

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER
FACULTY ROSTER
Regional Judges Seminar
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Houston

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ROBERT J. BARFIELD

Mr. 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.

JOHN BRADY

John Brady is currently the Senior Safety Specialist for Travis County, Texas and the Director of the Texas Alive Team, a non-profit multi-agency team of law enforcement professionals. A graduate of the LeTourneau University, Mr. Brady worked as a trauma nurse and flight paramedic for nearly 20 years. In response to the unique experience of witnessing on a daily basis the epidemic of teen injuries and deaths associated with driving, Mr. Brady and the Texas Alive Team are committed to impacting the young drivers of Texas through education. The Texas Alive Team began offering the National Safety Council's "Alive at 25" program in 2008 in an attempt to emulate the program's success in other states. He hopes that the "Alive at 25" program elements can be used as a tool in Texas communities to make the roadways safer for all.

JAMESON CRAIN

Mr. Crain is the Multimedia Specialist for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Jameson graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Arizona State University in 2008. Before TMCEC, he gained work experience in video production, photography, graphic design, and web development. In his spare time he enjoys designing and screen printing shirts and posters, mountain biking, and playing the drums.

TERRY ELIZONDO

Judge Elizondo has served as an Associate Judge, City of Southside Place since 2000. She is a Seattle, Washington native with a B.A. & M.A. from Seattle University. Prior to law school Judge Elizondo taught Physical Science and English in Houston, Texas and Colon, Republic of Panama. Judge Elizondo graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1977 and worked as Corporate Counsel for two large corporations until 1984. She has been in private practice over 25 years with an emphasis on law relating to children. Judge Elizondo was president of the Association of Women Attorneys-Houston and is an experienced presenter at State Bar of Texas and Houston Bar Association programs.

DAVID 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 B.A. in Psychology from the University of Houston in 1975. He received his J.D. 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, the Texas-Mexico Bar Association and 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.

MARK GOODNER

Mr. Goodner serves as the Presiding Judge for the City of Woodcreek and is the Program Attorney and Deputy Counsel 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.

JOSEPH GORFIDA, JR.

Joseph Gorfida, Jr. is a partner with the law firm of Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager and Smith in Dallas. He is the city attorney for numerous cities including the City of Desoto, City of Lucas, and Hutchins. Mr. Gorfida, Jr. has also served as an Associate Judge for the city of Plano and also started his legal career in Plano as an assistant City Attorney.

DANA JACOBSON

Dana D. Jacobson is the managing partner of The Jacobson Law Firm, P.C. in San Antonio, Texas, a general practice firm concentrating in the areas of estate planning and probate, health law, small business formation and counsel, municipal law and security clearance issues. Mr. Jacobson received his Bachelor of Science degree in Radio-Television-Film from the University of Texas at Austin and his Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

Mr. Jacobson spent six years on active duty as a United States Air Force judge advocate, and is a Colonel in the USAF Reserves. He is presently serving as the Senior Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Commander, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, MD. He serves on the Reserve Executive Council, the senior policy and management entity for the USAF Judge Advocate General's Corps Reserve.

Besides his civil practice, Mr. Jacobson is the Presiding Judge of the Fair Oaks Ranch Municipal Court and spent seven years as the City Prosecutor for the City of Boerne. He is a Fellow of the College

of the State Bar and a regular author and speaker on a number of topics, including Estate Planning and Advance Directives.

Mr. Jacobson's honors and awards include 10th Air Force Judge Advocate of the Year and 2000 Harmon Award nominee for Reserve Judge Advocate of the Year, the 2004 Jim Bowmer Professionalism Award from the College of the State Bar of Texas, and a Third Place finish in the Christian Artists International Songwriting Competition.

Mr. Jacobson is married to the former Betsy Clark of San Antonio and they have two daughters: Rachel is a recent Graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio with a degree in Anthropology, and Mara is a freshman Elementary Education major at the University of North Texas. In his spare time, Dana performs regularly around the San Antonio area with a band called On The Side and tries to stay ahead of the honey-do list.

KAMERON JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson is the Juvenile Public Defender for Travis County, Austin, Texas. Kameron Johnson received his law degree from The University of Texas School of Law and is licensed to practice in both federal and state courts. He is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both Criminal Law and Juvenile Law. He is also a former adjunct professor at The University of Texas School of Law where he has taught juvenile law and trial and appellate advocacy.

STEVEN KIRKLAND

Steven Kirkland graduated from Rice University and the University of Houston Law School. He served as a Judge in the 215th District Court of Harris County from 2009 to 2012 and in Houston Municipal Courts from 2001 through 2008. During his tenure in the Municipal Courts, he created the Houston Homeless Recovery Court, which works in conjunction with the Houston Coalition for the Homeless. In recognition of this achievement, Mr. Kirkland was awarded the 2006 Government Friend of the Homeless by Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County. Mr. Kirkland is currently working in the Houston City Attorney's office assisting with economic development projects.

Mr. Kirkland is active in affordable housing, historic preservation, Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender rights issues. He is a founding board member of Avenue Community Development Corporation which

is a community based affordable housing provider in the Near Northside and Washington Avenue corridor. His real estate projects have been recognized with awards by the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance and others.

