

Academic Bulletin

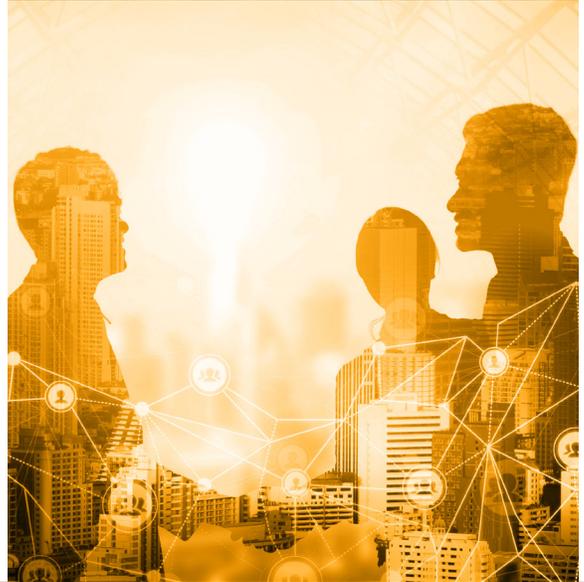
Summer 2022 Edition



Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

Visit us online at www.tmcec.com

A project of the Texas Municipal Courts Association
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June - August 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

From The Center	2
Judges Program	4
Impaired Driving Symposium.....	4
S.B. 6 Bail Training.....	5
Clerks Program.....	6
Court Administrators Seminar	6
C3 Ordinances Seminar	8
Mental Health Conference.....	9
Prosecutors Seminar.....	10
AY 22 Remaining Event Schedule	10
General Conference Information	12

From the Center

From the Center

We do not know for certain if COVID-19 has reached resolution or if we are experiencing a reprieve. Regardless, Summer 2022 is poised to be the best opportunity for in-person training since 2019.

Now Is the Time

Our summer training schedule is loaded with great topics, including our first-ever C3 deep dive into Ordinances (See Page 8) and our specialized Mental Health Conference (See Page 9).

Register now! Online registration is open for most TMCEC events for the remainder of the current academic year (June 1 – August 31, 2022). See Page 10 for the schedule of remaining events. Whether you are a judge, clerk, court administrator, juvenile case manager, or prosecutor, we have something very special planned for you this summer.

Staffing improvements at hotel venues combined with changes related to COVID-19 precautions and health guidelines by the CDC mean that, at least for now, TMCEC can begin accommodating more people for in-person events than we have at any other time this academic year. Because of these improvements, as the need arises, TMCEC will make efforts to increase capacity at future in-person events, working with hotels and basing decisions on individual levels of the locale.

Whether you need to complete your training hours or want to attend more training, we hope to see you this summer. Additionally, remember that need-based financial assistance is available for those who qualify (See Page 13 for additional details).

Safety Matters

TMCEC remains committed to the safety of its staff and participants. Masks will be available for those who want them at events and seminars. Staff and participants should follow individual hotel policies regarding masking. We will continue to monitor the guidance from public health experts as it develops. We encourage you to get vaccinated, get tested, and stay home when you are sick.

Online Offerings

Whether it is because of health concerns, inflation, or training budget cuts, TMCEC can accommodate you through our online offerings. We have more than 86 webinars that can be watched on demand via the all new OLC 2.0 (See Page 14). This year's live webinars are the best yet (and are free).

Additionally, on June 15, as part of the training required by S.B. 6 for certain magistrates, we will have a special eight-hour, one-day virtual seminar: Magistrate Duties: Setting Bail in Criminal Cases (See Page 5 for more details).

Sincerely,

Ryan Kellus Turner
Executive Director
Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
April 2022





Rules of Judicial Education

Judicial Education Is Still Mandatory and More Important than Ever.

