Government Code (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.74.htm>). There are 11 Administrative Judicial Regions and each one serves multiple counties. Keep checking the website, but if it is still down, you can find your region and then search google for the Regional Presiding Judge for that region. There are some other sites that usually pop up. Of course, we can always do what court personnel are very good at doing—checking with colleagues in the county to see if they have the information!

RC: The other question is, why send the operating plan to the Regional Presiding Judge of the Administrative Region? The duties and authority of that judge are also spelled out in the Government Code. Among other things, these include advising local courts on case flow management, ensuring implementation of guidelines set by the Supreme Court, and improving the administration of justice. For those that need it, the original letter from OCA is linked to the TMCEC website at www.tmcec.com/index.php/download_file/view/11049/1062/.



(QUESTION 2) What are the requirements for my judge’s continuing education hours during the pandemic?

MG: All municipal judges are still required to annually complete 16 hours of judicial education between September 1st and August 31st. On March 30, 2020, however, The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued an Emergency Order Regarding the Rules of Judicial Education. The order suspended portions of the rules that require live, continuous hours of judicial education that would prevent a judge from completing his or her hours during the disaster. Now, all 16 hours can be completed by electronic means until thirty days after the Governor lifts the Declaration of State of Disaster. TMCEC continues to offer new webinars frequently, and there are over 200 webinars on demand currently. Additionally, all sessions from the 2020 regional judges seminars are recorded and available on TMCEC’s Online Learning Center.



RC: Certified court clerks are also still required to complete continuing education in order to maintain certification. Levels I and II must complete 12 hours. Level III must complete 20 hours. On March 17, 2020, though, our partners at the Texas Court Clerks Association released a statement authorizing all of the hours for this academic year to be completed through TMCEC webinars. The requirement is that it must be either a live or archived TMCEC webinar. And the hours must be recorded in the clerk’s TMCEC profile on or before August 31, 2020. This only pertains to the current academic year, ending on that date. As Mark said, there are over 200 webinars currently available on the TMCEC Online Learning Center (OLC), with more being added each week. All sessions from this year’s regional clerks seminars are also available as recordings under “FY 20 Regional Clerks” on the OLC.

(QUESTION 3) What is the authority to conduct court proceedings remotely?

RC: Authority to conduct court remotely was quite limited prior to the pandemic. In fact, this question came up at the Austin Legislative Update. At the time, direct authority for video or telephone proceedings in a courtroom was limited by Article 45.0201 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to Capias Pro Fine Show Cause Hearings or the new Reconsideration of Fine or Cost Hearings. Of course, nobody then could have imagined that Texas courts would be going full on George Jetson soon! The current and much broader authority to conduct court remotely is found in the Emergency Orders issued by the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals.

MG: I agree, there was some limited authority for handing things through videoconferencing—Art. 15.17 Magistration hearings and Article 45.046 Commitment hearings also come to mind—but that changed on March 13, 2020 with

the issuance of Emergency Order 1 by the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals. Emergency Order 1 permitted all courts to allow or require remote participation in hearings by everyone except jurors. Less than a week later, in Emergency Order 3, courts were prohibited from conducting non-essential proceedings in person. Both orders were later clarified and amended by the 12th Emergency Order on April 27, 2020. Under that order, the authority to allow anyone (other than a petit juror) involved in any hearing or proceeding of any kind to participate remotely by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means was extended until June 1, 2020. Additionally, courts were told they must not conduct in-person proceedings contrary to OCA guidance. More recently, courts were given guidance regarding proceedings on or after June 1, 2020. In the guidance, courts are told they should use all reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely. In fact, according to OCA, both essential and non-essential proceedings should occur remotely unless court participants are unable to successfully participate in a remote hearing for reasons beyond the court’s control. In other words, the court should not be the reason that remote proceedings are not happening. This guidance is in effect indefinitely, until further updated.

CLERK CERTIFICATIONS

NOVEMBER 2019 - MAY 2020



Congratulations to everyone for a great achievement. If you are interested in learning more about the Certification Program, visit: www.tmcec.com. Don't forget to update your profile to reflect your proper certification level and more.

Active Level I = CCCI
Active Level II = CCCII
Active Level III = CMCC

LOGIN TO TCCA

LEVEL 1		
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Fernando	Aguilar	McKinney
Betsy	Amaya	Houston
Gabriella	Andreottola	Hallsville
Peggy	Arias	Bulverde
Lauren	Balko	Corpus Christi
Priscilla	Benavides	Laredo
Deanne	Berdan	Killeen
Shanna	Botelho	Tomball
Lynn	Bradshaw	Lago Vista
Crystal	Briscoe	Coolidge
Lisa	Calhoun	Plano
Roberto	Cardenas	Selma
Kathryn	Caspersen	Tomball
Louis	Castillo	Austin
Dianney	Ceron	Houston
Amanda	Chavez	Clyde
Kayla	Cohrt	Whitney
Alexandria	Corkran	Leon Valley
Sharon	Covington	Rusk
Janett	Duran	Elgin
Monetta	Ferrer	Midland
Renee	Flores	Woodway
Juan	Garcia	Arlington
Javier	Garcia	Allen
Candy	Garcia	Leander
Anahi	Garcia-Hernandez	Arlington
Guadalupe	Garza	Pearland

