

The Scribe



Texas Court Clerks Association 2017 Conference
 Texas Omni Corpus Christi, 900 N. Shoreline Blvd.
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 Phone (361) 887-1600

The 2017 TCCA Conference is ready to set sail! This year’s conference “Waves of Change” will be held in beautiful Corpus Christi, October 8-11. Conference attendees will be dining at the Texas State Aquarium for TCCA’s Annual Awards Banquet & Dinner and will have an evening opportunity to explore Corpus Christi and immerse themselves in the rich culture of the city.

This years education topics include a Security class on *Developing a Security Plan*, a Technology class, *What’s New with TCCA*, a *Legislative Update Review*, *Going Paper Light*, *Professional Development topics* and more.

Come see what is new with over 40 vendors that will be showcasing their latest and greatest in court products and services. If you are a current member and if you’ve been preparing to test, take advantage of the reduced testing fee of \$75.00. With well over 600 Certified Level I clerks, 521 Level II’s and an outstanding 73 Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerks you want to make sure to sign up during your registration. Level I and II Ready, Set, Go study sessions will be on Saturday, October 7th and certification testing will be the following day on Sunday, October 8th. If you’re unable to attend the conference but would like to participate in the study sessions or testing, you can take advantage of the conference room rates if they are still available. [Register Now!](#)

A message from Mary Jane Grubb, City of Austin

The Austin Municipal Court will no longer continue to coordinate the Great Texas Warrant Round Up. The initiative is no longer in alignment with the values of the judiciary and city council.

I encourage each jurisdiction to engage in compliance efforts that are in the best interests and most effective for their particular communities. I look forward to connecting and partnering with you in other endeavors.



Inside this issue:

2017 Conference	1
Around The State	6
Education & Certification	10
Technology & Security	14
Legislature & Bylaws	16
B is for Board	18
Board of Directors	21
Chapter’s Corner	23
READ ME!	28
Making a Difference	29
Madam President	30

2017 TCCA Annual Conference

Waves of Change

This year's banquet will be a classy, semi-formal event with after five attire. We get questions every year about what attendees should wear for our banquet and other activities during the Conference. This year in an effort to assist you in choosing the perfect attire, we have put together some helpful tips to make your decision easier.



2710 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78402

Awards Banquet Attire

Ladies – dress suits, nice slacks, cocktail dresses or your favorite “little black dress” are all perfect for this event. Pairing a black suit with metallic or colorful shoes and accessories are also a great way to take what you already have and step it up a notch.

Gentlemen – slacks, button down shirts and dress shoes are perfect for this event. You are welcome to wear a jacket if you wish and of course ties are optional.

Monday – Business casual

Tuesday - Business Meeting Attire

It is appropriate to dress in professional business attire for the annual business meeting that will be held Tuesday, October 10th.

Casual Wednesday

Wednesday is the final day of our Conference – this is the perfect time to wear your TCCA Conference t-shirt that will be included in your registration fee. We want you to be comfortable on the trip home!

We are all excited to have our Conference at the beach this year! Don't forget to pack your beach attire with your flip flops and tennis shoes, but please reserve these items for the beach!

Tammy Odom, Texas City

Conference Planning Chair



2017 TCCA Annual Conference

We have lots of fun planned for outside the classroom as well:

We will start off on Sunday evening with the Conference Kick Off Dinner. Please note this will be part of the mandatory hours.

Monday morning will be the Vendor Expo with over 40 vendors showing their latest court products and services.

Monday evening will be free time to explore the city and immerse yourself in the rich culture of Corpus Christi.

Tuesday evening, we will travel to the amazing State Aquarium to enjoy a delicious meal and honor our fellow colleagues.

(After-Five/Semi Formal Attire Required)

Check out the new TCCA website for more information, dress code and the [registration link!](#)

Registration is fast easy and convenient!

Can't wait to see you there!

**Tammy Odom,
Conference
Planning Chair**



Providing customized collections and responsive support to each of our court clients.

www.pbfcm.com

PerdueBrandonFielderCollins&Mott LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

AMARILLO ARLINGTON AUSTIN CONROE GARLAND HOUSTON
LUBBOCK MCALLEN MIDLAND SAN ANTONIO TYLER WICHITA FALLS



McGee Beach



Whitecap Beach



TITANIUM SPONSOR

*Providing Professional
Collection Services Since 1976*

**Linebarger Goggan
Blair & Sampson, LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Over 40 Years of Excellence



**Emergency
Services**



**Road
Improvements**



Public Safety



Education

Supporting Essential Public Services

For more information about our law firm, visit our Web site at www.lgbs.com
or call (800) 262-7229, Ext. 3715

Around The State



Recap of The State of the Judiciary

by April Christiansen, Cedar Park

On February 1st, I attended the State of the Judiciary Address given by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht. Also in attendance were several other TCCA Members; Landra Solansky (Seguin), Bonnie Townsend (Lockhart), Christine Valdovino (Round Rock), and Barbara Shannon (Leander). The address was delivered to the 85th Texas Legislature in a joint session in the House Chamber of the Texas State Capitol. Chief Justice Hecht addressed many topics, a few of which are highlighted below.

He began his address by telling the story of Travis County District Judge Julie Kocurek, who was shot at in the driveway of her home by a man who had been a defendant in her courtroom. Judge Kocurek and her family were present during the address, and she was recognized by the Chief Justice as “one of the Texas Judiciary’s heroes.” Following the recognition of Judge Kocurek, Chief Justice Hecht emphasized the importance of improving security for judges and courthouses. The Texas Judicial Council has made numerous recommendations, reflected in SB 42, regarding judicial security, including the creation of a Director of State Judicial Security position, ensuring personal information of judges is confidential, and increasing funding for security costs. Chief Justice Hecht recommended that SB 42 be passed, and titled the Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Courthouse Security Act of 2017.

Chief Justice Hecht also focused his comments on ensuring access to justice for all, and emphasized that the Texas Legislature’s funding for access to justice programs such as those impacting veterans returning home, and sexual assault victims was essential. He stressed that many people

who need legal services simply can’t afford them, and that it was important to find ways to bridge those gaps. At one point, he compared justice to other basic necessities; “If justice were food, too many would be starving. If it were housing, too many would be homeless.”

Bail reform and pretrial release was another focus of the address. The Chief Justice recommended that risk assessment tools be used in each case when determining bail, and that danger to the public and risk of flight be heavily considered.

The Chief Justice also remarked on fines, fees, and costs for lower level offenses and emphasized his belief, along with that of the Texas Judicial Council, that the systems in place for fining defendants charged with lower level offenses be revamped.

Chief Justice Hecht also addressed the need for effective management of mentally ill criminal defendants, strengthening the relationship between law, justice, and communities, e-filing and access to court records, guardianship reform and funding, and judicial compensation, selection and efficiency. The address in its entirety can be read [here](#).

Our integrated software for
Texas court clerks

reduces errors

streamlines processes

improves workflow
and **increases efficiency**

so people like Rijaa N. can spend
less time chasing case files

and **more time** chasing her
3-year-old superhero.

Put our
court software
to work
for you.


tyler
technologies

Empowering people who serve the public®

www.tylertech.com

Around The State

Staying in Touch

by Kathryn Wells-Vogel, Odessa

In The United States, with a land mass nearly 269,000 miles, Texas is second in size only to Alaska. 27 million residents make Texas the second most populated state in the U.S. With the likes of Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth, and El Paso, more Texas cities are in the U.S. top 20 by population than any other state. Texas boasts deserts, pine forests, a coastline, beaches, the Hill Country, oil, Longhorns...

...and over 900 municipal courts.

Municipal courts in The State of Texas employ thousands of public servants including judges, administrators, bailiffs, warrant officers, juvenile case managers, administrative hearing officers, interpreters, prosecutors, and clerks. Public servants employed by Texas Municipal Courts processed over 13 million docketed cases in 2016. Close to 5 million of those cases reached final disposition. Court clerks handled over 2 million of those dispositions, outside of a courtroom setting, and processed another 2 million docketed cases for non-compliance. Whatever the outcome, court clerks likely had a hand, at some point, in the processing of all 13 million docketed cases in Texas municipal courts. These statistics show that court clerks, and other municipal court personnel, have an important presence in the Texas Judiciary. The support and professional development of these individuals is paramount to our system of justice.

The Texas Municipal Courts Association's (TMCA) was organized in 1974 by a group of municipal court judges and prosecutors in the Houston area for the sole purpose of forming a viable support organization dedicated exclusively to serving municipal courts. TMCA created the Texas Municipal Courts Training Center in 1983 (which became The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center in 1994). Its purpose was to provide continuing legal education. The TMCA Education Committee provides oversight to assure quality educational seminars, meeting state mandatory education requirements, at various regional sites each year.

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) provides extensive, continuing professional education to municipal court personnel. It is a key provider of mandatory training for judges. In partnership with the Texas Court Clerks Association and Texas Municipal Courts Association, a clerk certification program exists for the professional development of municipal court personnel. Other organizations that provide training and professional development for municipal court personnel include National Center for State Courts, National Association of Court Managers, Institute for Court Management, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Government Collectors Association of Texas, Teen Court Association of Texas, Texas Municipal League, and Office of Court Administration.



The Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA) was established in March of 1972. Today its mission “is to provide members with a source of quality judicial education essential to establishing the highest level of professional standards and maintaining public confidence.” Currently, there are six active chapters and one active sub-chapter. The Central Texas, Freedom Trail, Gulf Coast, North Texas, Northeast Texas, South Texas, and West Texas Chapters provide training opportunities for clerks within their geographical regions. Additionally, there are 20 TCCA committees providing opportunities for members who wish to play key roles within the organization. TCCA holds an annual conference that provides training and networking opportunities to its attendees. Chapter training, meetings, and the yearly conference are open to clerks even if they are not members of the association.

With all of the efforts put forth by the TCCA, TMCA, and TMCEC, there are court clerks who feel isolated from the education and support provided by these organizations. Recognizing this fact, the TCCA sought to uncover the varying reasons clerks find it difficult to participate in training and other activities. TCCA also learned of innovative ways chapters are reaching out to clerks across the state, and how some clerks are bridging the professional development gap within their own courts. By far the main reason clerks indicate they become isolated from membership activities and training opportunities is their inability to leave their court, primarily a result of either staff size or budgetary constraints.

Around The State

Smaller courts that employ a single clerk often have to close completely for the clerk to participate in meetings or take part in training. While some courts use a substitute to avoid having to close, that individual may not be completely knowledgeable in the normal business of the court. Therefore, the court's operations become limited in the clerk's absence. Courts that struggle under heavy caseloads, in comparison to staffing levels, may not feel they can spare clerks to be absent from their duties beyond vacation and sick leave. Clerks often have to choose between prior commitments, such as pre-approved vacations and doctor's appointments, or attending TCCA meetings and educational opportunities.

Budget has always been a challenge in city government, and municipal courts are not immune. During times of budget constraints, training and travel expenses are often among the first line items cut. Those cuts tend to remain, even when conditions improve, unless someone successfully rallies for a reinstatement or increase. In smaller courts, lack of funds can greatly limit a clerk's ability to attend training classes and may eliminate a clerk's ability to participate in chapter meetings or serve on committees. In mid-sized and larger courts budget constraints may limit the number of clerks who can be sent to training and hinder their ability to attend chapter meetings, obtain certification, or participate as a member in organizations that require the payment of membership fees. An inability or hesitation for a clerk to be away from their duties, coupled with a possible shortage of funds for training, may stem from uncertainty within city leadership as to actual benefits gained by the court (and by extension, the city) from attending conferences or chapter meetings.

Some courts, due to their size or demographics, might experience a high turnover rate. In these courts, there may be a hesitation or financial inability to invest resources towards sending their clerks to training. Recognizing the need for training and professional development of court staff, these courts often have in-house training programs and utilize "train the trainer" models to keep their staff informed and educated. Still, these courts may be financially limited when it comes to allowing their staff to become association members.

For some clerk's isolation is less about budget and staffing and more about distance and lack of communication. Some courts are so far outlying that the clerks must travel greater distances to attend meetings and conferences. This means more time away from their court and increased travel expenses. While they may have a reasonable training and travel budget, and may also have a reasonable allowance to leave the office for such purposes, their geographical location may cause them to exceed the budget and time allotment for such activities.

Another way a clerk might become isolated is a simple lack of knowledge about what is available to them. Smaller, or outlying cities may hire an individual who is a novice in the field but may not connect them with supportive organizations such as TCCA, that is available to provide the necessary support and training. One clerk noted that when she first started in her municipal court shortly after moving to Texas, her city leadership made no mention of any external resources and the court staff was equally unaware. It wasn't until court administrators from neighboring jurisdictions reached out to her that she began to really learn the intricacies of Texas municipal courts. If a newly hired clerk is aware, they may not feel they have the freedom to reach out for support. Additionally, they may not feel they have the time to participate. Some clerks express a curiosity about participating in their local chapters, and serving on committees, but fear the time commitment. They are unsure if their cities would allow them the time needed to perform committee tasks. Without an initial understanding of how training, conferences, and chapter meetings could benefit the court (and, by extension, the city) it could prove difficult for a new clerk or clerk in a smaller, outlying area to make a case for the time and resources needed to participate.



“Budget has always been a challenge in city government, and municipal courts are not immune.”

Around The State

In the past, a clerk might stay with a single court their entire career. They would establish themselves. Gain the trust of city leadership. Train a deputy clerk or other city employee to cover for them in their absence. Earn the time and budget needed to attend seminars, participate in chapter activities, and become an association board member. However, times are changing. More and more cities are coming to understand and appreciate the level of expertise needed to run a municipal court. Even a small court. They are recruiting trained, certified, and experienced clerks from across the state to take over their municipal courts. A new generation of court professionals are, more than ever before, willing to relocate for a better opportunity in another city. In speaking with one such clerk, she shared her experiences relocating to a new court. She indicated taking over a court with problems means spending, at least, a year to rebuild that court and get it back on track. During this time of re-engineering it is difficult, and sometimes impossible, to attend training and/or maintain certification. In this situation, she found herself wondering, "If I fall off the grid, why doesn't somebody contact me? Somebody should care," she said. "We're forgetting about each other."

No doubt, this can happen. However, there are chapter and committee members who are committed to reaching out to their constituents across the state in an effort to inform them of training opportunities and encourage them to attend chapter meetings. One committee member sends letters to municipal courts that are within a reasonable distance from chapter meeting sights to inform them of the training that will be near them and invite them to the meeting. Efforts are underway to accommodate Skype attendance at training sessions and even chapter meetings. Chapter training sessions will be made available, online, to TCCA members and everyone is reminded they may attend chapter training and even chapter meetings without being a member. The only constraint is that they cannot vote.

While there are numerous opportunities for those seeking training and professional development to participate, there is also a recognized gap when it comes to meeting the needs of those who have a desire to participate but lack the freedom and/or resources to do so. Reaching out to the more than 900 municipal courts across 269,000 miles of deserts, beaches, pine forests, and hill country is a challenge. Providing training, professional development, and support to public servants nestled in the smallest of outlying towns is no easy task. It is up to all of us who have chosen a career in Texas Municipal Courts to extend a helping hand to those who need us. Our time, knowledge, and expertise is valuable. It should be freely, offered whenever possible to our constituents even if they cannot give of their own time in return. The reward is exactly what our organizations strive to achieve. The desire for quality education, better court administration, high professional standards, and greater public confidence.

Help us Help you!

- TMCEC and TCCA offer remote trainings throughout the year. Contact education Chair, [Rhonda Kuehn](#) for more information.
- Skype training coming soon. Contact Director-at-Large, [Robert Martinez, Jr.](#) if you are interested in participating.
- Buddy system: Help cover expenses by working with neighboring clerks and cities where one entity splits the cost for travel and the other pays for accommodations.
- Make sure to apply for Chapter and State scholarships to attend training events. **They're free!** Contact your local Chapter or Director-at-Large and Scholarship Chair, [Jaime Brew](#) for more information.
- If you participate in social media, TCCA has a [Facebook](#) page that you can also connect with member clerks and to stay up-to-date on current events.



Education & Certification

Have you logged in to check your renewal status?

Your TMCEC Personal Academic Profile has many of the answers you seek!

<http://register.tmcec.com/web/online>

It is NOT necessary for you to file a “Renewal Application” if you are a Certified Court Clerk Level I or II AND have attended a 12-16 hour TMCEC program or the TCCA Annual Conference. These renewals are done automatically within a few weeks, given proper completion of the “Record of Attendance”.

The deadline to complete your required hours of education and renew your certification is August 31st, 2017. If you need additional education hours, do not delay. The academic year is quickly coming to a close.

Once logged in, click on the “Certification Renewal” tab to show the most current renewal year. For example, if you have already renewed for FY17 it will say “2016-2017 Yes”. Written renewal confirmations will no longer be mailed and all of your information will be available to you on your online personal profile.

Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham
TCCA Education & Certification Co-Chair

I
II
CMCC

Approved Providers for Education Credit

GCAT (Governmental Collectors Association of Texas)

16 hours approved for 2017

TCAT (Teen Court Annual Conference)

Hours to be determined

TCCA (Texas Court Clerks Association)

20 hours approved for 2017

TMCA (Texas Municipal Courts Association)

Hours to be determined

TML (Texas Municipal League)

Hours to be determined

NCSC (National Center for State Courts)

ICM (Institute for Court Management)

NACM (National Association of Court Managers)

TDLR (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
(Approved Training for Court Interpreters)

TSL (Texas State Library) Webinars (up to 8 hours)

TMCEC (Texas Municipal Courts Education Center)

TMCEC Live or Archived Webinars (up to 8 hours)



Number of Clerks Certified at Each Level as of May 15, 2017:

Level I – 656

Level II – 521

Level III – 73

Education & Certification

Upcoming Chapter Sponsored Education

June 19th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – **South Padre Island**
Judgments 101; State Court Costs & State Reporting

June 21st – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – **College Station**
Ethics Update for Clerks

July 14th – 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm - **Cameron**
Court Reporting

July 14th – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – **Waco**
Ethics; Open Records; Ordinance Drafting &
Codification; Municipal Court 101; Social Media &
Government

July 19th – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – **College Station**
Community Outreach & Community Service

July 28th – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm – **Houston**
Teamwork & Team Busters; Customer Service & FISH

August 16th – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – **College Station**
Community Outreach & Community Service

September 8th – 12:00 to 2:00 pm – **Llano**
Who's Duty Is It?

