

**TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER  
FACULTY ROSTER**

New Judges Seminar  
Austin  
December 7 – 11, 2015

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## **FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES**

### **ROBBY CHAPMAN**

Robby Chapman is Program Director for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. He has taught for the Center since 2013. Prior to joining the Center, Mr. Chapman served as an Assistant District Attorney for Nueces County and Assistant City Attorney - City Prosecutor for the City of Cedar Park. While a prosecutor, Mr. Chapman received the Merit Certification in Municipal Court Prosecution from the Texas City Attorneys Association. Mr. Chapman received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's University School of Law.

### **ELIZABETH DE LA GARZA**

Elizabeth De La Garza joined the TMCEC team as a TxDOT Grant Administrator for Driving on the Right Side of the Road in June 2015. Ms. De La Garza has spent the last 32 years as a public school teacher in the Round Rock Independent School District, spending most of these years at Chisholm Trail Middle School teaching music and social studies. She has her BME from Baylor University in Waco, and completed her MME at The University of Texas at Austin. Ms. De La Garza is a native of San Antonio.

### **JULIE ESCALANTE**

Julie K. Escalante is the Presiding Judge for the City of Baytown. Prior to being appointed as the full time judge, she was the prosecuting attorney for the City of Baytown. She has had an active career in both the non-profit and public sectors of the law. Judge Escalante is currently serving as a board member on the Texas Municipal Courts Association representing Region IX, where she serves on both the education and nominating committees. She is an active board member for the Baytown Kiwanis Club and actively participates in her local Domestic Violence Task Force.

Judge Escalante was born in San Antonio Texas and grew up in the Houston area. She attended Texas Tech University where she received her B.A. degree. In 1990, she received her Law degree from Southwestern University in Los Angeles, California. She currently resides in the Clear Lake area, with her three children.

### **DAVID L. GARZA**

Judge David L. Garza is the Presiding Municipal Court Judge for the City of Bee Cave, Texas. He was first appointed to that position in 2010.

Prior to his current position with the City of Bee Cave, Judge Garza served as a City of Austin Municipal Court Judge from 1987 to 1992 and then again from 2003 to 2009. Judge Garza has also served the State of Texas as an Administrative Law Judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) from 1992 to 1993. He has also served as an Assistant District Attorney for Travis County and as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, where he was Chief of the Foreign Prosecution Unit under then Attorney General, John Cornyn.

Judge Garza received his BA in Psychology from the University of Houston in 1975. He received his JD from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. in 1978 and his MBA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1991.

Judge Garza is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Texas-Mexico Bar Association, and the Association of Attorney Mediators.

He is a native Texan, having been born and reared in Corpus Christi, Texas and has been a resident of Austin, Texas since 1980.

### **CAROL GAUNTT**

Carol Gauntt is the Associate Judge for the City of Weatherford. Prior to becoming judge, Carol held the position of Court Administrator for the City of Richland Hills for 10 years. Carol also spent 20 years in the United States Air Force. She holds an Associates Degree in Telecommunications Technology from the Community College of the Air

Force and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University. Judge Gauntt obtained her Level III Court Clerk Certification in October 2002. She has received numerous honors over the years from both the Air Force and court organizations, including the Texas Municipal Court Association Court Clerk of the Year in 2003. Originally from Eugene, Oregon, she is married to Earl Gauntt of Ft. Worth and they have a combined total of four children.

### **ALLEN GILBERT**

Judge Allen Gilbert is the Municipal Judge in San Angelo and has been since he was appointed in 1975. He has worn many hats in the judicial world and has accumulated many accolades along with a wealth of experience. Judge Gilbert lectured in education classes for Texas Tech from 1978 to 1986. He co-authored the first Municipal Court Judicial Handbook in 1983 for the State of Texas. He was appointed by the Governor of Texas to serve on the Texas Supreme Court Education Committee for three terms.

Judge Gilbert has served as the President of the Organization of Municipal Courts of Texas and as Vice President of the Texas Municipal Courts Association. He has served as the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Texas Municipal Courts Association and chaired a committee to establish the Texas Municipal Court Training Center. He currently lectures for the Education Center and has since it began in 1987. His newest appointment was by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in November 2005 where, in addition to his full-time position as Municipal Judge and teaching at the Education Center, he serves on the Texas Judicial Council. Judge Gilbert was recently appointed as Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee for Texas Judicial Council.

Currently, Judge Gilbert serves on the Board of Directors for the San Angelo Boys Club, Eastern Little League, and Lake View Christian Bible Church. He also serves as the Vocational Communication Director for San Angelo Independent School District.

### **ROD GOBLE**

Rod Goble earned his juris doctorate from Baylor University in 1976. Judge Goble has worked as a criminal defense lawyer and was board certified in 1985. He belongs to the McLennan County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Texas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and has spent 10 years as an adjunct juvenile law professor at Baylor. He has been in his current position as Presiding Judge for Woodway for the past 27 years.

