

Course Descriptions

Appointment of Counsel

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) will share proper procedures and best practices for ensuring the appointment of counsel to defendants alleged of crimes in Texas happens in a timely, lawful manner.

Civil Scenarios: Pre-judgment Procedure

Scenarios covering issues such as citations, appearance, summary disposition, DWOP dockets, and more will form the backbone of this discussion-based class.

Criminal Scenarios: When the Defendant Doesn't Show

This class will explore the available options that justice courts have when criminal defendants do not appear for court by examining different circumstances that the judges are likely to encounter in real life.

Criminal Scenarios: Deferred & DSC –Josh Herrera –1 hour

By examining circumstances that judges are likely to see in their court, this course will identify and analyze the correct ways justice courts handle deferred dispositions and driving safety course (DSC) dismissals.

Ethical Approach to the Bench

TJCTC is honored to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Bumgarner, Dean of the Criminal Justice Department at Texas State University for this discussion on a modern approach to ethics and the judiciary.

Exempt Property Hearing and Receivership Scenarios

Can that be seized? This class will explore how exempt property and other issues arise in receiverships and other post-judgement writs.

Improving Outcomes in Juvenile Criminal Cases

The 88th Legislature changed the way juvenile criminal cases will be handled, beginning in January 2025. This class will run through all the details of juvenile diversions, including options for courts and how to fund staff to assist in solving these difficult challenges that lead juveniles into our court system.

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Indigence & Financial Literacy

Some criminal offenses are committed because of a defendant's lack of skills or knowledge in managing their financial affairs. Learn ways that courts can address this, with a review of an award-winning program that can be offered to allow defendants to resolve citations while also ensuring that your community is protected with more licensed, insured drivers on the road.

Inquest Scenarios & Roundtable Discussion

Unlimited unexpected unpredictable universes exist when dealing with inquests. Enjoy a lively discussion of inquest scenarios that can arise, as well as best practices to be prepared for the unknown.

Interactive Eviction Appeals

Attendees will discuss various scenarios and topics related to evictions appeals, including perfection of an appeal, paying rent into the registry, and more.

Intro to Resources

Enjoy a quick refresher on the resources TJCTC provides, including self-paced modules, updated deskbooks, flowcharts, and more!

Jeopardy! – Non-Eviction Landlord-Tenant Edition

This class will use a fun, interactive Jeopardy! game experience to cover topics that arise in landlord-tenant situations other than eviction cases. Expect issues such as security deposits, repair and remedy cases, plus writs of re-entry, restoration and retrieval to be covered!

Judicial Leadership

Do you work as a team in your county? Learn how building relationships and sharpening your leadership skills can make your job as a judge easier and more effective.

Course Descriptions

Magistrating Out-of-County Warrants

Out-of-county warrants pose some unique challenges, which will be covered in this class. Topics will include determining if you have jurisdiction to make a bail decision, understanding problems that arise if procedures aren't followed, and dealing with out-of-state warrants.

Mental Health Resources for Judges

TLAP helps judges with issues related to substance use or mental health disorders and maintains a list of volunteer judges who are interested in providing support to peers in crisis. This class will feature a discussion with TLAP and the resources available for judges dealing with issues such as vicarious trauma.

ODL Update: Application & Orders

This course will go over the changes to the ODL laws passed in the 2023 legislative session and will include scenarios and discussion.

Ordering and Understanding Toxicology Reports

This course will help justices of the peace gain a base knowledge for when toxicology testing is appropriate, how to interpret toxicology results, and why they might want to discuss them with medical examiners and toxicologists during inquest investigations.

Panel Discussion: Working Within Your County - 2 civil hrs

This course will explore the justice of the peace's role in the county from the perspectives of other county officials. Judges will have the opportunity to discuss common issues, concerns, and best practices for working together respectfully in a county environment.

Personal Injury with Gwyneth Paltrow - Civil Jury Trial

Did you ever want a movie star to help you brush up on civil jury trials? This class will provide that by going through clips from Gwyneth Paltrow's personal injury case to learn how to properly adjudicate these types of cases in justice court.

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Procedural Fairness: Equal Access to Justice

It is crucial for courts to ensure that all parties have equal access to justice. During this course, attendees will discuss how judges can make sure that their courts are welcoming and that their processes are fair and transparent for all parties.

Reducing DWI: The Magistrate's Role

Magistrates can have a direct impact on the safety of Texas roadways. This class will review the current Texas impaired driving trends and the proper procedures for magistrating these cases, including determining probable cause and issuing the proper bond conditions.

Rural Magistration & EDO Issues

Join your fellow judges for a discussion regarding issues that arise in rural counties when magistrating at the jail and issuing Emergency Detention Orders. Topics will include transportation, resources, and services in rural areas.

Trauma-Informed Courts

Many people who work or appear in a court environment have experienced traumatic experiences or profound grief and loss. These types of difficult experiences can affect a person's physical health, mental health, and ability to be productive at work. Work environments which ignore the role that trauma and grief can play in the lives of employees and those who come to court are at risk for reduction in productivity and performance and intense interactions. Becoming trauma-informed can help improve professional connections, increase safety, and maintain valuable employees. This presentation will teach you how to use compassion and empathy to engage with those suffering from trauma or profound grief or loss. Through empathic understanding, we can create an environment where we can connect with coworkers, clients and customers and, when necessary, help de-escalate situations where trauma survivors may be showing signs of feeling emotionally overwhelmed or triggered.

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Truancy Scenarios

Join a judge and clerk who handle many truancy cases in an interactive discussion using real-world scenarios to get to the best practices in handling truancy cases in justice court.

Unusual Eviction Scenarios

Evictions can be some of the trickiest cases justice courts encounter. This class will address some of the unusual eviction issues through scenarios on topics including marriage/community property in evictions, squatter's rights, and other unusual landlord/tenant relationships.

What Happens With My Writ?: Role of the Constable

Many judges don't know the details of what happens with writs once they are in the hands of a constable. Learn what happens when the writ leaves your office and is executed!