September 8th – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm – **Sugar Land**
The Psychology of Teen Drivers & Driver Behavior

September 22nd – 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm – **Cedar Park**
Legislative Recap

November 3rd – 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm – **West Lake Hills** – Court Costs

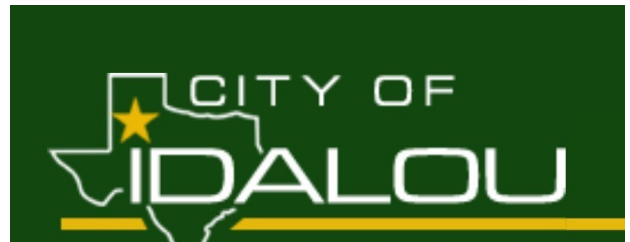
November 3rd – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – **Texas City**
Admonishments & Legislative Update Review

December 8th – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm – **Sugar Land**
The Importance of Maintaining Your Health

*Topic not yet approved for education credit.

Texas Municipal League Conference

The Education & Certification Committee will host a class at this year's TML Conference Friday, October 6th in Houston from 9:00 - 10:15 am. The class topic will be "What Every City Needs to Know About Ferguson, Missouri and Why" and will be taught by Ryan Turner from TMCEC. Please encourage your city officials to attend this class.



TransUnion.  |  DRIVERS HISTORY

A POWERFUL COMBINATION BRINGING YOU INFORMATION FOR GOOD.

Drivers History is now a part of TransUnion. This powerful combination enables us to offer robust and innovative data and analytic solutions for better-informed decisions. Our integrated solutions utilize court-record violation data and TransUnion proprietary data to help insurance carriers increase underwriting precision and efficiency, while lowering overall cost.

For more information, visit transunion.com/driverrisk



Education & Certification

Certification Testing

Membership Status Verified – To receive the \$75.00 reduced testing fee, you must be a member in good standing of the Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA) or Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) at the time you register to test. Membership is verified and those who are not a member of either organization will be invoiced for the balance due. Testing results **will not** be released until all outstanding fees are paid. 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.

Upcoming Testing Opportunities

June 7th – Odessa – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
June 13th – Austin – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
June 28th - Addison – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
July 7th – Woodway – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
August 26th – San Marcos – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm (TMCA Conference)
August 28th – Texas City – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
October 8th - Corpus Christi - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm (TCCA Conference)

Education & Meetings

Make sure to familiarize yourself with TCCA's new website. Click on the [Education & Meetings](#) tab and you'll see a quick reference to the calendar of events for each chapter. All invites for chapter meetings and trainings will be sent to you through the new website and from there you can register to attend an event.

Free One Day Clinics a HUGE Success!

The TCCA Education Committee in partnership with TMCEC offered **3** free One Day Clinics in 2016-17. The clinics were held in San Angelo (December 1st – 23 in attendance), McAllen (February 2nd – 39 in attendance), and Beaumont (April 20th – 30 in attendance). A testing site was also held the day after each clinic. In addition to 8 hours of education, these clinics offered a great opportunity to meet and network with other clerks in the area as well as learn additional information about TCCA and the Certification Program.



Beaumont – April 20, 2017



BEAUMONT
— TEXAS —

Congratulations to those who achieved Court Clerk Certification in 2017

<u>Level I Certification:</u>	Sandra Monroy-Irish (Fulshear)	Leta Hatzenbuehler (Allen)	Kristen Fleming (Longview)
Ashley Anderson (Desoto)	Gabriel Castro (Allen)	Heidi Van Gossen (East Bernard)	Leigh Anne Harrington (Nederland)
Debbie Morales (Brownsville)	Brandi Brown (Allen)	Jacqueline Guerra (Edinburg)	Sandra Urbina (Corinth)
Jasmine Rios (Belton)	Jennifer Henry (Lake Dallas)	Janie Cano (Brownsville)	Aldijana Sarkic (Richardson)
Jennifer Chestnut (Eules)	Patricia Costa (Denton)	Victoria Beaver (Castle Hills)	Humberto Ramirez (Houston)
Mark Cohan (Big Spring)	Amanda Carlisle (Seabrook)	Stacey Manor (Grapevine)	Stacey Lynn Reid (Westworth Village)
Angelina DeJesus (Rollingwood)	Carolina Trujillo (Richmond)	Michelle Mack (Grapevine)	Frances Suarez (Magnolia)
Guadalupe Garcia (Arlington)	Erika Gleghorn (Sugar Land)	Paula Dale (Addison)	Marianne Greer-McKinney (Duncanville)
Brenda Campagna (Hunters Creek Village)	Esmeralda Vasquez (Friendswood)	Rachel Ramirez (Kerrville)	Criscelda Curry (Baytown)
Jana Reed (Moody)	Gloria Terrazas (Austin)	Samantha Grimes (Melissa)	Crystal Iris Vasquez (South Padre Island)
Lois Nunnally (Arlington)	Jessica Stephens (Fort Worth)	Jodie Garza (Yoakum)	Gloria Terrazas (Austin)
Sharon Fabrega (Duncanville)	Karina Luna (Denton)	Isabel Garcia (Brownsville)	Ana Gisell Guillot (Baytown)
Stephanie Garcia (Corpus Christi)	Katelynn Townsley (Blue Mound)	Patricia Brooks (Austin)	Courtney Kinkel (Lewisville)
Aurora Zamora (Kingsville)	Leticia Urbina (Portland)	Erica Weiss (Midlothian)	Diane Gomez (San Antonio)
Erica Marroquin (Georgetown)	Margaret McIntosh (Port Aransas)	Sue Ellen Gonzales (Elgin)	
Josefina Ruelas (Uvalde)	Samantha Wheeler (Longview)		
Suzie Cavallo (Bay City)	Shirley Herriage (Fort Worth)	<u>Level II Certification:</u>	<u>Level III Certification:</u>
Rachael Lynch (Grandview)	Tona Shiplet (Whitewright)	Katherine Alcauter (Austin)	Janie L. Oliver (Northlake)
Vanessa Vasquez (Highland Park)	Velvet Aldaco (Corinth)	Angelica Vasquez (San Antonio)	Janis Fletcher (Sherman)
Whitney Spence (Southlake)	Judy Rejcek (Ennis)	Amanda Cox (Belton)	Carla Bonham (Joshua)
Belinda Cinque (College Station)	Adrienne Dill (Corpus Christi)	LaCretia Van de Plas (Belton)	
Juan Sandoval (San Antonio)	Amanda Martinez (Grand Prairie)	Neoso Walker (Longview)	
Sandra Perez (San Antonio)	Daisy Guillen (Duncanville)	Ryan Rogers (Dallas)	
Rebecca Lewis (West Columbia)	Joanna Davila (Mesquite)	Adriana Castro (Houston)	
		Victoria Butler (Kingsville)	
		Kelly A. Dennis (Sachse)	



Technology. Security.

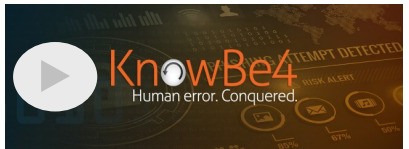
On August 6, 1991, the World Wide Web, better known as the Internet, went live! That was my generation. I remember when junk mail was sent to the right folder. The spam folder. Now my junk mail is coming through and the legit emails are being denied. What's going on!? Our West Lake Hills Municipal Court and city recently started a program, KnowBe4, that provides education and webinar-like videos to all city employees. We're required to watch and complete a series of short survey tests. Out of 8 videos that I've taken so far, they've ranged in length from about 5 to 45 minutes, but that's on the high end. Now, I'd like to consider myself somewhat savvy when it comes to computers, but oh how these hackers have gotten so clever. **Scenario:** I receive an e-mail from my bank stating that my debit card has been compromised and to click on the [link](#) to learn more info? So yeah, I'm freaking out. I'm going to click on the link. Now my computer has a virus?!

I feel like it is common to know of someone that has fallen victim to one of these phishing schemes. Recently the City of San Marcos was the target of such a scheme, when a city employee responded to a bogus email claiming to be from their mayor. As a result, confidential information about current and past employees was released, and their tax returns were impacted.

My City Manager, Robert Wood said that the program is set up so that employees be required to complete surveys and tests. *"The main goal is to protect the city's computer network. The immediate goal with the program is to educate staff regarding security threats and improve everyone's ability to recognize threats. The random testing (fake malware and other security threats) is also a great tool because it allows us to see if training is working"* he said. *"The city will keep this ongoing as more training modules come out-both to stay up to*

date with new threats and to keep the ideas fresh in everyone's mind" he added. Jamie Ormand, Account Manager with Univista, our IT, says that \$35 per person, per year is about the cost for cyber security training and videos. The rate varies on the services. Contact jamie.ormand@univista.com for more information. These classes have definitely taught me how to recognize and respond to these types of threats. What is your city doing to protect you? KnowBe4.

