

The Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition



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Introduction

The Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition was formed in July 2019 by Judge Yolanda Huff. The Coalition is comprised of the Bexar County Specialty Court Judges and court staff, members from the District Attorney's Office, Department of Behavioral Health, Office of Criminal Justice and Court Administration. The Coalition will identify barriers to implementing best practices and gaps within the Specialty Courts and will work with County officials to resolve.

Specialty courts differ from traditional courts in that they focus on one type of offense or offender. The specialized dockets offer intensive judicial supervision for people with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Specialty courts include pre-adjudication and post-adjudication dockets.

Specialty courts provide judicially supervised, community-based treatment plans to participants who meet specific eligibility criteria. The courts work to address the underlying issues that can contribute to criminal behavior and teach participants skills needed to address the underlying issues of trauma, mental illness, and substance abuse. The participant is able to avoid incarceration, reduce recidivism and reintegrate back into the community.

Judge Al Alonso was instrumental in establishing the first Drug Court in Bexar County in 2001. Since the first Drug Court, additional specialty courts have emerged, and a widespread Therapeutic Justice movement within Bexar County's criminal justice system has occurred. Therapeutic Justice merges the law, and social-behavioral specialist in treating offender populations with identified diseases of addiction, mental illness and co-occurring disorders. The model is rendering cost savings and benefits economically and socially.

Texas has utilized therapeutic justice principles in an attempt to reduce jail populations, crime, and rising costs related to apprehension, detention, and adjudication.

MISSION

To build a collaboration among specialty courts to identify gaps, advocate for resources and provide training.

PURPOSE

The Bexar County Specialty Court Coalition was formed to:

- Advance common goals
- Identify solutions to address gaps and to provide recommendations to leadership
- Develop training manual for incoming prosecutors
- Provide a resource book for the community on the various Specialty Courts

Adult Drug Court Judge Tommy Stolhandske



Tommy Stolhandske has presided in the Bexar County Court at Law No. 11 since 2014. In addition to his regular court duties, Judge Stolhandske also presides over the Bexar County Adult Drug Court and the Bexar County DWI Court. Both are specialty courts that provide judiciary intervention to high risk and high need offenders in Bexar County. Under his leadership the Adult Drug Court received statewide recognition on May 31, 2018 when the Judge Ruben G. Reyes Outstanding Specialty Court Team Award, "For Effective Teamwork & Utilizing Best Practice Standards To Save Souls" was awarded to the Bexar County Adult Drug Court by the Texas Association of Specialty Courts.

Tommy was born and raised in San Antonio, and is a graduate of Churchill High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from Texas Lutheran University, going on to receive his J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law. Judge Stolhandske worked as an attorney in Bexar County from 2009 until his judicial election in 2014. He has also been recognized as one of KENS 5 People Who Make San Antonio Great.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Bexar County Adult Drug Court strives to reduce arrest and incarceration rates of offenders. It protects the public by identifying, treating, and rehabilitating those who are drug addicted, have problems with drugs, or whose lives have been affected by drugs. It offers judiciary supervised substance abuse treatment and utilizes the concept of therapeutic justice. The Adult Drug Court holds defendants accountable and assists them in achieving long-term recovery, becoming law-abiding citizens and successful family and community members.

Multi-disciplinary Team: All parties are involved in the court proceedings and decisions, including the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, treatment provider, and case manager.

Screened for Eligibility: All defendants that are referred are screened, legally and clinically diagnosed to determine program eligibility.

Length of Participation: Minimum of 9 months

Positive Impact on Lives: Of those that successfully complete Drug Court, 78% do not recidivate and 88% have a job or are enrolled in school at the time of graduation.

Drug Court Eligibility: Target Population	Disqualifiers:
18 years of age or older	Current or Pending Violent Offense
Substance Abuse Disorder – Moderate or Severe	Current or Pending Felony
Misdemeanor offense	Out of County Residence
Resides in Bexar County	Participating in another Specialty Court
High Risk/High Need offenders	

 Drug Court:
 Probation Officer supervises under 45 cases

 Specialized trained officer
 Needs are addressed

 Assigned a Case Manager
 Fines, court costs and probation fees are waived upon successful completion

 Rewarded for progress made
 Judge knows the unique circumstances of each participant

Roberto Ruiz , Adult Drug Court and DWI Court Manager (210) 335-2637 Roberto.Ruiz@bexar.org

DWI Court Judge Tommy Stolhandske



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COURT OVERVIEW

The Mission of the Bexar County DWI Court is to increase public safety and offender accountability through therapeutic judicial management, collaborative treatment, education and supervision. The goal of the Court is to promote more responsible and productive members of the community, thereby decreasing recidivism and reducing costs.

Who IS ELIGIBLE?	Who is NOT ELIGIBLE?	
18 years of age or older	Current or Pending Violent Offense	
On Probation for a DWI Subsequent Offense Diagnosis of Alcohol Use Disorder- Moderate or Severe	Current or Pending Felony Charge	
	Out of County Residence	
Resides in Bexar County	Participating in another problem- solving court	
High Risk/High Need offender		

What does the DWI Court have to offer?

DWI Court utilizes the "team" approach to treatment and supervision by using specially trained team members, including Probation Officers with small caseloads and Case Managers who meet regularly with participants.

Assists with needs such as housing, education, employment, rental assistance, bus passes, etc.

Violations of program orders are discussed by the team and handled by the Judge on an individual basis.

Low program fee which takes the place of fines, court costs, and probation fees.

Incentives available as participant progresses.

Judge meets with the participant during a specialized docket that is held every other week and knows the unique circumstances of every participant.

Driving While Intoxicated Cases are overwhelming our Courts. Other methods of addressing the daunting problem of DWI offenders have been tried and have been unsuccessful. The arrest numbers continue to grow and alcohol related traffic fatalities and serious injuries continue to affect our community on almost a daily basis.

