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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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### **Tuesday, October 11, 1994**

1:00-3:00 p.m.

#### **Registration**

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Synergy: *to Team Built/ing*

Ms. Leslie Farias, Executive Communications  
Consultants, Reno, Nevada

Everyone agrees that communication is the common denominator of successful relationships in virtually every aspect of our lives. The paradox is that we receive little or no education in this area. How many of us have been taught to listen? How many of us realize that individuals process information differently and, therefore, adjust our communication methods accordingly? These essential skills, as well as others, will be taught and practiced with the promise that all will have practical useful communication "tools" to improve and enhance their **relationships**, both personal and professional.

5:00 p.m.

*Informal Happy Hour*

### **Wednesday, October 12, 1994**

8:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

Synergy: *to Team Built/ing*

12:00 Noon-1:00 p.m.

#### **Lunch**

1:00-2:00 p.m.

#### **Unauthorized Practice of Law & Pro Se Litigants**

James D. **Blume**, Esq., Chair of State  
Unauthorized Practice of Law  
Committee, Dallas

Pro se cases are a concern for coordinators. While most judges require that we set these cases as requested, often court is delayed due to incomplete paperwork. This session will address unique problems of pro se litigants and how we as coordinators can provide a public service to those legitimate inquiries concerning administrative procedure.

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Synergy: *to Team Built/ing*  
(continued)

### **Thursday, October 13, 1994**

8:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

#### **Race & Ethnicity Regardless of the Courts**

H. Clifton Grandy, Project Director  
First National Conference on Eliminating  
Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts  
National Center for State Courts  
Williamsburg, Virginia

This session begins with a cultural awareness experiential exercise for the participants followed by discussion. The session will also include an overview of the most common research findings and recommendations of the bias elimination study groups across the country.

12:00 Noon-1:00 p.m.

#### **Lunch**

1:00-2:00 p.m.

#### **Judicial Fairness & the Perception of Filiness**

Hon. Linda B. Thomas  
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Dallas

This general session will be a problem solving, interactive workshop which explores ethical issues relating to fairness and the public's perception of our courts. Do court personnel display bias? How can we avoid the perception that we display bias on the basis of gender, ethnicity or disability? How does the *Code of Judicial Conduct* address the issue of bias? These and other questions will be addressed, as well as questions posed by attendees.

2:00-3:15 p.m.

3 BREAKOUT SESSIONS: (Choose one)

#### **State Jail Felony System**

Rob Kepple, Esq., General Counsel  
Texas District & County Attorneys Association,  
Austin

On September 1, 1994, we usher in a new concept in Texas criminal law. We'll explore this new creature from the bottom up: Just what on earth is a state jail felony? Who came up with that name? Is it just a way for the state to make the counties pay for the cost of incarcerating criminals? Is it true that community supervision means that the auto thief goes home with court personnel at night? Can any of this restore faith in the criminal justice system? Can we deter crime simply by sentencing the state jail felon to toil through all of the paperwork required in the case?

Thursday, continued

*III Interpreters*

Olga Menelc, Interpreter  
Criminal District Courts, San Antonio

Often court administrators and coordinators find themselves in need of supplying interpreter service for the courts. This seminar will focus on qualifications, techniques, and recommendations for the use, hire and training of staff.

*Trial Court Coordination*

Blanca Briones, Court Coordinator  
163rd District Court, Del Rio  
Carolyn Dycus, Court Administrator  
104th District Court, Abilene

This workshop is designed for those participants who completed the Professional Development Seminar more than five years ago. The curriculum in Huntsville has changed dramatically over the past few years and this seminar will update court coordinators in administration and will provide a participative workshop and comprehensive update to Trial Court Coordination.

3:30-5:00 p.m.

3 BREAKOUT SESSIONS: (Choose one)

*Juvenile Justice Issues*

Mr. Robert Kepple, Esq.  
Texas District & County Attorneys Association  
Austin

Theoretically, the State Jail felony is the answer to our problems with the adult criminal justice system. Now the 74th Legislature is set to rethink and rework how Texas and Texans raise kids. Part of that issue is, what do we do with the little rascals when they get into a little trouble; say comm it a double homicide? We will examine the options that are being debated. Is flogging an option?

(Breakout sessions continued on next column)

Thursday, continued

*Probate*

Rachel Fero, Court Manager  
County Court at Law 112, Corpus Christi  
Suzanne Schorlemer, Esq., Court Coordinator  
Probate No.2, San Antonio

Presenters will discuss the setting, monitoring and managing of the uncontested docket in probate matters. Presenters will also cover the different types of applications filed in probate courts including those for letters testamentary, letters of administration, probate of will as a muniment of title, declaration of heirship, and small estate affidavits. Inventories and annual accounts and the courts handling of such documents will also be discussed.

*Court Procedure Training for Attorneys & Staff*

Joan Green, Court Administrator  
277th District Court, Georgetown  
Diane Lowder, Court Coordinator  
County Court at Law #2, Georgetown

This course will teach you how to plan and implement a Court Coordinator's seminar to educate your local legal culture about your courts and how they operate. This is a creative and informal way to communicate and interact with your local bar, paralegals, other county staff and the community about court procedure. Course will include examples of topics for your own seminar and printed materials. Come and be ready to work!

6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Grand Awards Reception*

Friday, October 14, 1994

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

TACA Business Meeting  
Election of Officers

Please complete the registration and workshop selection form (on the back of the registration form)

and return it to:

Ms. Trisey Eubanks, Court Coordinator  
County Court at Law  
210 S. McDonald  
McKinney, Texas 75069