

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER
FACULTY ROSTER: AUSTIN
Regional Clerks Seminar
November 27 - 28, 2012

Carrie Chavez
Attorney at Law
13901 Midway Rd., Ste. 102-304
Dallas, TX 75244
972.365.8052 (o)
carrie_chavez@verizon.net

April Christiansen
Court Administrator
City of Cedar Park
911 Quest Pkwy.
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512.260.4300 (o)
512.259.9796 (f)
april.christiansen@cedarparktexas.gov

Kevin Cotton
Texas Alive Team Training Director and
Travis County Sheriff's Deputy
P.O. Box 201863
Austin, TX 78720
512.497.1119
kevin.cotton@texasaliveteam.org

Mara Dudley
Court Administrator
City of Llano
301 W. Main St.
Llano, TX 78643
325.247.1928 (o)
325.247.4196 (f)
mdudley@cityofllano.com

Mark Goodner
Program Attorney &
Deputy Counsel
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78701
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
goodner@tmcec.com

David Hamilton
Prosecutor
Reno-Lamar County
160 Blackburn St.
Reno, TX 75462-7152
903.784.1958 (o)
903.785.2982 (f)
parisattorney@gmail.com

Leisa Hardin
Court Administrator
City of Mansfield
1305 E. Broad St.
Mansfield, TX 76063
817.276.4704 (o)
817.267.4715 (f)
leisa.hardin@mansfield-tx.gov

Erin Higginbotham
Attorney
Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal, P.C.
2500 W. William Cannon, Ste. 609
Austin, TX 78745
512.279.6431 (o)
512.279.6438 (f)
erin.higginbotham@rampage-aus.com

Leah Huff
Implementation Consultant
Local Government Division
Tyler Technologies, Inc.
5519 53rd St.
Lubbock, TX 79414
800.646.2633 (o)
806.797.4849 (f)
Leah.Huff@tylertech.com

Glenn Lewis
Presiding Judge
City of Forest Hill
3219 E. California Pkwy.
Forest Hill, TX 76119
817.568.3046 (o)
817.984.8254 (f)
glenn.lewis@lgbs.com

Lisa Mayo
Client Services Coordinator
McCreary, Veselka,
Bragg & Allen, P.C.
6620 Ann's Lane
Weatherford, TX 76085
817.691.0079 (o)
817.636.2784 (f)
Lisa.Mayo@mvbalaw.com

Lindsey Mena
Juvenile Case Coordinator
City of San Marcos
630 E. Hopkins St.
San Marcos, TX 78666
512.393.8190 (o)
512.353.1743 (f)
lmena@sanmarcostx.gov

Shelai Mullins
Juvenile Case Manager
City of McKinney
130 S. Chestnut St.
McKinney, TX 75069
972.547.7642 (o)
972.547.7685 (f)
smullins@mckinneytexas.org

Tammy Odom
Deputy Clerk
City of Sweeny
P.O. Box 248
Sweeny, TX 77480
979.548.5189 (o)
979.548.3472 (f)
tkodom@windstream.net

Cathy Riedel
Senior Associate
Bojorquez Law Firm, PLLC
12325 Hymeadow Dr.,
Bldg 2, Ste. 100
Austin, TX 78750
512.250.0411 (o)
512.250.0749 (f)
cathy@texasmunicipallawyers.com

Pat Riffel
Court Administrator
City of Pearland
P.O. Box 84609
Pearland, TX 77584
281.997.5912 (o)
281.997.5924 (f)
priffel@ci.pearland.tx.us

Katie Tefft
Program Director
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78756
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
tefft@tmcec.com



CARRIE CHAVEZ

Ms. Chavez is an attorney in private practice in Dallas, specializing in Juvenile Delinquency and Child Welfare cases. Ms. Chavez attended the University of Texas at Austin, receiving a B.A. in Government in 1990. She received her J.D. in 1993 and was licensed to practice law that same year. Her areas of practice have included criminal prosecution, criminal defense, and family law. In addition to having her own law practice, she previously worked for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and the Collin County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Chavez served as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dallas from 2004 to 2012.

