

The image shows the Bexar County Courthouse, a grand red brick building with a prominent tower on the left and a smaller tower on the right. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate fountain with a golden statue on top. A banner hangs across the middle of the building that reads "DESIGNING AMERICA" and "OPEN OPPORTUNITIES". The text "BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE" is visible above the fountain. The overall scene is set in a courtyard with a few people sitting on a bench.

**The
Bexar County
Specialty Courts Coalition
Resource Guide
2021**

For a printed copy contact
(210) 335-0835 or
Email mstarr-salazar@bexar.org

For a digital copy, go to
<https://www.bexar.org/1833/County-Court-12>

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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, substance use or co-occurring 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. 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 detention, apprehension, 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 provide recommendations to leadership
- Develop training manual for incoming prosecutors
- Provide a resource book for the community on the various Specialty Courts

SPECIALTY COURT GUIDELINES

To identify as a specialty court in Texas, under section 121.002 of the Texas Government Code, Specialty Court programs must provide written notice of the program, any resolution or other official declaration under which the program was established, and a copy of the applicable community justice plan that incorporates duties related to probation and supervision that will be required under the program. To remain in good standing as a specialty court, programs must also comply with any required reporting, whether they are funded by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office or not. Specialty courts must also comply with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Best Practice Standards .

TREATMENT RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY COURT - A (Adult Drug Court)

Honorable Judge Tommy Stolhandske Bexar County Court At Law No. 11



Judge Tommy Stolhandske has presided in the Bexar County Court at Law No. 11 since 2014, and presides over the Bexar County TRAC-A. Under his leadership, the Court received statewide recognition on May 31, 2018 as the OUTSTANDING SPECIALTY COURT TEAM “For Effective Teamwork & Utilizing Best Practice Standards To Save Souls” 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. 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 REVIEW

The Bexar County Treatment Recovery Accountability Court A or TRAC-A was originally named the Bexar County Adult Drug Court. Established by the Honorable Judge Al Alonso, who presided in County Court at Law No.1 at the time that the Court was launched on September 1, 2001. TRAC-A is the first drug court in Bexar County and targets a hybrid of misdemeanor and addicted offenders using a multi-disciplinary team that included the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, treatment provider, and case manager. On average those that successfully complete drug court, 78% do not recidivate.

Who IS ELIGIBLE?

- 18 years of age or older
- On Probation for a DWI Subsequent Offense
- Diagnosis of Alcohol Use Disorder- Moderate or Severe
- Resides in Bexar County
- High Risk/High Need offender

Who is NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Current or Pending Violent Offense
- Current or Pending Felony Charge
- Out of County Residence
- Participating in another problem- solving court

What does the TRAC-A court have to offer?

Trained probation officers equipped with the latest evidence-based practices to better supervise addicted offenders.

Assigned to a Case Manager to focus on addressing the ancillary needs of each participant.

Low program fee in lieu of Fines, Court Costs and Probation fees, which are waived upon successful completion.

Incentives awarded to the participants for progress made.

Therapeutic Court Mentors, past graduates themselves provide much needed support to the current participants.

For additional information contact Court Manager Roberto Ruiz at roberto.ruiz@bexar.org or (210) 335-2637

TREATMENT RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY COURT - D

(DWI Court)

Honorable Judge Helen Petry Stowe Bexar County Court At Law No. 1



The Honorable Judge Helen Petry Stowe presides over Bexar County Court at Law No. 1. Judge Stowe is a proud native San Antonian who received her Bachelor of Arts in English from UTSA in 1999. During college, she was a young single mom working her way through school. After college, Judge Stowe taught English at S.J. Davis Middle School in the San Antonio Independent School District before attending St. Mary's University School of Law and graduating in 2007.

In February 2008, Judge Stowe joined the Bexar County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney, where she sought justice for the citizens of Bexar County. Judge Stowe served as a prosecutor until 2018, when she was appointed and later elected to be a Bexar County Judge.