Judicial Education is mandatory and more important than ever. According to the Rules of Judicial Education, all municipal judges (both attorney and non-attorney) must complete a minimum of 16 hours of judicial education every year. Newly appointed or elected attorney judges must satisfy their 16-hour requirements by attending an entire TMCEC regional conference within one year from appointment or election and another TMCEC regional conference in its entirety the following year. 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 of the date of appointment or election, complete 32 hours of continuing judicial education at a New Judges Seminar from TMCEC before attending an entire regional conference the next year. After judges have completed at least two years of required judicial education through TMCEC, municipal judges must complete eight hours of judicial education through a live, continuous presentation from TMCEC, but may complete the remaining eight hours (often called flex-time) through live presentations, approved online education, or any combination of approved live events and online education (but see below for changes to the Rules of Judicial Education during the COVID-19 state of disaster).

The TMCEC academic year is September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. Judges who have been on the bench longer than one year must attend an approved program once per year for judicial education credit regardless of birth date or date of appointment. This is a different reporting period than the State Bar's Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) rules for attorneys, which are based on birth date.

On March 30, 2020 the Court of Criminal Appeals issued an emergency order suspending all sections of the Rules of Judicial Education that require live, continuous hours of judicial education that would prevent a judge from completing his or her hours during the disaster.

Here is a summary of the order and its implications in AY 22:

- All municipal judges are required to complete 16 hours of judicial education by August 31, 2022.
- Normally, each judge would need to satisfy at least eight of those hours (or all 16 for a judge completing a first or second year of education) through live, continuous training. Now, however, all 16 hours can be completed by electronic means until thirty days after the Governor lifts the Declaration of State of Disaster.
- The order only suspended required live, continuous training. It did not expand the list of approved online providers. (TMCEC is the only approved provider of online education for municipal judges.)

The Waiver Process

If a judge is unable to complete the mandatory 16 hours of judicial education within the academic year (September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022), he or she may request a waiver from the Municipal Courts Education Committee. A form to make this request can be obtained from TMCEC (800.252.3718) or online. The Committee typically reviews requests for waivers in September **after** the end of the academic year. If an emergency situation has occurred and is well-documented in the request for a waiver, the Committee may grant a conditional waiver that will require the judge to attend two conferences (one at his or her own expense) in the next year. Only in rare cases is an unconditional waiver granted. If a waiver is denied, the judge's name is sent to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. With all the programs being held this year, it is unlikely that the Committee will view requests for either unconditional or conditional waivers with any leniency.

Judges Program



REGIONAL JUDGES SEMINAR

The TMCEC Regional Judges Seminar is a 16-hour program that covers legal, ethical, and practical issues that municipal judges encounter on the bench. In past years, topics have included legislative highlights, magistrate duties, and trial proceedings. A Special Session on Day 1 typically covers a current trending legal issue or fundamentals of municipal court practice. This year's special session will focus on jurisdiction, court decorum, and handling court records. All courses are taught by TMCEC attorneys and select judge, court, or agency faculty from across the state.

The program is open to all currently active Texas municipal judges, and attendance will satisfy the annual 16-hour continuing judicial education requirement.

The agenda for the seminar is available online at www.tmcec.com. **The registration fee is \$100, or \$150 for registration and private, single-occupancy housing for one night, or \$200 for registration and private, single occupancy housing for two nights.**

Last Regional in AY 22!

Summer Quarter:

June 27-29, 2022

**West Texas Regional Judges
Odessa
Odessa Marriott Hotel & Conference
Center**

IMPAIRED DRIVING SYMPOSIUM

This joint seminar is hosted by TMCEC, the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas Justice Court Training Center, and the Texas Center for the Judiciary, with funding from the Texas Department of Transportation. The symposium gives municipal judges the opportunity to converse and network with judges from other levels of the judiciary with the goal of streamlining impaired driving cases from arrest to disposition. The symposium will be particularly beneficial to judges who perform magistration. This conference will count for eight continuous hours of judicial education credit as well as CLE for attorneys. **Registration is \$50.**

**August 15-16,
2022**

**Bee Cave
Sonesta
Bee Cave**

NEW JUDGES SEMINAR (NON-ATTORNEYS)

The TMCEC New Judges Seminar is a 32-hour program designed for new, non-attorney judges. The 5-day seminar covers topics including Authorities & Duties, Trial Processes, and Indigency & Enforcement. Each class is tailored to new, non-attorney judges and no background in municipal court or the law is required. All courses are taught by TMCEC attorneys and select judge or agency faculty from across the state.

