

## **2018 Education & Technology Conference**

A 13-hour seminar presented by  
The Texas Justice Court Judges Association  
June 12-15, 2018

### **Speakers & Class Time Agenda**

**Day 1** – Wednesday, June 13, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
2-hours class time

#### **Thomson Reuters Westlaw**

*Understanding the Law Through Appellate Cases* – 2 hrs.

Representatives from Westlaw will present a two-hour class showing how to access case law, how to understand the ruling in a particular case and how to apply that ruling to the case at hand. Attendees will gain insight as how to use Westlaw's internet services, including how to use Boolean Terms and Connector. Attendees will also receive instruction as to determining if a ruling is still good law.

While this class may be a refresher for attorney attendees, both attorneys and judges will have a better understanding as to the terminology and procedures to use to present case law in justice courts.

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.  
2-hour class time

#### **Nelson Mock, Attorney at Law- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid**

*Update on Landlord/Tenant Issues* – 2 hrs.

J Nelson Mock serves as a staff attorney at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, which provides free civil and criminal legal services to low-income residents in southwest Texas. His work helping indigent Texans access housing benefits won him the 2011 J. Chrys Dougherty Legal Service Award from the state bar. He also is a founding chair of the State Bar Poverty Law Section and a frequent participant in legal aid clinics. Mr. Mock served on the Task Force for Rules in Small Claims Cases and Justice Court Proceedings and is a current member on the Landlord-Tenant Forms Task Force.

Mr. Mock will present a case law update on Landlord/Tenant issues. Such issues will include jurisdiction/venue, defective notice, improper service and landlord's breaches of the lease. Not only will attendees will be given updated case law and procedures but will also gain a better understanding as to how to locate these updates through the use of the internet.

Mr. Mock will also give a short overview of the Landlord-Tenant Forms Task Force and provide attendees with a preview of the upcoming changes in forms used in justice courts regarding landlord/tenant issues.

3:45 p.m.- 04:45 p.m.

1-hours class time

**Elizabeth De La Garza, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center**

Traffic Safety & the Justice Courts – 1 hrs.

Elizabeth De La Garza is currently the TxDOT Grant Administrator for Driving on the Right Side of the Road with the TMCEC. Ms. De La Garza has spent over 32 years as a public school teacher in the Round Rock Independent School District, spending most of these years at Chisholm Trail Middle School teaching music and social studies. She has her BME from Baylor University in Waco, and completed her MME at The University of Texas at Austin. Ms. De La Garza is a native of San Antonio.

Mr. De La Garza will present an overview of programs available to participants in justice courts regarding traffic safety and the reduction of accidents. With an understanding of these programs, judges, clerks and attorneys will be able to discuss alternative sentencing options for traffic offenders, especially young drivers. Attendees will be given information as to where resources may be found on the Internet.

**Day 2** – Thursday, June 14, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

2-hours class time

**Paul Mohler, Office of the Texas Attorney General**

Gangs & the Internet – 2 hrs.

Paul Mohler is currently the Training Coordinator in the Juvenile Crime Intervention (JCI) Section, Criminal Prosecutions Division, of the Texas Attorney General's Office. He is responsible for managing JCI training operations, including curriculum development, research, and presentation of a variety of training topics. Areas of specific interest include emerging drug trends, internet-based street gang activity, gang awareness and identification, and hate/extremist groups. Mr.

Mohler has been recognized for his work in crime prevention and is the author of an award-winning youth crime prevention curriculum.

Mr. Mohler has created a crime prevention curriculum for middle school use and researches evolving youth crime trends related to the Internet.

He has presented to audiences internationally, across the United States, and statewide on issues related to working with youthful offenders, gangs, hate and extremist groups, and crime victims.

Mr. Mohler will present information on gang-related issues, including the psychology of gang recruitment, the structure of the gang culture, common gang identifiers and graffiti awareness. Through his presentation, attendees will gain insight to why people join street gangs, especially juveniles, how to recognize symbols, clothing, hand signs, colors and tattoos, and what role the Internet plays in this gang culture.

Not only will judges, clerks and attorneys be able to use this information for courtroom and office security, having a better understanding of a defendant's mindset will help in achieving possible defenses and/or alternative sentencing options.

11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.

