

NAVIGATING A DAY AT THE JUSTICE COURT

A 10-hour seminar presented by
The Texas Justice Court Judges Association
April 9-10, 2018

Speakers & Class Time Agenda

Day 1 – Monday, April 9, 2018

12:30 p.m.- 2:45 p.m.

2-hours class time with 1-15 minute break

Dr. Malinda Fasol, Asst. Professor, LeTourneau University

Exploring Attitudes, Stereotypes & Bias – 2 hrs.

In addition to teaching classes at LeTourneau, Dr. Fasol is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the state of Texas and a neurotherapist and psychotherapist at Focus for Living. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Psychology & Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Fasol works with individuals, couples, and families. She has extensive counseling experience in a variety of settings, including church-based counseling ministries, private practice, and social services organizations.

She has also served as a director of a non-profit foster care agency, and worked with foster children, foster parents, and biological parents. Additionally, she has worked as a researcher and clinician in the area of media and distorted body image. She is actively involved in promoting healthy body image in teens and adults.

Dr. Fasol will present information that will give judges, clerks and attorneys an unique perspective of people's attitudes and why there are certain stereotypes and bias. With this information, court participants will have a better understanding as to why certain defendants, and even co-workers, act in a particular way. Strategies and procedures can then be developed to provide better service to these individuals. In addition, it will be shown as to how and where technology may be used to access additional resources regarding this topic.

3:00 p.m.- 5:15p.m.

2 hour class time with 1-15 minute break

Eric Vinson, Executive Director, State Commission on Judicial Conduct

Staying Ethical in the Office – 2 hr.

Mr. Vinson is currently the Executive Director of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. He graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1997. His practice in the private sector focused on commercial and employment litigation. In 2008, he joined the Texas Attorney General's office, representing numerous state agencies and

universities in employment and constitutional matters. He has served as deputy director of the SCJC since August 2015.

Mr. Vinson will present and discuss ethical issues that may occur in the justice court. These issues will include email and Facebook messages between court participants. Included in the discussion will be procedures for court participants to follow while using technology, so the court may not run afoul of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 10, 2018

8:15 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

2-hours class time with 1-15 minute break

Judge Eric Ransleben, Associate Judge & Attorney at Law

Adjudication of Juveniles in Justice Court – 2 hr.

Eric G. Ransleben is an Associate Municipal Judge for the Town of Trophy Club and the Town of Westlake. He has also served as City Prosecutor for the City of North Richland Hills. Judge Ransleben has been in private practice since 1996, and specializes in criminal and juvenile defense, and education law. He has been representing school age children in the public school system for over 10 years, with particular interest in special education law.

Judge Ransleben will discuss current issues with juvenile defendants. Particular issues will include alcohol / tobacco offenses, traffic and non-traffic offenses. Court participants will have a better understanding as how juvenile offenses should be handled, along with creative & alternative sentencing. Class participants will also have a better understanding as to how to utilize technology to locate forms and statutes regarding adjudicating juveniles.

10:45 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

2-hours class time with 1 hr 15 minute break for lunch

Stewart Milner, Chief Municipal Judge & Attorney at Law

Traffic Deferrals & Driving Safety Courses – 2 hrs.

Stewart Milner is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and the Oklahoma City University School of Law. He began his employment with the City of Arlington in 1992 as an Assistant City Attorney and became Chief Prosecutor for the City of Arlington in 1994. From 1997 to the present, he has served as the Chief Judge for the City of Arlington Municipal Court.

Judge Milner will present instruction on Traffic Deferrals and Driving Safety Courses. Through this class, judges, clerks and attorneys will be able to determine if a defendant is eligible for a Deferred Disposition and Driving Safety Course; how a defendant is to make a request; and to have a better understanding as to the mandatory terms and conditions of each offense. In addition, class participants will be given information on how to use technology to access forms and statutes

regarding Deferrals and Driving Safety Courses, and also how to make those forms and statutes available to defendants.

02:15 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.

2-hours class time with 1-15 minute break

Megan Lavoie, Director of Public Affairs / Special Counsel, Office of Court Administration
Handling Record Request & Retention – 2 hrs.

Ms. Lavoie is currently the Director of Public Affairs and a special counsel for the Office of Court Administration. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University and St. Mary's University School of Law. She previously served as communication director and general counsel to State Senator Robert Duncan.

Ms. Lavoie will present information that will provide court participants proper procedure to request court and non-court records. Class participants will have a better understanding as what records are considered judicial records, how to access these records and what procedure must be taken if access is denied.

In addition, the Texas Record Retention Schedule will be discussed. Class participants will gain an understanding as how long certain records of justice courts must be kept. The class will also provide instructions as how technology may be utilized to gain access to certain records and how to access statutes and other resources regarding the Texas Record Retention Schedule.