The DWI Court offers hope to our community by addressing the core problem of many repeat offenders by combining treatment with strict supervision.

Mental Health Court Judge Yolanda T. Huff



Judge Yolanda Huff was born in Taylor, Texas but the family soon moved to North Carolina where she and her sister, Yvonne, were raised by their parents Norma and Samuel Taylor, Jr. At the age of 16, Yolanda's family moved to Austin, Texas. She graduated from Reagan High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. As a mother of three, she worked while earning a law degree from St. Mary's School of Law. After earning her law degree in 1996, Yolanda opened her solo practice in San Antonio, Texas.

In her 21 years of practice she handled criminal, Child Protective Services (CPS) and personal injury cases. She practiced in Bexar and a number of surrounding counties including Wilson, Medina, Atascosa, Frio and Uvalde. While working the CPS docket she represented hundreds of children and parents. She learned how important it is for foster children to receive effective legal representation. Yolanda handled thousands of felony cases which taught her that justice must be tempered with mercy.

Besides raising her children and running her law practice, Yolanda has donated her time and money to several

worthwhile organizations. She is a board member for YTIA (Youth Transitioning Into Adulthood). This worthy nonprofit helps foster kids who are leaving the foster care system. She is also a member of CCAA (Children's Court Ad Litem Association) and she served twice as president for the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association. Huff served for 12 years on the advisory board for the Dispute Resolution Center (Mediation). She has been a member of the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and she was the staff attorney for the felony drug court for two years.

Judge Huff was the Vice President of Holmes High School PTA in 2002-2003 and a member of Lutheran High School's Booster Club. Yolanda has been a member of NAACP for the past three years. Community, church and her legal career all helped to prepare Judge Huff for the most rewarding job of her career, Judge of County Court of Law No. 12. Judge Huff was elected to County Court of Law No. 12 and was sworn in on January 1, 2019. Judge Huff also presides over the Mental Health Docket. Since taking the bench Judge Huff has been asked to serve on the Bexar County Domestic Violence Commission, the board for the Ministry of the Three Cross and she heads up the Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition. In her spare time she enjoys reading, spending time with family, hiking the state and national parks and running marathons.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a non-adversarial specialty court, specialized in working with individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness and/or a co-occurring disorder. In collaboration with the Public Defenders Office, County Courts, Pretrial Services, District Attorney's Office and Treatment Providers, the court staff identify individuals to offer access to mental health treatment and community resources, as an alternative to incarceration. The individual receives medication management, intensive case management services and supervision by the court and adult probation.

The MHC is a voluntary 12-month program. There is ongoing collaboration among the Judge and court team members to monitor and support participants mental stability, sobriety and successful completion of probation conditions. Referrals are accepted from anyone as long as the person has a pending misdemeanor. With the attorney's permission, the individual is scheduled for a screening. If the individual agrees to participate, mental health treatment will be coordinated. Upon verification of diagnosis, the case will be transferred to County Court #12 and placed on the docket to sign the participant agreement. The MHC is a five-phase treatment program. The individual will attend ongoing court review hearings with the Judge and the court team. MHC is held every Monday afternoon in County Court #12.

Mental Health Pretrial Diversion (MHPTD) is a 12 month pretrial diversion program. Referrals are accepted from various sources . The Attorney submits an application. The individual is scheduled for a screening to explain program requirements, expectations and to complete a screening packet. If eligible, the individual is connected to mental health treatment. Upon verification of the diagnosis, the case is forwarded to the District Attorneys Office for approval to participate in the MHPTD. If the individual is approved, the case will be transferred to County Court #12 and placed on the MHPTD docket to sign the participant agreement. MHPTD is a five-phase treatment program. The individual will attend ongoing bond review hearings with the Judge and court team to monitor treatment compliance. MHPTD docket is held every Thursday morning in County Court #12. A participant advances the phases as the goals for each phase are completed. Participants who have completed treatment goals and court requirements are eligible to have their case dismissed and to graduate from the MHPTD.

Veterans Treatment Court Judge Wayne Christian



Judge Wayne Christian is a native of San Antonio and a graduate of Alamo Heights High School, Trinity University and St. Mary's University School of Law. Following law school, Judge Christian volunteered for active duty with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division as an Airborne Infantry and Judge Advocate General's Corps officer. Upon leaving the active army, he continued his military career as a Special Operations Legal Advisor in the Army Reserve, serving in Panama, Thailand and Afghanistan with U.S. Army Special Forces. Retiring after 30 years of service, Colonel Christian's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge and British, Thai and Canadian Parachute Badges.

First elected as a County Court at Law Judge in 1996, Judge Christian has disposed of more criminal cases, tried more jury trials and recovered more restitution for victims than any other County Court Judge in Bexar County history during his term in office.

Judge Christian has served for over 30 years as a Certified Texas Peace Officer, Criminal Justice Prosecutor, Criminal Defense Counsel and Texas State Judge. He has been an Adjunct Instructor at the San Antonio Police Academy and is presently an Adjunct Professor of Law and Consultant for the Center For Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University School of Law.

COURT OVERVIEW

With the passage of SB 1940, The Bexar County Commissioners Court, Bexar County Criminal District Attorney, Veterans groups, representatives from the Veterans Administration and other interested persons designed and implemented the Bexar County Veterans Treatment Court. The Veterans Court docket is called in County Court at Law Number 6.

The Court promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves the cooperation and collaboration with the Veterans Administration through partnership with Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators. Additionally, community partners such as local Veteran Service Organizations, non-profit treatment providers, and the Texas Veterans Commission & Office of the Governor's grant funded support make the mission of the VTC possible.

