

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER
FACULTY ROSTER
Regional Judges Seminar
South Padre Island
May 5-7, 2013

Kevin Cotton

Texas Alive Team
Training Director
Travis County Deputy Sheriff
P.O. Box 201863
Austin, TX 78720
(512) 497-1119
kevin.cotton@texasaliveteam.org

Mary Craft

Judge
Three Rivers Foster Care Court
7900 N. Stadium Dr. #103
Houston, TX 77030
979.239.7013 (o)
marycraft@yahoo.com

Jameson Crain

Multimedia Specialist
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78756
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
crain@tmcec.com

Terry Elizondo

Judge
Southside Place Municipal Court
6309 Edloe St
Houston, TX 77005
(713) 668-2341, x11 (o)
(713) 668-3305 (f)
tlelizondo@aol.com

David Garza

City of Bee Cave
4000 Galleria Parkway
Austin, TX 78738
512.968.2611 (o)
512.306.0379 (f)
dgarzalaw@gmail.com

Mark Goodner

Program Attorney &
Deputy Counsel
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78756
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
goodner@tmcec.com

Melissa Goodwin

Justice
3rd Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 12547
Austin, TX 78711-2547
512.463.1733 (o)
512.463.1685 (f)
mgoodwin@txcourts.gov

Joseph Gorfida, Jr.

Partner
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard,
Hager, & Smith, LLP
1800 Lincoln Plaza
500 N Akard St
Dallas, Texas 75201
214.965.9900 (o)
214.965.0010 (f)
jgorfida@njdhs.com

Ursula Hall

Judge
1400 Lubbock St # 214
Houston, TX 77002
713.247.5464 (o)
713.247.8747 (f)
uah@msn.com

Ryan Henry

Attorney
Offices of Ryan Henry, PLLC
1380 Pantheon Way, Suite 215
San Antonio, TX 78232
210.257.6357 (o)
210.569.6494 (f)
ryanhenny@rshlawfirm.com

Glenn Lewis

Judge
City of Forest Hill
3219 East California Pkwy.
Forest Hill, TX 76119
(817) 568-3046 (o)
(817) 984-8254 (f)
bspence@foresthilltx.org

Hope Lochridge

Executive Director
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78756
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
hope@tmcec.com

Stella Mata

Deputy Clerk /
Juvenile Case Manager
City of Forest Hill
3219 E California Pkwy.
Forest Hill, TX 76119
(817) 568-3046 (o)
(817) 984-8254 (f)
smata@foresthilltx.org

Kim A.F. Piechowiak

Domestic Violence
Resource Attorney
Office of Court Administration
P.O. Box 12066
Austin, TX 78711-2066
512.936.6390 (o)
512.463.1648 (f)
kim.piechowiak@txcourts.gov

Sharon Pruitt

Assistant General Attorney
Texas Attorney General's Office
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548
512.936.6406 (o)
512.370.9355 (f)
sharon.pruitt@texasattorney
general.gov

Robin D. Smith

Presiding Judge
City of Midland
P. O. Box 1152
Midland, TX 79702-1152
(432) 685-7303 (c)
(432) 685-7319 (f)
rds2000@prodigy.net

Katie Tefft

Program Director
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78756
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
tefft@tmcec.com

Ryan Kellus Turner

General Counsel &
Director of Education
TMCEC
2210 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78756
512.320.8274 (o)
512.435.6118 (f)
rtturner@tmcec.com

Cameron Vann

Attorney
Texas Lawyers Assistance Program
1414 Colorado
Austin, TX 78701-1627
512.427-1453 (o)
512.427.4127 (f)
Cameron.Vann@TEXASBAR.COM



KEVIN COTTON

Mr. Kevin Cotton is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and training director for the Texas Alive Team. He has spent much his career focused on issues related to juvenile justice and has brought that wealth of experience to the Texas Alive Team. He has been a Travis County Sheriff's deputy for the last ten years. Six of those years, Deputy Cotton has acted as a school resource officer serving in Austin area high schools. Prior to his career with the Sheriff's office, he served as a juvenile probation officer in Travis County.

MARY CRAFT

Judge Mary Craft is a Senior District Judge and served on the 314th Family District Court of Harris County Texas from 1995 to 2002. She was Associate Judge of that court from 1988 to 1994. From 1977 to 1988 she had a family law practice and was board certified in family law.

Since 2003 Judge Craft has served as judge of the Three Rivers Foster Care Court, hearing child abuse and neglect cases in Wharton, Liberty, Chambers and Waller counties.

JAMESON CRAIN

Mr. Crain is the Multimedia Specialist for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Jameson graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Arizona State University in 2008. Before 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.

TERRY ELIZONDO

Judge Elizondo has served as an Associate Judge, City of Southside Place since 2000. She is a Seattle, Washington native with a B.A. & M.A. from Seattle University. Prior to law school Judge Elizondo taught Physical Science and English in Houston, Texas and Colon, Republic of Panama. Judge Elizondo graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1977 and worked as Corporate Counsel for two large corporations until 1984. She has been in private practice over 25 years with an emphasis on law relating to children. Judge Elizondo was president of the Association of Women Attorneys-Houston and is an experienced presenter at State Bar of Texas and Houston Bar Association programs.