Judge Stowe has spent her career serving Bexar County, and now also serves as the presiding judge of the Treatment Recovery Accountability Court D (TRAC-D), formerly referred to as the DWI Court. Judge Stowe loves being married to Jerome Stowe, also a native San Antonian, and is mom to two incredible daughters here on Earth and a wonderful son in Heaven.



Therapeutic Court Mentors

Mission Statement

Our mission is to mentor the therapeutic court participants through positive contacts to successfully comply with court-ordered requirements and live sober, healthy, happy and productive lives. Mentors maintain the standard by sharing personal experiences, and involvement in participants' recovery. Mentors give hope to participants derived from individual differences and diverse backgrounds rich with unique talents and perspectives.

Explanation of the TCM Logo

The makeup of Therapeutic Court Mentors logo includes the medical serpents along with the scales of justice, merging both worlds into what we term as Therapeutic Justice; the Lone star represents our Texas community supported by the olive leaves underneath as a symbol of victory over addiction. The three human figures embraced is a reminder that it takes a community to overcome this disease and indicates that drug addiction does not only affect the individual but it is a family and community affair. Moreover, these figures appear to be in a Rise Up motion, above the Lone Star and the olive branches, indicating victory, survival, and liberation from the chains of addiction.

TREATMENT RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY COURT - D

(DWI Court)

Honorable Judge Helen Petry Stowe Bexar County Court At Law No. 1

COURT REVIEW

The Bexar County Treatment Recovery Accountability Court D or TRAC-D was originally named the Bexar County DWI Court. Established by the Honorable Judge Liza A. Rodriguez, who presided in County Court at Law No.8 at the time that the Court launched its first docket on May 3, 2013. TRAC-D was the first stand-alone DWI Court in Bexar County targeting subsequent DWI offenders.

The Mission of the Bexar County TRAC-D 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?

18 years of age or older
On Probation for a DWI Subsequent Offense
Diagnosis of Alcohol Use Disorder- Moderate or Severe
Resides in Bexar County
High Risk/High Need offender

Who is NOT ELIGIBLE?

Current or Pending Violent Offense
Current or Pending Felony Charge
Out of County Residence
Participating in another problem- solving court

What does the TRAC-D court have to offer?

TRAC-D takes 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.

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

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

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

Incentives available as participant progresses.

Judge meets with the participant every other week and knows the unique circumstances of each participant.

Therapeutic Court Mentors, past graduates themselves, mentor the current program participants and provide much needed support.

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.

For additional information contact Court Manager Roberto Ruiz at roberto.ruiz@bexar.org or (210) 335-2637

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Honorable Judge Yolanda T. Huff Bexar County Court Of Law No. 12



Judge Yolanda Huff who now presides over County Court of Law No. 12 and the Mental Health Court in San Antonio, Texas, obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her JD from St. Mary's Law School. Before running for judge in 2018, Judge Huff was a solo practitioner in Bexar County for 22 years. In her 22 years of practice, Judge Huff handled criminal, Child Protective Services (CPS) and personal injury cases.

Judge Huff is a mother of three and donates 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 was member of CCAA (Children's Court Ad Litem Association) and she served twice as president for the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association. Judge Huff served 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 a staff attorney for the Felony Drug Court for two years.

This much needed treatment court works with defendants who have substance abuse issues. Judge Huff has been asked to serve on the board of the nonprofit "Driving Single Parents." This nonprofit gives car to needy and deserving single parents. Judge Huff has been a member of NAACP for the past three years and was recognized as an "Outstanding Woman" by the NAACP in 2019. Judge Huff also serves on the Bexar County Domestic Violence Committee and the Bexar County 16.22 Progress Committee.

