

**DRIVING
RIGHT
WIDE
ROAD**

**From
Courtroom to
Classroom**

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Objectives

- Assess the importance of the court's involvement in public outreach programs;
- Discuss ethical issues with the court's role and involvement in public outreach programs; and
- Identify resources to support the court's public outreach program.

By the numbers...

- 1 reportable crash every 74 seconds
- 235,280 persons injured
- 80,640 serious injuries
- 3,089 deaths
- 47% of the fatal crashes were not restrained
- 30.9% of people killed involved a drunk driver

Why Municipal Courts?

- 917 courts in Texas
- 7.5 million cases
- 82.6% = traffic and parking cases
- 446,982 teen drivers (15-18) in Texas
- 274,300 juvenile cases
- 44% were traffic related = 120,629

Why Municipal Courts?

- 27.3% of the Texas population is under 18

= 6,865,824 teens

Why ME (us)?

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

Clerks and Judges

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



Ethical Issues

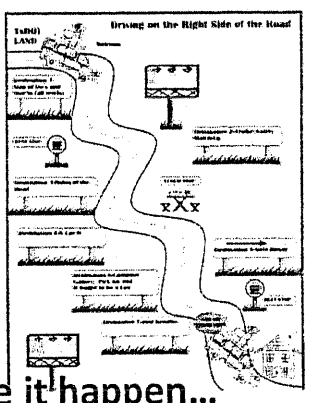
- Canon 4B(1)
A judge may: speak, write, lecture and participate in extra-judicial activities concerning the law, the legal system, the administration of justice and non-legal subjects, subject to the requirements of this Code;
- What to Avoid
 - Commenting on actual cases
 - Giving legal advice
 - Being negative - instead be honest
- What to Do:
 - Make it fun and lively
 - Bring your codebook and model looking up the law
 - Try an interactive teaching strategy

What's in it for us?

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

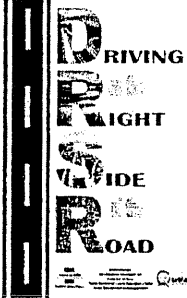


DRSP
Roadmap for
Training



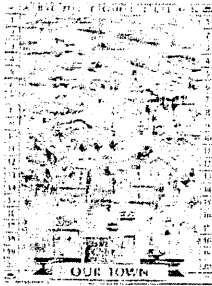
So let's make it happen...

DRSR Materials

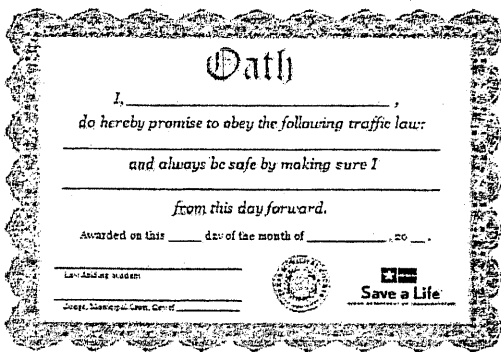


- Resources for Teachers
- Our Town Map
- Children's Books
- Coloring Books
- Card Games
- Board Games
- Sample Lessons
- Online Games
- Fact Sheets

Our Town Map

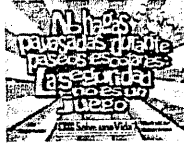
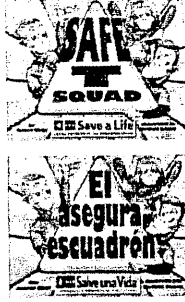