### **MARK GOODNER**

Mark Goodner serves as the Presiding Judge for the City of Woodcreek and is the Deputy Counsel and Director of Judicial Education for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Prior to joining the Center, he worked in civil litigation in Austin. Mr. Goodner graduated from the University of Texas School of Law with a juris doctorate and certification in the Graduate Portfolio Program in Dispute Resolution in May of 2007. While in law school, he worked in the mediation clinic, was a finalist in the Thad T. Hutcheson Moot Court Competition, and served on the executive board of Assault & Flattery.

### **JACKIE HABERSHAM**

Jacqueline Habersham is Senior Commission Counsel for the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. She has been with the Commission since June 2001. In 1985, Jacqueline earned a Bachelor of Science degree in a dual major of Political Science and Public Administration and graduated *magna cum laude* from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. She earned her law degree in 1992 from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Prior to joining the Commission staff, she was an attorney in private practice in Houston, Texas concentrating in the areas of criminal defense, family law and personal injury.

### **RYAN HENRY**

Ryan Henry graduated with honors from New Mexico State University with dual bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology in 1995. He attended law school at Texas Tech School of Law and graduated in May of 1998. He

passed the Texas Bar that same year. While attending law school, Ryan began clerking for the Lubbock City Attorney's Office. As a result, he began representing governmental entities, even before he graduated from law school and so began his career supporting local governments. Upon graduation, Ryan began working with Willette & Guerra, LLP. in Brownsville, Texas, defending governmental entities in the area. In June of 2002, Ryan moved to San Antonio and joined the law firm of Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal, P.C. where he partner. In 2012, Ryan started the Law Offices of Ryan Henry, PLLC where he continues his representation of local governments.

Ryan represents local governments in general counsel work as well as litigation. He has been the City Attorney and City Prosecutor for the Town of Hollywood Park and the City of Burnet. He is currently representing various governmental entities in litigation as well as special counsel and prosecutor work. He speaks regularly for the Texas Municipal Court Education Center and the Texas City Attorney's Association.

## **BRIAN HOLMAN**

Judge Brian Holman was born and raised in San Diego, California and attended Brigham Young University where he received a B.A. in Political Science. Judge Holman went on to earn his Law degree from the University of Arkansas. While living in Spain, Judge Holman developed a fluency in the Spanish language which he continues to use in his current position as presiding judge for the Lewisville Municipal Court. He serves as alternate judge for the City of Aubrey and is the prosecutor for the Cities of Justin and Pilot Point. Prior to taking the bench full-time, Judge Holman had a private law practice for 10 years in Denton, Texas, where he still resides with his wife of 30 years.

## **DAVID JOHNSON**

David Johnson is an Assistant City Attorney and the Chief Prosecutor for the City of Arlington. Mr. Johnson obtained his juris doctorate from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (now Texas A&M School of Law). Mr. Johnson received his Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Texas A&M University, College Station. Mr. Johnson successfully prosecuted two notable cases on appeal from the Arlington Municipal Court: *Swain v. State*, a case in which the Second District Court of Appeals in Fort Worth published its opinion on a new area of law involving appellate procedure, and *Looper v. State*, a case that was appealed to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and which ultimately resulted in the defendant's appeal being dismissed on a jurisdictional issue.

Mr. Johnson has been a presenter for the Texas District & County Attorneys Association, the Texas Municipal League, the Texas Court Clerks Association, as well as a past presenter for TMCEC.

## **MATT KING**

Judge King graduated with honors in 1977 from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and received his Doctor's of Jurisprudence in 1983 from Texas Tech University School of Law. He started his career in the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's office and worked in both the civil and criminal divisions. In 1987 he entered private practice and specialized in criminal defense. Judge King is admitted to practice in Federal Court for the Northern District of Texas, and in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge King was first appointed as a relief Judge for the City of Keller in 1993, and beginning in 1995 served as the Presiding Municipal Judge. In 2007 he resigned this position after being appointed a Tarrant County Criminal Magistrate. Currently he handles all aspects of the criminal justice system. His responsibilities include presiding over jury selection, probation revocation hearings, bond forfeitures, bond reductions hearings, motions to suppress, all pre-trial motion hearings, ruling on the admissibility of evidence, accepting plea bargains, and the magistration of inmates.

## **REGAN METTEAUER**

Regan Metteauer has been a Program Attorney at TMCEC since 2012. TMCEC is a contract training provider with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), for which she is currently the Training Coordinator. She holds a TCOLE Basic Instructor certification. Mrs. Metteauer received her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Sam Houston State University and her Juris Doctor from Baylor Law School. While at SHSU, she was a sports writer for The Houstonian and a media intern at the Shell Houston Open. Mrs. Metteauer married her college sweetheart, who is an

Austin police officer. Their daughter, Savannah Primrose, was born May 24, 2013. Prior to law school, Ms. Metteauer worked as a manager at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, a substitute teacher for Hutto ISD, and a member of the Youth Ministry Leadership Team at Hutto Baptist Church. Mrs. Metteauer has strong ties to Shawnee, Oklahoma, where she was born, and Conroe, Texas, where she graduated from high school and where her family lives and runs a catering company, Darrel's Catering, named after her grandfather.

