



TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS ASSOCIATION

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Dear Judges, Clerks, Bailiffs, Warrant Officers, Prosecutors, and Court Personnel:

Working in a municipal court is rewarding, but holds challenges as well. The Office of Court Administration's 2010 report states that over 7.5 million cases were filed through Texas Municipal Courts. Revenues totaled over \$746 million dollars and there were 1,500 municipal judges, making them the state's largest group of judges. Within this same group we have a diversity of city courts ranging in populations from 100 to 2 million people, both non-attorney and attorney judges, and courts of record and non-record. There are municipal courts where the clerk is the Judge and cities that have multiple municipal judges. Our municipal courts throughout Texas are truly unique and as varied as the state's landscape.

The Texas Municipal Court Association (TMCA) strives to represent all municipal judges. As the parent organization of the Texas Municipal Court Education Center (TMCEC), we receive a state grant to fund municipal court education. Through TMCEC's diligence and excellent efforts, we provide expertise, direction, and quality education for every judge and member of a municipal court staff.

We are quite fortunate to have the dedicated staff of TMCEC as we do. Their knowledge and professionalism enhances the high quality and standards of our courts. Each academic year presents TMCEC with new challenges, yet the staff accomplishes their duties with a unified mindset – to provide the best programs possible for our municipal court personnel.

As you may know, TMCA's grant funding for the educational year of 2011-2012 was significantly decreased. We do not want this decrease to adversely affect the educational opportunities for our court personnel therefore TMCA is helping to deflect some of the reductions and costs by supplementing the grant. TMCA and TMCEC's joint goal is to insure the continuance of our quality programs.

If you are not a member of the Texas Municipal Courts Association, I am asking you to please join. We need your participation more than ever. For those who are members, I want to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your dedication and support, and encourage an even greater involvement with the association. It is through our members that we build upon tomorrow's strong foundation for our association.

The TMCA hopes you will have a wonderful 2011 - 2012 academic year.

Sincerely,

Texas Municipal Courts Association

Donna Starkey
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Presiding Judge, City of Alvin
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