

**SUMMARY OF SELECTED ETHICS OPINIONS
FROM THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

The Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct clearly offer encouragement for Texas Judges to have a presence outside the courtroom, but not to conduct their duties beyond what is allowed by law. The following Opinions offer both that encouragement, and some warnings.

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Ethics Opinion 262 (2000)

The judge should avoid an activity should that would violate Canon 2 (B). Canon 2(B) provides that "A judge should not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interest of the judge or others; nor shall a judge permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge."

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Ethics Opinion No. 63 (1982)

The opinion is that the Code of Judicial Conduct encourages judges to write articles concerning the improvement of the law, the legal system and the administration of justice, provided that in doing so he does not cast doubt on his capacity to act impartially on any matter that may come before him.

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Ethics Opinion 282 (2001)

The Canons allows a judge to speak or participate in activities concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice.

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Ethics Opinion 253 (1999)

A judge may participate in civic and charitable activities that do not reflect adversely upon the judge's impartiality or interfere with the performance of judicial duties. The Judge should not lend judicial prestige to an activity not an official duty or ceremony.

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Ethics Opinion No. 134 (1989)

A judge, considering statutory and ethical limitations, may address questions that are posed to the judge while outside the courtroom or outside the regular duties of the judge, even though suits by the interviewers may be pending before court. The Code of Judicial Conduct does not prohibit a judge from meeting with, and responding to questions from those before the court at the time of the question (Here a newspaper's editorial board). The possibility that the judge may decide to recuse himself in a case or cases involving the newspaper should not prevent the judge from attending such an interview.

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Ethics Opinion No. 178 (1995)

Be aware of the hazards of conducting judicial duties outside of the court's offices.

"The discussions, votes, positions taken, and writings of appellate judges and court personnel about causes are confidences of the court and shall be revealed only through a court's judgment, a written opinion, or in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines for a court approved history project." Performing an appellate judge's duties outside of the court's offices creates a risk that confidences of the court will be lost."

The Code of Judicial Conduct does not address the question of judicial duties being conducted exclusively at the place where the court is located. The judge is required to comply with any statute on this subject.

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Ethics Opinion No. 222 (1998)

Letters of Recommendation are permissible within certain limits of the Judge's personal knowledge, written to a specific person and not written generally, as in "to whom it may concern".

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**IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR A JUDGE TO ATTEND A LAW FIRM FUNCTION
ATTENDED BY CLIENTS, PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS AND/OR EMPLOYEE RECRUITS?
Ethics Opinion 262 (2000)**

Question: May a judge present a legal overview of a particular type case that is handled in the judge's court to an in-house law firm seminar attended by lawyers from the firm, its clients and prospective clients? Does it matter whether the law firm currently has a case pending?

Question: May a judge attend a law firm function where only attorneys from that firm, invited clients, and legal recruits attend? May a judge participate in a law firm's attorney recruitment program?

Answer: No to both questions. Such activities would violate Canon 2 (B) which provides that "A judge should not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interest of the judge or others; nor shall a judge permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge."

By presenting a legal overview of a case to an in-house law firm seminar attended by lawyers from the firm, its clients and prospective clients, the judge would not only be lending the prestige of her judicial office to advance the interest of that law firm, the judge would also be indirectly allowing the law firm to convey the impression to its clients and prospective clients that the firm has a special position of influence with the judge. It does not matter whether the law firm currently has a case pending in the judge's court or not.

By attending the law firm's function where only attorneys from that firm, invited clients and legal recruits attend, the judge would be lending the prestige of his office to advance the interest of that law firm in its attorney recruiting efforts.

See also Opinion 194, Opinion No. 39 and Canon 4(D)(4)(b).

**JUDGE AS COLUMNIST
Ethics Opinion No. 63 (1982)**

QUESTION: May a judge write a weekly column concerning legal matters for publication in a newspaper?

ANSWER: Canon 4A* of the Code of Judicial Conduct states as follows: "[A Judge] may speak, write, lecture, teach, and participate in other activities concerning the law, the legal system and the administration of justice." The Committee is of the opinion that the Code of Judicial Conduct encourages judges to write articles concerning the improvement of the law, the legal system and the administration of justice, provided that in doing so he does not cast doubt on his capacity to act impartially on any matter that may come before him.

The Committee is of the further opinion that a judge should not answer inquiries from the public on any matter in the field of law, other than in those areas specifically enumerated above.

* Now see Canon 4B(1).

**MAY A JUDGE PARTICIPATE IN A CONFERENCE HOSTED BY
THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICERS?**

Ethics Opinion 282 (2001)

Question: May a family court judge speak and/or participate in an annual conference hosted by the Texas Association of Domestic Relations Officers?

Answer: Yes, Canon 4 allows a judge to speak or participate in activities concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice so long as such participation does not cast doubt on the judge's capacity to decide any issue that may come before the court or interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties.

**MAY A JUDGE APPEAR ON TELEVISION IN A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS?**

Ethics Opinion 253 (1999)

QUESTION: May a judge appear on television in a Public Service Announcement for the Texas non-profit office of "Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic" asking people to volunteer their time as readers?

ANSWER: Yes the judge may make such announcement so long as the prestige of judicial office is not used. Canon 4 of the Code allows a judge to participate in civic and charitable activities that do not reflect adversely upon the judge's impartiality or interfere with the performance of judicial duties. It is the belief of the Committee that although the Judge may be identified as a judge it would be improper if he appeared in the announcement wearing his robe. The committee believes wearing the judicial robe other than while performing official duties or during official ceremonies inappropriately lends the prestige of office to the activity in which the robe is worn.

MEETING WITH NEWSPAPER'S EDITORIAL BOARD

Ethics Opinion No. 134 (1989)

FACTS ASSUMED: In one of the large Texas cities, which is served primarily by one major daily newspaper, that newspaper periodically files suits in the courts of the county, and two such suits are pending in the court of the judge in question.

QUESTION: Would the judge violate any provision of the Code of Judicial Conduct by participating in an interview with the newspaper editorial board to provide information on which the newspaper will base an endorsement to be published before the election at which the judge seeks reelection?

ANSWER: No. The Code of Judicial Conduct does not prohibit a judge from meeting with, and responding to questions from a newspaper's editorial board. The possibility that the judge may decide to recuse himself in a case or cases involving the newspaper should not prevent the judge from attending such an interview.

**MAINTAINING A PART-TIME OFFICE AT A
LAW SCHOOL OF A STATE UNIVERSITY
Ethics Opinion No. 178 (1995)**

QUESTIONS: 1. May a judge of a court of appeals maintain a part-time office at a state law school where a portion of his judicial duties would be performed? The office would be provided without charge, and the judge would be an occasional guest lecturer at the law school.

2. If the judge may maintain such an office, would he be required to disqualify or recuse himself from any appeal involving the university?

3. Does the Code require that a judge perform judicial duties exclusively at the place where the court of appeals sits?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS: 1. Yes, subject to certain qualifications.¹ Canon 4D(4)(c) provides that a judge shall not accept a gift from anyone and lists certain exceptions. The pertinent exception provides that a judge may accept "any other gift," which means a gift not specifically prohibited in the Code, "only if the donor is not a party or person whose interests have come or are likely to come before the judge;" If the university's interests have not come and are not likely to come before the judge, the judge could accept the gift of a free part-time office without violating that provision. If, on the other had, the university has interests that have come or are likely to come before the judge, the judge should not accept the gift of a free office.

Canon 3B(11) provides, "The discussions, votes, positions taken, and writings of appellate judges and court personnel about causes are confidences of the court and shall be revealed only through a court's judgment, a written opinion, or in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines for a court approved history project." Performing an appellate judge's duties outside of the court's offices creates a risk that confidences of the court will be lost. The affirmative answer to this question assumes that the judge could conduct his research, writing, and oral communications at the part-time office in a way that would preserve the confidences of the court. If that is not the case, the judge should not perform judicial duties in such a location.

2. Questions of disqualification and recusal are not governed by the Code of Judicial Conduct. They are controlled by Tex. R. Civ. P. 18b and Tex. R. App. P. 15a. The Judicial Ethics Committee does not issue advisory opinions on questions of law.

3. The Code does not mention this issue, but Canon 2A provides that a judge shall comply with the law. Therefore, the judge is required to comply with any statute on this subject.

