

JOURNAL

TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

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March 1999

NEW RULES OF CIVIL DISCOVERY Paul Swacina. Brin Brin. Corpus Christi, Texas

On January 1, 1999, the New Rules of Civil Discovery adopted by the Texas Supreme Court went into effect. They constitute the most wide spread changes in civil discovery since the rules of civil procedure were first promulgated in the 1940's. The rule changes are so extensive the only way to fully understand them is to read the complete changes. Several important highlights, however, can be noted and discussed. Four of the major changes are as follows: Discovery Control Plans and Levels; Request for Disclosure; Experts Discovery; and Witness Statements.

The use of discovery control plans is set out in Rule 190. Rule 190 only applies to those cases filed after January 1, 1999. Rule 190 sets out three separate levels and there is a discovery control plan for each level. Level one cases are cases involving less than \$50,000.00. Total time for oral depositions is six (6) hours per party with an expansion to ten (10) hours total per party by agreement. Only a total of 25 interrogatories may be sent.

Level two discovery control plans are a catch-all level in which all cases that do not fall into level one or level three will be handled. The discovery period will run from the date suit is filed until thirty (30) days before the trial date is set or if earlier, nine (9) months after the earlier of the first oral deposition or due date of the first response to written discovery. Total time for oral depositions is no more than 50 hours per side. If one side designates more than two experts than an additional six hours of total deposition time for each additional expert will be allowed. No more than twenty-five (25) written interrogatories. It is important to note that the nine (9) months limitation on discovery can be controlled by when the first responses to written discovery are required or when the first oral deposition is held. Many times attorneys will enter into an agreement to postpone the requirement of answers to written discovery or the taking of oral depositions until preliminary matters can be resolved to delay the starting of the nine (9) month discovery time clock.

Level three discovery control plans apply to complex cases and the discovery control plan will be individually drafted by the trial court. Most cases should fall under the level two discovery control plan.

The second major change is Requests for Disclosure. Requests for Disclosure will now be the basic discovery tool used in all cases. The details on Requests for Disclosure can be found in Rule 194. There is no permissible objection or privilege that may be asserted in a party's response. The largest changes will be in the areas of contentions both as to theories of liability and calculation of economic damages. Requests for Disclosure will also be the mechanism by which parties obtain discovery with regard to opposing experts and obtain medical records. Most of us have already sent and received Requests for Disclosures and initially they appear to be very difficult to respond to but once the proper protocols are set in place, they are a relatively easy tool that provides quick basic discovery in every case. The responses can be supplemented or amended and in certain cases without consequence.

The third area in which major changes have been effected is in the discovery and handling of experts. No longer is a party required to draft a written interrogatory or send a deposition upon written questions to the other party to obtain information regarding an expert. As a matter of fact, under the new changes, those discovery devices are specifically prohibited from being sent to experts. Now, Requests for Disclosure provide a detailed itemization of each area for which a party must be responsive with regard to the identity and file of their experts. If the Plaintiff identifies an expert and a report is produced, that expert does not need to be made available for deposition until all other experts have been designated. If a Plaintiff designates an expert and no report is produced then that expert must be made reasonably available for deposition. If the expert cannot be deposed prior to the expiration of the discovery period, additional time for discovery will be allowed.

Continued pg2

NEW RULES OF CIVIL DISCOVERY

Continued from page 1

The final major change is the elimination of the old party communications and work product privileges and a new definition as to these privileges and the specific provision that all recorded statements are now discoverable. While the details of the new privileges and the way they are properly asserted goes beyond the scope of this limited article, it should be noted that all recorded statements previously made in anticipation of litigation are now probably subject to production. There is no doubt that any recorded statement made after January 1, 1999 is discoverable, even if made by the lawyer. The only exception to this would be if a lawyer did not take a recorded statement but instead made some handwritten notes. Those would probably be privileged. The result of this new change will probably preclude the wide spread taking of recorded statements from various witness and parties without first determining whether these statements will be discoverable.

Overall, the Court has attempted to streamline and simplify civil discovery. The new rules incorporate wide spread changes to the previous practice and exactly how they will be implemented and whether they will obtain their desired results is yet to be seen.

Happy New Year to all TACA members. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is rested and ready to work hard in '99. It's hard to believe that it's already 1999! However, TACA is moving fast and hard to make sure you stay informed.

