# TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER FACULTY ROSTER

Court Administrators Seminar Corpus Christi June 17 – 19, 2013

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# FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

# **CHARLES L. BAXTER**

Charles Baxter has over 30 years of experience, including service as a Police Officer and Municipal Court Judge. He has a unique perspective of the security needs of the Texas Courts. He is a licensed Physical Security Consultant in Texas and certified as a Physical Security Professional (PSP) through the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS). Mr. Baxter has designed, implemented, and managed successful security solutions for global and local companies.

# JOHN BRADY

John Brady is currently the Senior Safety Specialist for Travis County, Texas and the Director of the Texas Alive Team, a non-profit multi-agency team of law enforcement professionals. A graduate of the LeTourneau University, Mr. Brady worked as a trauma nurse and flight paramedic for nearly 20 years. In response to the unique experience of witnessing on a daily basis the epidemic of teen injuries and deaths associated with driving, Mr. Brady and the Texas Alive Team are committed to impacting the young drivers of Texas through education. The Texas Alive Team began offering the National Safety Council's "Alive at 25" program in 2008 in an attempt to emulate the program's success in other states. He hopes that the "Alive at 25" program elements and can be used as a tool in Texas communities to make the roadways safer for all.

# ELAINE BROWN

Elaine Brown is the Municipal Court Clerk/Administrator for the City of Katy, a position she has held since 2000. Ms. Brown achieved her Level I Certification in 2002, her Level II in 2003, and in 2005, she became the 20<sup>th</sup> clerk to achieve her Certified Municipal Court Clerk status and in 2007, received her Certified Court Manager certification from ICM.

Ms. Brown was the TCCA Gulf Coast Chapter Secretary from 2001-2003. She held the position of Gulf Coast Chapter Treasurer from 2004-2007. In 2006, she was the Gulf Coast Chapter Clerk of the Year and served as the Gulf Coast Chapter President in 2011-2012. Ms. Brown is the Public Relations Committee Chair.

Ms. Brown has been on the TCCA Board of Directors since 2002. She has held the position of TCCA Certification Program Financial Manager and with the Education Committee since 2007. Ms. Brown was the Committee Chair for the TCCA Nomination Committee in 2002-2006 and again in 2008-2009. She has held the Committee Chair for the TCCA Vendor/Sponsor Committee in 2006, 2008-2010. Ms. Brown has been a TMCEC Level I & Level II Facilitator since 2004.

Her peers awarded her with the 2009 Excellence Award at the TCCA Annual Conference in Abilene for her selfless and outstanding contributions to her profession and her colleagues.

# **KYLE S. CLARK**

Kyle Clark works at the University of Texas as an Assistant Director in New Student Services, primarily with orientation programs for new first-year and transfer students. Mr. Clark also owns his own

consulting company, Love Peace and Progress, for which he conducts trainings, workshops, and teaches courses with a focus on social justice, leadership development, and effective management.

# JAMESON CRAIN

Jameson Crain is the Multimedia Specialist for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Mr. Crain graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Arizona State University in 2008. Before working with TMCEC, he gained work experience in video production, photography, graphic design, and web development. In his spare time he enjoys designing and screen printing shirts and posters, mountain biking, and playing the drums.

# FRED GARCIA, JR.

Fred Garcia, Jr. is currently the municipal court clerk for the city of San Antonio. Mr. Garcia graduated from St. Mary's University with a degree in business administration and later Texas Tech University with his juris doctorate degree.

Mr. Garcia has previously worked as a municipal court prosecutor and bank auditor, as he has also served as an attorney in a private practice that concentrated on criminal defense and family law.

# MARK GOODNER

Mark Goodner serves as the Presiding Judge for the City of Woodcreek and is the Program Attorney and Deputy Counsel for the TMCEC. 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.

#### LEISA HARDIN

Leisa Hardin joined the City of Mansfield in 2011 and serves as Court Administrator. She retired from the City of Crowley after 26 years with the municipal court. Ms. Hardin is the Past President of the TCCA, 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 (TMCA) and on numerous committees through the TCCA and the TMCA.

Ms. Hardin was honored with the highest award given by the TCCA–in 1998, she received the Award of Excellence. The TMCA presented her with the Clerk of the Year 2000.

#### DAVID JOHNSON

David Johnson is an Assistant City Attorney and Deputy Chief Prosecutor for the City of Arlington. He also serves as the lead prosecutor for appeals, code compliance, and civil enforcement matters. Prior to joining the Arlington City Attorney's Office, he worked for Dallas attorney S. George Alfonso. Mr. Johnson obtained his juris doctorate degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law and his Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Texas A&M University.

Mr. Johnson has been a presenter for the Texas District & County Attorneys Association, the TCCA, the Texas City Attorneys Association, as well as a past presenter for TMCEC.

