# Municipal Court Clerk Certification Program



Sponsored by the Texas Court Clerks Association in Cooperation With the Texas Municipal Courts Association and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

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# What is It?

- A professional development program for municipal court clerks-
  - Comprised of three levels: Level I, Level II, and Level III;
  - Designed to improve your knowledge, job performance and ability to assist the court.

## Who Is Involved?

- TMCEC Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
- TCCA Texas Court Clerks Association
- TMCA Texas Municipal Courts Association
- Texas State University-San Marcos

#### Where do I start?

- Level I
  - Download a study guide from http://www.tmcec.com
     (it's free!), or order a copy off the website. Study, study, study!!
  - Take the Level I certification test
  - Complete 40 hours education
  - Submit an application for Level I certification to TMCEC
- Move to Level II

## Then what?

- Level II
  - Take Level II certification test
  - Complete 40 hours education
  - Submit application for Level II certification to TMCEC
- Move to Level III

## What's Level III?

- Level III is the highest level of certification.
   Once you become Level III certified, you earn the title of Certified Municipal Court Clerk (CMCC).
- Requirements for Level III:
  - Complete Level III Certification Exam;
  - Complete Court Observation Journal
  - Attend 24-Hour Assessment Clinic
  - 12-Hour Court Administrator seminar
  - Complete 28 hours training

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## **Keeping Your Certification**

- Once you are certified at a particular level, you must attend continuing education to keep your certification. You need to stay up-to-date on court procedure!
- Continuing education requirements:
  - Level I: 12 hours/academic year
  - Level II: 12 hours/academic year
  - Level III: 20 hours/academic year
- Proof of continuing education must be provided to TMCEC for certification to be maintained.

## **FAQs**

- When can I take the certification test?
  - Tests are offered at all TMCEC 12-Hour regional conferences, and also at the TCCA Annual Meeting.
- How and when will I know if I passed the test?
  - TMCEC will contact you within 45 days, by mail, stating whether or not you passed.
- What happens if I fail the test?
  - You can re-take the exam as many times as needed, but you must pay the registration fee each time.

## **How Much Does It Cost?**

#### **TCCA Members**

■ Level I: \$50

Note: Level I may not be retaken in parts

■ Level II: \$50

■ Retest: \$25/part

■ Level III: \$50

■ Retest: \$25/part

#### Non-TCCA Members

■ Level I: \$90

 Note: Level I may not be retaken in parts

■ Level II: \$90

Retest: \$25/part

Level III: \$90

■ Retest: \$25/part

## Everyone's Doing It...

- 224 different <u>cities</u> have clerks certified, and the list keeps growing...
- 458 Level I Certified Municipal Court Clerks
- 278 Level II Certified Municipal Court Clerks
- 35 CMCC, Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerks

## **Need More Incentive?**

- Many cities offer incentives to clerks who achieve levels of certification, such as pay raises.
- Some cities are even making certification a condition of hiring or continued employment!

# Websites

www.tmcec.com (TMCEC)
www.texascourtclerks.org (TCCA)

# FY 2010 Changes

- Exam payments will be payable to TMCEC, not TCCA
- Cost of TMCEC Study Sessions will go from \$15 to \$25
- <u>www.cali.org</u> New way to get hours