Your TACA Board met in December for its first board meeting. We had a very productive board meeting and revamped the curriculum committee so that it could better serve the educational needs of the membership as well as being more cost efficient. I, along with the help of the Office of Court Administration, have begun the web page which will be set up by the spring. So those of you that have access to a computer can get information as soon as it is available. We also are working hard on the curriculum for our education conference this fall. If you have any ideas about topics that you would like to have covered, please feel free to contact Martha Newsom at (409)835-8434 or Becky Burke at (940)565-8636. We aim to please you in bringing you the most relevant topics to help you.

The curriculum committee met January 18th for a meeting with the board. On Tuesday, the chairs of each committee met for our annual action plan meeting. Everyone had wonderful ideas of how to make TACA a stronger organization. Then on Wednesday, the hotel site selection committee met with several hotels in the San Antonio area to work out contracts for the years 2001, 2002, and 2003. It looks very hopeful that our annual education conferences can return to a Tuesday thru Friday schedule. I hope that a return to a Tuesday - Friday schedule will help everyone and make the conferences more enjoyable.

Your TACA board is working very hard to make this a better organization for you. As always, we need our help and any input that you might want addressed. All of us are just a phone call away. Just to recap what each of us are doing: I'm working with fund-raising and with the grant writing committee to receive funds for our education conference.

Cynthia Dejean is working with the publications committee on the journal. Aurora is working on scholarships to get a better overview of what scholarships are available as well as working with community relations. Stella is working with the membership committee to update the directory. Marilee is working with the education co-chairs as well as the curriculum committee on the annual conference.

If you have an interest in working in any of these areas, please feel free to contact the board liaison.

I'm sure if you are like me, you probably made many New Year's resolutions. I made resolutions to lose weight, exercise at least four times a week, finish all tasks more quickly, don't sweat the small stuff, cherish the time I get with my kids and show them in some way at least once a week how much I love them, and take life a little slower and enjoy it more. I hope that your New Year and whatever resolutions you may have made are going well. It is never too late to make resolutions that will change your life.

See Ya Soon.
Mikah

RURAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

OFFICERS

Joyce Strauss, President
Caroline Mazoch, Vice President
Martin Allen, Secretary-Treasurer

The Rural Association for Court Administration, (RACA). was created in March 1991 under the name of The South Central Texas Rural Court Coordinators/ Administrators Association. In June 1998, our organization voted to shorten the name.

The primary purpose of this association is to establish uniformity in handling cases, identify individual needs of our rural courts and personnel in improving the administration of justice, and furthering education of court coordinators/ administrators in cooperation with the Texas Association for Court Administration (TACA).

As rural court coordinators/ administrators. our jobs and needs are quite different than urban courts. We, therefore. felt we needed an association that focused on our rural courts.

We decided to compile a handbook to assist us in the performance of our work. This handbook was created as a guideline. Please consult your judges to determine your office policies and procedures.

We recognize the Texas Association for Court Administration (TACA) as our mother organization and encourage all our members to also be members of TACA as well as complete all their education programs, as they are our beginning and our continuing support throughout our employment as coordinators.

Anyone wishing to join RACA, our membership dues are as follows:

\$10.00 for **Regular Membership**
\$5.00 for **Associate Membership**

Regular Membership: Any person whose primary duty is to work with rural court administration. This member may vote. hold office, and serve on committees.

Associate Membership: Any person who is in a related field. This member may serve on committees. but may not vote, hold an office, or chair a committee.

We have an annual conference with credited hours approved by the Texas Center for the Judiciary for our mandatory continuing education. We invite those interested in our conference or needing additional hours to complete the continuing education requirement to join us. Our next conference is scheduled for April 22-23. 1999, in Fredericksburg.

Anyone wanting more information. please call:

Joyce Strauss, President (512) 798-2607
Eva Walla, Conf. Chair (512) 756-5436
Martin Allen, Committee (830) 620-5562
Kathy Pape, Committee (830) 401-0606
Susan York, Committee (830) 379-8557

Thanks for your interest!

PICTURED: Shirley Polasek, Susan York, Kathy Gannaway,
Joyce Strauss, Carolyn Mazoch, Eva Walla, and Cyndi
Maxwell. Those absent: Diane Griepentrog, Kathy Pape,
Tammy Bammert, Martin Allen, Linda Wallace, Iana
Sauceda and Adeline Melchor



LETTERS

I am a recent member of TACA, and I attended the Annual Educational Conference last November in Austin. When I attended this conference, I had just received a new boss and I am very fortunate to get to keep my job with this new judge, Belvin R Harris.

Since this was my first conference associated with TACA, I didn't know what to expect and didn't feel I would have very much in common with anyone else from a much larger court and county. I learned very fast that the most common factor in everyone's job is how you deal with people. I thought each session was very informative and the handout material could be very useful if it applied to your court. To hear some of the judge's speak with their coordinators was very enlightening and believe it or not a lot of fun. Also each of our three speakers made sure that we could laugh about our jobs, our lives, and our situations. This conference over all helped me personally and I left the conference with a different perspective about my job and hope to attend this year.