Based on the successful Drug Court model, the Veterans Treatment Court serves veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), substance use disorders, mental health and/or co-occurring disorders. The long-term goal of this problem-solving court is the restoration of the veteran's quality of life and the reduction of conflicts that might lead to additional incarceration events. This goal is be accomplished by providing the veteran with the treatment and supportive services.

TRACK I

For veterans who are accepted for the pre-trial component (Track I) of the Veterans Court, successful completion of the Veterans Court program will mean that their case will be dismissed with no criminal conviction on their record. Participation in the program is generally 1 year.

TRACK II

For veterans who are accepted in the probation component (Track II), the veteran is expected to participate in and comply with the treatment plan and terms of probation. Generally, the term of probation is 1 year. The veteran's compliance will determine how often the veteran must meet with the judge and the other members of the treatment team. Substance abuse and mental health services are provided by the Veterans Administration. Under certain circumstances, substance abuse and mental health services can be provided by local non-profit providers for Veterans who do not qualify for VA Healthcare.

Domestic Violence Specialty Court Judge Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez



Judge Speedlin Gonzalez was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas. After graduating from Homer Hanna High School in 1983, she attended Vermont College of Norwich University located in Montpelier/ Northfield, Vermont and in 1987, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from St. Mary's University. After working in the field of adolescent social work, juvenile corrections and education for 11 years, she attended St. Mary's Law School and received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 2001. From 2002 until November 2018, Judge Speedlin Gonzalez worked as a solo practitioner attorney. Her general practice was eventually streamlined as a family law practice with an emphasis on Child Welfare and dependency cases. At the time of her election, Judge Speedlin Gonzalez , was the only attorney in South Texas that was recognized as a Board Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children and had represented hundreds of children in the Texas foster care system. Her background in Child Protective Services, Indigent Services, Juvenile Probation and Substance Abuse Treatment and Education, assisted her in being a highly sought-after Attorney Ad Litem for children in some of the most contentious family cases in recent history.

As an attorney, Judge Speedlin Gonzalez' career was devoted to advocating for fairness and justice for the disenfranchised and the voiceless. She has been, and continues to be, committed to ensuring that women have a seat at the policy-making table of their respective communities of origin.

Throughout her career, Judge Speedlin Gonzalez has been recognized for her leadership and community work by various organizations and associations. She has previously served as a consultant to women seeking public office and has been the recipient of numerous awards which include the Adele Advocate for the Poor Award, the Presidential National Leadership Award, the Bexar County Pioneer Award, the PRIDE Center's Political Icon Award, and she has been inducted into the Order of Barristers and INNS of Court. Judge Speedlin Gonzalez has served as a Commissioner on the Hispanic National Bar Association's Commission on the Status of Latinas in the Legal Profession and has served on various non-profit and educational boards.

On November 6, 2018, Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez was elected to preside over County Court at Law #13, which is one of two designated misdemeanor Domestic Family Violence Courts, in Bexar County, Texas. She is the first out LGBTQ Judge and the third Judge to serve on this bench.

During the 2019 Texas legislative session, Judge Speedlin Gonzalez and her wife, Dr. Stacy Speedlin Gonzalez, co-authored House Bill 3529, which was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott. This created a pathway for the development of a Family Violence Specialty Court within County Court at Law No. 13. The goal of this specialty court is to address the addiction and the violence associated with the addiction which contributes to the epidemic incidents of family violence and intimate partner deaths in Bexar County.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Domestic Violence Specialty Court is an approved pilot program by the Texas Legislature. The Court will provide court supervised drug treatment for high-risk men and women accused of a misdemeanor family violence case and a history of substance abuse. The underlying behaviors of domestic violence will be addressed and a domestic violence assessment will be conducted to determine future risk of violent behavior. The Therapeutic Justice Foundation will develop individual treatment plans that will provide psychosocial education, trauma-informed services and greater access to resources.

Esperanza Court Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl



Catherine Torres-Stahl is currently the Judge of the 175th District Court, a court handling all felony matters and a specialized Prostitution Prevention Court called Esperanza Court. She is the former Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and an adjunct professor at the University of Texas in San Antonio for the Criminal Justice Department. She has spent the majority of her 25 year law career in the criminal justice arena, and 17 years of that in a judicial capacity. She is a former Criminal Defense and Family Law practitioner with Gonzales & Torres-Stahl. Prior to that she was elected to the 144th District Court, where she presided as a District Court Judge over felony criminal matters.

For 10 years, prior to her election to this bench, she was a Municipal Court Judge presiding over Juvenile matters, initiating several early intervention programs for juveniles and the Teen Court in San Antonio. Her legal career began as an Assistant District Attorney, prosecuting in the areas of Family Violence, Juvenile and Appellate cases. She is a native San Antonian having attended Fox Tech High School and St. Mary's University undergraduate, graduate school and graduated from the law school in 1993.

Judge Torres-Stahl has had the privilege of being awarded the Latina Judge of the Year Award from the Hispanic National Bar Association in 2010; the Amicus Award from St. Mary's University School of Law Center for Legal & Social Justice; and the Legal Profession Award from the Mexican American Bar Association.

Additionally, as a cancer survivor she has been honored by the Thrive Well Cancer Foundation. Judge Torres-Stahl has dedicated countless hours to many boards, commissions and bar associations in pursuit of the advancement of women, the protection of children and the promotion of diversity. She is the past Co-chair of the Hispanic National Bar Association Judicial Council and former President of the Mexican American Bar Association in San Antonio. She is currently a member of the St. Mary's University School of Law Hispanic Alumni Board, a State Bar of Texas Fellow, an Advisory board member for Las Misiones (recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site), Board Member of MABA and Co-Chair of the National Association of Women Judges 2018 Conference Gala and an Honorary Girl Scout.

