

**Courts, Communities, &  
Classrooms: Educating the  
Public About the Law**

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**CODE OF JUDICIAL  
CONDUCT**



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**Canon 1**  
**Upholding the Integrity and Independence of  
the Judiciary**

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing high standards of conduct, and should personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary is preserved. The provisions of this Code are to be construed and applied to further that objective.

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**Canon 2**  
**- Avoiding Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in ALL of the Judge's Activities**

A. A judge **SHALL** comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

B. A judge **SHALL** not allow any relationship to influence judicial conduct or judgment. A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others.

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**Canon 3**  
**Performing the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently**

**A. Judicial Duties in General.**  
The judicial duties of a judge take precedence over all the judge's other activities. Judicial duties include all the duties of the judge's office prescribed by law.

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**Canon 4**  
**Conducting the Judge's Extra-Judicial Activities to Minimize the Risk of Conflict with Judicial Obligations**

**A. Extra-Judicial Activities in General.**  
A judge **SHALL** conduct all of the judge's extra-judicial activities so that they do not:  
(1) cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge; or  
(2) interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties.

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**Canon 4**  
**B. Activities to Improve the Law A judge**  
**MAY:**

(1) speak, write, lecture, teach and participate in extra-judicial activities concerning the law, the legal system, the administration of justice and non-legal subjects, subject to the requirements of this Code.

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**Canon 4**  
**B. Activities to Improve the Law A judge**  
**MAY:**

(2) serve as a member, officer or director of an organization or governmental agency devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice.... He or she may make recommendations to public and private fund-granting agencies on projects and programs concerning the law, the legal system and the administration of justice.

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**Canon 5**  
**Refraining From Inappropriate Political Activity**

(1) A judge or judicial candidate **SHALL** not:

(i) make pledges or promises of conduct in office regarding pending or impending cases, specific classes of cases, specific classes of litigants, or specific propositions of law that would suggest to a reasonable person that the judge is predisposed to a probable decision in cases within the scope of the pledge.

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## PUBLIC OUTREACH

*So ...*

*what may a judge do?*

*and*

*What have you done?*

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## DEATH BOOK

*In Memory of....*

Matthew Blake is dead at the age of 17 – he was exceeding the posted speed limit, hit another vehicle and died in the crash.



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**From Courtroom to Classrooms  
The Court's Involvement in Public  
Schools**

- Each Year over **5,000** teens ages 16 to 20 die due to fatal injuries caused car accidents.
  
- About **400,000** drivers age 16 to 20 will be seriously injured.
  
- For 16 to 19 year olds, the risk of being involved in a car accident is higher than it is for any other age group. For each mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are about **FOUR** times more likely than other drivers to crash.

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**From Courtroom to Classrooms**  
**The Court's Involvement in Public Schools**

MTSI Statistics

- Young drivers between the ages of **15 and 20**, comprise **6.5%** of the licensed population
  - High number injured or killed due to speed, DUI, failure to wear seat belt and other poor driving habits.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of 15-20 year olds.
- NHTSA reported that **23%** of the young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20, who were killed in crashes, had a BAC of .08 or higher.

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**From Courtroom to Classrooms**  
**The Court's Involvement in Public Schools**

- Texas Municipal Judges > **36%** state judiciary.
- On daily basis
  - More citizen contact
  - Then all Texas Courts combined.
  - Majority: Traffic Safety
- Driving on the Right Side of the Road (DRSR)*
  - curriculum developed with the Texas State Bar and TMCEC
  - Opportunity for Judiciary to play a meaningful role
  - discussing the law and traffic safety issues
  - Texas public schools students.

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**From Courtroom to Classrooms**  
**The Court's Involvement in Public Schools**

- DRSR
  - series of lessons for social studies classes
    - Law Related Education (LRE)
    - Colorful and interactive
  - elementary, secondary, and high school levels
  - focus on citizenship education and traffic safety.
- Municipal judges and court personnel
  - materials on the TMCEC website
  - Offer to participate in classroom as resource persons.
  - providing real life or hypothetical examples,
  - accurate descriptions of law
  - serve as positive role models.

