

**Courts,
Communities,
and
Classrooms:**

**Educating
the Public
about the Law**

**In 2010,
there were
234.261
billion
miles
traveled on
Texas
roadways**

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By the numbers...

- **1 reportable crash every 81 seconds**
- **215,593 persons injured**
- **82,685 serious injuries**
- **3,023 deaths**

Why Municipal Courts?

- 917 courts in Texas
- 7.5 million cases
- 82.6% = traffic and parking cases
- Municipal judges make up 39% of the judiciary

ethical issues:

Canon 1

Upholding the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary

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.

ethical issues:

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.

ethical issues:

Canon 3

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

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.

ethical issues:

Canon 4

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

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.

ethical issues:

Canon 4

Activities to Improve the Law.

A judge **MAY** 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.

ethical issues:

Canon 4

Activities to Improve the Law.

A judge **MAY** 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.

ethical issues:

Canon 5

Refraining From Inappropriate Political Activity

A judge or judicial candidate **SHALL** not:

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.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

So ...

what may a clerk do?

and

What have you done?

Why Me?

Clerks

- Act as the liaison between the public and the judiciary
- Are respected in the community

Judges

- Represent our system of justice
- Are a symbol of authority

Who are the experts?

- Can make it interesting and interactive
- Serve as role models for young people

YOU

What's in it for us?

- Make our job easier
- Reduce our case load
- Increase our overall approval rating
- Make our communities safer



Teen Drivers

- 446,982 teen drivers (15-18) in Texas
- 274,300 juvenile cases
- 44% were traffic related = 120,629

Not just in the courtroom...

- 27.3% of the Texas population is under 18

= 6,865,824 teens

From Courtroom to Classroom

- 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.
- Mile for mile, teen drivers are four times more likely than other drivers to crash.

DRSR Materials



- Resources for Teachers
- Our Town Map
- Children's Books
- Coloring Books
- Card Games
- Board Games
- Sample Lessons
- Online Games
- Fact Sheets

Our Town Map



- Lesson Plans
 - I Promise to Obey
 - Oath Certificates

Oath

I, _____,
do hereby promise to obey the following traffic law:

and always be safe by making sure I

from this day forward.

Awarded on this ____ day of the month of _____, 20__.

Law Abiding Student _____

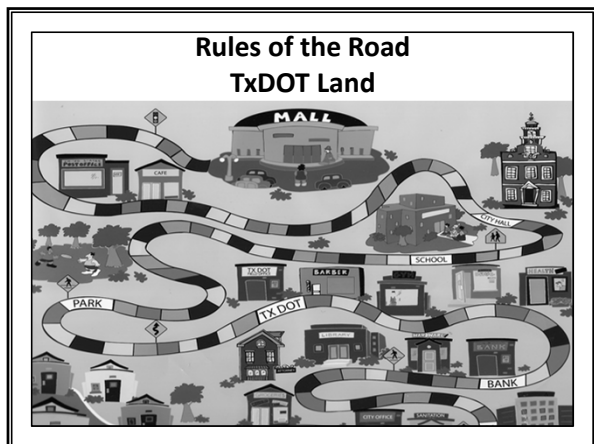
Court Clerk, Municipal Court, City of _____



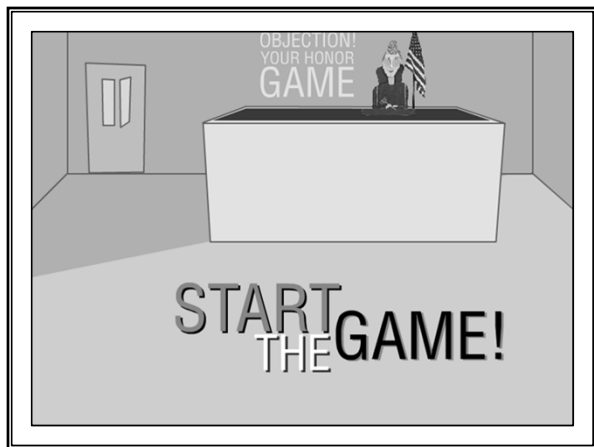
Save a Life
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

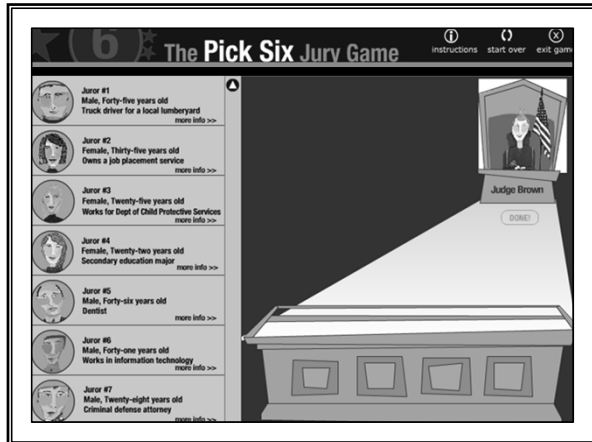
Children's Books











How to Reach Students

- Send materials to school with your child or grandchild.
- Invite a class to your court.
- Offer to speak to a class.
- Call a teacher who is a friend.

Keep On The Right Side of the Road



Add me to the Speakers' Bureau

Name: _____

Court: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

**Sign up to be on the
TMCEC
Speaker's Bureau**

Making It ~~Goofy~~ Interesting



From Courtroom to Community Teaching does not have to happen at school

- Other places:

Think Outside The



Safety Belts

- Click It or Ticket
- 44% of those killed in fatal crashes were not restrained



Drunk Driving

- 35.6% of people killed involved a drunk driver



The driver got 7 years in prison, but the victim is serving a life sentence



Distracted Driving

- 1,226 deaths from single vehicle, run-off the road crashes
- Talk. Text. Crash.





Other Issues

- **Motorcyclists**
 - 429 passengers and operators were killed
 - 56% were not wearing a helmet
- **Pedestrians**
 - 354 fatalities
- **Bicyclists**
 - 42 fatalities

TxDOT Campaigns

Public Awareness
Labor Day 2011
Motorcycle Safety
Talk, Text, Crash
Teen Click It or Ticket
Click It or Ticket
Faces of Drunk Driving
Football Campaign
Holiday Don't Drink and Drive
Child Passenger Safety
Safe Routes to School
Safety Initiatives
Public Service Announcements
Teens in the Driver Seat
Work Zone Awareness

Courts, Communities, and Classrooms: Educating the Public About the Law



websites:
www.drsr.info
www.texaslr.org
www.tmcec.com
www.txdot.gov

Any questions?