Admission to the New Judges Seminar is, by rule, limited to new, non-attorney municipal judges only. The Rules of Judicial Education require that all municipal judges who are not licensed by the State Bar of Texas attend 32 hours of TMCEC judicial training within one year of the date of their appointment or election.

Non-attorney municipal judges who have been inactive for two or more consecutive academic years are required to repeat the new judges program. Participants must be appointed to office prior to registration.

Mayors are only eligible to attend if a general-law municipality has activated its court but has not created the position of or appointed a municipal judge (including presiding, associate, alternate, or substitute judge). Mayors serving as the ex officio judge must request an affidavit from TMCEC and submit it prior to registration.

The registration fee is \$250. TMCEC will pay for a private, single-occupancy hotel room at no additional charge to the participant for the nights of Monday through Thursday.

Summer Quarter:

July 25-29, 2022

New Judges Seminar

Austin

Austin Southpark Hotel

Magistrate Duties: Setting Bail in Criminal Cases (S.B. 6 Training)

S.B. 6 (2021) requires magistrates to complete an eight-hour initial training course on magistrate duties as a qualification for setting bail in criminal cases punishable by confinement. TMCEC, in conjunction with the Office of Court Administration, developed a course specifically for municipal judges serving as magistrates. This virtual event will be held live on June 15, 2022 and available on-demand after that date.

Magistrates serving on April 1, 2022 have until December 1, 2022 to complete the 8-hour training to be considered in compliance. Other magistrates have 90 days from the date they take office to complete the training.

Note that S.B. 6 also requires a two-hour continuing education course in each subsequent state fiscal biennium in which the magistrate serves.

Virtual Event:

June 15, 2022

More Details to Come!

Available On-Demand on the OLC after June 15th

TMCEC Clerks Program

REGIONAL CLERKS SEMINAR

The TMCEC Regional Clerks Seminar features sessions addressing a wide range of both legal and practical issues. Participants can earn up to 16 hours of clerk certification credit by attending the 12-hour conference and the optional 4-hour special session. This seminar helps to provide a foundation for building clerks' knowledge of municipal court practices by familiarizing them with topics including judicial ethics, statutes, legal processes, and legislative issues. It also helps to promote a better understanding of the justice system and the laws that municipal courts must uphold.

TMCEC will continue to offer a 4-hour special session on Day 1 of most regional seminars. This year's special session will focus on getting back to the basics with topics including jurisdiction, court decorum, and handling court records.

Note that court clerks may only attend one TMCEC regional conference each academic year. Space permitting, a court clerk may attend an additional program within the same academic year at their own expense.

The registration fee is \$100, or \$150 for registration and private, single-occupancy housing for one night, or \$200 for registration and private, single occupancy housing for two nights.

Last Regional in AY 22!

Summer Quarter:

June 27-29, 2022

West Texas Regional Clerks

Odessa

**Odessa Marriott Hotel &
Conference Center**

COURT ADMINISTRATORS SEMINAR

This conference is designed to develop the administrators' knowledge of both law and court management fundamentals. This conference is also integrated into the Level III requirements of the Court Clerks Certification Program. Level III emphasizes building a more in-depth and supervisory level of knowledge of the court system. The program is not limited to clerks and court administrators who are supervisors but is open to all who want to achieve a Level III certification and the designation as a Certified Municipal Court Clerk. Court administrators who are not participating in the certification program may also attend. **Registration is \$100. There is a \$50 fee per night for a private room.**

**Summer Quarter:
June 20-22, 2022**

**Houston
Omni Houston Hotel
(Galleria)**



NEW CLERKS SEMINAR

The New Clerks Seminar is for clerks who are either new to the role of court clerk or have never attended the seminar. This program offers fundamental classes on court procedures, from filing a complaint to final disposition of a case and enforcing judgments. Classes include *The Role of the Clerk*, *Legal Ethics*, *Charging Criminal Offenses*, *State Reporting*, *Handling Records Requests and Judgments*, *Indigence*, and *Enforcement*.