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**From Courtroom to Classrooms  
The Court's Involvement in Public  
Schools**

Who is the BEST expert in your city on traffic safety laws?

• **YOU !!!!**

TMCEC has established

speaker's bureau of judges and court personnel

Volunteer:

- DRSR brochure,
- form distributed
- TMCEC's Traffic Safety Grant Administrator.

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**TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER**

**www.tmcec.com**  
Click on...  
**DRSR**  
Then...  
**Teaching Materials**



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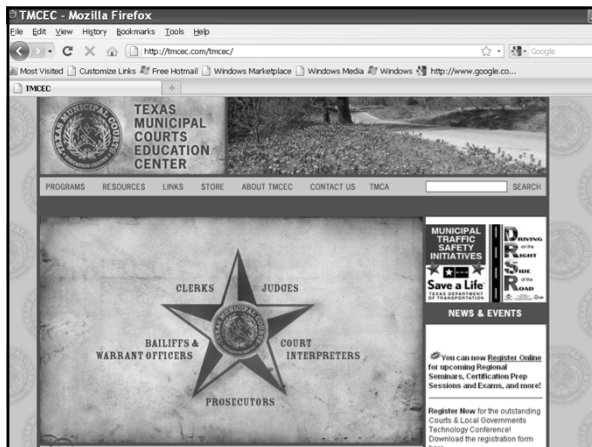
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TMCEC - Mozilla Firefox

http://tmcec.com/tmcec/

Most Visited | Customize Links | Free Hotmail | Windows Marketplace | Windows Media | Windows | http://www.google.co...

TMCEC

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER

PROGRAMS | RESOURCES | LINKS | STORE | ABOUT TMCEC | CONTACT US | TMCA | SEARCH

CLERKS | JUDGES | BAILIFFS & WARRANT OFFICERS | COURT INTERPRETERS | PROSECUTORS

MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

Save a Life DRSR

NEWS & EVENTS

You can now Register Online for upcoming Regional Seminars, Certification Prep Sessions and Exams, and more!

Register Now for the outstanding Courts & Local Governments Technology Conference! Download the registration form

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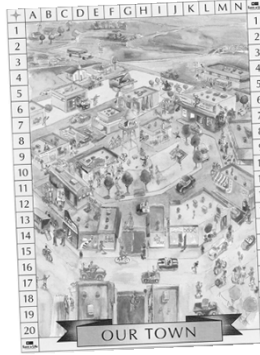
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**“Our Town” Map  
“Our Town”  
Map  
of Do’s  
and Don’ts**



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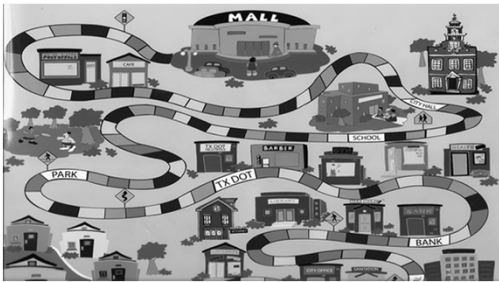
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**Rules of the Road  
TxDOT Land**



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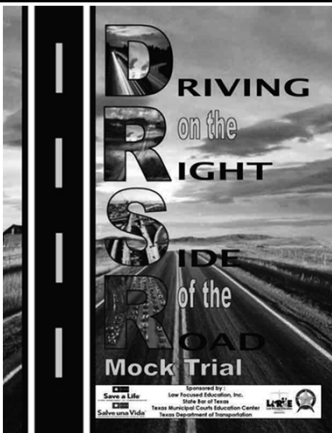
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**Pick Six  
Online Computer Game**



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**Helpful Links**

Websites

- [www.drsr.info](http://www.drsr.info)
- [www.texasre.org](http://www.texasre.org)
- [www.tncec.com](http://www.tncec.com)



Goofy and *Motor Mania*:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZAZ\\_xu0DCg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZAZ_xu0DCg)

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*And if we do nothing . . .*



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