¹One member of the Judicial Ethics Committee dissents.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Ethics Opinion No. 222 (1998)

QUESTION: May a judge write a letter of recommendation for (1) a secretary in the office; (2) a prosecutor who is applying for a position with a law firm; (3) a fellow judge, who has made application for another judicial position?

ANSWER: Yes. Such letters may be written. The applicable section of the Code of Judicial Conduct is 2B, which states that a judge should not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others. The commentary to Canon 2B of the ABA 1990 Model Code provides:

Although a judge should be sensitive to possible abuse of the prestige of office, a judge may provide a letter of recommendation based on the judge's personal knowledge. A judge also may permit the use of the judge's name as a reference, and respond to a request for a personal recommendation when solicited by a selection authority such as a prospective employer, judicial selection committee or law school admissions office. A judge may also provide information in response to a request from a sentencing judge or probation or corrections officer. The Committee is of the opinion that so long as letters are based on the judge's own personal knowledge and are written to a specific person the letters may be written. It is not appropriate for a judge to write a "to whom it may concern" letter because of the lack of knowledge by the judge as to its specific use.

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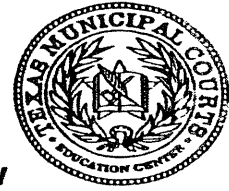
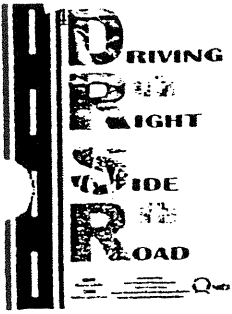
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Driving on the Right Side of the Road Overview

By: Lisa Robinson, TMCEC Traffic Safety Grant Administrator

Background: The Driving on the Right Side of the Road (DRSR) program began in 2008. TMCEC developed resources for municipal court personnel to be able to provide traffic safety outreach to youth. DRSR, a traffic safety program, is a Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) program developed collaboratively with Law Related Education (LRE) - a division of the State Bar of Texas and funded through a grant by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

What is DRSR: A series of lessons for social studies classes at the elementary, secondary, and high school levels that focus on citizenship education and traffic safety. Working with LRE, colorful and interactive lessons were developed. The materials lend themselves to the use of guest speakers in the classroom. We hope that municipal judges and court support personnel will look at the materials on the TMCEC website and encourage local teachers to use them, as well as offer to participate in the classroom as resource persons. Students will have many questions about traffic laws and municipal judges and clerks are very knowledgeable. DRSR recommends that teachers contact local judges and court support personnel and ask them to serve as resource persons in classrooms. Resource persons can bring the lessons alive by providing real life or hypothetical examples, accurate descriptions of what the law requires, and serve as positive role models for students.

Resources: There are many program resources available and are located on the TMCEC's traffic safety WebPages: http://tmcec.com/tmcec/MTSI/Driving_on_the_Right_Side_of_the_Road_Materials To view any of the DRSR materials online, they can be found on DRSR Webpage.

Our Town Map: There are several applications for this activity. A GREAT activity to use in class, at the municipal court when a class comes to visit, and can be hung as a poster at the municipal court for kids to help identify safe and unsafe. One court reported that they have framed this map in their waiting room, so that children can look at it while they are in the waiting room and find safe and unsafe behaviors. It is similar to the *Highlights* magazine where you identify hidden things in the picture.

Computer based learning games: *these games can be played in the seminar, Jameson Crain, TMCEC's Multi-Media Specialist, would need to know what computer activity if any will be needed so it can be loaded onto the computer prior to teaching*

Pick Six Selecting a municipal jury of six from a selection of twenty people, by reviewing a juror selection card, to hear and decide the case. This game provides the opportunity to learn about *voir dire*, the process of selecting a municipal jury that will serve on a case. You have the ability to select jurors for the defense or for the prosecution. This activity allows a lot of discussion about: the jury selection process, what do prosecutors or defense attorney's looking for in a prospective juror, the particular case and laws impacting the scenario, and fine and/or consequences.

There Should Be a Law: will assist students through the Texas legislative system. Students will be asked to make the best choices as a *traffic safety* bill works its way through the process to becoming a law.

Be Safety Smart is able to be played in English and Spanish. This is an electronic storybook, played via a computer, on making safe and smart choices to get from home to the park and back home safely.

Mock Trial almost complete and should be up and running in October

Mock Trials three levels of mock trials for elementary, middle, and high school aged students. This is an excellent **hand-interactive** activity to do with students so they can understand the municipal court and jury process with real life scenarios they can relate to. This could be easily adapted to host a mock trial in a municipal courtroom.

Level I, II and III: A series of lessons for social studies classes at the elementary, secondary, and high school levels that focus on citizenship education and traffic safety. All lessons provide detailed instruction for each activity.

Traffic Safety Match-Up Card Set The matching game (similar to concentration) is one of the many hand on activities that is located in the Level I of the teaching manual. The cards pair up the safe and un-safe of the activity, such as wearing a bicycle helmet while riding a bicycle and not wearing a bicycle helmet while riding a bicycle. A limited number of set of the cards have been laminated and packaged and will be distributed at the traffic safety exhibit and available through the TMCEC office.

Do Nows a set of skill building activities that build upon the content of the *Driving on the Right Side of the Road* project while helping prepare students for the TAKS test. The "Do-Now" exercises are aligned with the 4th grade TAKS exam, as well as the TEKS social studies curriculum. *Not an activity typically that someone from the court would do with students but an excellent resource to share with school teachers.*

Speaker's Bureau: TMCEC has a speaker's bureau of judges and court personnel who have volunteered to go to a classroom and be a part of *Driving on the Right Side of the Road* and Traffic Safety Education. To sign up a person can fill out the form in the DRSR brochure, sign up through any of the form distributed, or contact me, Lisa Robinson, TMCEC Traffic Safety Grant Administrator, at robinson@tmcec.com or 512.320.8274. The up-to-date list of who has signed up to on this list is located on the DRSR Webpage.

MTIS exhibit: Resources to support a visit to a school or for your court can be found at the Municipal Traffic Safety/*Driving on the Right Side of the Road* exhibits at all of the TMCEC seminars.

More Information: contact Lisa Robinson, TMCEC Traffic Safety Grant Administrator, at robinson@tmcec.com or 512.320.8274 for assistance with acquiring any of the DRSR resources or with any questions about the DRSR program, materials, and resources. There is a traffic safety exhibit set up at all of the TMCEC seminars and Lisa is available at almost all of the school for at least a day.



A Message from the Texas Municipal Courts Association

Statistics show that Texas has a distinctly significant traffic safety problem. In 2007, approximately 471 (13%) of fatal crashes in Texas were speed related. In 2007, there were 64,682 serious injury crashes that resulted in 89,476 people sustaining a serious injury. There were no deathless days on Texas roadways in 2007. Motor vehicle crashes are also the leading cause of death for children of every age from 3 to 6 and 8 to 14 years old. In 2007, a total of 1,670 children age 14 and younger were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those 1,670 fatalities, 245 (15%) occurred in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. Out of those 245 deaths, more than half (130) were occupants of a vehicle with a driver who had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 or higher.

More Texans are killed in traffic crashes and alcohol-related crashes than any other state. In FY07, nearly five million cases (74%) of all cases adjudicated in Texas municipal courts involved non-parking traffic violations.

Municipal courts are the primary venue for adjudicating traffic related crimes in Texas. On behalf of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and Public Outreach Committee, I would like to encourage you to become involved in your community to address and work to increase traffic safety.

"Driving on the Right Side of Road," a TMCEC program, provides students with valuable traffic safety information in their classroom through social studies, government, and language arts classes. Municipal judges and court personnel are great resources for this project.

TMCEC has created a speakers' bureau. Knowledgeable speakers throughout the state can be drawn upon to speak in their community on the importance of traffic safety. There are resources, materials, and power point presentations that will assist you as you speak in the community, organize field trips, and mock trials at your court or provide as you provide outreach into your community that will be located on the TMCEC Municipal Traffic Safety website at www.tmcec.com. To place your name on the speakers' bureau, please fax this form to TMCEC at 512-435-6118.

Add Me to the Speakers' Bureau

Name: _____ Court: _____

Tel. # _____ Email: _____

Together we can make a difference. Thank you for supporting something so important!