### **STEWART MILNER**

Stewart Milner is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and the Oklahoma City University School of Law. He began his employment with the City of Arlington in 1992 as an Assistant City Attorney and became Chief Prosecutor for the City of Arlington in 1994. From 1997 to the present, he has served as the Chief Judge for the City of Arlington Municipal Court.

Judge Milner has taught classes for the North Texas Council of Governments, City of Arlington Police Academy, Texas Court Clerks Association, the Building Professional Institute, The National Judicial College and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center.

He is a current board member and past president of the Texas Municipal Courts Association.

### **NED MINEVITZ**

Ned Minevitz, a Massachusetts native, has served as TxDOT Grant Administrator and Program Attorney at the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center since November, 2013. Ned also serves as General Counsel for EverThin, LLC, a startup company based in Massachusetts. He received his B.A. from Connecticut College in New London, CT where he majored in East Asian Studies. Spending extensive time in China after college, Ned is proficient in Mandarin Chinese. In 2013, Ned earned his J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Tempe, AZ. In his free time, he enjoys tennis, golf, squash, and foreign film.

### **KIMBERLY PIECHOWIAK**

Ms. Piechowiak is the Domestic Violence Resource Attorney for the Texas Office of Court Administration. She received her B.A. in Criminal Justice in 1989 and her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1992. Before coming to the OCA, Kimberly prosecuted domestic violence cases for 20 years, first with the Bexar County District Attorney and then the San Antonio City Attorney's Office. While with the City, Kimberly implemented and supervised the family violence prosecution program at San Antonio Municipal Court. She is a TCLEOSE Certified Police Instructor who has been training law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judges for 15 years on the issue of domestic violence for many local, state, and national agencies, including the San Antonio Police Training Academy, the National District Attorneys Association, the State Bar of Texas Judicial Section, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, and the Texas Council on Family Violence.

### **ROBIN RAMSAY**

Robin Ramsay is currently a licensed attorney and the Presiding Municipal Judge for the City of Denton. Judge Ramsay received his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and his law degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Ramsay served as Students' Attorney for the University of North Texas and as an Adjunct Professor of Business Law. After leaving the University of North Texas and prior to his current appointment, Judge Ramsay practiced law with the Hammerle Law Firm with offices in Lewisville and Denton.

Judge Ramsay has received his accreditation for the American Academy of Attorney Mediators and currently acts as a Mediator for both pre-litigation and litigated matters by assignment of court and at the request of the parties or their attorneys. Judge Ramsay also serves as alternate Mental Health Magistrate for Denton County at the assignment of the Denton County Probate Court.

Judge Ramsay is a past-president of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and currently serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

### **ERIC RANSLEBEN**

Eric G. Ransleben is an Associate Municipal Judge for the Town of Trophy Club and the Town of Westlake. He is also the City Prosecutor for the City of North Richland Hills. Judge Ransleben has been in private practice since 1996, and specializes in criminal and juvenile defense, and education law. He has been representing school age children in the public school system for over 10 years, with particular interest in special education law.

### **EDWARD SPILLANE**

Edward Spillane is the Presiding Municipal Judge for College Station since May 2002. Prior to taking that position, he served as an Assistant District Attorney for Brazos County for eight years and as an associate for the law firm Fulbright and Jaworski for two years. Judge Spillane received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his law degree from the University of Chicago. He served as President of the Texas Municipal Courts Association.

Judge Spillane currently is the Region VII director on the TMCEC/TMCA board and represents Texas Municipal Courts on the Judicial Conduct Commission.

### **RYAN KELLUS TURNER**

Ryan Kellus Turner is General Counsel and Director of Education for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Prior to joining the Center in 1999, he served as Briefing Attorney for Judge Sharon Keller at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Mr. Turner obtained his juris doctorate from Southern Methodist University School of Law. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with highest honors from St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, where he now teaches as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences. In 2004 and 2013 he was the recipient of the School's Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award and a finalist for the University Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award in 2014.

Mr. Turner is currently Deputy City Attorney for the City of Dripping Springs and has served as a Special Assistant County Attorney for Kendall County.

In 2011, he was an advisory member on the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee. In 2012, Mr. Turner was named Co-Chair of the Texas Judicial Council Legislative Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice.

A native Texan, Mr. Turner was raised in the north Texas town of Vernon. He is the co-author of the books *Lone Star Justice: A Comprehensive Overview of the Texas Criminal Justice System* and *The Municipal Judges Book*.