Many clerks are unaware that the Code of Judicial Conduct requires them to observe the same standards of fidelity and diligence that are required of judges. This program helps clerks perform their jobs more effectively and accurately.

Please register early to guarantee your place in the program, as these conferences fill up quickly and often have waiting

lists. Late registrants will be allowed to attend only if space and funding is available. Individuals primarily working in other roles, such as bailiffs, prosecutors, and city staff, are not permitted to register for this event. The seminar will be held July 25-29, 2022, and participants can earn 32-35 hours of clerk certification credit. **Registration is \$250.**

New Clerks Seminars are five days in length and begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday and conclude at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, with a certification exam to follow from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TMCEC will pay for a private, single-occupancy hotel room at no additional charge to the participant for the nights of Monday through Thursday.

Summer Quarter:

July 25-29, 2022

Austin
Austin Southpark Hotel

Regional Roundtable & Statewide Summit

Building upon the Regional Roundtables held in Academic Year 2019, TMCEC is pleased to host a second AY 22 Regional Roundtable & Statewide Summit this summer (event date TBD). The purpose of this event is to convene municipal judges and clerks by region to discuss challenges, share solutions, and learn from each other's experiences.

The discussion topics will relate to fines, fees, costs, alternate sentencing, jail commitments, and bail. Each region will have their own guided discussion and then share significant highlights with the other regions.

This event is being paid for by special rider funding from the Texas Legislature. There is no fee to register. Eligible participants will receive a private, single-occupancy hotel room at no additional charge (see Page 12 for Housing Policy). TMCEC will reimburse participant transportation costs for this event (consistent with grant terms). Enrollment is limited. More details to come!



C3 Ordinances Seminar

The C3 Ordinances Seminar is part of the C3 Initiative (Councils, Courts, and Cities). C3 is a public information and education campaign created by TMCEC that aims to help fill the information gap between city halls and municipal courts in Texas. C3' highlights issues and increases awareness and understanding of municipal courts in Texas for mayors, city council members, city attorneys, and other local officials.

This TMCEC seminar is the first of its kind, taking a deep dive into the topic of city ordinances. **Registration is \$50.** Eligible participants will receive a private, single-occupancy hotel room at no additional charge (see Page 12 for Housing Policy).

For more information, visit the C3 page on the TMCEC website: <https://www.tmcec.com/cities/>.

July 7-8, 2022

**Georgetown
Sheraton Austin
Georgetown Hotel &
Conference Center**

Mental Health Conference



Mental Health Conference

The TMCEC Mental Health Conference helps equip judges, magistrates, court personnel, and prosecutors with information and resources to impact their communities by changing the way the criminal justice system responds to mental illness.

Municipal courts not only see the highest volume of defendants in the Texas criminal justice system, but also have jurisdiction over the offenses most likely to be manifestations of mental illness and co-occurring disorders (mental illness and substance abuse).

Held every two years since its inauguration in 2016, the 2022 Mental Health Conference is the fourth TMCEC conference to focus on mental health and its impact on municipal courts. Attendance at this conference counts for judicial education credit, clerk certification credit, and CLE for attorneys.

Registration is \$50. Eligible participants will receive a private, single-occupancy hotel room at no additional charge (see Page 12 for Housing Policy).