President, TMCA



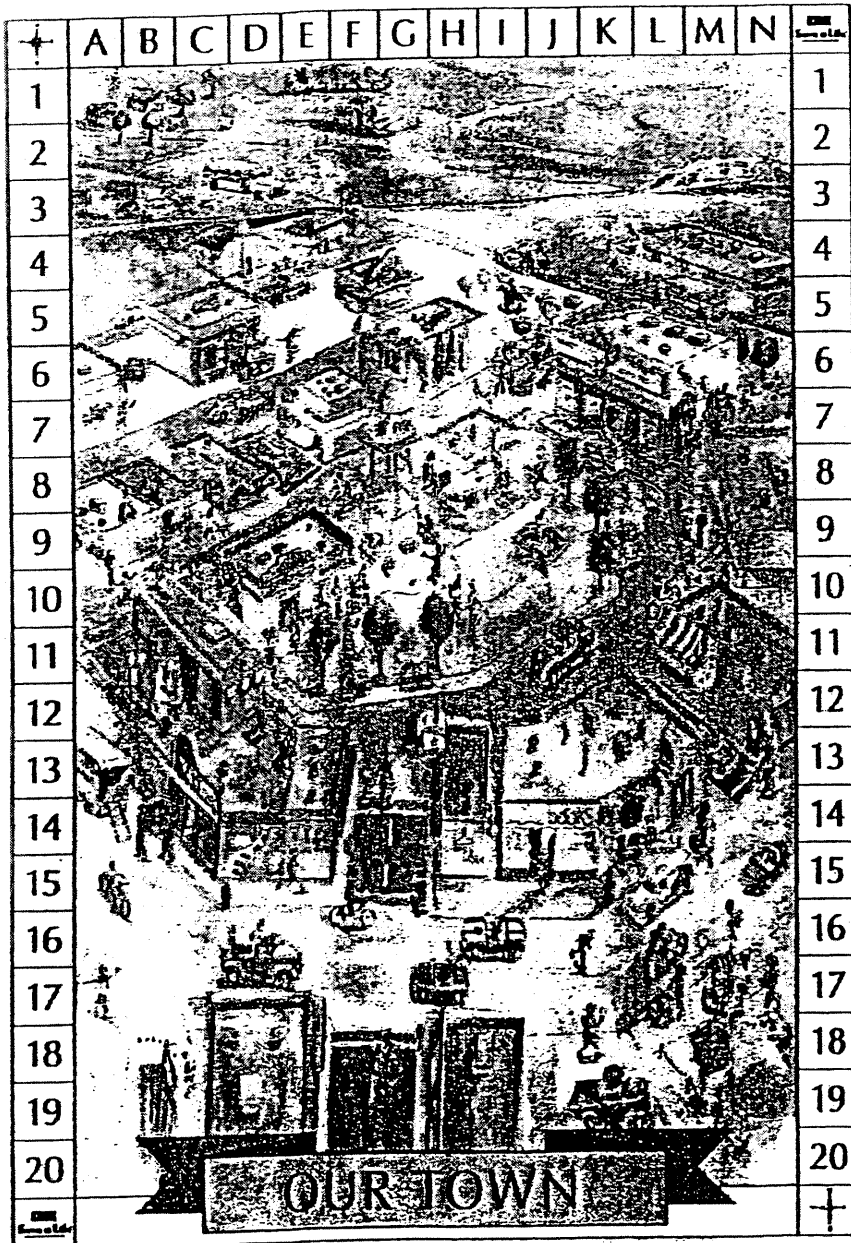
PUBLIC OUTREACH: TRAFFIC SAFETY

Judges in the Classroom

The "Our Town" Map is just one of many activities that are a part of the *Driving on the Right Side of the Road* that you can access at no-cost through TMCEC. There are several

applications for this activity. The directions for using this map, in the classroom or with students visiting your court, are included on the following pages.

One court reported that they have framed this map in their waiting room, so that children can look at it while they are in the waiting room and find safe and unsafe behaviors. It is similar to the *Highlights* magazine where you identify hidden things in the picture.



TMCEC can also provide your court with copies of this map that you can use when you visit a classroom or when talking with students who visit your court. You can also use this activity with children who are waiting in your lobby or courtroom. To obtain copies of this map, contact Lisa Robinson, TMCEC Traffic Safety Grant Administrator at robinson@tmcec.com or 512.320.8274.

A MAP OF DO'S AND DON'TS ("OUR TOWN")

Learning Objectives: Students will

1. Develop map reading skills by using TxDOT "Our Town" map.
2. Identify safe and unsafe practices.
3. Recognize city buildings and services.
4. Create a motto promoting traffic safety.

TEKS: SS 4.22, 4.24; Health 1 F, 4 F, 9 D; P.E. 5 A-D, 6 A-B

Materials Needed: TxDOT "Our Town" map and strips of construction paper for wrist bands

Vocabulary: practices, map coordinates

Teaching Strategy:

1. Distribute copies of the TxDOT "Our Town" map to each student.
2. Ask students to use the map coordinates to locate examples of both safe and unsafe behavior and actions pictured on the map. Make a class list of these examples, discussing each issue as it is mentioned. In the case of the unsafe behavior practices, students should suggest ways to correct the behavior from unsafe to safe.
3. Ask students to identify the city government buildings in "Our Town."
4. Each student should choose one issue that was identified on the map. Instruct students to create a short traffic safety motto which promotes traffic safety on that specific mode of transportation.
5. Give children a strip of construction paper on which to write their motto, such as "Race for the Cure," "Live Strong", "Turn Around, Don't Drown."
6. Allow students to share their mottos with the class.
7. Using the blank grid provided, have students create a "map" of an imaginary town illustrating safe and unsafe transportation behavior.



Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students will create an advertising campaign for the distribution of their wristbands, including statistics showing the need for safer conditions.

EXAMPLES FOR TEACHER'S USE

Safe Behaviors

1. Walking in a crosswalk
2. Helmet on skater

Coordinates

- F-13
D-11

Unsafe Behaviors

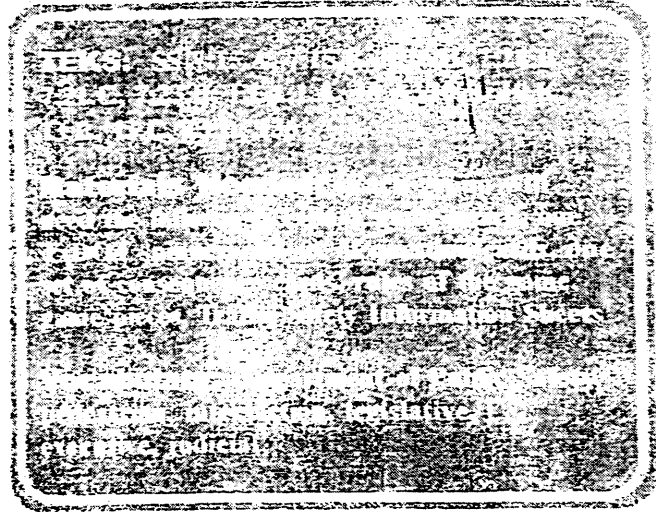
1. Crossing without crosswalk
2. Riding in back of pick-up truck

Coordinates

- A-17
D-16

RULES OF THE ROAD

1. Analyze the reasons behind common traffic safety rules.
2. Apply traffic rules and laws to simulated driving experience.
3. Use decision-making skills to answer questions regarding safety laws to move from home to the mall.
4. Identify the three branches of government and their relationships to safe driving in Texas.



Teaching Strategy

1. Divide the class into groups of four, and assign each member of the group one of the following topics: rules for pedestrians, rules for passengers in cars, rules for bicycle safety, and rules for in-line skate safety.
2. Have the students move to their similar group topics. In other words, students assigned pedestrians would get together, students assigned passengers would get together, and so forth. They should read and analyze the Traffic Safety Information Sheet to which they were assigned.
3. Give each student a "Safety Wheel" handout. Students should read and analyze the Traffic Safety Information Sheet to which they were assigned to complete the assignment.

Extensions for GT/Pre-AP:

Using the consequence cards, write a personal experience paragraph. Use one of the following: simile, metaphor, antonym, or hyperbole.

Students will use the TxDOT game in a community outreach effort with primary grade students in their school district.

