

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER FACULTY ROSTER

Regional Judges Seminar
Houston
February 14 – 16, 2016

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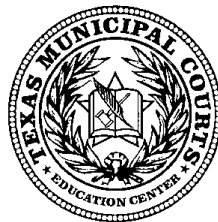
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FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

ROBERT J. BARFIELD

Robert J. Barfield was born and raised in Pasadena, Texas. He is a graduate from Harvard College (1991) and the University of Houston Law Center (1993). He currently maintains a criminal defense practice focusing on Class C misdemeanors. Mr. Barfield is a Municipal Judge in the City of El Lago. He also serves as a Prosecutor for the Texas City Municipal Court.

JAN BLACKLOCK MATTHEWS

Jan Blacklock Matthews currently serves as municipal judge for the City of Wilson (appointed 2011). Previously, she served as a municipal judge for the city of Lubbock (elected 1994 and 1998, appointed 1998-2011). She also serves as an Assistant City Attorney/Prosecutor for the cities of Idalou and Petersburg. Matthews is an attorney and trained mediator. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas (1981) and her Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock (1987).

KATIE CHANCIA

Katie Chancia (formerly Tefft) is the Staff Attorney for the Harris County Justice Courts, a position that provides legal advice and assistance to the sixteen Justices of the Peace and their court staffs in Harris County. Since her first internship with the Juvenile Crime Intervention Section at the Texas Attorney General's Office while in college at Southwestern University, Ms. Chancia has spent the past 12 years working in some capacity within the criminal and juvenile justice systems. While in law school at Mercer University in Macon, Bibb County, Georgia, Ms. Chancia clerked for the District Attorney's Office in the Narcotics Division. Upon returning to Texas, she worked as a guest editor for the former Texas Juvenile Probation Commission on Dawson's *Texas Juvenile Law* (6th ed.) and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Open Records Division. She then spent five great years at TMCEC as a Program Attorney and Program Director. Ms. Chancia left TMCEC in October 2013 to get married, relocate to her hometown, and get into the courtroom as an Assistant City Attorney and municipal prosecutor with the City of Houston, before ending up at her current position with the county.

ROBBY CHAPMAN

Robby Chapman is Director of Clerk Education and Program Attorney for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Mr. Chapman has served as an Assistant District Attorney for Nueces County and the Municipal Court Prosecutor for the City of Cedar Park. While prosecuting for Cedar Park, Mr. Chapman received the Merit Certification in Municipal Court Prosecution from the Texas City Attorneys Association. Mr. Chapman manages the court clerk education program for the Center, including development of nine annual statewide seminars, the new clerks conferences, and the court administrator conference. In addition, Mr. Chapman oversees and edits TMCEC publications such as the Fine-Only Misdemeanors "Green Book" and the Clerk Certification Study Guides. Mr. Chapman has a Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in History from The University of Texas at Austin.

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.

PETER DE LEEF

Mr. de Leef is a municipal judge with the city of El Lago and also has been practicing criminal law exclusively for the past 16 years. After graduating from law school, he spent more than four years as a Prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney's Office working under Johnny Holmes and Chuck Rosenthal.

While at the Harris County District Attorney's Office, he spent time in the felony, Misdemeanor, and JP courts of Harris County. Mr. de Leef has considerable experience in the juvenile division, family violence division, and justice of the peace division. He also has extensive experience in the trial bureau handling felony and misdemeanor cases. Mr. de Leef served as Chief Prosecutor for numerous county courts.

WARREN DIEPRAAM

Warren Diepraam is the First Assistant District Attorney with the Waller County District Attorney's Office. Warren worked at the Harris County District Attorney's Office for twenty years and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office for five years. He is a consultant/lawyer with the law firm of Looney & Conrad. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Houston in 1989 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law in 1992.

Mr. Diepraam created the state's first callout team during his 19-year tenure with the Harris County District Attorney's Office in Houston where he also pioneered several types of prosecutions against impaired or reckless drivers. He was the first person in the state to successfully prosecute a habitual DWI offender for first degree murder rather than the traditional DWI homicide approach. Additionally, Mr. Diepraam created the "No Refusal" program which has now been recognized by the Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as the leading model for DWI enforcement in the nation. Due to his creation of the No Refusal concept and work on the program, Mr. Diepraam received a national award from the Governor's Highway Safety Association in 2011. Mr. Diepraam has been voted amongst the nation's top vehicular crimes prosecutors having recently received that award from both the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC) and MADD. Mr. Diepraam was selected to be the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinator and NHTSA's Traffic Safety Prosecutor Fellow in February 2008.

Mr. Diepraam publishes a newsletter called "The Vehicular Crimes Prosecutor," which is read by about 1,000 people in the field of traffic safety. He is a member of the National Center for DWI Courts DWI Task Force, and has also trained thousands of police and prosecutors on traffic safety and the science involved in those cases. He has been recognized around the country due to his work in the fields of prosecutorial ethics, forensic toxicology, forensic pathology, crash reconstruction, alcohol and drug impairment, blood evidence in vehicular crimes cases, field sobriety testing, breath alcohol testing, HIPAA, and many other areas.