August 18-19, 2022

**Corpus Christi
Omni Corpus Christi Hotel**

Prosecutors Seminar

Since 1992, TMCEC has offered specialized continuing legal education to prosecuting attorneys who serve in municipal courts across the state. Currently, more than 700 attorneys licensed in Texas prosecute in municipal courts. The TMCEC Prosecutors Seminar is uniquely designed to help prosecutors and other attorneys stay abreast of information necessary to maintain professional competence. Presentations focus on emerging topics, ethics, legislation, and case law.

Registration is \$100. There is a \$50 fee per night for a private, single occupancy room.

CLE by the State Bar of Texas, including ethics, will be available for attending this seminar. The Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) Board of Directors adopted a \$100 CLE fee. The fee is voluntary, is deposited in the TMCA private fund account, and is used for expenditures designed to benefit municipal courts but not allowed by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

**Summer Quarter:
June 20-22, 2022**

**Houston
Omni Houston Hotel
(Galleria)**

AY 22 Remaining Event Schedule

Seminar	Date(s)	City	Venue
Juvenile Case Managers Conference	June 6-8	Austin	Austin Southpark Hotel
Magistrate Duties: Setting Bail in Criminal Cases (S.B. 6 Training)	June 15	Virtual	Online
Court Administrators Conference	June 20-22	Houston	Omni Houston Hotel (Galleria)
Prosecutors Conference	June 20-22	Houston	Omni Houston Hotel (Galleria)
West Texas Regional Judges Seminar	June 27-29	Odessa	Odessa Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
West Texas Regional Clerks Seminar	June 27-29	Odessa	Odessa Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Courts, Cities, & Councils Ordinances Seminar	July 7-8	Georgetown	Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center
New Judges Seminar	July 25-29	Austin	Austin Southpark Hotel
New Clerks Seminar	July 25-29	Austin	Austin Southpark Hotel
Impaired Driving Symposium	August 15-16	Bee Cave	Sonesta Bee Cave
Mental Health Conference	August 18-19	Corpus Christi	Omni Corpus Christi Hotel

Keep up with the latest! Visit: tmcec.com/calendar

TMCEC COVID-19 Protocols for Live, In-person Events

The safety of participants, volunteers, and staff is a top priority at TMCEC's live, in-person events this academic year. TMCEC has created a webpage with COVID-19 Protocols for Live, In-person Events (accessible from the home page at tmcec.com). On that page, you will find out what TMCEC is doing—and what you can do—to assist us in promoting a safe and responsible in-person learning environment. We will make every effort to keep the webpage updated.

In-Person Precautions

TMCEC encourages all registrants to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and all posted instructions while attending TMCEC events to ensure the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, and staff.

It is strongly recommended that all participants be fully vaccinated prior to attending one of our in-person live events. Vaccines not only help stop the spread; they have proven effective in eliminating the most serious COVID health risks for most people.

Participants should not attend an in-person event if they have any indication of COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have recently been exposed to someone with symptoms or someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. If it is possible to transfer your registration, we will do so.

How In-Person Events May Be Different

Working with our hotel and venue partners, here is an overview of what TMCEC may do differently at our live, in-person conferences:

- Staffing improvements at hotel venues combined with changes related to COVID-19 precautions and health guidelines by the CDC mean that, at least for now,

TMCEC can begin accommodating more people for in-person events than we have at any other time this academic year. Because of these improvements, as the need arises, TMCEC will make efforts to increase capacity at future in-person events, working with hotels and basing decisions on individual levels of the locale.

- Hand sanitizer and masks will be available on-site.
- Meals may be boxed or served by a hotel attendant and eaten in the same ballroom seats as during the presentations.
- Sessions may be in general session with no break-out sessions. This allows participants to have the same seat for the entire event.
- As a reminder, effective September 1, 2020, TMCEC no longer offers printed course materials for Regional Judges Programs. Course materials will be available on the TMCEC Conference App and the OLC (see Page 11). The TMCEC Conference App is available on Google Play and the App Store. Login with your TMCEC credentials and conveniently access all the seminar files from your smart phone/tablet.