Our County Judge has proposed a lot a new procedures to help reduce our criminal backlog and that is very encouraging. I will have to let you know how we are progressing and how our backlog looks in six months.

Sharon Tate
Court Coordinator
County Court, Cooke County, Texas

I want to thank each one of you for volunteering to be on the membership committee. It takes each and every one of us to make our organization the best. With a little help from everyone we can make our conference in Austin a great success. The membership committee is going to have a contest among ourselves, as well as the other members. The committee member and regular member who recruits a minimum of three (3) or more new (or renewed) members will be eligible for a prize. Sound good?

- 1st prize -- \$150.00
- 2nd prize -- \$100.00
- 3rd prize.- \$50.00

PLEASE keep up with the names of those you recruit. Your name will go into the hat every time you succeed in recruiting. The drawing will take place at the new members reception. Thank you for your commitment, I really look forward to working with all of you this year. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas to share, please feel free and call me at 915-659-6569.

Thanks,
Sylvia Noriega,
Chairman of Membership Committee

FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

Congratulations to the scholarship winners of 1998:

Cynthia Dejean, Trisey Eubanks, Margaret Wells and Marilee Roberts.

This will be third year that Texas Court Coordinators will be required to fulfill and report sixteen (16) hours of continuing education as mandated by House Bill 662. Education is the core of TACA for the members. Besides the already established scholarships - The Hon. Paul Ferguson Scholarship, Chief Justice Tom Phillips Award, the Hon. Larry Gist Award and Justice Charles W. Barrow Award, and the 20th Anniversary Honorary Scholarship honoring Martin Allen, Bob Wessels and Trisha Hall, the Scholarship committee continues to seek funding in an effort to assist other Coordinators who are unable to attend the annual education conference because of restricted county budgets.

It is time to consider applying for scholarships. Applications will be due on June 4, 1999. Feel free to contact me for further information or any of the following members: Dorothy Conley, David Rodriguez, Rita Peterson, Kristy Harris, Joyce Strauss, John Warren, Stella Cavazos, Linda Kellum, Dominga Hernandez and Linda Wallace.

Committee members will meet at the PDP Conference on June 15, 1999.

Applications for scholarships will be mailed out at the end of April with specific criteria and deadlines.

Vanessa Williams
Scholarship Committee Chairman
(210) 531-1185

RURAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

150 N. Seguin Avenue, Suite 317

New Braunfels, Texas 78130

(830) 620-5562

FAX (830) 608-2030

Joyce Strauss
President
(512)798-2607

Caroline Mazoch
Vice-President
(409) 968-8500

Martin L. Allen
Secretary-Treasurer
(830) 620-5562

February 22, 1999

RE: "SPRING UP AND GO FORWARD WITH COURT ADMINISTRATION"
SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 22nd and 23rd, 1999, Sunday House Inn, Fredericksburg, TX

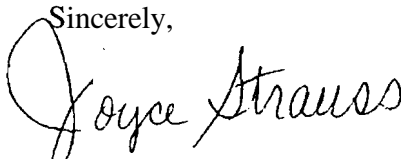
Dear Fellow Court Coordinators/Administrators/Honored Guests:

On behalf of the Rural Association for Court Administration, I am very proud to take this opportunity to extend to you an invitation for early registration to our Second Annual Conference, "SPRING UP AND GO FORWARD WITH COURT ADMINISTRATION". Our workshop will be held in Fredericksburg, Texas, again, on April 22nd and 23rd, 1999, at the Sunday House Inn. For those in attendance, there will be an opportunity to earn up to nine hours toward your continuing education requirement.

Please see the enclosed Registration Form for room rate, registration deadline, and persons to contact with any questions you may have. The program is also outlined for your convenience in planning your attendance.

Our Conference Committee has worked extremely hard planning an excellent and exciting program for you. Please extend this invitation to others in related fields. We look forward to seeing and welcoming all of you to our conference.

Sincerely,



Joyce Strauss, President
RACA

TACA ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations to fill three positions for the Texas Association for Court Administrations Board of Directors. The term of office for these two positions is 1999-2001.

TACA Bylaws require all board nominees to be a regular member of TACA in good standing. Each nominee should also have served previously on a TACA committee.

The committee is looking for nominees of geographic and court diversity that are willing to share their time and ideas. [If you are interested or know someone you would like to nominate, please contact Dottie McDonald, Nominations Chair, at (512) 463-1657.