She is married to Paul Stahl, who is the Chair of the San Antonio Public Library and has two children, ages 19 and 22.

COURT OVERVIEW

Esperanza Court helps individuals in different areas of their lives in hopes of a chance of becoming self-sufficient productive members of society.

Esperanza court is about a 30 month program in which defendants must be on felony probation on a prostitution or prostitution related offense. Participants must be willing to participate in all aspects of the program to include weekly court visits, 5 treatment/ counseling sessions per week, probation visits once a week, case manager visits once a week, and calling the UA line on a daily basis.

Participants must also be willing to participate in inpatient treatment if needed. Participants are allowed to work and/or go to school once they are stable in their sobriety and mental health. Participants will be provided with all of their basic and immediate needs to include housing, bus passes, clothing, hygiene and food. Participants will also receive assistance with Municipal/JP tickets, CPS cases, etc.

Felony Drug Court Judge Ernie L. Glenn



Judge Glenn attended the University of Houston where he earned a Bachelor of Science May, 1977. He attended Bates College of Law at University of Houston and earned his Juris Doctor December, 1979. It was at the University of Houston where he met his wife of 41 years, Graciela Aguilar. Upon passing the bar, he and his wife moved to her hometown of San Antonio, Texas to begin his first legal job as Bexar County Assistant Criminal District Attorney.

After 5 years of prosecuting criminal cases, he went into private practice for the next 22 years. In 2007, Judge Roman, Judge Herr and Judge Harle spearheaded a move to create a Felony Drug Court Magistrate position to run the court full time. Judge Glenn has been presiding over the court ever since October, 2007. Judge Glenn has completed multiple drug court trainings since becoming the FDC magistrate. Judge Glenn has presented on various Drug Court and Mental Health topics locally to the San Antonio Bar Association, various community group symposiums, UTSA Criminal Justice classes, Trinity University Sociology and Anthropology classes, and Texas A&M San Antonio classes; for TADCP in El Paso and NADCP in Houston and National Harbor.

Judge Glenn started with a coordinator, along with four probation officers, and a case load of up to 90 individuals. The court now has five case managers, a court manager, and an assistant court manager/data tracker working with our four probation officers to handle the case load of 250. Judge Glenn has expanded his court to include a Co-Occurring Diagnosis Court, Reentry Court and a DWI Court to meet the specialized needs of the different populations. Judge Glenn implemented that all referrals be screened with the TCU Drug Screen, the Mental Health Screening form III, the ACE questionnaire, and the Wisconsin Risk/Needs to determine the most suitable docket for individuals. A TRAS is administered by Probation upon entry into the program.

COURT OVERVIEW

Multi-disciplinary Team:

All parties are involved in the court proceedings and decisions, including the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, treatment

Length of Participation: Minimum of 18 months to complete the five phase program

Felony Specialty Courts Eligibility Standards: Felony Drug Court /Co-Occurring Diagnosis Court /Reentry Court /DWI Court

- ♦ Must be at least 17 years of age
- ♦ Must be a resident of Bexar County (or work in Bexar County)
- ♦ Must be evaluated as being chemically dependent
- Must be willing and able to comply with court ordered substance abuse treatment
- Will accept cases for violent offenses, on a case by case basis; sex offenders are excluded
- ◊ No gang affiliation is preferable --- will review on a case by case basis
- ♦ Must be willing to comply with educational and/or employment development
- Must be willing to submit to random urinalysis and other drug/alcohol monitoring devices (Ignition Interlock/ SCRAM/ Drug Testing Patches/In-home devices)
- Must be legally able to serve (at least) 18 months on community supervision from the date of entry into the program

Referral from a Criminal District Court must be signed by the referring Judge and submitted to the Felony Specialty Court Team.

Diana Zamarron, Felony Drug Court Manager (210) 335-3063 dzamarron@bexar.org

Felony Veterans Treatment Court Judge Lori I. Valenzuela Judge Jefferson Moore



Appointed by former Governor Perry to the newly created court, Judge Lori I. Valenzuela has been presiding over the 437th Criminal District Court since 2009. She was elected in 2010 and ran unopposed in 2014 and 2018. Judge Valenzuela oversees a docket of cases that range in punishment from State Jail felonies to Capital Murder. She has served as the Criminal District Court Administrative Judge, serves on numerous local Judicial Committees, including the Bexar County Juvenile Board, and recently started a Felony Veteran's Treatment Court.

The daughter of Retired General Alfred and Esther T. Valenzuela, Judge Valenzuela was raised in a military family and lived all over the globe. She graduated from high school in Augsburg, Germany. After high school, Judge Valenzuela returned to her home State of Texas and earned her degree from The University of Texas at Austin and her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law. She is licensed to practice in the State of Texas and in the Western District of Texas.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Valenzuela served as a Bexar County Assistant District Attorney from 1998-2007. Her work included felony domestic disputes, including murders, abuse of children and the elderly, and cases involving sexual violence. Upon leaving the District Attorney's Office in 2007, as a First Chair Felony Prosecutor, Judge Valenzuela started her own criminal defense practice and later served as a Bexar County Magistrate.

Judge Valenzuela was recently appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to Chair the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board. Prior to this, she was appointed by Senators Cornyn and Cruz to the Federal Judicial Executive Commission (FJEC) in 2013. She served on the FJEC from 2013-2018. Additional board involvement includes prior service on two local boards: St. Peter's St. Joseph's Children's Home, and Family Service Association. She is currently the chair elect for the Texas Center for the Judiciary. Judge Valenzuela is a member of several legal organizations including Inns of Court and has been named a Fellow by the San Antonio Bar Association. Off the bench, she has coached for the YMCA, is an active member at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, participates in Habitat for Humanity, is a member of the Young Men's Service League, and was a Cub Scout den leader for several years.