- Lesson Plans
 - I Promise to Obey
 - Oath Certificates

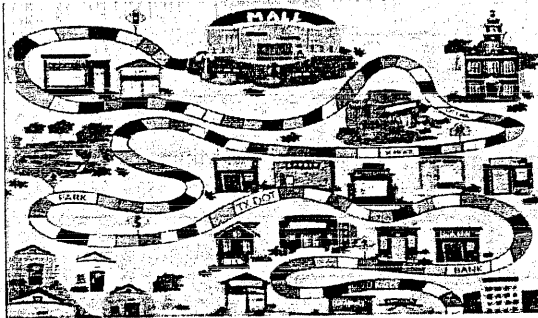


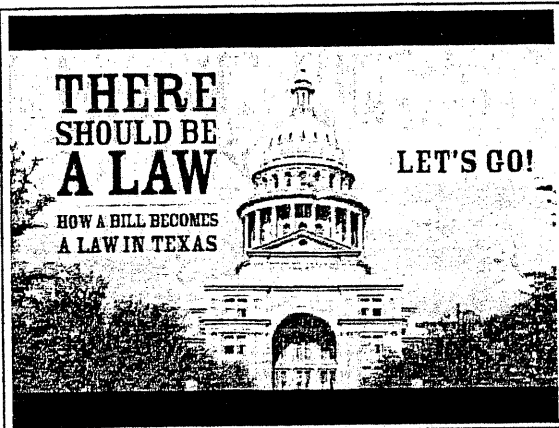


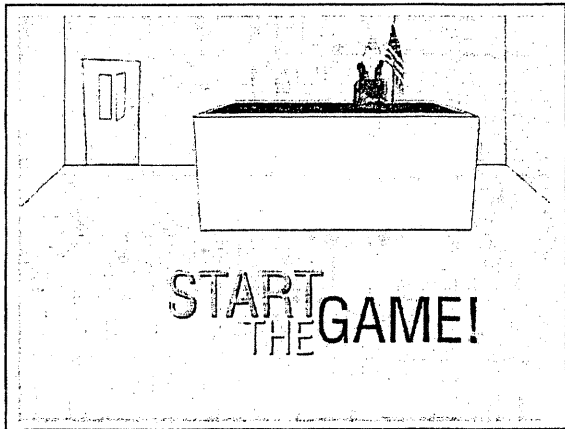
Children's Books

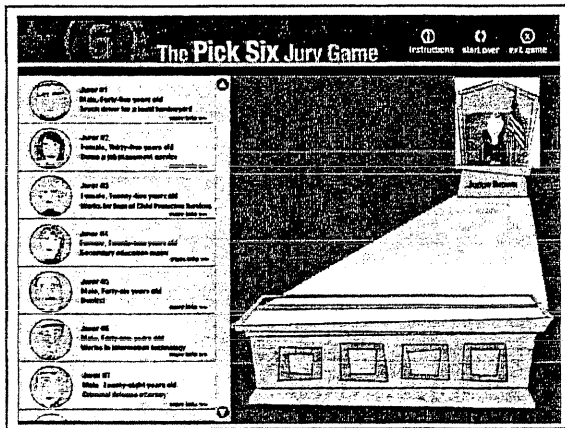


Rules of the Road
TxDOT Land





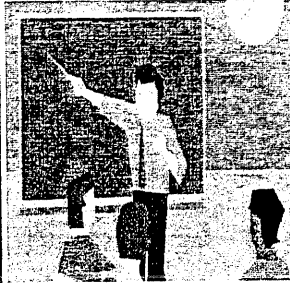




How to Reach Students

- 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.

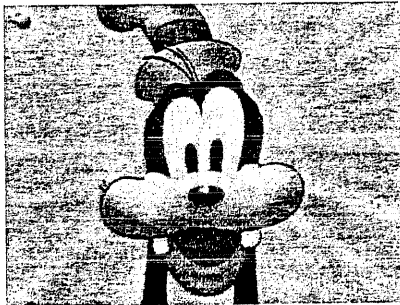
Keep On The Right Side of the Road



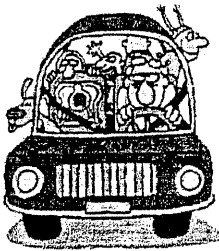
Add me to the Speakers' Bureau
Name: _____
Court: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

Sign up to be on the
TMCEC
Speaker's Bureau

Making It ~~Goofy~~ Interesting



Question 2: The Crammed Kid



• Let's read the hypothetical for Question 2 and decide if it is...

• **FACT or FICTION!**

(go to www.tmcec.com for rest of plan)

Question 2: The Crammed Kid

- Uncle Herman has generously offered to help out his sister while she is out of town by driving his four nephews (Hector, Howie, Harry, and Peanut) to and from school.
- Hector, Howie, and Harry are triplets all aged 4 and 33 inches tall. Peanut is 3 and is 29 inches tall.
- Uncle Herman's car has 3 passenger seats (besides his driver's seat), and all 3 seats are equipped with child safety seats.

Teaching does not have to happen at School

- give me other places:

Think Outside The 

Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives

What Can You Do?

- Get involved
- Add traffic safety materials to your city's and courts' web-sites
- Invite school groups into your court
- Recognize situations where a "fine is not fine"
- Join the TMCCEC listserv on traffic safety
- Speak to local civic groups on the importance of traffic safety
- Build community partnerships
- Ask law enforcement officers and prosecutors to work together to identify at-risk drivers in your community
- Create meaningful sentencing alternatives for repeat offenders, especially juveniles and minors using deferred disposition
- At the close of trial after sentencing, remind jurors and court observers of the importance of compliance with traffic laws
- Adopt a seat belt policy for all city employees
- Participate annually in Municipal Court Week
- Frame and display a TxDot poster
- Encourage your police force to enforce all traffic laws
- Form a local planning group in your community to identify traffic safety issues

Together, we can make a difference

- Make youth aware of the serious consequences of poor driving habits
- Encourage them to act responsibly
- Teach them about traffic laws and safety



From Courtroom to Classrooms:
the Court's Involvement in Public Schools



websites:
www.drsr.info
www.texasire.org
www.tmcec.com