Ashley	Gilliland	Austin
Marissa	Guerrero	San Antonio
Lindsey	Hall	Conroe
Ameera	Hallaq	Fort Worth
Caitlin	Hammarth	Austin
Kirby	Hewett	Longview
Mandi	Hodge	Onalaska
Charles	Houston	Allen
Cristol	Ibarra	Wallis
Jazzlyn	Johnson	Houston
Margarita	Jordan	The Colony
Yelena	Kimble	Mesquite
Samantha	Loera	Grand Prairie
Linda	Longoria	Laredo
Aracely	Lopez	Pearland
Samantha	Maddox	Alvin
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Jessica	Martinez	Corpus Christi
Julieta	Martinez	Pearland
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Jennifer	Melendez	Sugar Land
Greaker	Morgan	Longview
Patricia	Nicholson	Houston
Brandy	Oliver	Tomball
Maria	Penaloza	Baytown
Stacy	Pender	Farmers Branch
Elva	Perez	Seabrook
Alejandra	Perez	Mesquite

Linda	Perez	Longview
Lindsay	Rebeles	Eules
Christy	Reed	Montgomery
Frances	Rios	Odem
Cintia	Rocha	Edgecliff Village
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Monica	Session	Henderson
Robin	Shellard	New Braunfels
Liliana	Sierra	Arlington
Amy	Smith	Burleson
Brittany	Stith	Rusk
Andreea	Sturza	Sugar Land
Cherisse	Thibedeaux	Houston
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Lesly	Vega Martinez	Longview
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Darlena	Wills	
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Earnestine	Broyles	Lakeway
Jeffrey	Burchfield	San Antonio
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Brittany	Castleberry	Arlington
Lorena	Cerna	Carrizo Springs
Cheri	Colbert	Arlington
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Paula	Dale	Addison
Kristina	Dean	Plano
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Dalyn	McDougle	Cedar Park
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Brenda	Mendiola	Katy
Tyeshia	Morrow	Longview
Ruth	Najera	Frisco
Sofia	Nickerson	College Station
Shelby	Orasanu	Westlake
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Amber	Schuler	Shady Shores
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Have a certification photo you want to share?

Email: texasclerk@yahoo.com



#112 Christine McMains (Lacy Lakeview)



#113 Brenda Watkins (Universal City)

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Principal Office: Austin, Texas. The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is Carmen Perez.

TCCA TRAINING CALENDAR JANUARY 2020 - March 2020

Check your status: www.tmcec.com

To ensure that there are no delays in obtaining certification, please ensure that you are a TCCA or TMCA member in good standing before registering to test or remit the correct fee for non-member testing. Members of TCCA and Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) will receive a \$75.00 discount. Non-members will be invoiced for the balance due. Testing results will not be released until all outstanding fees are paid.

The academic year begins on September 1st and ends on August 31st each year. The renewal hours must be obtained within this time period each year. Hours are not allowed to be carried over or used from a previous year.

Due to COVID-19 many classes have been cancelled. Both TMCEC and TCCA have updated testing schedules. The new online flash cards are available on TMCEC OLC—hard copies will be available for sale sometime in the future.

Practice tests for Level 1 and Level 2 are in process of revision and will be available by end of June.

Visit the TCCA website to stay up-to-date on current and future training opportunities in 2020! TCCA Training: www.texasclerk.org

In Memory Of

By Landra Solansky, Seguin

Many of you know and love Connie Crenshaw, retired Luling Municipal Court Administrator. It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of her loving husband, John. She shared the news with me with the following words, "I wanted to let you know my dear soul mate of almost 48 years died quietly Tuesday afternoon, May 19th, here at our home with all of the family present."

John has been a constant supporter of Connie through the years and always attended the TCCA Annual Conference with her. Sitting with them and listening to stories of their adventures while doing missionary work will always be a special memory for many of us. I have included John's obituary below along with a picture of the two of them taken just a few weeks ago. Please keep Connie and her family in your thoughts and prayers, John was a good Man and he will be greatly missed. Condolences may be mailed to: 1330 E Milam St., Apt 601, Luling, Texas 78648.

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, John W. Crenshaw, loving husband and father of five children, passed away at the age of 85 at home in Luling, TX. John was born in Valera, TX to Archie and Clarice (Weaver) Crenshaw. He was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1942 and served as a missionary in Liberia, Africa from 1957 to 1963. On September 15, 1973, he married Connie Lou Weaver in Luling, TX. They raised two sons, Andrew Smith and David, and two daughters, Ruth and Laura. John was preceded in death by his father, Archie, his mother, Clarice, his sister, Judy Shubert, and his son, John Monesmith. He is survived by his wife Connie, his five children: Gary Monesmith, Andrew Smith, David Crenshaw, Laura Woods, and Ruth Perez, and his seven grandchildren.