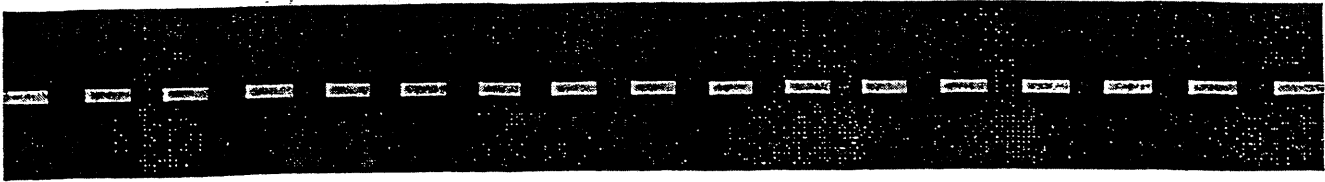
Students will analyze the consequences or penalties associated with breaking common traffic rules to determine if they are fair, firm enough, or not firm enough. If the penalties are found to be deficient in some way, students should determine how they should they be changed.

Tell the students to put the name of their topic in the center of the wheel (in-line skate/skateboards, cars, bicycle safety, pedestrian, or passenger).

Tell them to pick the four rules they consider the most important and rewrite them in "kid friendly" in the "Rule" space on the wheel.

Then pick one good consequence for following the rule and write that in the "Good Consequence" section. Pick one bad consequence for NOT following the rule and write that in the section marked "Bad Consequence."

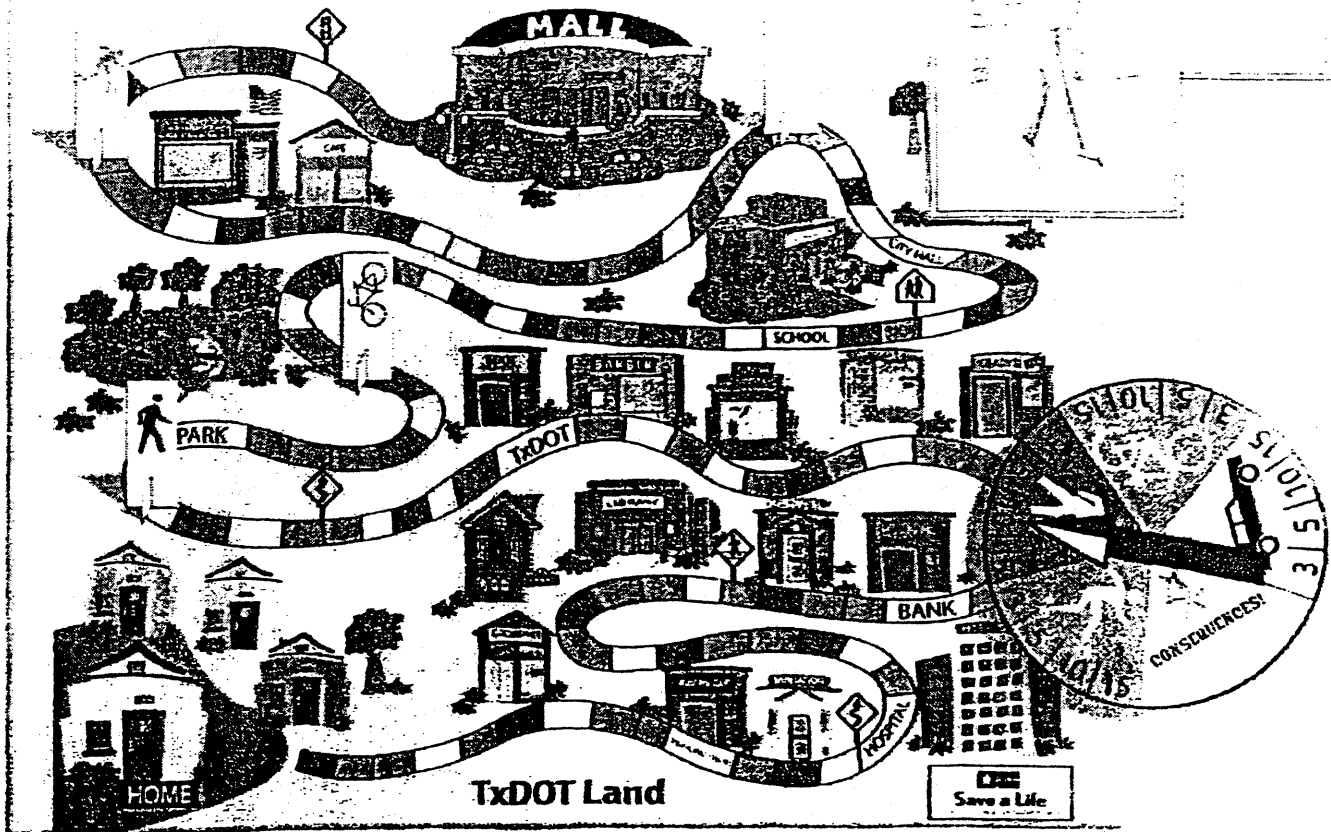
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4. When visuals have been completed, ask students to move back to their original groups of four students. Allow members of the group five minutes for sharing what they have learned, using their visuals to teach the others.
5. Once each member of the group has finished sharing information on their topics, explain to the students they are about to play a board game entitled, "The Rules of the Road." This game will require the players in the group to travel around the board by answering questions dealing with traffic safety issues from the information sheets they studied.
6. Hand out the TxDOT Land game board, one set of the playing cards, one TxDOT spinner, game pieces, traffic safety information sheets, "Learning Wheel" and the "Rules of the Road" instruction sheet to each group. Go over the instructions with the students. Allow students to reference the visuals created as needed to play the game.

NOTE:
Question cards
are more difficult
for Level Two than
Level One.

TxDOT Land Gameboard and pieces.



Traffic Safety Information Sheet Pedestrians

- On average, a pedestrian is injured every seven minutes.
- In 2006, a total of 331 children ages 14 and younger were killed in pedestrian-motor vehicle crashes.
- Drivers are required to yield right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Children under the age of 10 should not cross a street alone.
- Never run into the street to catch a ball or to chase a toy, friend, or pet.
- Walk—do not run—across the street.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street; cross when the street is clear and keep looking both ways while crossing.
- Cross at corners and use crosswalks whenever possible. Avoid jaywalking (crossing the street in the middle of the block).
- Always stay within the lines of the crosswalk.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Try to make eye contact with the drivers before crossing in front of them; you may see the driver, but the driver might not see you.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Look for traffic when stepping off a bus or from behind parked cars.
- Wear bright clothing in daytime and reflective clothing or tape from dusk to dawn.
- Hold hands with your parent or brother/sister in parking lots.
- Be careful around parked cars. Do not play in parking lots.
- Learn and obey traffic signals, signs, and laws.
- Always walk facing the traffic.

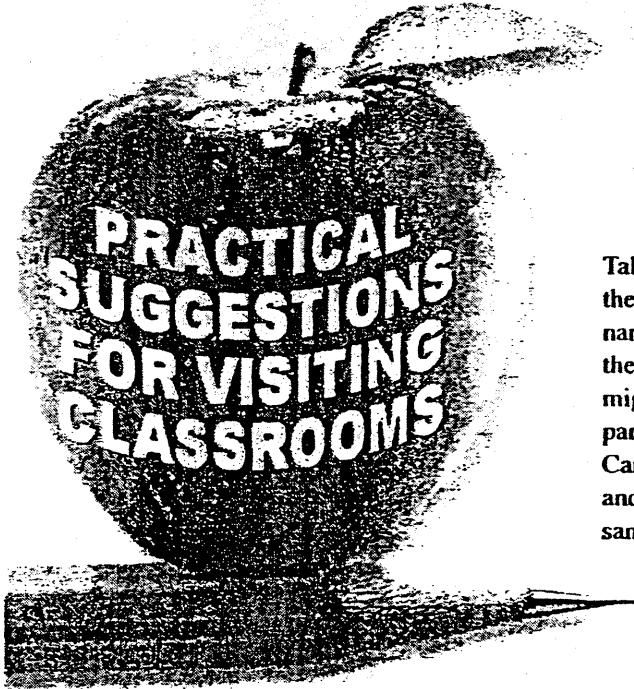
Traffic Safety Information Sheet

Bicycle Safety

- A person riding a bicycle has the same responsibilities and rules as someone driving a car.
- Bicycle helmets are not required by state law but are highly recommended.
- A helmet is the most important piece of safety equipment for a bicyclist.
- Remove your helmet before using playground equipment or climbing a tree because of a risk of being strangled.
- A helmet should be worn one inch above the eyebrows, straight on the head, and fastened securely under the chin.
- Someone riding a bicycle must not carry more people than the bike is designed to carry.
- When riding a bike, a person may not carry anything that prevents him or her from having at least one hand on the handlebars.
- A person riding a bicycle may not hang onto or be pulled by a car or pick-up truck.
- All bicycles must be equipped with brakes that can stop the bike.
- If riding a bicycle at night, the bike must have a front headlight and back reflectors.
- Children under 10 years old should not ride a bicycle in the street.
- Rearview mirrors are recommended for safety purposes.
- Bicyclists must obey all stop signs, stoplights, and other traffic signs.
- Do not weave in and out of parked cars.
- Slow down and be careful around pedestrians.
- Attending a bicycle safety class is a good idea.
- When crossing an intersection, riders should walk their bicycles across.
- Never ride a bicycle opposite the flow of traffic.