Judge Valenzuela is married to Robert Sean McCleskey, a retired Secret Service Agent, who currently serves as the Chief Investigator at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. He also teaches at the University of Texas at Austin. They have one daughter and two sons. In her free time, the Judge enjoys playing golf, watching movies, reading, traveling, and spending time with her family.



Military veteran, former prosecutor and an attorney in private practice, Judge Jefferson Moore is the presiding judge for the 186th District Court for the State of Texas in Bexar County. He has over 25 years of experience in the legal field with over 150 criminal trials in Federal, state and military courts as well as 65 trials (and counting) as a presiding district judge.

Judge Moore began his legal career as an assistant district attorney in New Orleans before joining the US Army JAG Corps. There he prosecuted court-martial cases and later became a military magistrate.

While stationed at Fort Sam Houston, the State Bar of Texas awarded Judge Moore the honor of the Military Attorney of the Year and the American Bar Association recognized his office as the best military Legal Assistance Office world-wide. After becoming a private practitioner, the State Bar of Texas appointed him to the Grievance Committee (Region 10) for several terms before he took the bench.

He has several published articles and is a frequent presenter at legal conferences regarding criminal law, military legal matters, and ethics. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals appointed Judge Moore to its Rules Advisory Committee as the only district court judge to serve on that committee.

Judge Moore has an undergraduate degree from Tulane University and his law degree from Loyola University of New Orleans.

Judge Moore is a former US Army paratrooper and a graduate from the US Army Air Assault School with deployments to Egypt, Korea, Panama, Bolivia, Israel, Germany, Japan, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Felony Veterans Treatment Court

COURT OVERVIEW

The Bexar County Felony Veterans Treatment Court Program is a Specialty Court that specializes in helping Veterans in Bexar County who are charged with a felony offense that may have been related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or any other Mental Health diagnosis resulting from their military service. By participating in the program Veterans may be offered an opportunity to avoid prosecution or criminal conviction, through either Pre Trial Diversion or Deferred Adjudication.

With acceptance into the Veterans Treatment Court Program, participants will be offered an opportunity to address any psychological issues, chemical dependency, or other various types' of issues and personal needs through a variety of treatment and supportive services. Participants will also be given an opportunity to gain assistance in obtaining employment, education, health, as well as housing services through various Veteran and Community Resources that are available.

Additionally, the program offers veterans an opportunity to avoid prosecution and a criminal conviction. The Veterans Felony Treatment Court Program utilizes a non-adversarial approach in which a team that includes the Judge, the Defense Attorney, the Prosecutor, the Program Manager, and a Veterans Administration Veterans Justice Outreach specialist who work together with the veteran to guide him/her toward successfully attaining goals. The Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist will develop a treatment plan, and the veteran will be provided with referrals for services needed to begin the implementation of the treatment plan. The veteran will be scheduled for a series of court appearances to monitor and reinforce their progress toward meeting the objectives of their treatment plan. Once the objectives have been successfully met, the case will be dismissed from prosecution.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

Eligibility criteria for participation with the Bexar County Veterans Felony Court include being a Veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces. This includes a member of the Reserves, National Guard, State Guard or Coast Guard. Discharge from the military must be Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions. Also, the veteran must have or receive a clinical diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a traumatic brain injury (TBI), or mental disorder that resulted from military service, and materially affected the veteran's criminal conduct for which they are being charged. Felony charges pending in Bexar County are currently eligible.

PROCESS

Applicants who wish to participate in the Felony Veterans Treatment Court Program must submit a packet to the Veterans Treatment Case Manager by their Defense Attorney of record. Once the VTC Case Manager receives a referral, the applicant will then be screened by the Case Manager and a VA Representative for program eligibility. Once a packet is fully completed with a VA Assessment and other necessary documents, the case will then be staffed by the Bexar County District Attorney's Office with the Veterans Treatment Court Team for possible acceptance. If the Veteran meets all criteria and is accepted into the Felony Veterans Treatment Court Program, their case will then be transferred to either the Honorable Jefferson Moore (186th) or the Honorable Lori Valenzuela (437th) for the duration of the program.

If the Veteran was appointed legal counsel through the court, the Veteran will then receive legal representation from one a Defense Attorney from the VTC Team free of charge while in the program. If the participant retains their attorney, then the attorney and the participant will have the option of remaining on the case, or utilizing one of the Defense Attorney's on staff while in the program.

PROGRAM LENGTH

The Veterans Treatment Court Program is an 18 to 24 month program. The exact length of time in the program is determined by each participant's needs, progress toward successful implementation of the Treatment Plan, nature of the offense and arrest history.

Bexar County Family Drug Court Judge Peter Sakai



On November 7, 2006, Judge Peter Sakai was elected with nearly 60% of the entire Bexar County vote to the 225th District Court bench and was the highest vote-getter among the contested judicial races. In 2010, 2014 and 2018, Judge Sakai has been unopposed for reelection for his second, third and fourth term of office.

He is the first Asian-American to sit on a District Court bench in Bexar County. Judge Sakai has served on the Board of the Texas Center for the Judiciary and the Board of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas. In 2018, he was most recently elected Local Administrative Judge of the District Courts of Bexar County.

Judge Sakai was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas at Austin.

He has been a Chief Prosecutor for the D.A.'s Office and experienced trial litigator. He was appointed Associate Judge of the 289th District Court (Juvenile Court) and for 11 years was the Presiding Judge for the nationally renowned Bexar County Children's Court.

Judge Sakai is widely recognized as a community leader and child advocate with numerous local, state and national awards.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Bexar County Family Drug Court (FDC) was established in 2003.

The mission of the Bexar County Family Drug Court is to provide services to families separated by the effects of alcohol and drug abuse and to use the power of the Courts to bring the community together, helping parents to recover from addiction, and appropriately care for their children.