APRIL CHRISTIANSEN

Ms. Christiansen is the Court Administrator for the City of Cedar Park. Prior to coming to Cedar Park in 2007, Ms. Christiansen worked for five years as a Court Supervisor with the El Paso County Combined Courts in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ms. Christiansen has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science/Administration of Justice from Colorado Mesa University, and a Master's Degree in Justice Administration from Norwich University. She is a Certified Municipal Court Clerk, and serves as a Director At Large with the Texas Court Clerks Association.

KEVIN COTTON

Mr. Cotton is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and training director for the Texas Alive Team. He has spent much his career focused on issues related to juvenile justice and has brought that wealth of experience to the Texas Alive Team. He has been a Travis County Sheriff's deputy for the last ten years. Six of those years, Deputy Cotton has acted as a school resource officer serving in Austin area high schools. Prior to his career with the Sheriff's office, he served as a juvenile probation officer in Travis County.

MARA DUDLEY

Ms. Dudley has been the Court Administrator for the City of Llano for the last three years and has worked in the Llano Municipal Court since 2005. She is a Level II Municipal Court Clerk and is currently working toward her Level III certification.

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.

DAVID HAMILTON

Mr. Hamilton has been a licensed lawyer in Texas for over 30 years, spending most of that time in private practice. For the last 10 years, Mr. Hamilton has served as City Attorney for City of Reno, Lamar County. Mr. Hamilton began his career as a law enforcement officer, while attending undergraduate and law school at Texas Tech University. He holds the Advanced Law Enforcement License, as well as the Instructor's Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. After law school, Mr. Hamilton served as a briefing attorney for the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, then began his legal career, which has included five years as a felony prosecutor. A member of the National Order of Barristers, Mr. Hamilton has participated in every type of criminal case, from traffic tickets to capital murder. In addition to his faculty duties with TMCEC, Mr. Hamilton is a member of the State Bar Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Born in Lubbock, Mr. Hamilton's published articles include "Multiple Personality Disorder: Competency and the Insanity Defense" and "Expert Witness Testimony."

LEISA HARDIN

Ms. Hardin joined the City of Mansfield in 2011 and serves as court administrator. She retired from the City of Crowley after 26 years in the municipal court. Ms. Hardin is the Past President of the Texas Court Clerks Association, she served as the Education Chairperson for four years, and was instrumental in the development of the Certification Program. She has served as Secretary of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and on numerous committees through the TCCA and the TMCA.

Ms. Hardin was honored with the highest award given by the Texas Court Clerks Association -- in 1998 she received the Award of Excellence. The Texas Municipal Courts Association presented her with the Clerk of the Year Award in 2000.

ERIN HIGGINBOTHAM

Ms. Higginbotham is an Associate in the firm of Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal, P.C. Ms. Higginbotham is a 2008 graduate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. While in law school, she served as Editor in Chief of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*. After law school, Ms. Higginbotham served as briefing attorney to the Honorable Sandee Bryan Marion and law clerk to Federal District Court Judge Royal Furgeson. Today, she handles municipal prosecutions for the Cities of Buda, Copperas Cove, and Pflugerville, as well as assists with litigation for the firm's city attorneys practice.

LEAH HUFF

Ms. Huff is an Implementation Consultant with the Court Division of Tyler Technologies. In her previous life, she served as the Court Administrator for the Southlake Municipal Court for six years and as a legal assistant and law office administrator with Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla and Elam, L.L.P. Prior to her court and legal employment, she spent 11 years in the corporate world in office administration and financial accounting.

In her free time, Ms. Huff enjoys spending time with her family and friends, volunteering, and baking.

GLENN LEWIS

Mr. Lewis is currently a partner in the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Prior to joining the firm, he practiced law with his brother, Judge Terry Lewis, in the Fort Worth firm of Lewis and Lewis. In addition to his duties at Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, Mr. Lewis serves as the Presiding Municipal Judge in the Tarrant County City of Forest Hill, Texas.

Mr. Lewis concluded 10 years of Service in the Texas House of Representatives when the 79th Session of the Texas Legislature commenced on January 11, 2005.

After graduating from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, he enrolled at Prairie View A&M University. Prior to graduation, he returned home to Fort Worth where he completed his undergraduate work. He earned an A.A. degree from Tarrant County College and a B.A. from Texas Wesleyan University. He went on to earn a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas.