Traffic Safety Information Sheet In-Line Skating Safety

- Each year over 100,000 people are treated for injuries related to in-line skating, and most of these people are under 25 years of age.
- The most common injury involving in-line skating is a wrist injury.
- There are no specific Texas laws concerning in-line skating, but many cities have ordinances or laws that apply to various forms of skating.
- In-line skaters should follow local traffic laws.
- Don't skate in areas with pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
- When skating, always wear protective equipment including elbow and knee pads, light gloves, helmets, and wrist guards.
- Heavy duty gear should be worn if the skater is performing tricks or playing roller hockey.
- Don't "skitch" (holding onto a moving vehicle) while skating.
- Skaters pass on the left.
- Many cities don't allow in-line skating on any public street except when crossing a street in a crosswalk.
- Many cities forbid in-line skating in certain areas.
- Pedestrians always have the right of way on sidewalks.
- Skaters should look left, right, and then left again before entering a roadway.
- According to the Center for Disease Control, bicycles are involved in more accidents than in-line skates.
- Take a class on skating to learn proper stopping procedures, body posture for balance, and warm up exercises.
- Skaters should always skate on the right side of a sidewalk or path.



Public Outreach Traffic Safety

✓ Before Your Visit:

Talk with the teacher. Discuss the ages and experience of the students. Request that the teacher have name tags or name tents printed with students first names. Consult with the teacher about what additional background materials might help the students. Have they been studying a particular unit that involves municipal court? Or is this a Career Day type program? Ask if you will have a computer and projector available—check the TMCEC web site for sample lessons and presentations (www.tmcec.com).

✓ While at School and in the Classroom

Do:

- ✓ Check in at the office first.
- ✓ Translate legalese into English.
- ✓ Use a variety of methods and examples.
- ✓ Send material to the teacher for students to read before your presentation (a handbook or pamphlet, chart, case study, or newspaper articles).
- ✓ Have a planned outline of how you would like your presentation to proceed, but be prepared to be flexible.
- ✓ Begin your presentation at the students' level and relate to their world through hypothetical or real examples involving young people and the law.
- ✓ Briefly tell the students about your work and explain the goals of your visit.
- ✓ Move around the room. Use the chalkboard to illustrate ideas or if available, a Powerpoint presentation to reinforce your points visually.
- ✓ Introduce only one or two main topics and explain them fully.
- ✓ Localize examples for students' interest and understanding.
- ✓ Encourage questions. Repeat questions so all students can hear what was asked.
- ✓ Use humor and a personal approach.
- ✓ Ask the teacher to provide name tags for the students.
- ✓ Express your appreciation to the teacher for incorporating study of the law into lesson plans. Reinforce this with a letter to the principal or superintendent.

✓ While at School and in the Classroom *(continued)*

Don't:

- ✓ Lecture to students.
- ✓ Try to cover a broad range of topics in one class period.
- ✓ Talk down to students.
- ✓ Read a prepared speech.
- ✓ Let one or two students dominate the discussion. Instead, call on other students or limit the number of questions per person.
- ✓ Feel you must defend everything about the operation of the legal system. An unrealistic portrait of the system can increase student cynicism; a thoughtful, balanced presentation can enhance understanding.
- ✓ Give advice on individual problems.

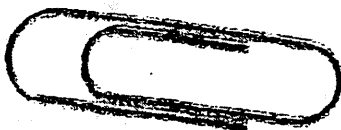
Avoid:

- ✓ Telling too many "war stories."
- ✓ Combining several classes.
- ✓ Students may be shy about asking questions in larger groups.
- ✓ Visiting schools before a school holiday.

Adapted from
Of Counsel to Classrooms, a
publication of the Texas Young
Lawyers Association.

✓ Public Outreach

TMCEC is encouraging judges and clerks to participate as resource persons in K-12 classrooms across Texas. As part of a TxDOT grant, TMCEC is working with the Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas to train teachers to teach students about traffic safety and municipal courts in social studies classes. In the summer of 2009, TMCEC will co-sponsor summer workshops for teachers and encourage them to invite municipal judges and clerks into their classrooms. If you would like to participate in this program as a guest speaker, please email robinson@tmecec.com and we will add your name to our list of resource persons.



* Note to
Judges &
Clerks
about public
outreach



Traffic Safety Specialists - District Contact List

The following is a list of the TxDOT District Traffic Safety Specialists (DTSS), their contact information, and the area that they serve. You may already be familiar with some of the DTSS on this list. If not, we encourage you to make contact with the DTSS in your area.

The DTSS have educational resources, can be present during special events, and partner with you to educate the community on the importance of traffic safety.

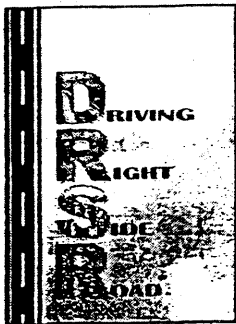
District	TSS Name	Telephone	Fax
Abilene	Brenda Mitchell	325-676-6802	325-676-6901
Amarillo	Tracy Tellman	806-356-3295	806-356-3294
Atlanta	Irene Webster	903-799-1221	903-799-1288
Austin	Sharon Little Jacque Magill	512-832-7035 512-832-7253	512-832-7246 512-832-7246
Beaumont	Georgette Pillitere	409-898-5719	409-898-5732
Brownwood	Tina Crelia	325-643-0465	325-643-0306
Bryan	Terri Miller	979-778-9779	979-778-9703
Childress	Barbara Seal	940-937-7288	940-937-7280
Corpus Christi	Stephen Ndima Cliff Bost	361-808-2351 361-808-2258	361-808-2407 361-808-2458
Dallas	Pat Hickman Susan Clark	214-320-6235 214-320-6220	214-320-6615 214-320-6615
El Paso	James Chesshire	915-790-4384	915-790-4349
Fl. Worth	Joel Mallard Kathy Neely	817-370-6618 817-370-6626	817-370-3582 817-370-3582
Houston	Garry Rand Olga Navarro	713-802-5187 713-802-5177	713-802-5030 713-802-5030
Laredo	Veronica Solis	956-764-1212	956-764-1226
Lubbock	Karen Peoples	806-748-4478	806-748-4381
Lufkin	Shirley Reynolds	936-633-4321	936-633-4378
Odessa	Robert Martinez	432-498-4748	432-498-4680
Paris	Jolita Norris	903-737-9200	903-737-9204
Pharr	Ruby Martinez	956-782-2508	956-702-6110
San Angelo	James Whitlock	325-947-9271	325-947-9292
San Antonio	Linda Tomasini Sam Aquirre	210-615-5844 210-615-5886	210-615-6115 210-615-6115
Tyler	Juanita Daniels-West	903-510-9106	903-510-9188
Waco	Cindy Parks	254-867-2725	254-867-2772
Wichita Falls	Patsy Walls	940-720-7708	940-720-7707
Yoakum	Rhonda Moorman Sheri Jacobs	361-293-4331 361-293-4428	361-293-4372 361-293-4372

Speakers Bureau

Thank you to those who have added their name to the TMCEC's speaker's bureau. There have been many emails requesting to participate. If you see your name on the list below, please check that your information is correct. If you do not see your name and wish to be added to this list, complete the form on page 15 and fax to 512.435.6118 or email robinson@tmceec and request to be added to this list.