Included in this issue of the Journal is a Declaration of Candidacy. If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors, please fill out the form and return it to Dottie McDonald. We encourage the membership to be an active participant in this process.

*Deadline for submission is May 14, 1999.

Dottie McDonald

Nominations Committee

Chair
Dottie McDonald, Austin

Cathy Burnett. Dumas
Pame Jewkes, El Paso
Tommy Munoz. Bryan
Karma-Roberts-Ragster. Carthage
Helen Skolaut. Hondo

Deadline for submission
of Declaration of Candidacy
May 14, 1999

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR COURT
ADMINISTRATION**

Declaration of Candidacy for Board of Directors
1999-2001

Name _____

Phone _____

Title _____

Court _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Fax _____

I have been a member of TACA since ____ _

The following statements should be answered on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the declaration:

1. Briefly state your court - affiliated duties, experience and qualifications for serving on the Board of Directors.
2. State why you would like to serve on the TACA Board of Directors.

Do you have your Judge's support and approval for the time and commitment necessary to serve as a member of the TACA Board of Directors, if elected?

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail completed form to:
Dottie McDonald, Office of Court
Administration
P.O. Box 12066. Austin, Texas 78711-2066 or
Fax to (512) 463-1648.

Declarations of Candidacy must be postmarked by May 14. Candidates will be contacted by a member of the Nominations Committee and candidate profiles will appear in the conference issue of the TACA *Journal*.

ATTENTION



CITY OF BEDFORD, TEXAS
Municipal Court Supervisor
Full Time

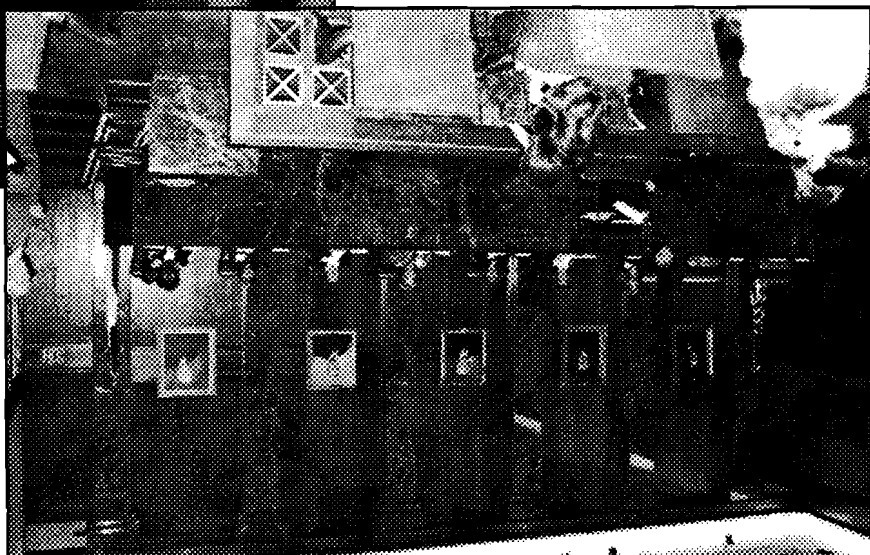
Monthly Salary: \$2,615 - \$3,203 Qualified candidates must possess a B.A. degree and/or three years related experience and/or training. This position requires: demonstrated knowledge of all facets of municipal court operations; advanced knowledge in the use of computer software; working knowledge of basic accounting procedures; and strong interpersonal skills in presenting information and in interacting with the public. Candidates must be bondable and possess keyboarding skills of 45 wpm. Fluency in Spanish is desired.

Interested candidates may submit a resume or letter of interest outlining qualifications to: The City of Bedford 2000 Forest Ridge Bedford, TX 76021. Attn: HR Manager. Fax 817-952-2454. No phone calls, Please. EOE.

CITY OF BEDFORD, TEXAS
Teen Court Clerk
Full Time

Monthly Salary: \$1,546 - \$1,855 Qualified candidates must possess a High School Diploma or OED; or one to three months related experience and/or training. This position requires: demonstrated knowledge of use and application of computer software such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Access; working knowledge of office machines such as copiers, fax machines, etc.; and strong interpersonal skills in interacting with the public. Candidates must be bondable and possess keyboarding skills of 45 wpm. Deputy Court Clerk certification is desired.

Interested candidates may submit a resume or letter of interest outlining qualifications to: The City of Bedford 2000 Forest Ridge Bedford, TX 76021. Attn: HR Manager. Fax 817-952-2454. No phone calls, Please. EOE.