#### **RHONDA KUEHN**

Rhonda Kuehn is the Court Administrator for the City of Brenham. She is a Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerk and has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Sam Houston State University. She has worked for the City of Brenham since 1996. Ms. Kuehn serves as Vice President on the Executive Board for the TCCA. She currently co-chairs the TCCA Certification and Education Committee and sits as a member on the TMCA Education Committee. She also represents TCCA on the Texas Municipal League Board of Directors.

#### JIM LEHMAN

Jim Lehman is currently the Collection Program Manager for the Texas Office of Court Administration responsible for implementing the state's Court Collection Improvement Program and for providing collections assistance to more than 2,600 courts statewide. Mr. Lehman previously managed the Dallas County Criminal Courts Collection Department and has more than 20 years of private sector collections experience. He has served as faculty on events sponsored by the National Center for State Courts, the National Association for Court Management, the Texas Center for the Judiciary, and the TMCEC. Mr. Lehman is the recipient of the Justice Achievement Award from the NCSC, and has been published in various publications including County Progress Magazine, Courts Today, the Recorder, and GCAT Newsletter.

Mr. Lehman holds a B.A. degree from the University of Central Oklahoma at Edmond, Oklahoma and is the former Executive Director of the Governmental Collectors Association of Texas.

# VICTORIA JARAMILLO MEDLEY

Victoria Jaramillo Medley is currently the Court Administrator for the City of Amarillo and has been since 2002. Ms. Medley received her Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona University and recently completed her Masters degree in Public Administration.

Prior to becoming the Court Administrator for the City of Amarillo, Ms. Medley worked for Bernalillo County Juvenile Probation in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Randall County Juvenile Probation in Amarillo, Texas. She was an officer specializing in serious offenders. Ms. Medley was originally hired by the City of Amarillo in 1990 to serve as the first Teen Court Coordinator for the City of Amarillo and was responsible for designing and implementing one of the first Teen Court Programs in Texas.

Ms. Medley has completed Level II of the Clerk Certification program and is a Certified Court Manager through the Institute of Court Management. Ms. Medley is also a certified Challenge Course Facilitator having worked with several corporate as well as community groups in the Amarillo area.

#### LINDSEY MENA

Lindsey 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. Ms. Mena is beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year with her outreach program throughout the schools and community and has enjoyed watching it expand each year. She has been married for two years and has a one year old son.

#### **REBECCA STARK**

Rebecca Stark has worked in city government since 1978 and has been teaching various classes for TMCEC for several years. She was the city manager of a medium sized city and then of a small city in

the Metroplex area. She left city management to become the court clerk for a large city, Fort Worth, and is now the Court Clerk for the Austin Municipal Court.

Ms. Stark has experienced court operations in various sized cities and is here to share her experiences while teaching this seminar today.

# KATIE TEFFT

Katie Tefft is the Program Director for the TMCEC. She joined the TMCEC staff in January of 2009 as the Program Attorney. 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.

# RYAN KELLUS TURNER

Ryan Kellus Turner is General Counsel and Director of Education for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Prior to joining the Center, he served as Briefing Attorney for Judge Sharon Keller at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Mr. Turner obtained his juris doctorate from Southern Methodist University School of Law. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with highest honors from St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, where he now teaches as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences. In 2004 he received the School's Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award.

Mr. Turner is currently Deputy City Attorney for the City of Dripping Springs and previously served as a Special Assistant County Attorney for Kendall County.

A native Texan, Mr. Turner was raised in the north Texas town of Vernon. He is the co-author of the books *Lone Star Justice: A Comprehensive Overview of the Texas Criminal Justice System* and *The Municipal Judges Book*.

He is currently an advisory committee member on the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee which is charged with assessing the impact of school discipline and school-based policing on referrals to the municipal, justice, and juvenile courts and identifying judicial policies or initiatives that work to reduce referrals without having a negative impact on school safety; limit recidivism; and preserve judicial resources.

#### J. MARK WARREN

Mark Warren is the Training Coordinator and Consultant with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) in his hometown of Austin, Texas. He assists TAC with the vision, development and delivery of training for both the internal and external customers of Texas county government. Mr. Warren works with the TAC Leadership Foundation as the coordinator of its Leadership class, as well as helping to develop and facilitate the TAC Professional Development Program. In 2013, Mark celebrates 32 years in the business of teaching and training adults.

In June of 2000, Mr. Warren retired from the Texas Department of Public Safety after 23 years of state service. He spent 19 of those years at the Training Academy in Austin, and was its Assistant Commander

from 1993 to his retirement. Prior to the Training Academy, he was a Highway Patrol Trooper in Baytown and South Austin.

He attended Texas A&M University from 1973 to 1975, and Saint Edward's University from which he received a B.A. in Sociology in 1977, and the 157th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Mr. Warren has earned Advanced Instructor and Master Peace Officer certifications from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). In July of 2000, he was commissioned a Special Ranger by the Public Safety Commission, signifying his honorable retirement from the Department of Public Safety.