Personal Accountability Commitment

By registering for a live, in-person event, you agree to follow all safety protocols requested by TMCEC and by the conference venue at the time of the event. You acknowledge there is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any public space where people gather. We encourage all registrants to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and all posted instructions while attending TMCEC events to ensure the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, and staff.



General Conference Information

Online Registration: Effective September 1, 2020, TMCEC event registration is online only (register.tmcec.com). Payment of registration and housing fees (if applicable) is required prior to enrollment in all seminars.

Policy on Persons with Disabilities: TMCEC will make every effort to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. For in-person events, if you need any such accommodations, please notify the hotel directly. Our hotel contract includes provisions for such accommodations. All participants should feel free to contact TMCEC or our staff at the conferences if accommodations provided by the hotel are not satisfactory. For virtual events, please notify TMCEC if you need any such accommodations.

Hotel Information: TMCEC makes all reservations from the information provided during online registration. The hotel check-in time varies by site. This information will be provided in your confirmation email. The hotel check-out time for most conferences is 12:30 p.m. on the last day of the conference. Participants who make hotel arrangements through TMCEC do not need to make a payment to the hotel for the sleeping room charge but should be prepared to post a deposit or present a credit card for incidentals such as movies, telephone calls, or room service. You are responsible for all incidentals.

Do not contact the hotel unless you plan to arrive early or extend your stay. In either case, you will be responsible for payment of that portion of the bill (including tax). Please note that your city is not exempt from hotel tax. Participants who request extra room nights will be responsible for paying hotel tax as well as any additional room charges. TMCEC cannot help you make arrangements for an early arrival or extended stay. The hotel may or may not be able to give you the government rate.

Housing Policy: If you work within a 30-mile radius from the conference site, TMCEC cannot pay for your hotel room. Participants attending the Regional Judges and Clerks Seminars, Court Administrators Seminar, Level III Assessment Clinic, Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Conference, Prosecutors Seminars, and Juvenile Case Managers Conference have the option to share a sleeping room with another

participant at no extra charge. Those who do not wish to share a room can choose to pay an additional \$50 a night for a private room. Participants who share a room will not be charged any additional fees outside of the registration fee. Please note that some hotels may charge an additional fee for guests not included in the reservation.

Private rooms will be provided at no additional charge for the New Judges and New Clerks Seminars due to higher registration fees.

Guests: If you wish to bring a guest to the hotel, you must arrange for payment of your guest's expenses directly with the hotel. TMCEC has requested that hotels not charge for one family member sharing a room with a participant. However, there can be exceptions to this policy, so please review your hotel statement carefully. Guests may not join conference participants at TMCEC-sponsored meals or sessions.

Cancellation and No-Show Policy: If you have registered for a TMCEC program and find that you are unable to attend, you must cancel at least 10 business days before the conference starts to be eligible for a refund. For in-person events, after those 10 business days, you and/or your city will be billed (as applicable) for meal expenses, course materials, and housing (\$110-\$145 plus tax per night). For virtual events, after those 10 business days, you and/or your city will be given a credit. Cancel by calling TMCEC and sending in a cancellation form. If an emergency occurs and you cannot reach TMCEC, you will be responsible for contacting the hotel to cancel your reservation.

TMCEC reserves your sleeping room for late arrival. You will be billed if you do not use your requested and reserved sleeping room but still attend the conference. If you are a "no show," TMCEC reserves the right to invoice you and your city for meal expenses (\$70-80) and housing (\$110-\$145 plus tax per night). Some hotels have a 72-hour cancellation policy for room reservations. If you cancel after that time, you may be billed for the cost.

Transfer Policy: Registration may be transferred between court employees, for the same seminar, within three business days of the start date upon completion of a transfer form located on our website. Participants may only transfer the registration fee

General Conference Information

one time. Once transferred to another event, funds are non-refundable if the participant does not attend.