Name	Municipal Court	Title	Telephone
Evans S. Ruffledge	Abilene	Associate Judge	325-677-9173
Rosalia Maddock	Arlington	Associate Judge	817-459-6982
Teresa Evans	Arlington	Associate Judge	817-459-6970
Don McKinley	Austin	Courts Operation Manager	512-974-4820
Rebecca Stark	Austin	Court Administrator	512-974-4690
Evelyn McKee	Austin	Judge	512-974-4834
Phyllis Mathison	Bastrop	Judge	512-581-0900
Kelly Benavides	Baytown	Associate Judge	713-240-3741
Jeanne Wilson	Big Spring	Court Administrator	432-264-2530
Cheryl Stine	Brazoria	Deputy Court Clerk	979-798-2489
Robert G. Wright	Brenham	Judge	979-337-7500
Lilia Durham	Canton	Judge	903-567-1500
Karen Green	Chico	Judge	940-644-2435
Mark Whitehouse	Clarksville	Judge	903-427-3834
Steve McClure	Cleburne	Judge	817-295-1477
Ed Spillane	College Station	Judge	979-764-3850
Deanie M. King	Corpus Christi	Judge	361-826-4010
Phyllis Lister-Brown	Dallas	Associate Judge	214-670-5573
Jennifer Goldman	Dallas	Associate Judge	214-880-0887
C. Victor Lander	Dallas	Judge	214-670-5573
Staci Williams	Dallas	Judge	214-670-5573
Michael Drewry	Frisco	Judge	972-335-5555
Jane Susanne Meadows	Godley	Judge	817-389-3671
Gary Schroeder	Gonzales	Judge	830-672-6322
Don Bymes	Houston	Associate Judge	281-261-3935
Jackie Miller Jr.	Italy & Milford	Judge	972-825-5024
Rae Selman	Jewett	Judge	903-626-6050
Maricruz Stagg	Katy	Deputy Court Clerk	281-391-4892
Michael Newman	Keller	Judge	817-743-4700
Barbara Weaver	Killeen	Judge	254-501-7853
Kevin Madison	Lakeway	Judge	512-784-5237
Jan Blacklock Matthews	Lubbock	Judge	806-775-2676
Lynda Lawless	Marlin	Judge	254-883-1458

Name	Municipal Court	Title	Telephone
Jill Williams	Mason	Judge	325-347-6449
Danielle Boston	Maypearl	Judge	972-435-2380
Kathleen Henley	McAllen	Judge	956-972-7900
Ada G. Conner	Mexia	Judge	254-562-4181
Lester Rorick	Pasadena	Judge	713-475-7826
Pat Riffel	Pearland	Court Administrator	281-652-1612
Anthony Randall	Princeton	Judge	972-736-2549
Barbara Gailey	Oak Point	Judge	940-390-4848
Antonia Arteaga	San Antonio	Judge	210-212-6700
John P. Burke, Jr.	San Marcos	Judge	512-393-8196
Sandra Harper	Seagraves	Judge	806-387-2593
Troy (T.J.) McAuley	Shallowater	Judge	806-773-5525
Nicole Wilson	Silsbee	Warrant Clerk	409-385-4740
Cynthia Jackson	Stratford	Judge	806-366-3062
Katheryn H. Haywood	Sunnyvale	Judge	214-460-6800
Leslie Guhl	Taylor Lake Village	Judge	281-326-5275
Eric Ransleben	Trophy Club	Associate Judge	817-491-8687
Bill Scott	Venus	Judge	972-366-3348
Raymond "Bo" Rogers	White Oak	Judge	903-759-2061
Karen Newsom	Wrensboro	Judge	903-342-6033
Amy Ashmore	Wolfe City	Clerk	903-496-2251
Ray Dittich	TMPA	Law Enforcement Coordinator	512-560-5080




DRSR Summer Training Dates

If you wish to attend one of the DRSR trainings to learn more about the program or if you wish to be a resource person, contact Lisa Robinson at robinson@tmcec.com or 512.320.8274 and we will be glad to connect you with the trainer in your area.

Region	Date of Training
15-San Angelo August 5, 2009	August 5, 2009

**Additional Workshops
Are Being Scheduled**

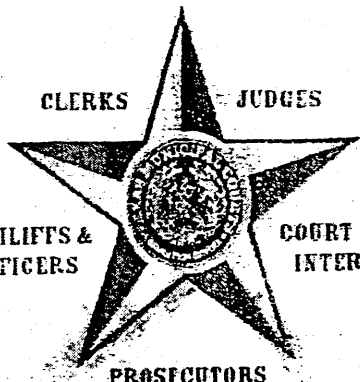
2008 - 2009 TMCEC Academic Schedule At-A-Glance			
Seminar	Date(s)	City	Hotel Information
Legislative Update - Lubbock	August 4, 2009	Lubbock	Holiday Inn Towers 801 Ave. Q, Lubbock, TX
Legislative Update - Houston	August 10, 2009	Houston	Grand Hotel Houston 4 Riverway, Houston, TX
Legislative Update - Austin	August 14, 2009	Austin	Doubletree Hotel 6505 North IH 35, Austin, TX



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



Municipal Court Week - November 2-6, 2009

Judges - watch your mail! The 2009-2010 edition of the *Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual* should be arriving at your court this next week! (TMCEC will provide one code book per judge.)

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center mission is to provide high quality judicial education, technical assistance, and the necessary resource material to assist municipal judges, court support personnel, and prosecutors in obtaining and maintaining professional competence.


Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
1609 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite 302
Austin, TX 78701

Texas Municipal Courts Association
1350 NASA Parkway, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77058

Toll Free: 800.252.3718 | Austin: 512.320.8274 | Fax: 512.435.6118

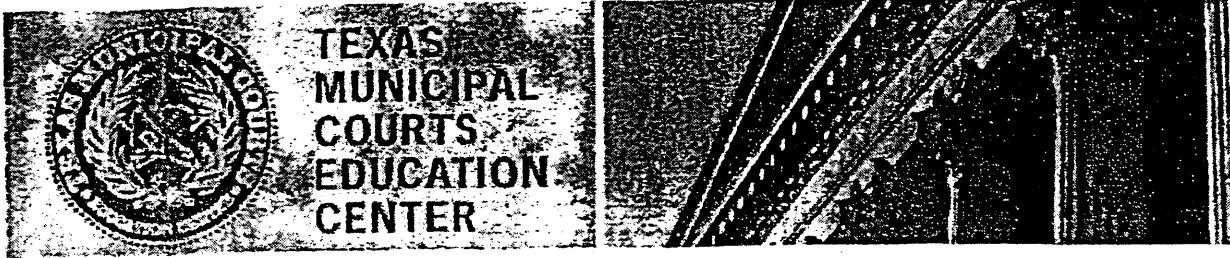
View the [2010 Academic Catalog](#) here! TMCEC is now accepting [registrations](#) for the 2009-2010 Academic Year.

There are still spaces available for the Tyler Judges (October 26-28) and Clerks (October 28-30) programs. **Register now** and be the first to attend this year's regional program.

 Go to the [2009 Legislative Update](#) page to watch the streaming video from the Austin Update, download the bill summaries in numerical order, and learn all about the bills passed by the 81st Regular Legislature!

Read a [press release](#) from DPS on HB 339. The law now restricts all drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle, except in an emergency.

Download a [sample Order of Nondisclosure](#) per S.B. 1056. Read an [email from DPS](#) regarding these Orders of Nondisclosure.



PROGRAMS RESOURCES LINKS STORE ABOUT TMCEC CONTACT US TMCA

Books Clerk Study Guides The Recorder Charts Course Materials Academic Catalog On the

Programs - Judges

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center is the primary provider of specialized judicial education and training opportunities for Texas municipal judges. The staff of TMCEC is steadfastly committed to providing education and training so that municipal judges may administer justice with fairness, efficiency, and a thorough understanding of the law.

According to the Rules of Judicial Education, all municipal judges (both attorney and non-attorney) must attend one accredited judicial education program every year. Newly appointed or elected attorney judges must attend a 12-hour seminar within one year from appointment or election and once every academic year thereafter. To qualify as an attorney judge, you must be licensed by the State Bar of Texas. Newly appointed or elected non-attorney judges must, within one year from the date of appointment or election, complete 32 hours of continuing judicial education before attending a 12-hour seminar the next year and once every school year thereafter.

32-Hour New Judges Seminar

\$200

AUSTIN

New non-attorney judges must attend 32 hours of judicial training within one year of their appointment or election according to the Rules of Judicial Education. Admission is limited to new, non-attorney judges. Non-lawyer municipal judges who have been inactive for more than two consecutive academic years are required to repeat the 32-hour program. Participants must be appointed or elected to office prior to registration.