DAVID GARZA

Judge David L. Garza is the Presiding Municipal Court Judge for the City of Bee Cave, Texas. He was first appointed to that position in 2010.

Prior to his current position with the City of Bee Cave, Judge Garza served as a City of Austin Municipal Court Judge from 1987 to 1992 and then again from 2003 to 2009. Judge Garza has also served the State of Texas as an Administrative Law Judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) from 1992 to 1993. He has also served as an Assistant District Attorney for Travis County and as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, where he was Chief of the Foreign Prosecution Unit under then Attorney General, John Cornyn. Judge Garza received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Houston in 1975. He received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. in 1978 and his

MBA from The University of Texas at Austin in 1991.

Judge Garza is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas-Mexico Bar Association and Association of Attorney Mediators.

He is a native Texan, having been born and reared in Corpus Christi, Texas and has been a resident of Austin, Texas since 1980.

MARK GOODNER

Mr. Goodner serves as the Presiding Judge for the City of Woodcreek and is the Program Attorney and Deputy Counsel for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. 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.

MELISSA GOODWIN

Justice Melissa Goodwin is a Justice on the 3rd Court of Appeals. Former Criminal District Court Judge for the 427th District Court, Travis County and the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3, Travis County.

Justice Goodwin has over 8 years appellate experience as an attorney for the Court of Criminal Appeals. Former partner and attorney at the law firm of Potts & Reilly, LLP. She also served the State of Texas as a Commissioner for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Office Standards and Education, the Professional Ethics Committee, and the Judicial Ethics Committee.

URSULA HALL

Judge Ursula Hall comes from a long line of socially, civically and politically involved citizens. She was inspired by her parents along with her grandfather, J.E. "Jimmy" Middleton,

legendary advocate for union workers. She also gives credit for her success and her desire to improve her community to her grandmothers, Quintanna Hall Alliniece and Winnie Middleton.

Judge Hall graduated from a local public magnet school for the academically gifted and talented, Wellesley College, and South Texas College of Law. She was a student champion in the trial-related activities of debate, moot court and mock trial (at both the University of Texas School of Law and South Texas College of Law).

Judge Hall has served as a Judge for more than seven years. She is a (thrice) reappointed Associated Municipal Judge with the City of Houston. She has practiced law, as a sole practitioner, for the last sixteen years. She is also licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

RYAN S. HENRY

Mr. Ryan Henry graduated with honors from New Mexico State University with dual bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology in 1995. He attended law school at Texas Tech School of Law and graduated in May of 1998. While attending law school, Ryan began clerking for the Lubbock City Attorney's Office and began prosecuting in municipal court. As a result, he began working with municipalities and their municipal courts, even before he graduated from law school. So began his career supporting local governments. Upon graduation, Ryan began working in Brownsville, Texas, defending governmental entities in the area. In June of 2002, Ryan moved to San Antonio and continued working with municipalities with a San Antonio law firm at which he eventually became a partner in 2011. In 2012, Ryan started the Law Offices of Ryan PLLC taking representation of local governments to the next level by integrating technology into the efficient and cost saving art of practice.

GLENN LEWIS

Judge Glenn Lewis is currently a partner in the law firm of Linebarger, Goggan, Blair &

Sampson, LLP. Prior to joining the firm, he practiced law with his brother, Judge Terry Lewis, in the Fort Worth firm of Lewis and Lewis.

In addition to his duties at Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, Mr. Lewis serves as the Presiding Municipal Judge in the Tarrant County City of Forest Hill, Texas.

Mr. Lewis concluded 10 years of Service in the Texas House of Representatives when the 79th Session of the Texas Legislature commenced on January 11, 2005.

After graduating from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, he enrolled at Prairie View A&M University. Prior to graduation, he returned home to Fort Worth where he completed his undergraduate work. He earned an A.A. degree from Tarrant County College and a B.A. from Texas Wesleyan University. He went on to earn a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas.

He was recently appointed to the Texas State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In 2010, he was chosen by the Fort Worth Business Press as one of 12 "Power Attorneys" in Tarrant County. He is also Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of United Way of Tarrant County.

HOPE LOCHRIDGE

Ms. Lochridge has served as the Executive Director of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center since 1991. Prior to that she was the Director of the Public Service/Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas and the Executive Director of Law Focused Education, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to educating young people about the law. She earned a B.A. in Government from Beloit College in Wisconsin and a Masters in Human Resource Development from the University of Texas at Austin. A native Texan, she has a 26 year old daughter, Molly (who is currently a law student at the University of Texas

at Austin), and enjoys outdoor recreation and travel.

STELLA MATA

Stella Mata came to the court with a strong background in financial banking. She began her career as a Municipal Court Clerk in 2009 with the City of Mansfield and currently holds the position of Juvenile Case Manager with the City of Forest Hill, where she has developed the program and a strong rapport with the educational community providing a variety of on campus classes. She is has obtained her Level I certification in November of 2011, and is currently working on her Level II.