FDC has been helping families reunify for 15 years.

FDC not only provides services, but it also tailors them to fit the specific needs of each family.

Average reunification rate for FDC is six months while reunification can take up to 18 months in traditional Children's Court. This is able to occur since families receive services in an intensive manner.

FDC has graduated over 350 parents and reunified over 775 children.

The Bexar County Family Drug Court (FDC) is under the leadership of the Honorable Peter Sakai, 225th district court.

Court Team:

Doreen M. Jaramillo, FDC Manager

FDC Monitors -- Lucy Gallegos Elise Barker Basil Franks

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Juvenile Post-Adjudication Drug Court Specialty Docket Judge Arcelia Treviño



Judge Arcelia Treviño has presided over the 386th District Court since 2017. Judge Treviño brought more than ten years of legal experience to the bench, having focused on family law, criminal defense and immigration. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's School of Law. Prior to obtaining her law degree, she was involved in the education system and currently maintains her teacher certification. She has been an active participant with the Job Training Partnership Act for three years and is a member of the Inns of Court. Judge Trevino also an active member of the Juvenile Board and has been chosen to serve as the Chair of the Budget Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the funding and expenditures of services and programs within the juvenile justice system.

Judge Treviño presides over the 386th Post Adjudication Drug Court, which serves children with significant substance use issues. The department was awarded an Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Drug Treatment Court Program Enrichment Grant in 2018 and Judge Treviño anticipates great achievements for children as she works with the department to implement the grant.

COURT OVERVIEW

Post-Adjudication Drug Court

The 386th Post Adjudication Drug Court is a collaboration between the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office and the 386th District Court. The targeted population for this specialty court are youth who have been adjudicated for an offense class B or higher, are between the ages of 14-16 and struggle with significant substance use. This specialty docket supervises youth based on a phase system with intensive supervision in the beginning of the program and a gradual decrease in supervision as the participant advances through the program. The Post Adjudication Drug Court team works collaboratively to address the child and family's needs as they go through the program. Program requirements include participation in substance use counseling, regular school attendance, frequent drug testing, and curfew compliance. Children appear in court twice a month for case reviews and may receive incentives or sanctions from the Judge in order to foster program engagement and progress. The goal of the program is to provide services (supervision and treatment) to youth who struggle with substance use and ultimately guide them to live drug free lives.

In addition to her Specialty Court, Judge Treviño also presides over two specialty dockets that provide a collaborative team approach to children in our population who have underlying issues that would benefit from specialized services. These dockets are described below.

CROSSROADS Specialty Docket

The Crossroads specialty docket offers special services and programs to young females. Like a specialty court, Crossroads requires participants to appear in court twice a month for case reviews. The Crossroads Judge monitors each youth's progress and the extent to which they use the mental health and support services that are offered to them. The immediate goal of this specialty docket is to address the mental health needs of young females in the Juvenile Justice System and to provide needed services. The long-term goal of the Crossroads docket is to help juvenile females who have been traumatized -- and who may be acting out and committing crimes at least in part because of past negative experiences – find the support they need to move their lives in a different direction. Crossroads uses a non-traditional approach in supervising and working with female juvenile offenders. A unique partnership between the juvenile justice system, including the Crossroads Judge, who is the final authority for the Court, and the mental health and supportive services agencies is the backbone of Crossroads.

STRIVE Specialty Docket

The STRIVE specialty docket has been specifically created to help children who have been referred to the Juvenile Justice System and who have experienced some difficulties in meeting educational goals. STRIVE is a comprehensive and judicially monitored program aimed at helping children succeed in their educational settings while completing the terms of their probation. This specialty docket represents a non-traditional approach in the juvenile court system. It is built upon a unique partnership between the juvenile justice system and the education community. It focuses on the personal and family issues that may prevent a child from achieving success in school and addresses academic concerns and truancy. The STRIVE docket includes the personal involvement of a single District Court Judge and is dependent upon the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere where a dedicated team of court officers and staff work together toward a common goal of avoiding future criminal behavior and supporting the child's future by addressing his or her educational needs.

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Juvenile Pre-Adjudication Drug Court Specialty Dockets Judge Lisa Jarrett Judge Arcelia Treviño Judge Carlos Quezada



Judge Jarrett was appointed to the 436th District Court in September of 2009. She presides over a general jurisdiction court with a preference for juvenile matters. In addition to her regular docket, Judge Jarrett presides over the Pre-Adjudication Drug Court docket and 4 additional specialty dockets including the Family Enrichment Courts, Crossover Court and RESTORE Court. These dockets focus on family violence, crossover youth, and victims of sexual exploitation, respectively. In 2011, the Governor appointed Judge Jarrett to serve on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. She is the Chair of the Bexar County Juvenile Board, and prior to that, she served on both the Trial Court and Programs and Services Committees. She also serves on the Juvenile Probation Department and Court Reporters Oversight Committees, on behalf of the District Courts. Prior to her appointment to the 436th District Court, Judge Jarrett was in private practice and was serving as a juvenile law referee. She also served as an assistant district attorney in Bexar County. Judge Jarrett obtained her B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin and her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center.

In addition to her judicial responsibilities, Judge Jarrett is also very active in the community. She serves on the board of directors for Texas Juvenile Justice Department and is active with the Friends of Communities in Schools. She is also a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.



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Judge Carlos Quezada was elected to the 289thDistrict Court of Bexar County in November of 2018. In this capacity, he holds the task to preside over this general jurisdictional court, with a preference for juvenile matters. In addition to his regular docket, Judge Quezada presides over the Pre-Adjudication Drug Court docket and 2 additional specialty dockets including the JUNTOS Court and MIND Court. These dockets focus on gang-involved youth and young males with mental health issues, respectively.