The program offers classes on basic court procedures, judicial ethics, juvenile law, magistration, traffic law, a trial skills workshop, and much more. This program gives new judges an excellent foundation of knowledge to build upon and a thorough understanding of the laws affecting their courts. Register now.

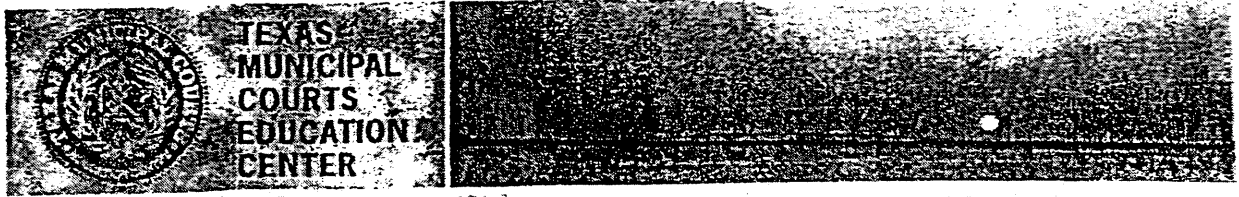
<p>December 7-11, 2009 <u>Omni Southpark</u> Austin</p> <p>Register by: November 6, 2009</p>	<p>July 26-30, 2010 <u>Omni Southpark</u> Austin</p> <p>Register by: June 25, 2009</p>
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Note: New judge seminars are five days in length and begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday and conclude at 12:00 noon on Friday. TMCEC will pay for sleeping rooms for the nights of Monday through Thursday.

Regional Judges Seminar

\$50

REGIONAL



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Programs - Judges - Code of Judicial Conduct

Preamble

Our legal system is based on the principle that an independent, fair and competent judiciary will interpret and apply the laws that govern us. The role of the judiciary is central to American concepts of justice and the rule of law. Intrinsic to all sections of this Code of Judicial Conduct are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to enhance and maintain confidence in our legal system. The judge is an arbiter of facts and law for the resolution of disputes and a highly visible symbol of government under the rule of law.

The Code of Judicial Conduct is not intended as an exhaustive guide for the conduct of judges. They should also be governed in their judicial and personal conduct by general ethical standards. The Code is intended, however, to state basic standards which should govern the conduct of all judges and to provide guidance to assist judges in establishing and maintaining high standards of judicial and personal conduct.

Download the full text of the [Code of Judicial Conduct](#).

Programs - Judges - Code of Judicial Conduct

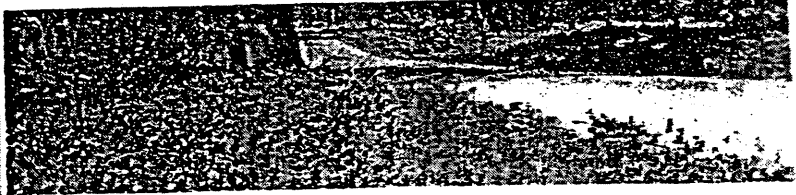
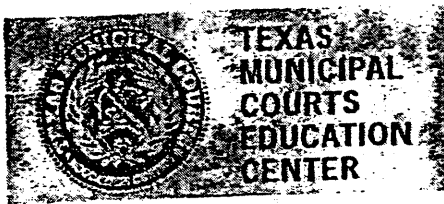
- [New Judges](#)
- [Attorney General Opinions](#)
- [Magistrates](#)
- [Texas Rules of Evidence](#)
- [Oaths of Office](#)
- [Alternate Judicial Education](#)
- [Case Law](#)
- [Rule 12](#)
- [Code of Judicial Conduct](#)
- [Course Descriptions](#)
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Website Design and Development: Cold Shower Design



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SEARCH

MTSI



Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives

A Project of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's

Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives (MTSI)

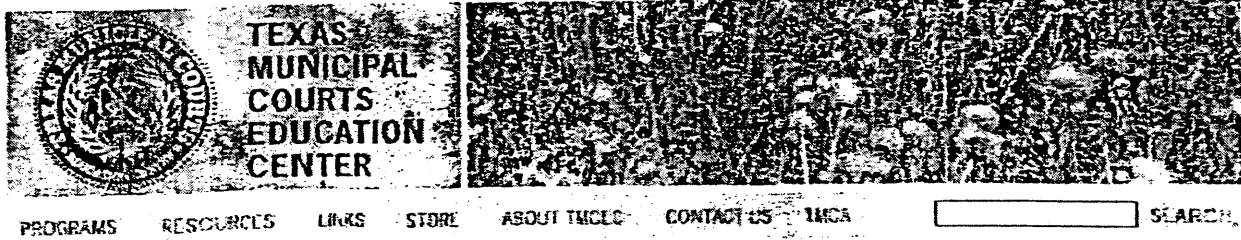
2005-2009 Highlights & Accomplishments

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's (TMCEC) grant, Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives (MTSI) was designed to bring traffic safety to the forefront of awareness and implementation by municipal courts and to help them embrace the concept of transforming traffic safety into a local priority.

- TMCEC annually trains about 1,200 municipal judges at ten (10) regional judicial seminars. On average, there are 54 traffic safety courses offered at these regional judicial seminars. TMCEC incorporated traffic safety materials into the curriculum for the municipal judges' regional conferences, as well as traffic safety courses for the municipal clerks and prosecutors programs.
- The MTSI traffic safety web-site provides additional information to the TMCEC constituency on traffic safety issues. This web-site provides for "one-stop shopping" for traffic safety materials related to the work of the municipal courts. This web-site is updated regularly.
- The TMCEC municipal traffic safety list serv that was founded in July 2006 continues to be utilized with numerous requests each month to join. The membership continues to grow as a result of these requests. Important traffic safety information, articles and resource are shared via this list serv on a monthly basis.
- The creation of a 2007-2008 Municipal Traffic Safety Calendar, that highlighted traffic enforcement dates, assists the municipal courts in knowing when they may receive an increased number of citations.

MTSI

Overview
Calendar
Citizens
City & Officials
Driving on the Right Side of the Road Overview
Driving on the Right Side of the Road Materials
DUI/DWI
Employers
Handouts
Interesting Facts & Statistics
Kids & Youth
ListServ
National & State Traffic Safety Web Pages
News
Recorder Articles
Older Drivers
Outreach
Quick Reference Charts
Resources and Materials
Seat Belts & Child Passenger Restraints
Traffic Safety Awards 2009
Traffic Safety Awards 2008
Traffic Safety Conference
Traffic Safety Course Materials & Audio Files
Traffic Safety Videos
Traffic Safety Webinars



MTSI - Driving on the Right Side of the Road Overview

MTSI - Driving on the Right Side of the Road Overview

Driving on the Right Side of the Road

Young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20, comprise 6.5% of the licensed population and too often are amongst the high number of Texans injured or killed due to speed, DUI, failure to wear a 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.

Driving on the Right Side of the Road is a project aimed at social studies teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels that is possible through a collaborative effort with the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center and Law Focused Education Inc. a project of the State Bar of Texas and funding through the Texas Department of Transportation.

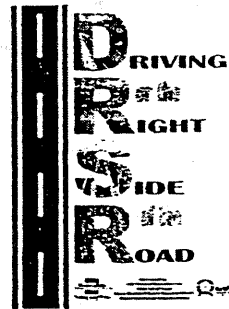
DRSR Brochure

Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's Driving on the Right Side of the Road (DRSR) Highlights & Accomplishments

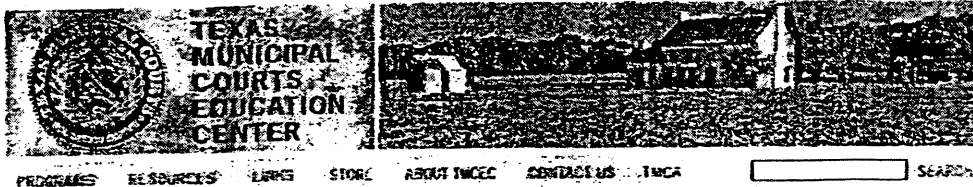
Driving on the Right Side of the Road was developed to infuse the study of traffic safety issues into social studies classes at grades 5, 8 and high school government using the strategies of law-related education, including the use of judges and court support personnel as resource persons in classrooms. In addition develop a statewide conference showcasing these programs.