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.

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.

JACQUELINE 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.

ALFRED JENKINS

Alfred Jenkins is an Associate Municipal Judge with the City of Austin. Judge Jenkins has served in this capacity since 2004. Prior to his judicial appointment, Mr. Jenkins was an Assistant Police Monitor with the City of Austin. Mr. Jenkins has also worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and was in private practice with Daw and Ray, P.C. in the Houston area. Mr. Jenkins received his B.A. from The University of Akron and his J.D. from the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

MICHAEL MACHA

Mike is one of 92 Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) deployed throughout the United States and Protectorates to lead the coordinated national effort to reduce the risk to our critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) and strengthen national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency. As a DHS PSA, Mike is the on-site critical infrastructure and vulnerability assessment subject matter expert assigned to local communities. He facilitates physical and cyber assessments and provides guidance on established security practices by reviewing and analyzing physical/technical/cyber security for local critical infrastructure facilities and systems. He has extensive experience in identifying gaps/vulnerabilities and providing options to

mitigate the risks and developing strategies to improve regional capabilities and long-term strategies for implementation.

Mike assists in the development of the national risk profile by identifying CI/KR and assessing and minimizing risk to critical assets at the local level and assists State and local public and private sector stakeholders with homeland security initiatives. Mike recognizes that information sharing and collaboration is vital to establishing relationships necessary to accomplish his job responsibilities. As such, he works closely with Federal, State, local, and private-sector partners to facilitate the flow of programmatic information between partners.

As the PSA assigned to the Houston District, he has responsibility for a 35 county area in Southeast Texas. As a result of their local deployment, PSAs are often the first DHS personnel to respond to incidents and provide early situational awareness to leadership. As a Federal Emergency Response Official, Mike is a rapid-deployment asset to assist in response and recovery efforts for national incidents.

Mike retired from the Houston Police Department with 27 years of law enforcement experience, most at the Command level. During the last seven years with the Police Department, he was assigned to the Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security doing many of the same job responsibilities on a regional basis. He played an integral part in the preparedness/response/recovery efforts and emergency management for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike.

He is a Summa Cum Laude graduate from Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

MARILYN MILLER

Marilyn Miller is a founding member of the Texas Chapter of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). She also serves as Director of the National Elder Law Foundation. Ms. Miller is a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation, as recognized by the State Bar of Texas Board of Legal Specialization (1996).

She received her Juris Doc from the University of Kansas in 1981 and her Master of Laws degree in Taxation from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1983.

Ms. Miller currently sits as the Municipal Judge in Dripping Springs and as a Commissioner of the Hays County Emergency Services District #6.

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. Mr. Minevitz 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, Mr. Minevitz is proficient in Mandarin Chinese. In 2013, Mr. Minevitz earned his J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Tempe, AZ. In his free time, he enjoys tennis, golf, and squash.

WILLIAM (BILL) RAGSDALE

William (Bill) Ragsdale is the Presiding Judge for the City of Ingram and has been a Justice of the Peace for Kerr County 24 years. He has taught for the Justice of the Peace Training Center for three years and is enjoying his third year teaching for the Texas Municipal Court Education Center. Judge Ragsdale began court work as a Court Clerk and was the City Marshal for the City of Ingram. He earned a Peace Officer Master License with fifteen years of experience and has an Instructor License for TCOLE.

ROBERT C. RICHTER, JR.

Robert Richter is currently the Presiding Municipal Judge for the City of Missouri City, Texas. Additionally, he is prosecutor in various municipal courts in the Houston area. He is also engaged in private practice in Houston. He received his law degree from Baylor University.

Mr. Richter is the chief financial officer for the Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC). He is a member of both those boards.

ELI RIVERA

Chief Investigator Rivera is an 11 year law enforcement veteran and is currently employed with the Waller County District Attorney's Office. As Chief Investigator he conducts self-initiated investigations along with follow up investigations from other law enforcement agencies. He also is over the safety and security of the D.A.'s Office and training of all investigators. Amongst other administrative duties, he oversees and participates in the Waller County Safe Streets Task Force, where several D.A. Investigators and other law enforcement agencies saturate problem areas in Waller County. Chief Investigator Rivera was nominated and awarded Officer of the Year in 2009 and 2013 for his outstanding work and dedication to DWI enforcement. In 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 he was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (M.A.D.D.) for his dedication to enforcing DWI laws.

Prior to joining the Waller County District Attorney's Office, Chief Investigator Rivera started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer for the City of Woodbranch Police Department, located in Montgomery County. He later transferred to the Montgomery County Constable Office PCT. 4 where he served as a Deputy with his primary focus on DWI enforcement. Seeing an opportunity to grow, he transferred to the Harris County Constable Office PCT. 3 where he served as a Toll Road/DWI Enforcement Deputy throughout the entire Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) system.

Chief Investigator Rivera currently holds an Advanced Peace Officer License, is a current a Drug Recognition Expert (D.R.E.), a certified Intoxilyzer Operator, Phlebotomist, and an S.F.S.T. Instructor.

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 is the current President of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and represents Texas Municipal Courts on the Judicial Conduct Commission.

RYAN 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*.