TACA TAKES CAPITAL BY STORM

★ TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION ★

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations goes out to Dodee Sheffield on becoming Mrs. Jan Rehler on February 6, 1999. Dodee is co-editor of the Taca Journal and court manager of the 94th District Court.



Misty Marie Munoz has been accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Her proud father, Tommy Munoz is Court Coordinator of County Court at Law NO.2. Bryan, TX.

*Please share it with our readers
by submitting your story to:*

DENISE CAROTHERS

County Court at Law #4
901 Leopard
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
(512) 888-0237
(512) 888-0253 fax

ODOEE SHEFFIELD

94TH DISTRICT COURT
901 Leopard
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
(512) 888-0320
(512) 888-0795 fax

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Sylvia Noriega - Chair
District Court Administrator
Tom Green County Courthouse
112 W. Beauregard
San Angelo, Texas 76903
(915) 659-6569
(915) 658-8046

Carla Braden
Court Coordinator
Tarrant County Court At Law No.
100 W@ Weatherford St. #440
Fort Worth, Texas 76196
(817) 884-2761
(817) 884-3254

Jerome Coleman
Trial Court Administrator
Probate Court of Denton County
1450 E. McKinney. #2412
Denton, Texas 76201
(940) 565-8638
(940) 565-8611

Elida DeLeon
Court Administrator
343rd District Court
San Patricio County
P. O. Box 700
Sinton, Texas 78387
(361) 364-6202

Trisey Eubanks
Court Administrator
Collin County Court at Law No.
210 W. McDonald. #524
McKinney, Texas 75069
(972) 548-4502

Ruth Grimaldo
Court Administrator
138th District Court
Cameron County
974 E. Harrison
Brownsville, Texas 78520
(956) 544-0877

Myrna Salcido
Court Administrator
109th District Court
Andrews County Courthouse Rm. 201
Andrews, Texas 79714
(915) 524-1419

Cheryl Torres
Court Coordinator
Tom Green County Court at Law No.2
112 W. Beauregard
San Angelo, Texas 76903
(915) 659-6559

Marty Walker
Court Coordinator
241 st District Court
Smith County
100 N. Broadway. Rm. 220
Tyler, Texas 75702
(903) 535-0600

Kristy Harris
County Coordinator
Tarrant County Criminal
Court No 10
401 W. Belknap
Fort Worth, Texas 76196
(817) 884-3423

Kimberly Hendrick
Court Coordinator
9th District Court
Lubbock, Texas 79424
(806) 775-1124

Pam Hulbert
Court Coordinator
321 st District Court
Smith County
100 N. Broadway. 1st Floor
Tyler, Texas 75702-7236
(903) 535-0590

Pam Lawrence
Court Coordinator
315th District Court
Harris County
11]5 Congress
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 755-6480

Sylvia Mejias
Court Administrator
156th District Court
P. O. Box 1568
Beeville, Texas 78104
(512) 364-6202

Tommy Munoz
Court Coordinator
County Court at Law NO.2
300 E 26th St.
Bryan, Texas 77803
(409) 361-4261
(409) 361-4276

John Warren
Court Coordinator
Dallas County Court At Law No. 1
501 Main St., 4th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 653-6503

Margo Wells
Court Coordinator
County Criminal Court of
Appeals NO.1
Dallas County
133 N. Industrial. LB #9
Dallas, Texas 75207
(214) 653-5705
(214) 653-5777

Tracey Wood
Court Coordinator
Tarrant County Court at Law No.2
100 W. Weatherford St., #240A
Fort Worth, Texas 76196
(817) 884-2762

Meals on Wheels *and More*

Groceries to Go • Medi Wheels • Care Calls • Handy Wheels

November 19, 1998

Marilee Roberts
Court Manager
214th Judicial District
Nueces County Courthouse
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Dear Ms. Roberts:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for selecting Meals on Wheels and More to receive the contributed non-perishable food items donated by the members of The Texas Association for Court Administration.

Your support, and that of the members of your association, makes it possible for us to be there for the homebound elderly and disabled individuals who need our help.

Whether it's delivering meals, rides to medical appointments, or reassuring phone calls, grocery shopping or minor home repairs, our mission is to enrich the lives of the people we serve. Private support from individuals such as those who participate in The Texas Association for Court Administration enables us to carry out that mission.

The contributions of the members of The Texas Association for Court Administration are deeply appreciated and we are honored to pass your kindness along to our clients.