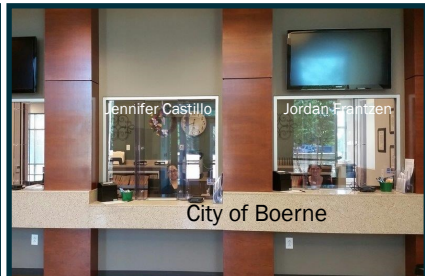
Robert Martinez, Jr.
West Lake Hills



This years Technology class will be What's New With TCCA? Presented by Kimberly Kierce & Brittany Rychlik, TCCA Website Committee. Where to find, What to look for, How to attend and more. Keep in mind that while in transition, the new website might not look the same. Please forward all questions that you may have in advance to kimberly.kierce@cor.gov or brittany.rychlik@missouricity.gov so that they can be addressed during the class.

Rhonda Kuehn, Chair of the Education & Chapter Steering committees distributed a new Speaker Form to all local Chapter Education chairs that provided an area for the speaker to select their approval for using Skype during their education training. The Chapter Steering committee will soon begin reaching out to interested clerks who would like to familiarize themselves with using Skype. Please review your Speaker Form to ensure that they are the most current so that together we can continue our mission in providing members with a course of quality judicial education essential to establishing the highest level of professional standards and to maintain public confidence.

Use Court Technology (Art. 102.0172) and Security Funds (Art. 102.017) to help pay for conference.



ZOOM
to
200%
and
SMILE



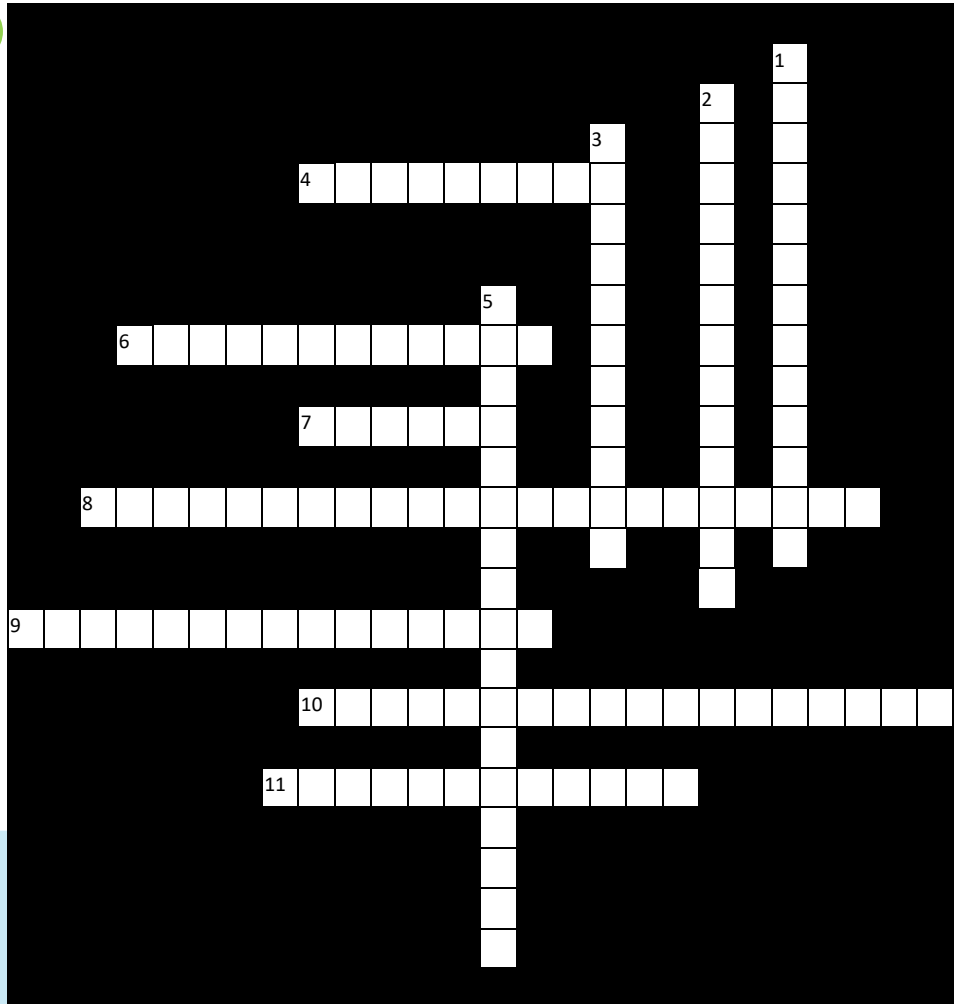
Crossword

How much do you know about Corpus Christi? Enter a chance to win a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card donated by Gloria López Carter, from the City of Dallas. Please e-mail your answers to rmartinez@westlakehills.org no later than 3pm on June 7th. The winner will be announced via TCCA's Facebook page and you will be contacted directly. When I count to three. 1, 2, GO!

Here ye, Here ye!

The Scribe is looking for creative minds, social media posters, grammar-spell check editors and topic ideas you'd like to see for future editions!

Visit TCCA's Committee page to contact The Publications Chair and check out the other committees that might interest you!



“Sparkling City by the Sea”

Down:

1. Eighth-most populous city in Texas
2. Actress born in Corpus Christi
3. This popular Texas burger chain opened its first location in Corpus Christi in 1950
5. Went through flight training at NASCC from 1959-1960

Across:

4. One of the largest and oldest working cattle and horse ranches in the world
6. This Grammy winning singer calls Corpus Christi home
7. Queen of Tejano Music
8. One of the oldest continually operating community theaters in Texas
9. Served as the set for Michael Bay's 2000 film, Pearl Harbor
10. The inventor of liquid paper (White Out), is from Corpus Christi
11. Corpus Christi translates to...

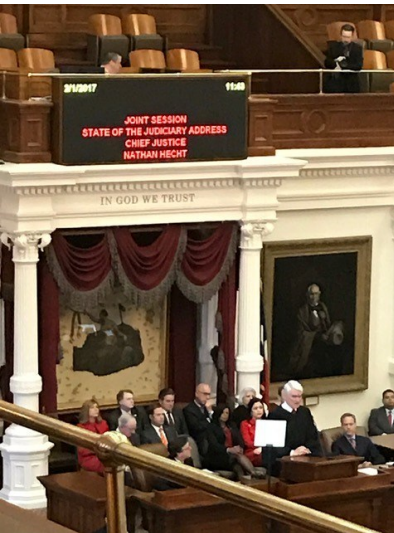


Legislature

The 85th Legislature ends on May 29, 2017 unless it goes in Special Session that only the Governor can call. *“Two bills, SB 1913 and HB 3729, promise to make substantial changes to the imposition of fines and costs in Texas municipal courts. They are just two examples of bills, TMCEC is monitoring which have the potential to change, if not revolutionize, the operation of the Texas criminal justice system and local courts. It is important that every municipal court in Texas register at least one person to attend the TMCEC Legislative Update 2017”*, Ryan Kellus Turner, TMCEC General Counsel and Director Education said in an e-mail sent out to courts back in early May.

Jason Contatore with the City of New Braunfels has been most active with the Legislative Committee sending out regularly Legislative updates by e-mail. The committee recently got some feedback on the layout of the legislative spreadsheet. The suggestion was that it would be easier to review the spreadsheet if the categories were broken out in separate descriptive tabs instead of just all on one worksheet. And what a difference that has made! **Thank you for that suggestion!**

Register your email address with the AG’s office to receive updates.



Send your education photos to Publications Committee member Mara Dudley at mdudley@cityoflano.com so that we can share them in our next issue. She’ll also take your book recommendations for the next **READ ME!** section. Mara was recently named Membership Chair for the Central Texas Chapter. She fills the spot held by Luevada Posey who put in years of hard work. Thank you Luevada!

April Christiansen, Cedar Park attends the State of the Judiciary Address on Feb. 1, 2017

This years TCCA conference will have a Legislative update review on Monday, October 9th given by Robby Chapman, TMCEC Program Attorney. If you have any Legislative questions and are unable to attend this years conference, please e-mail Legislative Committee member Lea Ness at lea.ness@huttotx.gov and we’ll see if we can get them answered for you. If you like to follow the news and stay up-to-date. Help us help others. Join our [committee!](#)

Bylaws

There are four Bylaw proposals this year for voting.

Proposed Amendment #1

Article VII, Board of Directors, #3

1. (Vacancies in Directors at Large Positions.)

1. Vacancies. ~~Vacancies in the Directors at Large shall be filled by appointment made by the remaining members of the Board of Directors.~~ **Vacancies of any Director at Large may be filled by appointment made by the remaining Board of Directors in one of the following ways: The remaining Board members may appoint any member in good standing to the position based on the needs and practicality of that vacancy for the greater good of the organization as a whole, or the Board may refer to the most recent election results to appoint the nominee with the most votes in order of greatest to least for the position needing to be filled.** Each person so selected to fill a vacancy shall remain a Director for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor and until his/her successor is duly elected and qualified.

Proposed Amendment #2

Article IX, #2 and #16

(Regarding the change from **Website** Committee to **Technology** Committee)

Proposed Amendment #3

Article VIII, #6

(Regarding the Conference Planning Chairperson)

4. Conference Planning Committee. The Chairperson of the Conference Planning Committee **shall be assigned by the current President** ~~shall be the immediate Past President.~~ This Committee shall be responsible for the selection of meeting facilities, housing accommodations and planning of the Conference, subject to approval by the Conference Planning Committee

Proposed Amendment #4

Article XVIII, Chapter Officers

With the exclusion of any term limits, chapter elections will be conducted and governed by the same process as TCCA elections in Article V of the bylaws.