He was recently appointed to the Texas State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In 2010, he was chosen by the Fort Worth Business Press as one of 12 "Power Attorneys" in Tarrant County. He is also Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of United Way of Tarrant County.

LISA MAYO

Ms. Mayo is a Client Services Coordinator with the Law Firm McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. She is currently a Level II Certified Court Clerk, which she achieved while working for the City of Roanoke as the Court Administrator. She also served on the Texas Court Clerks Association Board as a Director at Large and served on the education committee. In February 2010, Ms. Mayo was one of 30 Texas Municipal Court Clerks who achieved "Certified Court Manager" which is the first level of certification provided by the Institute for Court Management, National Center for State Courts. She remains a facilitator for the TMCEC and TCCA due to her passion and love for the court profession and the many friends she has made over the years.

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 just recently had her first child, a little boy, this past summer.

SHELAI MULLINS

Ms. Mullins grew up in Sacramento, California. She started college in Sacramento after high school and then went to BYU to finish her degree in Elementary Education. She moved to Texas in late 2000 with the intent of teaching, but applied for a court clerk position in 2002. She absolutely loved the work, and especially loved working the juvenile dockets. In 2003 she left the court to pursue other interests, traveling to New York and other states. In 2007 the JCM position became available, and she immediately applied, feeling that it combined her interests of teaching and law perfectly. Luckily, she was hired as McKinney's first Juvenile Case Manager.

Since 2007, Ms. Mullins has been able to assist with the formation of the Juvenile Case Manager Association of Texas and it's first ever conference. She was excited to write a piece of legislation in 2011 (SB 209) with her prosecutor and testify in front of the corrections committee. She has started a court community service program and is currently working with McKinney's community development group to fund a juvenile program that would combine resources of many community organizations to assist at-risk youth and their families.

She is also currently training McKinney clerks, SRO's, and juvenile probation officers to understand the role of Juvenile Case Managers and juvenile statutes. The most important thing to know about Ms. Mullins is that she loves her job, but mostly loves being a Mommy to two beautiful little girls.

TAMMY ODOM

Ms. Odom has served as the Deputy Court Clerk and City Clerk for the City of Sweeny since July 2000. She is currently a member of the Texas Municipal Courts Association, President of the Texas Court Clerks Association, and Past-President of the TCCA - Gulf Coast Chapter. She has been the recipient of the Texas Court Clerks Association's Distinguished Service Award (2005), Extraordinary Achievement Award (2006), and the Excellence Award (2007). She was also named Clerk of the Year in 2007 by the TCCA – Gulf Coast Chapter. In 2002, Ms. Odom earned her Certified Court Clerk Level II.

CATHY RIEDEL

Ms. Riedel, is the Senior Associate attorney for the Bojorquez Law Firm in Austin, Texas. She joined the firm after four years as the Program Director at TMCEC. Most of her 34-year legal career has been spent practicing in municipal law. She has worked as Acting City Attorney or Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Georgetown, Round Rock, and Topeka, Kansas, and has represented numerous municipalities through other law firms. She has also served as Municipal Court Judge in the cities of College Station and Liberty Hill.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Riedel worked at the Court of Criminal Appeals as a briefing attorney and research assistant for Judge W.C. Davis. After leaving the Court, she joined the Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney (Texas).

Ms. Riedel received her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University and her law degree from St. Mary's University. She served as an adjunct professor at Washburn Law School, teaching Trial Advocacy and supervising third-year law students in the Legal Clinic. She has published many articles on municipal law issues and speaks regularly at conferences around the state on a variety of municipal law topics.

PAT RIFFEL

Ms. Riffel, CMCC, is the Court Administrator for the City of Pearland. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and is a Licensed Social Worker. She joined the court clerk profession in December 2002. She is a Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerk. She has also achieved status as a Certified Court Manager through the National Institute of Court Management. She has served as faculty for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center for seven years. Ms. Riffel is a member of the Texas Court Clerks Associations' Education Committee and chair of the scholarship committee. She is a member of the Gulf Coast Chapter of TCCA.

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.