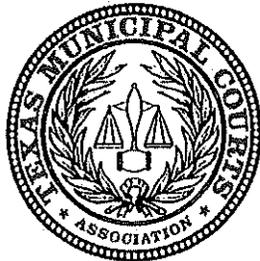

**TMCA ANNUAL JUDICIAL AWARDS
2017 NOMINATION FORM FOR**



**EXCELLENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF
JUSTICE**

Each year the TMCA honors an Outstanding Jurist and Court Support Staff Member who have made an Outstanding Contribution to the Fair and Impartial Administration of Justice. We are excited to announce that we will also honor an Outstanding Prosecutor this year. Any individual presently serving as a Municipal Judge or as a member of a Court's Support Staff (including Clerks, Court Administrators, Juvenile Case Managers, Interpreters, Bailiffs and Prosecutors) in the State of Texas is eligible. The selected Jurist, Court Support Personnel and Prosecutor will be honored at the Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for August 25, 2017.

Person Being Nominated: JUDGE J. ELAINE MARSHALL Title: DIRECTOR AND PRESIDING JUDGE

Comt: CITY OF HOUSTON MUNICIPAL COURTS

Address: 1400 LUBBOCK

City/Zip: HOUSTON, 77002

Email: elaine.marshall@houstontx.gov

Phone: 713.247.5464

Your Name: JUDGE ESMERALDA P. GARCIA Your Title: ASSOCIATE PRESIDING JUDGE

How can we contact you: Email: esmerlada.garcia@houstontx.gov / Office: 713.247.8924

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2017. Completed Nomination Forms should be sent along with supporting documentation to the following address:

Sheila Seymore, Region I Director
301 16th St, Canyon, Texas 79015
Fax 806-655-5007
sseymore@canyontx.com
For further information call: 806-655-5023



CITY OF HOUSTON

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone - Dial 311
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April 26, 2017

Ms. Sheila Seymore, Regional I Director
301 16th Street
Canyon, Texas 79015

Re: Nomination for TMCA 2017 Outstanding Jurist

Dear Ms. Seymore,

On behalf of all our Judges and Court staff, it is my distinct honor to nominate my colleague and friend, Presiding Judge Elaine Marshall, for the 2017 TMCA Excellence in the Administration of Justice Award. It is our collective opinion that Judge Marshall's numerous personal and professional accomplishments embody the scope of this award and earns her a place in the top echelon of Jurists State-wide. Judge Marshall has not only provided exceptional leadership to our Department, she is taking the Municipal Courts in a positive direction, one of fairness, accountability, impartiality and vision. She leads by example and I am pleased to share the many supporting reasons for her consideration.

If you were to ask her what her most significant accomplishment is, I believe she would say the success of the Court's Teen Court Program. Judge Marshall is very passionate about making a difference in the lives of our youth. Over her many years on the bench, she has mentored countless girls and boys who have looked to her as a role model in their lives. She always makes time in her busy schedule to volunteer as a speaker at school career days, host students who come for court tours, and participate in many other youth-oriented activities.

Prior to assuming the helm of the Court's Teen Court Program in 2013, the participation rate was dismal and blueprint severely lacked organization. She methodically developed a plan that would engage various community stakeholders including juveniles, legal professionals, and law enforcement. The success of the City of Houston's Teen Court Program has not gone unnoticed. She has received various requests from other jurisdictions who want to implement a similar Program for their communities.

Under her direction, Teen Court has sparked an interest in public service, criminal justice and legal careers by engaging juvenile participants in the legal process, providing them with an understanding of the juvenile justice system, and learning to apply appropriate sanctions in relation to the offense. Participants hear real cases involving juveniles who have received citations, and they are responsible for determining the sanctions imposed on teen defendants. Municipal Court Judges preside over the proceeding and defendants can be ordered to participate as jurors in the Teen Court process as a sanction. Since implementation, the program has expanded to include 90 participants who have handled and determined sanctions on over 150 cases.

Another of her primary objectives is to operate the largest Court system in Texas with a high level of integrity and transparency. To effectively lead, you must have the consensus and support of various stakeholders including City officials, the defense bar, the prosecutors, law enforcement, the Judges, the Court staff, and most importantly, the public that we serve. Judge Marshall has made it her goal to raise the bar in this regard. Her Executive Team meets weekly to discuss ongoing initiatives and Judge Marshall has invited representatives from the prosecutor's office and the defense bar to have a voice in

these meetings. She has also welcomed the defense bar and allowed them to use the Court facility to host their training meetings. The successful implementation of the Court's new case management system, CSMART, in 2015 is a reflection of this collaborative partnership.

Another indicator of her successful administration is the results of the Court's annual Customer and Employee surveys, which both reflect a high level of satisfaction. She supports transparency and accountability by providing a virtual suggestion forum where staff can post questions, complaints, comments and suggestions for improvement anonymously. The items submitted are routed to members of the Court's Executive Team who draft responses, which in turn are provided to all employees. She joins the Clerk of the Court in Quarterly meetings with the Court clerks, supports the Court's Clerk Certification and Career Track Programs, and encourages all court staff to participate in training opportunities when possible.

One group in particular that has benefitted from her direct oversight is the Court Security Officer (Bailliff) staff. As you are aware, Bailiffs provide a vital service to the court and to the public by ensuring safety and security. Under her direction, the Bailiffs continue to receive the highest level of specialized training while raising the bar in maintaining a high level of professionalism and courtesy to the public. She is a strong advocate for a State-wide certification process for this highly important role in our court system.

Judge Marshall understands the meaning of compassion and fairness. She feels strongly that the City of Houston Municipal Courts should be a beacon of justice for all individuals and has been instrumental in developing programs and initiatives to assist individuals including the Homeless Outreach docket and the Prostitution Diversion docket. These initiatives have assisted many who would not otherwise have a voice to clear their record and move forward in a positive direction. Most recently, she led the Court's Amnesty initiative, encouraging those with outstanding court matters to come to speak with a Judge without fear of arrest, learn about the Court's many options, and benefit from the dismissal of qualifying cases.

Her devotion to public service is evident in her professional career. Prior to being appointed as the Director and Presiding Judge this past December, Judge Marshall has served the City of Houston since 1987, first as a full-time Judge, as the Administrative Judge, and then as the Associate Presiding Judge. Prior to joining the City of Houston, Judge Marshall served as an Assistant District Attorney for Harris County where she developed their office's Child Abuse Section. Judge Marshall was also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Finally, she is in her second year as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Municipal Court's Judges Section.

On a more personal level, Judge Marshall's highest calling is her faith and her family. She is a devoted daughter, wife and mother. She is also a 20-year member of the 5th Ward Missionary Baptist Church where she proudly serves on their legal ministry and choir. Her talented daughter, Janikka, has followed in her footsteps by becoming an attorney.

Therefore, it is for all of the above reasons that I submit this nomination for recognition as Outstanding Jurist for 2017. I am certain that Judge Elaine Marshall's accomplishments, leadership, and unparalleled successes exemplify what this award stands for. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Esmeralda Peria Garcia
Associate Presiding Judge
City of Houston Municipal Courts