Judge Quezada is a proud graduate of Harlandale High School and a lifelong resident of San Antonio's south side. it was with great honor and pride that he was able to serve as President of the Harlandale ISD school board. Judge Quezada received an Associate's degree from Palo Alto College in 2002. He continued his undergraduate education at St. Mary's University and received his Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in criminal justice in 2004. He later attended Thurgood Marshall School of Law and received his Juris Doctor degree in 2008.

Judge Quezada began his legal career by serving as an assistant jury room bailiff in Bexar County. After law school, he served the Webb County community as a felony state prosecutor and fought for justice to be fairly dispensed. He returned back to his roots, the county near and dear to his heart, as a dedicated attorney to serve his very own Bexar County community.

Court Programs

Family Court:

Early Intervention Program
Family Drug Court
PEARLS
PEARLS
Crossover Court
Family Enrichment Courts
Pre-Adjudication Drug Court
RESTORE Court
Crossroads Court
STRIVE Court
Post-Adjudication Drug Court
Pre-Adjudication Drug Court
JUNTOS Court
MIND Court
Pre-Adjudication Drug Court

501c3 Community Partners

Therapeutic Justice Foundation - Judge Al Alonso, President



Since the inception of that first Bexar County Adult Drug Court, Judge Alonso has led the initiative for the creation of three additional Drug Courts: Family, Felony and Veterans; and subsequently additional specialty courts have emerged since and a widespread Therapeutic Justice movement within Bexar County's criminal justice system has developed.

In 2010, the Therapeutic Justice Foundation emerged through the innovative judicial vision of Judge Al Alonso and a group of dedicated community leaders. It was clearly the next step in support of Drug Court participants. Judge Alonso's goal is for the Foundation to be a catalyst in raising enough funding toward having "self-sustaining" Drug Courts in Bexar County.

The Therapeutic Justice Foundation, in conjunction with the Bexar County Specialty Courts, plays an educative role in raising community consciousness about the problem in question, its causes and the resources the Courts need to resolve it. In addition, TJF joins these Courts in advocating for the populations that they deal with and for the increased allocation of community resources needed to resolve their problems.

Since its inception, the Therapeutic Justice Foundation's support of participants has significantly improved participant success rates.

All proceeds from contributions and fundraising events go to servicing the participants of the Bexar County Therapeutic Courts. Participant support comes in various ways.

- Annual Commencement Honoring Graduates
- Emergency Food Pantry
- Transitional Housing
- Monitoring Devices

Urinalysis Vouchers

• Holiday Food Baskets

- Monthly Bus Passes/Tickets
- Food Gift Cards
- Annual Training Conference
- Pro Social Activities
- Therapeutic Court Mentors

• Family Recreational Gift Cards

- School Back-Packs and Supplies
- Judge Al Alonso graduated from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Science and received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's Law School. He has been board certified in criminal law since 1975 by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He has over 50 years' experience in the criminal justice system and 16 years of judicial experience.

In 2007, Judge Alonso was President of the Texas Association of Drug Court Professionals representing 100 Texas Drug Courts. In 2009 he was selected as one of two representatives from the state of Texas to serve in the Congress of drug court professions for the National Drug Court Institute.

In 2001, Judge Alonso established the first Bexar County Adult Drug Court Program and was instrumental in supporting and establishing 7 additional drugs court in Bexar County. He was elected Administrative Judge in 2010, representing 15 Bexar County Courts at Law.

Judge Alonso established and founded the Therapeutics Justice Foundation in 2010, as 501c3 nonprofit foundation supporting drug courts. As part of his degree, Master in Judicial Studies, his thesis was approved by the National Judicial College on "Best Practices Drug Court."

501c3 Community Partners

Ministry of the Third Cross - Jorge R. Cuellar D. Min, Founder and President



Jorge R. Cuellar D. Min, founder and president of the Ministry of the Third Cross (MOTC) Faith Based Services for women, men and children on supervision in Bexar County and surrounding counties.

MOTC is a Faith Based Initiative that began in 1997 under the Clinton Administration. It is an organization serving persons that are under Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections supervision, TDCJ Pardons and Parole. MOTC is an Ecumenical Spiritually grounded mentoring program for justice involved men and women with a desire to commit to change in their lives through spiritual development and mentorship that may promote a harmonious, healthier, more productive and spiritually driven life while helping to decrease the likelihood of future involvement in the legal system.

The program offers resources such as faith based spiritual weekend retreats, mentoring, spiritual guidance, family outreach services and a rich tradition of outreach and other psychosocial referral

services. We are part of a collaborative with church communities, business organizations, treatment facilities, Bexar County re-entry services, and the criminal justice system. MOTC is a volunteer driven organization that is committed to serve Our Lord and offers services to those on supervision and their families.

Our work with the formerly incarcerated offers encouragement and support to re-examine their life experiences and how these have led to criminal activity so that they can take responsibility of their criminal behavior, rebuild their lives through the changing of life long negative patterns. Most importantly these men and women will be provide the opportunities for exploring, examining and sharing spirituality.

The MOTC obtained its 501c3 status and is a Texas non-profit organization. This phenomena of the MOTC retreats has recently gone statewide, as more and more Texas cities and counties are recognizing the significance of these faith based renewing retreats. The power of God is the cornerstone of this ministerial organization.

Chrysalis Ministries - Antonio "Nino" Tarantino, CEO



Chrysalis Ministries exists to equip and empower individuals and families to overcome the consequences of incarceration. We do this through our chaplaincy program which ministers to those incarcerated by providing religious services, bible studies and faith-based counseling, through our course facilitators who teach life-skills courses such as Anger Management, Healthy Relationships and 12-Step Recovery to name a few, and through our jobs program which works with over 400 employers who hire formerly incarcerated individuals.