~~The officers shall be elected in conjunction with the state level elections at the Chapter’s last business meeting of each year and shall serve two year terms beginning January 1 and ending December 31. The President and Secretary shall be elected at the Chapter’s last business meeting of the in even years of the Association. The Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected at the Chapter’s last meeting of in the odd years of the Association. There are no term limits for Chapter Officers~~

Join the Bylaws [committee](#). Help shape your future.

Titanium Sponsor

Linebarger Goggan
Blair & Sampson, LLP

“The Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson law firm has not only been attending but has also been a top sponsor for the TCCA conference for many years. We feel it is important to give back to organizations that take pride in their members and who work diligently each and every year to educate and perfect its profession. This is very evident of your organization because we work hand in hand with many of these dedicated court administrators and clerks across the state who are members of TCCA and attend this conference each and every year. TCCA is not only a great organization but also a family and we consider it an honor to be a part of it.”

Bryan Groce, Director of Operations, TX Fees and Fines

4828 Loop Central Drive, Ste. 600

Houston, TX 77081

713-422-7135

Bryan.groce@lgbs.com

www.lgbs.com

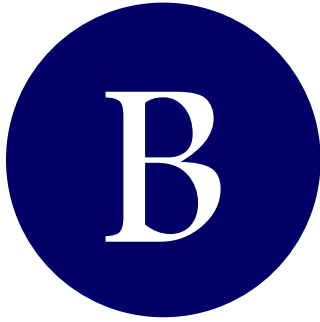
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP is a national law firm focused on collecting delinquent government receivables, including taxes, court fees and fines, tolls and other receivables. For over 40 years the firm has provided customized collection programs for its public-sector clientele. These services allow Linebarger Goggan’s clients to dedicate their time and resources on delivering the core services their constituents expect, while avoiding unnecessary tax increases and cuts to essential public services. Learn more at www.lgbs.com.



**Linebarger Goggan
Blair & Sampson, LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Over 40 Years of Excellence



Your Texas Court Clerk Board of Director Members are responsible for different committees that are assigned to them by the TCCA President. The length of term of office shall be two years, with each officer assuming their duties January 1 after the election. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, with the exception of the Treasurer. An incumbent who has already served two terms may be nominated if there are no nominations on the ballot by the deadline set by the nominations committee.

Board members serve the Association in various ways. On the frontline or behind the scenes each play a role that works together for the betterment of the membership. I had the opportunity during the Mid-Year meeting held in Corpus to chat with a few members and learn more about them to share with you on why they serve and what they have learned.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
West Lake Hills



Jennifer Billings, Dayton, Director at Large (Merchandise Chair)

RMJ: How long have you been with TCCA and the Court?

JB: I've been with the City of Dayton for 16 years. I started off part-time and joined TCCA around 2004, maybe 2005ish.

RMJ: Think back, who was the first to introduce you to TCCA?

JB: Well, it started with TMCEC's New Clerks Boot camp seminar and from there I learned about TCCA.

RMJ: How has TCCA helped you over the years?

JB: *smiling*, I've built friendships by networking and I've seen growth in myself and my work. I feel good about helping others with what I've learned. Being on the board and being active I understand more and have more knowledge about the Association.

RMJ: You are a new Director at Large, what made you run?

JB: Lisa Howard and Jennifer Bozorgnia encouraged me to think about running. After learning a little about what was expected from someone and after the support from my boss I decided to run.

RMJ: How are you balancing work and what would your co-workers say about you?

JB: I delegate more. I let go and share some work but I have the support of co-workers and my boss. I balance my association work with some down time at work with the OK from my boss and the remaining at home. My coworkers would say that I'm easy to approach and willing to always give an extra hand.

RMJ: So in the end, when you have downtime, what do you do? *Jennifer begins to smile big and humbly boast*

JB: Well, I have 3 kids and I'm going to be a grandma in June! I do a lot of activities with my kids. I'll think about "ha-ha" and work a little on my Level III certification as well.



Jaime Brew, Sugar Land, Director at Large (Scholarship Chair)

RMJ: How long have you been with TCCA and the Court?

JB: I've been working in the court for 9 1/2 years. Four of those years have been with the City of Sugar Land and five and a half years with the City of Killeen.

RMJ: What interested you in becoming active with TCCA?

JB: I was mentored by the Clerk of the Court when I worked with the City of Killeen. I learned more about TCCA through her and after the 2011 Waco conference I became active with TCCA.

RMJ: How do you balance work and what

would your staff say about you?

JB: *laughs*, They'd say I'm a workaholic! That I'm supportive in them becoming certified. To become active with TCCA or join committees if they'd like. With my own work, I balance by prioritizing. I am no longer the Certification Program Financial Manager, which has now allowed me the time I need to participate in the ICM Fellowship Program this year. My city is very supportive and flexible with my involvement in TCCA. I'm representing them with my service.

RMJ: Your term ends this year. Any advice for someone who is interested in serving at the local chapter or state level? What plans do you have after your term ends?

JB: Make sure you are known. Get out there and put a name with a face. Join a committee and you will find your

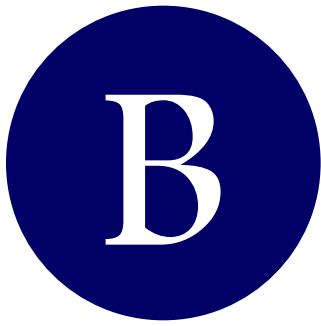
contribution to be rewarding. After completing my ICM classes in May of 2018 I'll be becoming active again with committees myself. I'll help with conference in whatever way I can.

RMJ: What did you find most rewarding about serving?

JB: The most rewarding thing about serving TCCA is that there are so many people that I have met and friendships I have made by volunteering to serve on various committees and on the Board.

RMJ: What is something we do not know about you?

JB: I can be quite the comedian with my dry sense of humor. Am I Team Prince or Team Michael? Team Prince. The last thing that most people do not know about me is that I'm an only child.



December 2017 completes the terms of office for the following positions:

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

The Elections [Nominations](#) Committee is requesting nominations be made for those who may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

RMJ: How long have you been with TCCA and the Court?

LG: I've been with the City of Corpus Christi for nine years. I have been a part of TCCA for two.

RMJ: How did you become a part of TCCA?

LG: *smiling and laughing*, I was volu-n-told. It was a bumpy road in the beginning but the more I learned, the more I grew.

RMJ: The South Texas Chapter was inactive for a moment in 2014. How long and what happened?

LG: Well, I was the Chapter Treasurer at the time but the President had left the City of Corpus Christi so we needed to re-work some positions. It took about 6 months and with the help from a lot of different individuals and help from Lisa Howard and

Veronica Brockington, I'm happy to say we're back to a functioning chapter.

RMJ: How are you balancing work and the ones you manage, what would they say about you?

LG: I'm the Chief Dept. Court Clerk, I manage supervisors and their employees. I'm learning to delegate more. There are times that I work from home or I may stay late at work but I have some great co-workers! I'm a business first, play later type but I still like to have fun. They would say I can be a jokester. I love to train and help others learn with what I've been taught.

RMJ: For someone who is interested in being a Chapter President or more involved with TCCA. What advice would you share?



Laura Garza,
Corpus Christi,
South Texas
President
(Public
Relations
Chair)

LG: It is work, but the education, friendships, assistance, professional development and growth make it all worth it. This is your opportunity to positively impact not only your city, but Municipal Court Clerks in and around your region. You will get back all, if not more, than you give.

RMJ: What is Laura doing on her spare time?

LG: I love my family time. I am a binge watcher of Netflix. *Laughing*, Vampire Diaries. I love that show. I also like to watch a wide range of different movies.

**CELEBRATING
OVER
50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

MVBA

**MCCREARY VESELKA
BRAGG & ALLEN, P.C.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*Committed to being the premier provider of innovative collection services
for delinquent property taxes, court fines and fees,
and other receivables*

700 Jeffrey Way, Suite 100
Round Rock, Texas 78665
800-369-9000 Fax 512-323-3205

www.mvbalaw.com

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization



**Lisa
Howard,
Hurst,
TCCA
President**

with TCCA and the Court?

LH: I have worked in the municipal court field for 18 years. First was with the City of Bedford and currently with the City of Hurst. thinking I believe I became involved with TCCA back in 2007 when I joined the Education Committee.

RMJ: What brought you to TCCA?

LH: The Certification program. I had gotten a flyer from TMCEC.

RMJ: What are you doing to balance work and your association duties?

LH: First, I have an amazing staff! I love them. Secondly, I have a very supportive city. With that being said I'm able to work on most association related items while at work.

RMJ: What is the biggest challenge you have faced being the Associations President?

LH: *takes a moment to think*, Managing the people, listening to input, pleasing and balancing. It's about making decisions and hoping that it was the right one. I pray for those decisions.

RMJ: Someone who is unfamiliar with TCCA, where do they start?

LH: Read the Bylaws first. Make contact with your local chapter membership chair. Look over the committees, find a strength and help us build

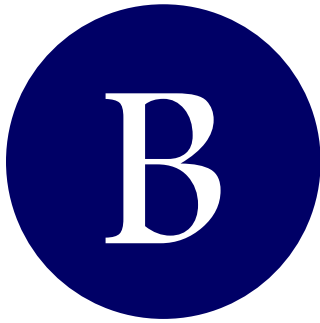
on our achievements.