Sincerely Yours,


Javier L. Garza
Executive Director

2222 Rosewood Avenue, 78702 • P.O. Box 6248, Austin, TX 78762-6248 • pb0111: 512/476-MEAL(6325) • fax: 512/476-6478

E-mail: email@mealsonwheels-austx.org • Website: www.citysearch.com/aus/mealsonwheels

Mission: To Sustain and Enrich the Lives of Homebound People



Continuing Education for Court Coordinators

by Bob Wessels

As many of you know, the 75th Legislature passed House Bill 622 which established a minimum 16 hours of continuing education for court coordinators. This bill has since been codified as section 74.106 of the Texas Government Code. On September 1, 1997 the Court of Criminal Appeals issued amended Rules of Judicial Education which implement the provisions

of HB 622. Rule 5. Court Coordinators provides:

Rule 5. Court Coordinators

a. Each court coordinator of a district or statutory county court shall annually complete 16 hours of continuing education, unless the court coordinator files the prescribed form, signed by the judge or commissioners court of the county employing the court coordinator certifies that the state and local funds are not available for the court coordinator's continuing education.

b. In addition to the programs provided in Rule 2. b., programs of the following organizations can be utilized to satisfy the requirements of Rule

5.a.:

- (1) The Texas Association for Court Administration
- (2) The Texas Office of Court Administration
- (3) The National Association for Court Management
- (4) The Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts
- (5) The Justice Management Institute
- (6) A state college or university or local community college
- (7) A program sponsored by a local court administrative office and approved by the local administrative judge or local presiding judge
- (8) Other programs as approved by the Court of Criminal Appeals Education Committee Judicial Advisory Committee, Texas Center Board of Directors)

c. Credit hours completed during any fiscal year in excess of the minimum number of 16 hours required may be applied to the following fiscal year's requirement.

d. Each court coordinator who attends an approved program or performs an approved activity must submit a form. This form may be obtained from the Texas Center for the judiciary, Inc.

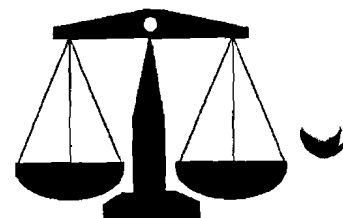
In addition to the organizations enumerated in Rule 5, other programs offered by the following organizations can be utilized to satisfy the 16 hour requirement. Found among those listed in Rule 2. b., Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, Texas Center for the Judiciary, The Texas Association of Counties, The National Judicial College, Texas College of Probate Judges, an accredited law school, a local, state or national bar association, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Texas District and County Attorney's Association.

As you can see from the list of organizations and programs which can be used to satisfy the sixteen hour requirement, there are a wide variety of opportunities for obtaining sixteen hours of continuing education within a year. The reporting time is the same for court coordinators as for the judiciary, September 1 - August 31. Forms for reporting of hours will be available from the Texas Center For the Judiciary and are similar to those used by the judges. Those coordinators who are participating in the Professional Development Program or attend TACA's Annual Education Conference will satisfy their education requirement for the year they attend.

If you have any questions, please call Bob Wessels at (713) 755-5394 or the Texas Center for the Judiciary at (512) 463-1530.



**SPRING UP AND GO FORWARD
WITH
COURT ADMINISTRATION**



SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 22 AND 23, 1999 *** FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS
SPONSORED BY THE
RURAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION (RACA)

PROGRAM- Total 9 CE Hours
THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd

10:00- 11:00 AM Registration and Welcome - Sunday House Restaurant - Barons Room
11:00 - 11:30 AM Hon. Tammy Keener, Justice of the Peace - Gillespie County (.5 Hr.)
11:30 - 12:00 PM Sherry Chambliss, Program Director, Kids First (.5 Hr.)
12:00 - 12:30 PM Kevin Stanton, Kerr County - Juvenile Probation (.5 Hr.)
12:30 - 1:45 PM Lunch Included - Crystal Schoessow, Attorney - Rules of Civil Procedure (1 Hr.)
1:45 - 2:00 PM Break
2:00 - 3:00 PM Greg Jackson, Texas Young Lawyer's Association - Youths at Risk (1 Hr.)
3:00 - 4:00 PM Robert Thomas, Guadalupe County - Adult Probation (1 Hr.)
4:00 - 4:30 PM Max Maurer, Guadalupe County - Sex Offender Program (.5 Hr.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd

8:30 - 9:30 AM Ilse Bailey, Assistant Kerr County Prosecutor - Republic of Texas and Patriot Movement (1 Hr.)
9:30 - 10:30 AM Pete Haskell, Assistant Attorney General - Procedural Consideration When Being Sued by Sovereign Citizens (1 Hr.)
10:30 - 10:45 AM Break - Danish and CoffeefTea
10:45 - 11:45 AM Chuck Waters - Texas County & District Retirement System (1 Hr.)
11:45 - 12:15 PM Honorable Chuck Miller - Visiting Judges (.5 Hr.)
12:15 - 1:30 PM Lunch on Your Own
1:30 - 2:00 PM Honorable Guilford L. Jones, District Judge - Court Call Telephonic Appearance (.5Hr.)
2:00 - 2:15 PM Joyce Strauss, President, RACA - Certificate Awards and Closing Remarks

GENERAL INFORMATION - Room reservations can be made directly to: Sunday House Inn, 501 E. Main St., Fredericksburg, TX (830) 997-0907. One night reservations will be \$62.00 per person. You may obtain the same rate Wednesday night through the weekend. Reservations received after March 22, 1999 will be on a space available only. Dress: Business Casual.

GENERAL QUESTIONS can be directed to the Conference Committee Members: Eva Walla (512) 756-5436 (day); Martin Allen (830) 620-5562 (day); Kathy Pape (830) 401-0606 (day); or Susan York (830) 379-8557.

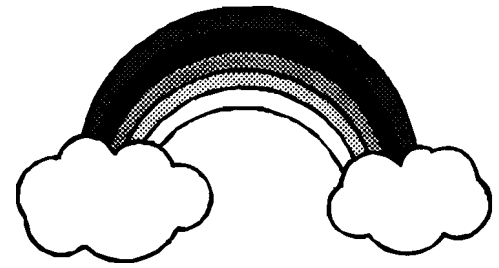
COST OF WORKSHOP CONFERENCE - \$50 PER RACA MEMBER; \$60 NON-RACA MEMBER. Registration DEADLINE March 22, 1999.

*** CLIP BELOW AND REGISTER BY COMPLETING THE FOLLOWING: ***

NAME AND TITLE _____	COURT _____
ADDRESS _____	CITY & ZIP _____
PHONE NO. _____	RACA MEMBER YES NO

PLEASE MAIL TO: MartinL.Allen,c/oRACA, 150N. Seguin Ave., Suite 317, New Braunfels, TX 78130, TOGETHER WITH REGISTRATION CHECK PAYABLE TO: RACA

Excerpts from Oral Presentation given by Joan Green
Washington, D.C. National Center for the State Courts,
Institute for Court Management
May 6, 1998.



Comments concerning things I learned in the ICM training.

LEADERSHIP

L

I learned to be a better listener. to be more self-controlled, hold my tongue. to be humble and to be patient.

E

I learned to edify others. educate and energize others.

A

Leaders must ask questions and adapt to change. Attack the problem not the person, be agreeable and admit I was wrong.

D

Leaders must make decisions, develop plans. desire to make change, be disciplined and deliver good results.

E

Leaders must be ethical. give equal consideration, establish win/win situations explore new ideas and expect the best.

R

Leaders must respect others. take risks, and remember that things take time.

S

Leaders must study for positive change. search for answers and new ideas. survive conflict. separate the person from the problem, sell my ideas, strengthen themselves and others around them. show respect, speak wisely. strategize, serve the public with a good attitude and sometimes surrender.

H

Leaders must be humble and admit they were wrong, be honest, humorous and work horizontally not vertically.

I

Leaders must be able to identify problems and solutions. invent new ideas and recreate old ones. inspire those around them. involve others. have integrity, improve and be interested in learning and listening.

p

Leaders must practice patience, provide a plan. put myself in their shoes. praise those they encounter, provide a professional attitude. be productive, be persistent. persevere. be professional and prepare and plan for the future.

Leaders must practice these actions. It is one thing to know where you are, where you need to go and how to get there, but it is another to actually do it.

Just Do It! Practice these actions. If you are going to talk the talk, then walk the walk.

Calls for action make a difference. Leadership is action.

Thank you, thank you.

Marilee Roberts

You flatter me. Thank you to the TACA members whose faith in me was demonstrated by my election to the TACA Board of Directors. With the little strength left in me after the 1998 Conference, you can count on me to work just as hard for all of you in my capacity as Board Member, and guess what?!? The TACA Board has asked me to work with Becky Burk and Martha Newsome as Board Liaison for Education!! How lucky can one gal get?

Becky's article in this edition of the TACA Journal addresses many of the issues that you had with the 1998 Conference. And boy, was that food bad. Our post-convention meeting with the Omni staff made your dissatisfaction abundantly clear. No excuses about changing chefs, etc. can make the bad taste (pardon the pun) go away, but they promised that we wouldn't have the same problems next year. Since we have a contract with the Omni for the next two years, (and they want our business in the future at other locations) they swore to work extra hard to make amends in 1999.