Our goal is to provide the best possible start on a second to chance to all clients and family member.

Nino Tarantino has been CEO of Chrysalis Ministries since February of 2016. Under his leadership Chrysalis has assisted over a thousand formerly incarcerated individuals in obtaining employment and, through their comprehensive life-skills training, has helped reduced recidivism for all clients to below 10%. Nino values

collaboration and partnerships with other agencies and the judicial services sector of Bexar County. Prior to joining Chrysalis, Nino formed his own educational publishing company helping thousands of Texas students and teachers prepare for the state assessment exam after a long and successful career as a corporate executive and CEO in the for-profit sector.

Committee Members

Judge Yolanda Huff Michelle Starr-Salazar Azalea Barroso-Balderas Adrienne Rodriguez Judge Ernie Glenn Diana Zamarron Judge Tommy Stolhandske **Roberto Ruiz** Judge Wayne Christian Joshua Childers Vincent Petrucci Daryl Harris Judge Grace Uzomba Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl **Rachel Estrada** Judge Lori Valenzuela Judge Jefferson Moore John Herman Judge Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez **Gilbert Gonzales** Velma Gettelman Melissa Lucio Judge Al Alonso Judge Peter Sakai Barbara Schafer Lorena Medellin Doreen Jaramillo Judge Arcelia Trevino Judge Lisa Jarrett Judge Carlos Quezada Dr. Jeannie Von Stultz Mike Lozito Dr. Norma Greenfield **Dianne Garcia** Judge John Longoria Judge Ron Rangel

Mental Health Court/MHPTD Mental Health Court/MHPTD Manager Mental Health Court/MHPTD Case Manager Mental Health Court/MHPTD Case Manager Felony Drug Court Felony Drug Court Manager Adult Drug Court Adult Drug Court/DWI Court Manager **Veterans Treatment Court** Veterans Treatment Court Project Director Veterans Treatment Court Case Manager DA Office Deputy Chief of Criminal Trials County Court of Law No. 2 Esperanza Court Esperanza Court Case Manager Felony Veterans Treatment Court Felony Veterans Treatment Court Felony Veterans Treatment Court Case Manager **Domestic Violence Specialty Court** Dept. of Behavioral Health Director Dept. of Behavioral Health Program Manager Dept. of Behavioral Health Program Analyst Therapeutic Justice Foundation, President Family Drug Court Children's Court Administrator Early Intervention Court Manager Family Drug Court Manager Juvenile Post-Adjudication Drug Court Juvenile Pre-Adjudication Drug Court Juvenile Pre-Adjudication Drug Court Deputy Chief Mental Health Services Division, Juvenile Probation Office of Criminal Justice Director Office of Criminal Justice Deputy Director **County Court Administrator** Administrative Judge-County Courts Administrative Judge-District Courts

Definitions

10-Key Components	The core framework for most types of problem-solving court programs.
Adherence	An individual agrees to continue an agreed-on mode of treatment without close supervision.
Assessment	A way of diagnosing and determining treatment.
Best Practices	The foundation which all specialty courts should operate.
	https://www.nadcp.org/standards/adult-drug-court-best-practice-standards/
Community Service	Refers to work performed to repair the harm his or her actions may have caused the community.
Compliance	Willingness to fulfill treatment recommendations.
Deferred Adjudication	A form of plea deal, where a defendant pleads "guilty" or "no contest" to criminal charges in exchange for meeting certain conditions within a specified period of time ordered by the court. Upon completion of the conditions, the defendant may avoid a conviction on their record or have their case dismissed.
Evidenced Based Practices	Practices that have a definable outcome; are measureable; and are defined according to practical realities, such as recidivism.
Incentives	Used to reinforce positive behaviors, such as meeting treatment goals.
Pre-Adjudication	Defendants who are diverted into a treatment court or program prior to pleading to a charge. Defendants are not required to plead guilty and if the treatment court or program is completed, no further prosecution. Failure to complete the program, results in prosecution.
Post-Adjudication	Defendants must plead guilty to their charges but their sentences are deferred or suspended while they participate in a treatment court. Successful completion of the program results in a waived sentence and sometimes an expungement of the offense.
Pretrial Diversion	An alternative to prosecution which diverts certain offenders from traditional criminal justice processing into a program of supervision and services. Participants who successfully complete the program will not be charged or, if charged, will have the charges dismissed.
Problem-Solving Courts	Take a public health approach using a specialized model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service, and treatment communities work together to help addicted offenders into long-term recovery.
Recovery	A process of change through which people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.
Residential Placement	A mental health facility or a drug and/or alcohol treatment program that is in a residential setting.
Sanctions	Are used to decrease undesired behaviors, such as engaging in crime or drug abuse.
Screening	Used to identify possible signs or symptoms that may determine a need for an evaluation and treatment.
Specialty Court	Specialized court sessions that offer an intensive probation program for individuals with mental health and /or substance abuse disorders.
Trauma	Results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life-threatening with lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.
Treatment Court	Intervention to lead people living with substance use and mental health disorders out of the justice system and into recovery and stability.
Therapeutic Jurisprudence	A concept founded by David Wexler, a law professor from the University of Arizona (Therapeutic Jurisprudence, 2009). The concept described an integration of criminal justice law and mental health law allowing for the rendering of humanistic sentencing strategies that would allow treatment in lieu of incarceration.

Drug Court Ten Key Components

The Key Components provide the foundation for a successful Drug Court model. There are key differences between specialty courts. Each specialty court has adopted slightly modified components.

Key Component #1	Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
Key Component #2	Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
Key Component #3	Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
Key Component #4	Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
Key Component #5	Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
Key Component #6	A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
Key Component #7	Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
Key Component #8	Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
Key Component #9	Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
Key Component #10	Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

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