RMJ: What would your staff say about you? What are you doing in your spare time?

LH: That I am honest, fair and supportive. I love the water and playing pool. Yes, I have a pool table. My mom lives with my husband and I and I care for her. I just enjoy time with all my family and friends.

RMJ: What do you find most rewarding about TCCA?

LH: Relationships that are built over the years. Accomplishing things for the future of TCCA.



**Tammy Odom,
Texas City
Past President**

RMJ: How long have you been with TCCA and the Court?

TO: I've been with both for 17 years! I'm currently with Texas City and I've been here for 3 years.

RMJ: What brought you to TCCA?

TO: Prior to coming to work in a small, one clerk court I worked for the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office. When I started in court all I knew was that the court clerks I had worked with in the past made it look so easy. The previous clerk quit after only a month or two and the clerk before her had been there for many years. After only about 4 hours of training I was the "new" clerk. I had to dig for answers, do research and basically learn all I could as fast as I could. After

only a couple of months, Elaine Brown, Lynda Kilgore and a few others from the TCCA Gulf Coast Chapter reached out to me and invited me to a Chapter meeting and then to a conference. I can't thank these ladies enough for taking the time to pick up the phone and let me know they were there for me.

RMJ: What role does the Immediate Past President play?

TO: You have someone that's been through most all of it before. Someone with hands on experience to help guide the board. I help out in any areas that I'm needed. I help look at what we have done in the past and how it will relate for our future. I'm here to serve.

RMJ: How are you balancing work and what would your staff say about you?

TO: *laughs and smiles, about balancing,* I dedicate two hours a day to TCCA. Maybe about 8 hours a week. I am very

passionate about our association. The preparation for conference is when things get busier. I work for a wonderful city and I have an amazing staff. People function better when their happy. They are great. Last year's TCCA shirt was one of my clerk's ideas. They would tell you that I am a task master. Ha-ha.

RMJ: Having served before, which committees did you enjoy the most?

TO: To name a few...Chapter Steering, Membership, being the TML Representative. The Education committee was personally rewarding and satisfying. 17 years has come and gone!

RMJ: What are you doing in your spare time?

TO: *laughing,* Define spare time? I enjoy being out on the water. I'm also a lover of books. Did you know that I am the Queen of Candy Crush? That is how I relieve my stress.

December 2017 completes the terms of office for the following positions:

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

The Elections Nominations Committee is requesting nominations be made for those who may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors.



Gloria López Carter, Director of Dallas Municipal Court Services was

a recipient among others to receive the 2017 Tyler Public Sector Excellence Award for their court. Gloria is part of the North Texas Chapter, a TCCA Director-at-Large and the Legislative Chair. With inefficient paper processes, crowded lobbies, a heavy backlog and more than a million citizens to serve, the city of Dallas turned to the Incode court solution.

With Tyler's powerful software at its side, the court managed to increase citation collections by 34 percent, achieve a case clearance rate over 100 percent and save more than 600,000 sheets of paper every year. In addition, online citizen services have put the power in the hands of the public and helped the city resolve one-third of its cases online.

If you or your Municipal Court has been recognized with an award, please submit a photo along with the story so that we may celebrate with you on your accomplishment. You may submit your information to the Publications Chair, Robert Martinez, Jr.



TCCA Board of Directors

Executive Board:



Lisa Howard, Hurst

President

lhoward@hrsttx.gov

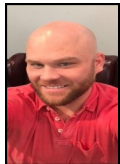


Landra Solansky, Seguin

Vice President

TML Rep., Education Committee, Conference Planning Committee

lsolansky@seguintexas.gov



Paul Rex, Jersey Village

Secretary

Bylaws Chair,

Public Relations Chair, Conference Planning Committee

prex@cijersey-village.tx.us



David Preciado, Arlington

Treasurer

Conference Planning Committee

david.preciado@arlington.gov



Tammy Odom, Texas City

Immediate Past President

Conference Planning &

Advisory Chair, Education Committee

todom@texas-city-tx.org

Kimberly Kierce, Richardson
kimberly.kierce@cor.gov Technology

Pat Riffel, Friendswood
priffel@ci.friendswood.tx.us Ethics, Certification and Education

Sean Leonard, Southlake
sleonard@ci.southlake.tx.us Internal Audit

*"We cannot lead where people don't want to go but cannot ignore where we need to go."
Ralph Ferguson, President (Garland, Texas)- 1989*

If you are interested in serving on one of the TCCA Committees, please complete a Committee Member Request [Application](#)



TCCA Board of Directors

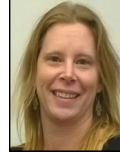
Directors at Large:



Jaime Brew, Sugar Land

Scholarship Chair

jbrew@sugarlandtx.gov



Brittany Rychlik, Missouri City

Technology Co-Chair - CVENT

Conference Planning Committee

brittany.rychlik@missouricitytx.gov



Jennifer Billings, Dayton

Merchandise Chair

jbillings@daytontx.org



Gloria López Carter, Dallas

Legislative Chair

g.carter@dallascityhall.com



Robert Martinez, Jr., West Lake Hills

Publications Chair

Chapter Steering Committee,
Legislative Committee

rmartinez@westlakehills.org



Wende White, Cameron

Certification & Financial
Program Manager

wwhite@cameron.net

Chapter Presidents:



Veronica Mickell, Round Rock

Central Texas President

Vendor Chair

vmickell@roundrocktexas.gov



Jennifer Bozorgnia, Irving

North Texas President

Membership Chair

jbozorgnia@cityofirving.org



Laura Garza, Corpus Christi

South Texas President

Public Relations Chair

lauraga@cctexas.com



Karen Armstrong, Greenville

Northeast Texas President

Historian Chair

karmstrong@ci.greenville.tx.us



Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham

Gulf Coast President

Chapter Steering Chair,
Certification & Education Chair,
Conference Planning
Committee

rkuehn@cityofbrenham.org

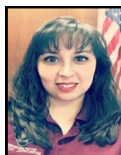


Jeanne Wilson, Big Spring

West Texas President

Nominations Chair

jwilson@mybigspring.com



Diana Olack, San Antonio

Freedom Trail President

diana.olack@sanantonio.gov

If you are interested in serving on one of the TCCA Committees, please complete a Committee Member Request [Application](#)

Northeast

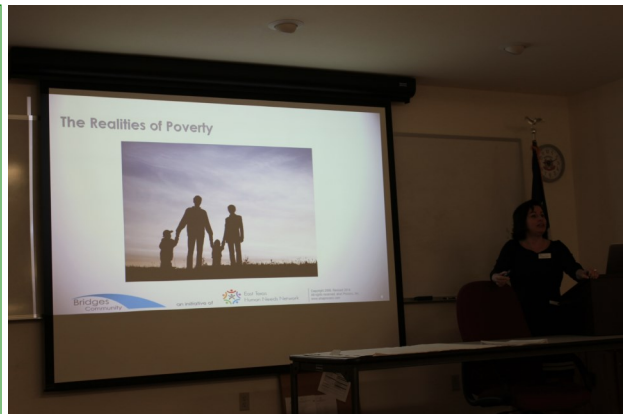
The Northeast Chapter hosted an educational opportunity on April 14, 2017 at the Jim Nall Training Center in White Oak, Texas. There were 13 clerks in attendance representing 9 different cities. The 4-hour class "Bridges out of Poverty" was taught by Christina Folsom and Mike Taliaferro in association with the East Texas Human Needs Network located in Tyler, Texas. In the class, we learned just how little that we really know about the struggles of poverty. We learned about challenges that the homeless face every day that most of us have never experienced or even thought about. We also learned different ways to create relationships and how to open lines of communication with individuals living in poverty.

Our hope is to find more creative ways for impoverished defendants to satisfy their obligations to the courts without undue hardship. We would like to thank Ernie Richardson and Alesha Williams of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott for providing our lunch.

The Northeast Chapter currently has 24 members. Our next business meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Gladewater, Texas

East Texas Human needs Network (ETHNN)
Bridges Community Director, Sheila Thrash:
Main # 903-216-3211, Direct #903-630-6318 www.ethnn.org

Karen Armstrong
President



Central Texas



Robert Martinez Jr., West Lake Hills
Barbara Shannon, Leander
Distinguished Service Award

Robert has recently stepped into the important role of Historian for the Chapter, and he always has his camera out, ready to capture Chapter business and fun. He also makes sure

to stay active on the TCCA Facebook page, posting pictures, and important news and announcements for the benefit of the Chapter. As one of the primary posters on the Facebook page, Robert is helping the Chapter and the Association to communicate with its membership in a new and relevant way. (April Christiansen, Cedar Park)

Barbara is a very helpful and always there to help with anything you need. She has a lot of knowledge for court procedures and best practices and I look up to her and how she runs her court! (Sarah Friberg, Manor)

Wende White, Cameron
Extraordinary Achievement Award

Wende's continued diligence and hard work as Chapter Treasurer has been tremendously beneficial for the Chapter and also resulted in her being asked to take over as the Certification & Financial Program Manager. (Veronica Mikell, Round Rock)

The City of West Lake Hills will host a Chapter meeting on November 3rd from 12:00-2:00 p.m. on Court Cost taught by Rhonda Kuehn. The Central Texas Chapter will be Skyping this meeting. Stay tuned!

