

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER FACULTY ROSTER

Regional Judges Seminar
El Paso
June 20 – 22, 2016

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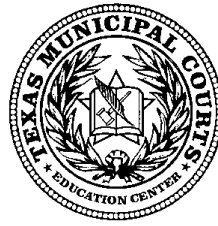
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FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

JANET 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).

THOMAS BRIDGES

Tom Bridges recently retired as the Municipal Court Prosecutor for the City of Portland. Prior to serving in this capacity he was the District Attorney in Aransas and San Patricio Counties from 1978 to 2000. Mr. Bridges served as a pilot in the United States Air Force from 1962 to 1967 attaining the rank of Captain. He earned his undergraduate degree from North Texas State University and his juris doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law.

Mr. Bridges is a co-author of *Warrants Manual for Arrest, Search and Seizure* with Ted Wilson and currently lectures on Fourth Amendment Law for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, the Texas Department of Public Safety and, occasionally, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center.

ROBBY CHAPMAN

Robby Chapman is Director of Clerk Education and Program Attorney for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Mr. Chapman manages the Center's court clerk continuing education program and edits both the Fine-Only Misdemeanors "Green Book" and the Clerk Certification Study Guide. Prior to working for the Center, Mr. Chapman served as an Assistant District Attorney for Nueces County and as the Municipal Court Prosecutor for the City of Cedar Park.

Mr. Chapman regularly speaks on legal issues throughout the state and is a past presenter for the Texas Municipal Courts Association, the Texas Court Clerks Association, and the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's University School of Law and 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.

RAY DUKE

Ray Duke is a veteran of the United States Submarine Service and is a proud graduate of Texas Tech Law School "Get your Guns Up." He has been licensed since 2001 and joined the El Paso County District Attorney's office later that year. He has prosecuted both misdemeanor and felony cases. Many of these

cases were DWI offenses. In 2012 he was assigned to special crimes and specifically to intoxication manslaughter offenses. Ray has tried approximately 70 felony cases including intoxication manslaughter cases. After two years of screening, prepping and prosecuting intoxication manslaughter cases he was assigned to tackle the ever increasing DWI threat in our community. Ray has continued working on efforts through the court system such as increasing the use of Ignition Interlocks and pushing the District Attorney's Anti-DWI program "out for blood."

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.

PETER GRAHAM

Judge Peter Graham has been an associate judge in Irving since December 2004. After graduating from University of Dallas in Irving with a BA in Politics, he joined the Marine Corps where he served as a tank commander before being stationed at the Marine Recruiting Station in Dallas. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University School of Law and is in private practice in Arlington. He is a member of the Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Tankers Association, and is active in the Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots program. Recreation interests include civil war re-enactments and anything else that does not involve being on a telephone.

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.

ANDREW HAGEN

Andrew Hagen is the municipal judge for the City of Uvalde, where he has been presiding since 2011. Mr. Hagen received his juris doctorate from the Rutgers University School of Law, Camden. Mr. Hagen previously served the City of Uvalde as an IT administrator.

CF "BUCK" HAMILTON

Charles F. "Buck" Hamilton currently serves as the Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for the El Paso, Texas District. Mr. Hamilton supports homeland security efforts, serving in an advising and reach-back capacity to state Homeland Security Advisors. He contributes to the development of the national risk picture by assisting with the identification, assessment, monitoring, and minimizing of risk to critical assets at the local level. As a PSA, Mr. Hamilton facilitates, coordinates, and performs vulnerability assessments for local critical infrastructure and assets, and acts as a physical and technical security advisor to Federal, state, and local agencies.

In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton, a native of Lubbock, TX, retired from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) as an infantry officer. A 25-year veteran of the USMC, he served in Vietnam, the Far East, South America, and in various staff and command positions within the continental United States and Hawaii. After retiring from the USMC, Mr. Hamilton spent five years as a management consultant with Growth Consulting before returning to counter-drug operations in both Colombia and Peru supporting Plan Colombia. Working closely with the Colombian government, he developed counter-drug operational doctrines for the Colombian public forces. Additionally, as DynCorp International's site manager in Peru, he provided aircraft, aircraft maintenance, and training support to the Narcotics Affairs Section of the American Embassy program for the Peruvian Anti-Narcotics Police. Returning to Texas in 2004, Mr. Hamilton served as the Deputy Program Manager for Operations (Global War on Terrorism) with VT Griffin Services at Fort Bliss.

Mr. Hamilton received his undergraduate degree in History from the Virginia Military Institute and his Master's Degree in Psychology, Guidance, and Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado and is a Certified Protection Professional and a Physical Security Professional, board certified in Security Management and Physical Security. Mr. Hamilton's military decorations include: Defense Superior Service Medal; Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf; Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars; Colombian Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal; Colombian Marine Corps Officers badge; and Riverine Commando badge. Mr. Hamilton and his wife former Agnieszka Mali reside in El Paso, TX.

SCOTT HOUSTON

Scott Houston is presently serving as Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel for the Texas Municipal League and General Counsel for the Texas City Attorneys Association. He has served as an adjunct professor of political science at Texas State University's M.P.A. program, and his work on open meetings law and annexation has been published in the Texas Tech Administrative Law Journal. Scott graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in political science. After studying law in Austria and Argentina, he received his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

MYRA KIRKLAND

Myra Kirkland is the managing attorney for the Dallas County Probate Courts Investigator's Office. She is an attorney, licensed master social worker and municipal judge for the small town of Blue Ridge in northern Collin County.

She graduated from law school in December, 1999, and is licensed to practice in both Texas and Mississippi. For the last 15 years, she has practiced law in Collin, Dallas, Tarrant and Denton counties in the fields of guardianship, probate, family law, and personal injury.

Mrs. Kirkland became a municipal judge in 2006. She began her current position in the Dallas County Probate Court Investigator's Office in 2008. In her current position Myra manages the Court Investigator's Office and files guardianship cases indigent persons with no family or friends, many of whom have been abused, exploited, or lived in a state of neglect.

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.

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 2nd Vice President.

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 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*.