HOPE LOCHRIDGE

Ms. Lochridge has served as the Executive Director of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center since 1991. Prior to that she was the Director of the Public Service/Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas and the Executive Director of Law Focused Education, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to educating young people about the law. She earned a B.A. in Government from

Beloit College in Wisconsin and a Masters in Human Resource Development from the University of Texas at Austin. A native Texan, she has a 26 year old daughter, Molly (who is currently a law student at the University of Texas at Austin), and enjoys outdoor recreation and travel.

LINDSEY MENA

Ms. Mena attended Texas State University- San Marcos, where she studied Applied Sociology with an emphasis in Deviance and Social Control. She graduated in May 2010 and began working as a Juvenile Case Coordinator for the City of San Marcos in July 2010. She is beginning the 3rd straight year with the outreach program throughout the city and has enjoyed watching it expand each year. She has been married for 2 years and they just recently had their first child, a little boy, this past summer.

GLENN PHILLIPS

Judge Phillips has served as the Presiding Municipal Judge of Kilgore, Texas since October 1, 1987. Judge Phillips holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting degree from the University of Texas at Tyler (1975) and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from South Texas College of Law (1978) and has been licensed to practice law in Texas since 1978. Judge Phillips is also licensed to practice before the United States Tax Court, the United States Claims Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and all federal courts in Texas. He is a partner in the Kilgore law firm of Phillips & Watson, LLP and is the owner of US Title Company in Kilgore. Judge Phillips was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve as member of the Judicial Compensation Committee (200-02) and has served as

a member of the Texas Judicial Counsel since 2001. Judge Phillips has served as a Mentor Judge for the

Texas Judicial Conduct Commission and as a Director of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center from 1994 through 1999 and President in 1999-2000. He was as a faculty member at the Center from 1993 through 2001. Judge Phillips was the District Director of the Tonkawa District of the Boy Scouts of America from 1990 to 1994 and the Vice President Finance of the East Texas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Judge Phillips has represented judges before the Judicial Conduct Commission.

KIM A.F. 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.

BILL RAGSDALE

Mr. Ragsdale is the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Ingram and Justice of the Peace of Precinct Four, Kerr County. He has been a judge for 22 years and has taught clerks for the Justice Court Training Center. He began as a municipal court clerk in 1987.

REBECCA SCHLOSSER

Ms. Schlosser is the Municipal Judge in the City of Alpine as well as an Associate Professor in the Educational Administration Program of Sul Ross State University. She was a former Government Attorney in private practice, both in Texas and Florida. Previously Ms. Schlosser served as the

senior litigator for the City of Houston. She received her Doctor of Jurisprudence and Texas license in 1983, her Florida license in 1999, and her Doctor of Education in 2006. Ms. Schlosser was formerly a School Law Section of State Bar of Texas Presenter and is a reporter for the Education Law Association.

KATIE TEFFT

Ms. Tefft is the Program Director for the TMCEC. Prior to joining the Center, she worked as Project Attorney on the 7th edition of Dawson's Texas Juvenile Law under contract with the former Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and as a Drafting Attorney in the Attorney General's Open Records Division. Ms. Tefft received her Bachelor's degree with honors in Sociology and Economics from

Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and her Juris Doctorate with honors in May of 2007 from Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia. She also received a certificate in Legal Writing and Research from Mercer. While in law school, Ms. Tefft clerked in the Narcotics Division of the Bibb County District Attorney's Office.

RYAN KELLUS TURNER

Mr. Turner is General Counsel and Director of Education for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Prior to joining the Center, 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 he received the School's Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award.

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

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*.

He is currently an advisory committee member on the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee which is charged with assessing the impact of school discipline and school-based policing on referrals to the municipal, justice, and juvenile courts and identifying judicial policies or initiatives that work to reduce referrals without having a negative impact on school safety; limit recidivism; and preserve judicial resources.

CAMERON VANN

Cameron Vann has been licensed as an attorney since 1982. After graduating from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science and from the University of Houston with a Master of Education, she pursued a teaching and administrative career in Spring Branch Independent School District.

Cameron then earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston and joined a mid-size civil litigation firm. In 1985 she opened her private practice in Houston, focusing on probate and elder law until her retirement in 2003. While practicing in Houston Cameron served on several boards and received awards for her work from Baylor College of Medicine, Alzheimer Association, Mental Health Association, Association of Women Attorneys, and Rotary.

After deciding that she had too much energy to retire permanently, Cameron moved to Austin to work at Advocacy, Inc. representing clients with mental health disabilities. While at Advocacy, she served on the Mental Health Community Committee and the Jail Diversion Committee. She is a past board member of the Travis County Women Lawyers Association.

Joining the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) staff at the State Bar of Texas in July 2008, Cameron works with lawyers, judges and law students who experience depression and alcohol or drug dependency, to connect with resources for recovery. If there is someone in the legal community struggling with these issues, make a confidential referral to TLAP at 512-427-1453 to get help.

Cameron and her husband Charlie own Barrington Bed and Breakfast in Washington-on-the-Brazos, Texas, and have a son in Austin and daughter in Washington, D.C.