And speaking of the 1999 Conference, Becky and Martha are already hard at work to outdo the 1998 event. We think you will be pleasantly surprised by some new things they have planned, and glad to repeat some of the successes from years past. The TACA Board is already very involved in the design and implementation of the program for the 1999 Conference, taking advantage of the special skills and talents that the Board members have to customize workshops and general sessions that meet the needs of our membership. For example, Cynthia Dejean's and Martha Newsome's years of experience in managing civil case loads demonstrate great opportunities to share their experiences for TACA members who only handle civil cases. Also, Mikah Mitchell's tenure in County Court at Law can give valuable insight into the needs of TACA members who need a little extra help in figuring out what to do with those thousands of misdemeanors that land in your lap every year. By taking advantage of these hard working folks, your 1999 Conference should give every member a chance to walk away with new information, better skills and a fresh outlook on their role in the judicial process.

And since I'm on my soapbox, allow me to remind everyone that this organization belongs to all of you. You pay your dues and have as much power, as many rights, and as strong a voice as you choose to use. The annual conference should (and I hope that it has while I was on watch) provide you with new ideas and a renewed spirit. If you are disappointed or dissatisfied with the workshops and general sessions, tell somebody. No one is going to get their feelings hurt or ignore you. Remember, the TACA Board members and Education Chairs have just as much at stake in meeting their educational needs as the rest of the membership.

Believe me, the Board and Co-Chairs read those evaluation forms and are addressing your criticisms and your praise. How many times has an attorney asked you what you think your Judge will do in a certain scenario? What am I, a mind reader?, you think to yourself. Well, we can't be mind readers either. Tell us what you like and what you don't and we'll do what we can to make you happy. Remember, if you don't express an opinion, we won't know what you want.

Okay, I'm through with my little speech. Once again, thank you for allowing me to continue to work myself into a lather for all of you. My last reminder: this organization needs everyone's hard work to succeed. Please get involved and make your special contribution. TACA needs fresh voices and new ideas to thrive in the next millennia.

Changing Times.....



When she graduated high school in 1954 in Big Spring, Texas, how could she have known what her future would hold? Nelda Williams Jones completed junior college before beginning work for Howard County's then district attorney, the late Gullford L. Lones (no relation). Working with four different district attorneys in the office there over a period of about twenty years would prove to be the beginning phase of a fulfilling judicial career for Mrs. Jones

The decade of the eighties took Nelda to Lamesa, in Dawson County, to work as Court Coordinator for 106th Judicial District Judge George H. Hansard. The first to hold that newly-created position, she pioneered the establishment of court procedures in the 106th district. At the time she began working for Judge Hansard in 1980, the Court Reporter had been the judge's secretary/coordinator, and each of the district clerks in the four counties of the district actually mailed their own docket settings. The clerk would make copies of docket sheets and the settings were made by hand from those dummy dockets.

October 22, 1986, Nelda says, was one of the highlights of my life. Receiving her Certificate of Court Administration at the Embassy Suites in Austin gave her a tremendous sense of accomplishment and determination. Completing three years of training at the Texas Center for the Judiciary Professional Development Program in Huntsville would prove extremely valuable to her as she strived to make a difference as Court Administrator in the 106th District.

Although it may seem minuscule to those in metropolitan areas, Nelda believes great strides have been made in case management in the 106th District, in a technological sense. This rural court in west Texas, headquartered in Lamesa, now has computers networked, and case management databases are transferred from the other counties in the district via modem in order to ensure up-to-date information is utilized when mailing settings and dockets (which is now handled by the Court Administrator, by the way).

In today's world of computers, networks, modems, and Internet, the manual system of setting dockets seems to have been in a different lifetime. Mrs. Jones is planning retirement at the end of April, 1999, and the cycle begins again. Wonder where we'll be after the next twenty years?

(We wish Mrs. Jones all the best in her retirement, and are glad she will still work part time with her successor after April.)

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LOOKING AHEAD: JUDICIAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR 1999

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

May 5-7, 1999
Hyatt Hotel
Austin, TX

JUDICIAL SECTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 26-29, 1999
Renaissance Hotel
Austin, TX

COLLEGE FOR NEW JUDGES

December 12-17, 1999
Crown Plaza Suites
Dallas, TX

TACA CALENDAR

"PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

June 14-18, 1999
Criminal Justice Center
Huntsville, TX

23RD ANNUAL TACA CONFERENCE

November 8-10, 1999
Omni Southpark
Austin, TX