KIM A.F. PIECHOWIAK

Ms. Kim Piechowiak is the Domestic Violence Resource Attorney for the Texas Office of Court Administration. She received her B.A. in Criminal Justice in 1989 and her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1992. Before coming to the OCA, Kimberly prosecuted domestic violence cases for 20 years, first with the Bexar County District Attorney and then the San Antonio City Attorney's Office. While with the City, Kimberly implemented and supervised the family violence prosecution program at San Antonio Municipal Court. She is a TCLEOSE Certified Police Instructor who has been training law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judges for 15 years on the issue of domestic violence for many local, state, and national agencies, including the San Antonio Police Training Academy, the National District Attorneys Association, the State Bar of Texas Judicial Section, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, and the Texas Council on Family Violence.

SHARON PRUITT

Ms. Pruitt is a staff attorney with Juvenile Crime Intervention (JCI) of the Texas Office of the Attorney General. Mrs. Pruitt addresses legal questions from law enforcement and school officials, updates juvenile-related agency publications, and conducts legal training

programs. She has presented juvenile and education-related legal topics at statewide and regional conferences for law enforcement, educators and administrators, and probation officials. She previously served as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Juvenile Law Section Council.

Before joining the Office of the Attorney General, Mrs. Pruitt was a juvenile prosecutor for the Gregg County District Attorney's Office. She has also prosecuted in Smith County and in Harris County. In 2001, Mrs. Pruitt became Board Certified in Juvenile Law and co-authored Juveniles published by TDCAA.

ROBIN D. SMITH

Judge Robin D. Smith is the Presiding Judge of the City of Midland Municipal Court. He has served in the position since November of 1984. Prior to that appointment, he practiced law as a prosecutor for the City of Midland from 1982 to 1983 and operated as a solo practitioner from 1983 to 1984.

Judge Smith's educational accomplishments include a bachelor's degree in economics and psychology from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University.

His professional association work includes serving as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Municipal Judges Section from 1989 - 90 and President of the Texas Municipal Courts Association twice, in 1991 - 92 and 2008 - 2009. He served on the TMCA board of directors from 1986 to 1997, from 2001 to 2005 and in 2007 to 2010. He has also served the American Bar Association including a term as the Chair of the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges. In 1997, Judge Smith was appointed by Chief Justice Tom Phillips to serve on the Texas Judicial Council where he served until 2001.

From 2002 – 2004, Judge Smith was selected as the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Judicial Fellow. As Judicial Fellow, he provided input for the United States Department of Transportation on policy and publications. He was also frequently called upon to speak on traffic safety issues for the Administration.

Among honors, the Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce recognized Judge Smith as one of the "Five Outstanding Young Texans" in 1994. The Texas Municipal Courts Association named Judge Smith "Judge of the Year" in June 1998. In 2001, He was presented the American Bar Association's National Conference of Specialized Court Judges' Education Award. The State Bar of Texas Municipal Judges Section presented Judge Smith with the Michael J. O'Neal Outstanding Jurist Gavel Award in 2002, and he is a four time winner of the City of Midland Management Award.

He is a frequent speaker for several groups including the National Judicial College and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. In addition, he has spoken at judicial training seminars in several states. Judge Smith is considered to have expertise in the areas of search and seizure, constitutional criminal procedure, juvenile law and traffic law.

In addition to his activities and position at the Midland Municipal Court, he edits and publishes the Texas Municipal Court Justice Court News, which has more than 800 monthly subscribers.

KATIE TEFFT

Ms. Katie Tefft is the Program Director for the TMCEC. 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

Mr. 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.

CAMERON VANN

Cameron Vann has been licensed as an attorney since 1982. After graduating from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science and from the University of Houston with a Master of Education, she pursued a teaching and administrative career in Spring Branch Independent School District.

Ms. Vann then earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston

and joined a mid-size civil litigation firm. In 1985 she opened her private practice in Houston, focusing on probate and elder law until her retirement in 2003. While practicing in Houston Cameron served on several boards and received awards for her work from Baylor College of Medicine, Alzheimer Association, Mental Health Association, Association of Women Attorneys, and Rotary.

After deciding that she had too much energy to retire permanently, Cameron moved to Austin to work at Advocacy, Inc. representing clients with mental health disabilities. While at Advocacy, she served on the Mental Health Community Committee and the Jail Diversion Committee. She is a past board member of the Travis County Women Lawyers Association.

Joining the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) staff at the State Bar of Texas in July 2008, Cameron works with lawyers, judges and law students who experience depression and alcohol or drug dependency, to connect with resources for recovery. If there is someone in the legal community struggling with these issues, make a confidential referral to TLAP at 512-427-1453 to get help.

Ms. Vann and her husband Charlie own Barrington Bed and Breakfast in Washington-on-the-Brazos, Texas, and have a son in Austin and daughter in Washington, D.C.