CHAPTER'S CORNER



Texas Court Clerks Association

Chapter Board Members:

President: Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham
rkuehn@cityofbrenham.org

Vice President: Brittany Rychlik, Missouri City – brittany.rychlik@missouricitytx.gov

Treasurer: Connie Hayley, Texas City
cbranch@texas-city-tx.org

Secretary: Paul Rex, Jersey Village
prex@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

Chapter Committees:

If you would like to serve on one of the following committees, please contact the Committee Chair listed below:

Chapter Table:

Tiwanna Brown and Kenneth McGehee – Brenham
tbrown@cityofbrenham.org or kmcgehee@cityofbrenham.org

Education: Brittany Rychlik – Missouri City and Paul Rex – Jersey Village
brittany.rychlik@missouricitytx.gov or prex@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

Historian: Viveanne Lucas – Sugar Land – vlucas@sugarlandtx.gov

Meeting Hostess: Kendra Beverly – Sugar Land
kmurray@sugarlandtx.gov

Officer Nominations: Karen Lemay – Seabrook
klemay@seabrooktx.gov

Public Relations/Awards Nominations: Karen Lemay – Seabrook
klemay@seabrooktx.gov

Publications/Newsletter: Brittany Wright – Sugar Land
bwright@sugarlandtx.gov

Scholarships: Viveanne Lucas – Sugar Land
vlucas@sugarlandtx.gov or Connie Hayley – Texas City
cbranch@texas-city-tx.org

Website: Brittany Rychlik – Missouri City
brittany.rychlik@missouricitytx.gov

Audit: Jaime Brew – Sugar Land – jbrew@sugarlandtx.gov

2017 Chapter Meetings

March 10th, June 9th, September 8th December 8th

*Chapter meetings are held at the **Sugar Land Municipal Court** 1200 Hwy 6 Sugar Land, Texas.

Upcoming Education Sessions:

July 28th – Houston – 9 am to 3 pm – 6 hrs of credit

September 8th – Sugar Land – 10 am to 3 pm – 4 hrs of credit

November 3rd – Texas City – 9 am to 3 pm – 6 hrs of credit

December 8th – Sugar Land – 10 am to 12 pm – 2 hrs credit

*Please visit the Gulf Coast Chapter web page to register to attend education sessions and chapter meetings.

Upcoming Testing:

August 28th – Texas City – 9am to 1pm

Congratulations

To Chrissy Dahse of Willis who achieved her Level 3 Certification!

To Brittany Rychlik with the City of Sugar Land. She was awarded the 2016 Gulf Coast Chapter Clerk of the Year Award.

To Chrissy Dahse of Willis and Amy Baldwin of League City as they were selected to receive the 2017 Gulf Coast Chapter Scholarship to attend the Annual TCCA Conference in Corpus Christi on October 9th-11th.

TEXAS
SUGAR LAND

CHAPTER'S CORNER



Thank you for being a part of company, we were able to TCCA. Our chapter debuted adopt one that incorporates one our new chapter logo in The side of our chapter to the other. Scribe, December of 2016. By including iconic bridges Here's a bit of insight how we and symbols, we felt it helped came to have an awesome symbolize how we come symbol for our area. Thank you together with and for each for letting us share it with you. other to accomplish TCCA's mission and goals.

We needed a new image that represented our local members. Working with a professional

Jennifer Bozorgnia, Irving President

Don't miss out on our upcoming **Education** opportunities. Your Education Committee has been working hard to ensure our members are given as many opportunities as possible to attend our Chapter's FREE education on a monthly basis! Take a look at what we have coming:

June 1, 2017: Arlington Municipal Court

July 31, 2017: Fort Worth Municipal Court

August 9, 2017: Irving Municipal Court

September 27, 2017: Denton Municipal Court

October 30, 2017: Fort Worth Municipal Court

In July, the Hurst Municipal Court will be hosting our Chapter Curriculum Development Day. During this time, we will be preparing our 2018 academic calendar. If you're interested in hosting an upcoming training or becoming a facilitator for our Chapter, please contact Yolanda Kvaal (Education Chair) at ykvaal@friscotexas.gov.

2017 ANNUAL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS:

**BRITTANY GROSS (SANSOM PARK)
RUSSELL FIORELLA (ARLINGTON)**

BOTH OF THESE MEMBERS WILL BE REPRESENTING THE NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER IN CORPUS CHRISTI DURING OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER. CONGRATULATIONS!

Level I Achievements:

- Elaine Lawley (Arlington)
- Monica Rojas (Saginaw)
- Victoria Vega (Saginaw)
- Ashley Anderson (Desoto)
- Jennifer Chestnut (Euleless)
- Guadalupe Garcia (Arlington)
- Sharon Fabrega (Duncanville)
- Lois Nunnally (Arlington)
- Vanessa Vasquez (Highland Park)
- Whitney Spence (Southlake)
- Gabriel Castro (Allen)
- Brandi Brown (Allen)
- Patricia Costa (Denton)

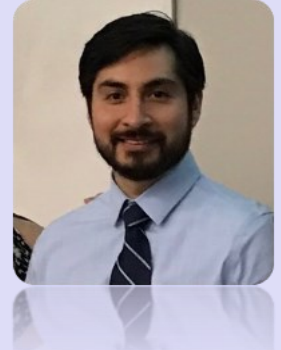
Level II Achievements:

- Jennifer Henry (Lake Dallas)
- Rachael Lynch (Grandview)
- Velvet Aldaco (Corinth)
- Shirley Herriage (Fort Worth)
- Karina Luna (Denton)
- Jessica Stephens (Fort Worth)
- Katelynn Townsley (Blue Mound)
- Joanna Davila (Mesquite)
- Daisy Guillen (Duncanville)
- Amanda Martinez (Grand Prairie)
- Leta Hatzenbuehler (Allen)
- Judy Rejcek (Ennis)

Level III (CMCC) Achievements:

- Sherrie Dast (Boyd)
- Ryan Rogers (Dallas)
- Kelly Dennis (Sachse)
- Sandra Urbina (Corinth)
- Stacey Reid (Westworth Village)
- Aldijana Sarkic (Richardson)
- Marianne Greer-McKinney (Duncanville)
- Courtney Kinkel (Lewisville)
- Janie Oliver (Northlake)
- Janis Fletcher (Sherman)
- Carla Bonham (Joshua)

Please help us welcome **Juan Paredes** of Fort Worth to the Chapter's Board of Directors. Because of Juan's fortitude and assistance while on the Education Committee, he was appointed to serve as a Director-at-Large in the place of Dianna Faulkenberry's vacancy. Since stepping down, we have greatly missed Dianna's creative ideas while working with our membership. We are excited that Juan will be taking this role as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. Stay tuned for new opportunities



Did you know we have dedicated Facebook pages for both the [Association](#) and the [Chapter?](#) Make sure to follow those pages to stay up-to-date on current information!

Have a Voice! Get Involved! Attend a Business Meeting:

June 16, 2017: Hurst Municipal Court

Sept. 1, 2017: Hurst Municipal Court

Dec. 1, 2017: Texas Land & Cattle, Bedford

President: Jennifer Bozorgnia (Irving), jbozorgnia@cityofirving.org **Vice-President:** Elaine Biles (Arlington), elaine.biles@arlingtontx.gov **Treasurer:** Katy Tagg (Arlington), katy.tagg@arlingtontx.gov **Secretary:** Melissa Rodriguez (Haltom City), mrodriguez@haltomcitytx.com **Director-at-Large:** Matthew Freeman (Frisco), mfreeman@friscotexas.gov **Director-at-Large:** Sheli Masterson (Irving), smasterson@cityofirving.org **Director-at-Large:** Yolanda Kvaal (Frisco), ykvaal@friscotexas.gov **Director-at-Large:** Juan Paredes (Fort Worth), juan.paredes@fortworthtexas.gov

Congratulations to our members who have achieved their certifications since the beginning of the year! It is a testimony of your dedication and initiative, and we are so proud to celebrate your accomplishment! Way to go!

CHAPTER'S CORNER

PANHANDLE

The Panhandle Chapter is currently inactive and works with the West Texas Chapter to participate in chapter and business meetings. Distance, budget and short staff are a few of the issues that keep this area difficult to reach. Currently, in the Panhandle region the following clerks are active with TCCA. Arelly Barragan (Borger), Jean Castle-Wade (Jean Wichita Falls Police Department) Emily Boman and Denise Chumley (Idalou). These clerks have expressed interest in trying Skype in the future. Thank you for being a part of TCCA!



The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas, USA.

WEST TEXAS

The West Texas Chapter is a large spread out mass area of land. Most traveling distances to get to a Chapter meeting are a minimum of 1 hour if not more. The President, Jeanne Wilson is interested in possibly using Skype to have her business meetings in the near future. September to be exact. Jeanne is with the Big Spring Municipal Court and will be retiring soon towards the end of the year. If you are interested in becoming active in this Chapter please reach out to her at jwilson@mybigspring.com



Keep Odessa Beautiful

CBS 7's Alexa Dunson and Stephanie Bennett Permian Basin, West Texas News

Odessa and Permian Basin high school students kicked off another year of competing against one another with the goal of Keeping Odessa Beautiful on March 21, 2017.