Need-based Financial Assistance: Individual cities or courts unable to pay the registration fees may submit a request for financial assistance. Applicants must provide written documentation explaining the financial hardship 60 days prior to the TMCEC event. Requests for financial assistance and documentation should be sent to the TMCEC Executive Director.

Event Schedule: On-site check-in for regional and other three-day seminars is usually available from 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on the first day of the conference and the next morning from 6:45 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Participants can check in on either day. The typical schedule for regional and other three-day seminars is:

Day 1 Special Session: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Day 2 Seminar: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Day 3 Seminar: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

On-site check-in for new judges and new clerks seminars is held on Monday from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Classes begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday and conclude at noon on Friday. For other events, see your confirmation email or the TMCEC conference app for the event schedule.

Attendance: TMCEC requests full attendance and participation during all hours of conferences in order to receive credit. If you are unable to attend all sessions, you must reschedule. Note: Judges at regional seminars may opt to leave at 5:00 p.m. on Day 2, but must notify TMCEC of their plans. Additionally, special sessions (typically on Day 1) are optional. Our programs are underwritten by public monies through a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Grant restrictions prohibit monies being spent to supplement educational costs, hotel rooms, and meals for training that is not completed by a participant. For this reason, if you do not complete the conference or timely cancel, you and your city shall be billed actual expenses of the conference. These expenses far exceed registration fees and are typically \$200 - \$550 per program. Most regional seminars will conclude promptly at 12:00 p.m. on Day 3, and excuses to catch airport shuttles or taxis are rarely acceptable. Please schedule a later flight. In case of an emergency, a limited number of missed hours may be made up at the direction of TMCEC.

Record of Attendance: You will be provided a form to complete at the end of each seminar (paper form for in-person events and a link for virtual events). It must be completed and turned it to TMCEC with your actual attendance to properly reflect on your annual academic transcript. Missing or incomplete forms will cause your hours to be incorrectly recorded in your transcript.

Meals: Breakfasts and lunches are catered at most conferences. Please note: TMCEC does not provide dinner meals or coupons.

Quality of Accommodations: TMCEC makes every effort to find the best hotels, meeting spaces, and food service within the state per diem. TMCEC is limited to the state per diem and the budget approved by the TMCEC Board of Directors and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. A bid process is used to secure all conference sites.

CLE Fees: Regional judges seminars and other certain courses are submitted to the State Bar of Texas for CLE. TMCEC regional conference courses will be submitted to the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for credit towards the continuing legal education requirements for certification and re-certification in Criminal Law. All information regarding claiming CLE credit will be given to each attorney participant at the conclusion of the conference. Attorneys who wish to have CLE credit reported to the State Bar of Texas by TMCEC may pay up to a \$100 fee. The fee, which is voluntary, is deposited into private funds that are used for expenditures not allowed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals (compensation, membership services, and the building funds). CLE is not required to receive judicial education credit. The voluntary CLE fee can be paid during online registration.



Alternative Judicial Education: Opt Outs & Flex Time

Experienced municipal judges who have completed two years of judicial education may opt to obtain education by attending a course offered by an approved continuing education provider listed below. All alternative judicial education hours must be approved and relate to the jurisdiction of the municipal courts. Credit may be awarded in one of two ways: opt outs and flex time.

APPROVED PROVIDERS

- American Judges Association
- ABA Traffic Seminar
- Center for American and International Law
- Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas
- Harvard Law School
- Houston Municipal Court
- Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- National Center for State Courts
- National College of District Attorneys
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- National Judicial College
- Office of Court Administration
- State Bar of Texas Municipal Judges Section
- State Bar of Texas CLE
- Texas Association of Counties
- Texas Center for the Judiciary
- Texas Court Clerks Association
- Texas Council on Family Violence
- Texas Defense Lawyers Project
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Dispute Resolution System
- Texas District and County Attorneys Association
- Texas Indigent Defense Commission
- Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
- Texas Justice Court Judges Association
- Texas Justice Courts Training Center
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Texas Municipal Courts Association
- Texas Municipal League
- U.S. Army, Judge Advocate School