Forty trainers across the state of Texas were trained on the Driving on the Right Side of the Road Program and materials, through the train-the-trainer that was held in April 2008.

- These trainers were involved in offering twenty-five Driving on the Right Side of the Road trainings across Texas in FY 08 with 601 people having been trained for a total of 2175 training hours.
- It is anticipated that the 640 people who were trained in FY 08 will positively impact 66,000 Texas children and youth through the DRSR Traffic Safety program in FY 09.



Overview
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MTSI - Traffic Safety Course Materials & Audio Files

MTSI - Traffic Safety Course Materials & Audio Files



**Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
Judges and Clerks Regional Programs**

Click on the links below to view written materials, PowerPoint presentations, or audio recordings for the following topics.

FY 08 Traffic Safety Course Material

  **Pre-conference: Courage to Live**
Materials Power Point [Video seq 1](#) National Judicial College

[Video seq 2](#) [Video seq 3](#) [Video seq 4](#) National Judicial College

  **Why Traffic Safety Is Important**
Materials Power Point Video Sheriff John Whetsel, Oklahoma County, OK

Materials Power Point Video **How Municipal Courts Can Make a Difference**
Ryan Turner, TMCCEC General Counsel

Materials Power Point Video **Driving Under the Influence**
Clay Abbott, DWI Resource Prosecutor,
Texas District and Counties Association

Materials Power Point Video **Aggressive Drivers**
Clay Abbott, DWI Resource Prosecutor,
Texas District and Counties Association

Materials Power Point Video **Bail Conditions in DWI Cases**
Judge Matt King, Tarrant County Magistrate

Materials [Power Point](#) Video **Points: Driving Responsibility Programs**
Rebekah Hibbs, DPS Project Administrator
Driver Responsibility Program

Materials Power Point Video **Ethics of Dealing with Vendors**
Ross Fisher, City Attorney, Seguin

Materials Power Point Video **Project Drive to Live**
Ashley Nicholas, Presa Community Center
Courage to Live,

Materials Power Point Video **Auto Ignition Interlock**
Judge Robin Ramsey, Denton

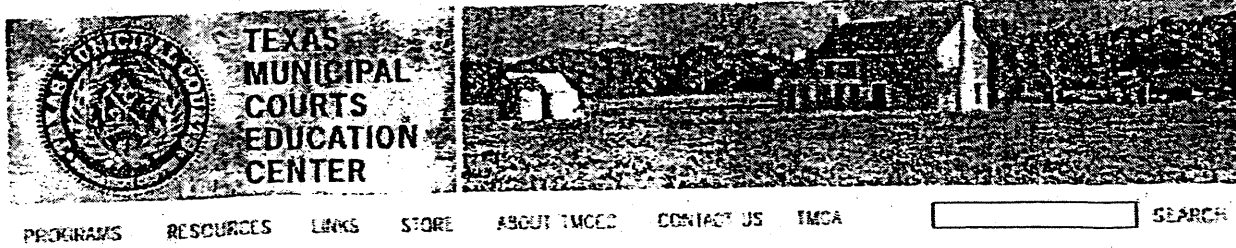
Materials [Power Point](#) Video **Omni base Program/
Contract TxDOT Registration Suspension**
Charles Brothers, President Omnibase
John Gray, TxDOT

Materials Power Point Video **Role of Court in City Government**
Lauren Crawford, Legal Counsel, TML

Materials Power Point Video **Booster Seats/ Child Safety Seats**
Mike Earney, Law Enforcement Coord., TMLA

Materials Power Point Video **Blood Warrants**

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MTSI - National & State Traffic Safety Web Pages

MTSI - National & State
Traffic Safety Web Pages

Recommended Websites on Traffic Safety

The websites shown below contain statistics, handouts, posters, public service announcements, educational materials, songs, and planning guides that can be ordered or downloaded for use in your community.

The TMCEC website (www.tmcec.com) contains examples that TMCEC considers to be the best of these resources. Please log on.

[Texas Municipal Courts Education Center](#)

[National Safety Council](#)

[Texas Department of Transportation](#)

[Buckle Up America](#)

[safecar.gov](#)

[Texas DMV](#)

[Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

[Safe Riders - Texas Dept. of State Health Services](#)

[Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#)

[AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety](#)

[AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Resources](#)

[Governors Highway Safety Association](#)

[National Organizations for Youth Safety](#)

[MADD](#)

[Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#)

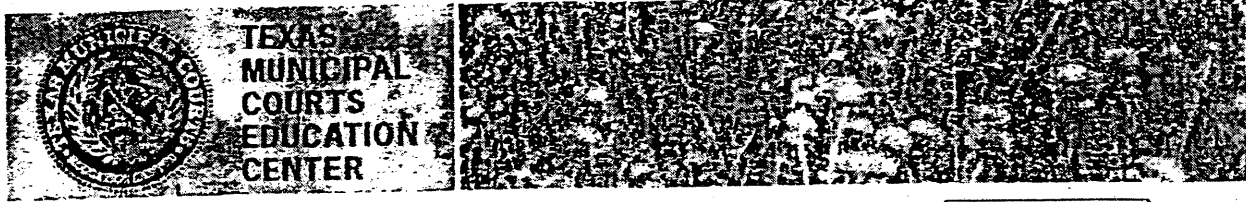
[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) - Homepage of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), under the U.S. Department of Transportation. NHTSA is responsible for reducing deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes. This is accomplished by setting and enforcing safety performance standards for motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment, and through grants to state and local governments to enable them to conduct effective local highway safety programs. And also conducts research on driver behavior and traffic safety, to develop the most efficient and effective means of bringing about safety improvements.

[American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators](#) - Homepage of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization striving to develop model programs in motor vehicle administration, police traffic services and highway safety. AAMVA is an educational organization which represents the state and provincial officials in the United States and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws.

[American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials](#) - The goal of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan is to reduce the annual number of highway deaths by 5,000 to 7,000 and to do so cost effectively and in a manner acceptable to the general public. The site contains a fully searchable database about the many publications, programs and people concerned with highway safety. Users can also find current research on issues not directly related to the Safety Plan as well as national and statewide highway safety legislation.

[American Highway Users Alliance](#) - Homepage of the American Highway Users Alliance, also known as "The Highway Users". Organization dedicated to promoting and defending the role of motor vehicle transportation in providing U.S. mobility, economic growth, productivity improvements, defense, safety and individual freedom of choice.

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SEARCH

Links

Use the following links to access important state and local sites of interest to municipal courts and the public. If there is a link you would like to see added to the list, please let us know.

Associations

- [Governmental Collectors Association of Texas](#)
- [Texas City Attorneys Association](#)
- [Texas Court Clerks Association](#)
- [Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association](#)
- [Texas District and County Attorneys Association](#)
- [Texas Marshal Association](#)
- [Texas Municipal Courts Association](#)
- [Texas Municipal Police Association](#)

Municipal

- [Judicial Directory & Court Websites](#)
- [Municipal Ordinances Online](#)
- [Texas Municipal League](#)

Texas

- [Attorney General of Texas](#)
- [Court of Criminal Appeals](#)
- [Department of Public Safety](#)
- [Judicial Conduct Commission](#)
- [Office of Court Administration](#)
- [State Bar of Texas](#)
- [State Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)
- [Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission](#)
- [Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse](#)
- [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services](#)
- [Texas Department of Transportation](#)
- [Texas Legislature Online](#)
- [TexasOnline](#)
- [TexasLawHelp](#)

Federal

- [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration](#)

Links



Municipal Court Week - November 2-6, 2009

Judges - watch your mail!
The 2009-2010 edition of the *Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual* should be arriving at your court this next week! (TMCEC will provide one code book per judge.)

View the **2010 Academic Catalog** here! TMCEC is now accepting **registrations** for the 2009-2010 Academic Year.

There are still spaces available for the Tyler Judges (October 26-28) and Clerks (October 28-30) programs. **Register now** and be the first to attend this year's regional program.



Go to the **2009 Legislative Update** page to watch the streaming video from the Austin Update, download the bill summaries in numerical order, and learn all about the bills passed by the 81st Regular Legislature!

Read a **press release** from DPS on HB 339. The law now restricts all drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle, except in an emergency.

Download a **sample Order of Nondisclosure** per S.B. 1925. Read an **email** from DPS regarding these Orders of Nondisclosure.