1-hour class time

**Raúl A. González, Justice of the Peace, Travis County, Pct. 4**

*What Would the Ethical Judge Do? – 1 hr. (1 hour Ethics)*

Judge Raúl Arturo González is the Justice of the Peace for Precinct Four, Travis County. He was elected to that position in November 2006. Judge González served as assistant counsel for the State Board of Educator Certification and the Texas Education Agency. He also worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the Travis County District Attorney's Office for 6 ½ years.

Judge González was born in Austin, Texas and graduated from David Crockett High School in South Austin. He attended and received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas, and later returned to the University of Texas to earn his law degree. He has been licensed to practice law in the State of Texas since 1996.

Judge González's experience as a justice of the peace and an attorney gives the Judge a unique insight to the ethical behavior expected of judges on the bench. Through true life examples of interactions between court participants (judges, clerks, attorneys & parties), attendees will be presented with examples of both ethical and unethical behavior and strategies to ensure further behavior of participants will meet the guidelines of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

1-hour class time

**Greg Magee, Justice of the Peace, San Jacinto County, Pct. 4**

*Tomatoes, Fruit Flies & Hoes in the JP Court? – 1 hr.*

Greg Magee is the Justice of the Peace for Precinct Four, San Jacinto County. Judge Magee has served his county since 1975 as a dispatcher, deputy sheriff, elected constable and is in his 5<sup>th</sup> term as justice of the peace.

Judge Magee received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement & Police Science and a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Sam Houston State University. After being elected as justice of the peace, Judge Magee attended the South Texas College of Law and received his law degree in 2003. He is a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society. Judge Magee is a member of both the College of the State Bar of Texas and the College of Justice Court Judges and is currently serving as a Director of the Texas Justice Court Judges Association.

When the phrases, “justice court” and “Class C Misdemeanors” are spoken, most people think of the Traffic Code, Penal Code and small fines. Judge Magee’s presentation will provide attendees an informative look at the other Texas Codes, containing over 1200 fine-only offenses. Attendees will be shown that not all “fine-only” offenses have low fines and that there are other consequences upon conviction. Emphasis will be placed on the need for judges, clerks and attorneys to do due diligence in researching when a unique and unfamiliar criminal charge is presented. Attendees will be shown how to use technology and the Internet to do their due diligence.

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

2-hours class time

**Hector Gomez, Office of Court Administration**

*Proactive Strategy to Courtroom Security – 2 hr.*

Mr. Gomez is the first Security Director for the Office of Court Administration. Mr. Gomez served more than 30 years with the US Marshals Service. In his position with OCA, he is available to provide training and to assist judges, law enforcement officials, and county officials in the development, coordination, and implementation of security policies and continuity of operations plans.

With the ever-increasing need for courtroom and personal security, Mr. Gomez will present an overview of strategies to be implemented to provide safety measures for courtroom participants. The “Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Courthouse Security Act of 2017” will be discussed. Judges, clerks and attorneys will have a better understanding as to why certain security procedures have been established at courthouses and how to prepare and assist court customers and clients. Mr. Gomez will also explain how technology and the Internet can be used to enhance courtroom security.

**Day 3** – Friday, June 15, 2018

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

2-hours class time

**Marty Leewright, Attorney at Law**

*Understanding Counter/Cross Claims & 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties Claims – 2 hrs.*

Marty Leewright is a family, probate, criminal, and civil lawyer who is adept in courtroom litigation and settlement negotiations and mediation. Mr. Leewright served on the Task Force for Rules in Small Claims Cases and Justice Court Proceedings.

As a trial lawyer, he has represented clients in litigation and criminal prosecution. As a court-certified mediator and arbitrator, he represents numerous clients in mediation, depositions, and litigation. He also practices collaborative law as an alternative to traditional courtroom litigation for certain cases.

Through positions of leadership, Mr. Leewright continues to distinguish himself within the legal community. He has co-chaired the Tarrant County Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution section. He is a charter member of the Tarrant County Association of Mediators and has served on its board.

Mr. Leewright is the editor of "Dispute Resolution Texas Style", the official ADR publication of the State Bar of Texas. He has published numerous legal articles and authored self-help legal booklets. He also authored an award winning legal services website.

Mr. Leewright will provide an overview of Counter Claims, Cross Claims and certain 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Claims. Attendees will have a better understanding as to when each is appropriate and how each should be handled by the court. Example of each will be presented to the class. Emphasis will be placed on Rule 502.6 of the Rules of Civil Procedure and the relationship of other rules. Attendees will be shown how and where resources may be found on the Internet.