Opt Outs

Judges may opt out of TMCEC education by attending an approved course of 8 hours or more to fulfill the 16-hour mandatory judicial education requirements for the year. Any remaining hours may be completed by viewing TMCEC's online webinars or other approved programs. Judges may opt out only once every other year. Prior to attending an alternative course, judges should complete an Intent to Opt Out form (preferably prior to **April 30, 2022**) to ensure the course meets the requirements. If you have questions, please contact Mark Goodner at TMCEC (goodner@tmcec.com). Once reviewed, a letter of approval will be sent to the judge. Upon completion of the approved course, the judge must send an affirmation of completion or certificate documenting attendance.

Flex-time

Judges who have completed at least 2 years of required judicial education through TMCEC AND have completed 8 hours of continuous live presentation for the current academic year through TMCEC are eligible to complete the remaining 8 hours of required training by using "flex time." Flex time must be reported to TMCEC as soon as possible.



TMCEC AY22 Webinar Series

Webinars are available live and on-demand on the Online Learning Center (OLC). Webinar participation is open to all municipal judges, clerks, court administrators, prosecutors, juvenile case managers, and other court personnel. Webinar participation counts for one hour of credit toward the clerk certification program or judicial education requirements. Specific webinars, noted with a label on the OLC, may be submitted to the State Bar for MCLE credit for attorneys (yellow label). For more detailed instructions on watching webinars, visit the OLC or contact TMCEC at 800.252.3718.

Resources

Helpful Organizations/State Agencies



A practical method of obtaining additional knowledge about the municipal court and judicial process is to seek assistance from experienced courts in neighboring cities. Most municipal courts will be happy to assist others in need of help.

When it is safe, an on-site visit to a neighboring court while in session may be particularly beneficial, especially for new judges and other new court employees. Various agencies and associations, in addition to TMCEC, are available to lend assistance to municipal courts. The following is a list of offices, including available contact information, that have an interest in assisting municipal courts.

Attorney General's Office

300 W. 15th Street
Austin, TX 78701
512.463.2100
www.oag.state.tx.us

Comptroller of Public Accounts

111 E. 17th Street
P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711-3528
800.531.5441
www.window.state.tx.us

Juvenile Case Managers Association of Texas

Carlin Caliman
Carlin.Caliman@arlingtontx.gov

Office of Court Administration

205 W. 14th Street, Suite 600
Austin, TX 78701
P.O. Box 12066
Austin, TX 78711-2066
512.463.1625
www.txcourts.gov

State Bar of Texas

MCLE Credit:
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, TX 78701
800.204.2222
www.texasbar.com

State Commission on Judicial Conduct

P.O. Box 12265
Austin, TX 78711-2265
512.463.5533
887.228.5750 (toll free)
www.scjc.state.tx.us

Teen Court Association of Texas

www.texasteencourt.com

Texas Court Clerks Association

Landra Solansky, President
660 TX-46
Seguin, TX 78155
830.401.2327
solansky@seguintexas.gov
<https://texasclerkclerks.org>

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Approved DSC Schools:
P.O. Box 12157
Austin, TX 78711
800.803.9202
www.tdlr.texas.gov

Texas Health and Human Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

P.O. Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78714
General Information: 512.424.6500
Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989
www.hhs.texas.gov

Texas Municipal Courts Association

Shona Bohon, TMCA Coordinator
shona.bohon@gmail.com
www.txmca.com

Texas Municipal League

1821 Rutherford Lane, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78754-5128
512.231.7400
www.tml.org

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

P.O. Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711-2927
512.463.5455
info@tsl.texas.gov
www.tsl.state.tx.us

Texas Department of Public Safety

P.O. Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0001
General Information: 512.424.2000
Driver's License Customer Service:
512.424.2600
www.txdps.state.tx.us

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