"Students at both Permian and Odessa High School are working to keep the city beautiful by picking up trash on their respective campuses and collecting recyclable materials." says Alexa Dunson with CBS 7 news.

Who won 2018's competition? Odessa High!

CHAPTER'S CORNER

Freedom Trail

Newly elected President, Diana Olack is looking for any members in the Freedom Trail chapter that would like to serve on the Freedom Trail Chapter board. Recently, Viviana Farnsworth from the City of Terrell Hills was named Chapter Treasurer.

You can find more information on the [Education & Meetings](#) tab on TCCA's website.



South Texas



Texas is Yuge! This years Texas Court Clerks Association conference will be held in Corpus Christi, part of the South Texas Chapter. We hope that you enjoy your time visiting the city. Laura Garza, Chapter President is featured in this June's edition *B is for Board* and will be attending this years conference.

Before Tuesday's Business Meeting begins, business attire photographs will be taken if you'd like to have it uploaded to TCCA's new website. The photo will also be emailed to you for your own professional use.

Chapter Officers

President: Laura Garza (Corpus Christi)
Vice President: Roberto Baez (Brownsville)
Secretary: Gabriela Flores (Corpus Christi)
Treasurer: Angela Gaona (Corpus Christi)

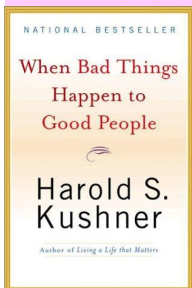
READ ME!

Marilyn Sherman, a motivational speaker from 2016 San Marcos' TCCA conference shared with us that:

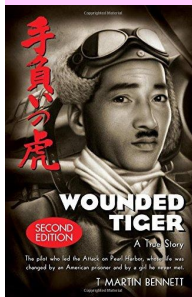
33% of U.S. high school grads never read a book after high school.

42% of college students never read another book after they graduate.

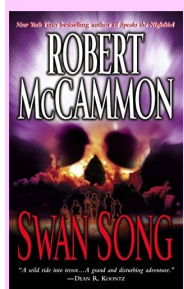
What books have you read?



Robert Martinez, Jr., West Lake Hills
When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner. It's a question I think that crosses our mind once in our lifetime, right? Why me, him or her? The scenarios are relatable and sometimes I felt like it was directly talking to me. How do we move on from something that is out of our control? This book helps lead us in that direction. I loved it.



Karen Armstrong, Greenville
Wounded Tiger by T. Martinez Bennett. I'm a history nerd. And I recently read an excellent book. It's a true story about the pilot, Mitsuo Fuchida, who led the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, one of the American Doolittle Raiders, Jacob DeShazer, who spent many months in Japanese prison camps and an American missionary in Japan whose daughter Peggy, worked in a Japanese Internment camp here in the States. The stories of all three of these characters begins a few years before the war and ends a few years after. It is really interesting to see how these three people from different backgrounds had such a profound effect on each other. It's a hard book to put down once you start reading it.



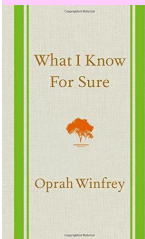
Robert Martinez, Jr., West Lake Hills
Swan Song by Robert R. McCammon. This is a post-apocalyptic fictional horror novel describing the aftermath of a nuclear war. It's a book that I read while in high school and it immediately became one of my favorites. It is a page turner and last year I bought the audio book and listened to it to and from work. It took about a week. I wanted to drive just to listen HA-HA! I'd gladly share if anyone is interested in giving it a listen.



TCCA MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE TEXAS COURT CLERKS ASSOCIATION IS TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH A COURSE OF QUALITY JUDICIAL EDUCATION ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISHING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

JOIN OUR MISSION



O'Veana Davis, Sugar Land
What I Know For Sure by Oprah Winfrey. Great book so far! Very Inspiring!



Vanessa McKeehan, Sugar Land
The Last Storyteller by Diane Noble. The story is about a woman, Taite, who has always been a free spirit. She becomes pregnant with her boyfriend, Sam, who is becoming a medical doctor. Their lives are leading in different directions and Taite finds refuge with her Welsh grandmother, Naini. Taite doesn't believe she can raise a child on her own and decides to have an abortion. First, her grandmother tells Taite of their legacy since she believes time is running out for both of them. All the while, Sam pushes through medical school, receiving wisdom from a mentor. By the end, Taite and Sam come to the same realization about life and make personal sacrifices. This story blends a modern issue with medieval history and romance.

Reader's TIP ● If you're looking to find a good deal on Level III books for studying you can find them at abebooks.com (Gabby Scott, Snyder) Click on each book cover above to find more information about the suggested book.

Making A Difference

Attendees of the 2016 TCCA Annual Conference were again asked to collect the travel size toiletries in their hotel room to donate to a local shelter. Since the collection started in 2015, members have brought all kinds of travel-sized toiletries to various court clerk meeting and training events for collection. TCCA's 2016 donations totaled **27 lbs.** of travel-sized shampoo, conditioners, body wash/soap, and lotion. Kimberly Kierce, member of the TCCA North Texas Chapter and is also the Foundation



Assistant Treasurer Trustee of Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization serving local and international communities in a variety of ways, initiated the collection and delivered the items to Hope's Door New Beginnings Center (<http://www.hopesdoorinc.org>), a domestic violence shelter in the DFW area. TCCA's donation will provide personal care items for over 400 women and children seeking emergency shelter from domestic violence situations. Thank you for your generosity and caring.

Kimberly D. Kierce
City of Richardson



Do you know what the first FB post was?

A post by current President, Lisa Howard 7 years ago. "City of Hurst...been there 8 years and was in Bedford for 2....North Texas Chapter here!"

Join our [FB](#) page. As of June 5th we have 205 members.

We would like to thank you and your city for being a part of the Texas Court Clerks Association. If you'd like to share your city's logo please email it to rmartinez@westlakehills.org and it could appear in the next issue of The Scribe.

Thank you to all our vendors. Your products and customer service are what makes our courts more efficient. We appreciate you.

Join a **committee**. Have your idea make a difference.



Leadership lead · er · ship / 'lēdər SHip/

"I always say that, you know, if you hire people just because they can do a job, they'll work for your money, but if they believe what you believe, they'll work for you with blood and sweat and tears." says Simon Sinek, a Motivational speaker.

I've had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people in this field. You've shared your court procedures, forms, ideas. You've picked up the phone when I thought I was in a bind, only to be doubting myself. Ha-ha. Usually happens on Monday or Friday. Thank you for leading by example. Thank you for helping a newbie clerk since 2005.

Here's a wonderful leadership video I'd like to share. I learn something new every day.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
West Lake Hills



Dear Fellow Court Clerks,

SUMMER TIME SUMMER!!

I am very excited to invite you all to Corpus Christi this October! We are going to have such a great conference...we will have excellent accommodations at the beautiful Omni Hotel Corpus Christi, compelling and edge of your seat exciting education, and a very tropical and adventurous awards banquet. Please make sure to register soon and remember to make your hotel reservations on your own.

Thank you to the board for a very productive spring meeting. We worked our way through all of our agenda items and managed to complete those items in a very efficient and effective manner. I appreciate each of you for your hard work and dedication to this association and its membership!

I would like to Thank our newest board member, Director at Large, Robert Martinez, for his continued efforts in bringing innovation and forward thinking to our association by pressing forward with our new ability to "Skype" people into local training sessions for live training as it is happening. The sky is the limit when it comes to what we can accomplish and I am reaching for the stars in our new innovative members!! It is always exciting to get new blood involved and serving the association and I would really love to see more new clerks get involved to propel us even further.

Remember we are transitioning to our new website so please be patient with us as we move things over and utilize the new site for most of our needs. Again, don't forget that we have a Facebook page for the Texas Court Clerks Association, this page is a private page, where only those approved to see our posts are allowed.

Please visit and become a member. I would like to encourage the local chapters to create a Facebook for their members as well. This would be an additional way to post information and events.

Reminder to renew your membership if you have not done so. Hurry so you don't miss any important information and training. Memberships will be managed a little differently with the new membership management tool. Typically, membership renewals will not open until around December 1st of each year. The new membership portal will allow you to upload a current photo so that there will be a face with the name and I am very excited about that for all of us. It will be nice to put a face to a name so I strongly encourage everyone to try to upload a current photo of yourself during the application process.

Please take the time to thank your chapter board members for all their hard work behind the scenes trying to help this association be all that it can be as well as a great experience for all the members. Change is inevitable and keeps things from becoming stagnant.

Legislative years always bring excitement and change... so we will see what happens this session!!

Many Blessings to you all until we meet again!



Madam President

We are your Publications Committee. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition but most of all, thank you for being a part of TCCA. The Scribe is published twice a year, June and December. Our committee also takes part in posting on TCCA's Facebook page with news of upcoming events. We welcome any feedback so that we may continue to better inform and educate our membership. We'll see you in October at conference.

Publications Committee



Jaime Brew, Sugarland
April Christiansen, Cedar Park
Mara Dudley, Llano



Jennifer Dorsett, Haslet
Robert Martinez, Jr. West Lake Hills
Kathryn Wells-Vogel, Odessa
Brittany Wright, Sugar Land

