

PREFACE

The *TMCEC Bench Book* is designed as a reference guide for Texas municipal judges serving in their capacity as trial court judges and magistrates. In the 9th edition of this publication, the TMCEC staff has incorporated changes in the law that occurred in 2011 during the 82nd Regular Legislature. We have also incorporated recent federal and state case law. This book often references *The Recorder* and the *TMCEC Forms Book*. Both of these resources can be easily accessed at <http://www.tmcec.com/Resources> along with many useful charts, videos, and past course materials.

This edition was made possible through the collegial and collaborative efforts of the TMCEC staff: Hope Lochridge (Executive Director), Ryan Kellus Turner (General Counsel & Director of Education), Cathy Riedel (Program Director), Katie Tefft (Program Attorney), and Cielito "Sky" Apolinar (Program Assistant).

A special word of thanks is owed to the hundreds of calls TMCEC receives monthly on the toll-free legal line. These inquiries often set off a chain reaction of discussions, debates, and revisions that ultimately lead to better publications. Likewise, we are indebted to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Texas Municipal Courts Association's Board of Directors and members for their support of TMCEC.

The *TMCEC Bench Book* has grown over the years, and many people have worked to make it a better publication. As it is a perpetual work in progress, we welcome your comments and suggestions. The original version was published in 1996 and made possible through the contributions of the volunteers listed below.

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