One of Judge Huff's greatest accomplishments since taking the bench on January 1, 2019, has been the founding of the Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition. Judge Huff chairs the coalition in which the goal is to educate the community about Specialty Courts. In 2020, Judge Huff was awarded the Bexar County "Pioneer Award" by the Bexar County Small Business & Entrepreneur Department (SBED). Most recently in 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals invited Judge Huff to serve on the Judicial Commission on Mental Health.

In her spare time she enjoys reading, spending time with family, hiking the state and national parks and running marathons.



#Eliminating the stigma breaking the silence

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Honorable Judge Yolanda T. Huff
Bexar County Court Of Law No. 12

COURT OVERVIEW

Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a non-adversarial specialty court, specialized in working with participants 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 MHC staff identify participants to offer access to mental health treatment and community resources, as an alternative to incarceration. The participant receives medication management, intensive case management and supervision by the court and adult probation.

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. With the attorney’s permission, the participant is scheduled for a screening. Upon verification of diagnosis, the case is staffed with the court team. If accepted, case will be transferred to county court #12 and placed on the docket to enter a plea. The MHC is a five-phase treatment program. The participant attends ongoing court review hearings with the Judge and the court team to monitor program compliance. MHC is held every Monday afternoon in county court #12.

Program length: 12 months

Who can refer: courts, prosecutors, attorneys, jail, pretrial, providers, community

- Eligibility criteria:**
- ◆ Bexar County Resident
 - ◆ Mental Health Diagnosis
 - ◆ 17 Years or Older
 - ◆ Misdemeanor Offenses
 - ◆ Must plea guilty or “no contest”
 - ◆ High Risk/High Need Offender

Mental Health Pretrial Diversion

Mental Health Pretrial Diversion (MHPTD) is a 12 month pretrial diversion program. The Attorney must submit an application. The participant is scheduled for a screening. Upon verification of the diagnosis, the case is forwarded to the District Attorney’s Office for approval. If approved, the case will be transferred to county court #12 and set for hearing to sign the participant agreement. MHPTD is a five-phase treatment program. The participant 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 graduate and have their case dismissed.

Program length: 12 months

Who can refer: courts, prosecutors, attorneys, jail, pretrial, providers, community

- Eligibility criteria:**
- ◆ Bexar County Resident
 - ◆ Mental Health Diagnosis
 - ◆ 17 Years or Older
 - ◆ Misdemeanor Offenses
 - ◆ High Risk/High Need Offender
 - ◆ DA Approves Cases

For additional information contact Court Manager Michelle Starr-Salazar at mstarr-salazar@bexar.org or (210) 335-0835

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Wayne Christian COL, US Army, Retired Bexar County Court Of Law No. 6



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 and the Warrior Defense Project at St. Mary's University School of Law.



VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

**Honorable Judge Wayne Christian
COL, US Army, Retired
Bexar County Court Of Law No. 6**

COURT OVERVIEW

With the passage of SB 1940, The Bexar County Commissioner's 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, 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 accomplished by providing the veteran with 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 will be provided by local non-profit providers for active-duty service members and Veterans who do not qualify for VA Healthcare.

**For additional information contact VTC Director Joshua Childers at
joshua.childers@bexar.org or (210) 335-2639**

REFLEJO COURT
(The Domestic Violence Court)

Honorable Judge Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez
Bexar County Court At Law No. 13



The Honorable Judge Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez presides over Bexar County Court at Law No. 13. 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 No. 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.



REFLEJO COURT
(The Domestic Violence Court)

Honorable Judge Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez
Bexar County Court At Law No. 13

COURT REVIEW

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 Domestic Violence Specialty Court within County Court at Law No. 13. The court, known as Reflejo court, launched its first docket on July 31, 2020. Reflejo Court is a court of first impression, targeting first time offenders of domestic violence who struggle with substance abuse.

The mission of the Bexar County Reflejo Court is to provide a holistic approach to treatment in order to (1) reduce the risk of aggressive behaviors and establish more effective coping skills in relationships, (2) promote strategies for maintaining sobriety, and (3) increase participant accountability through therapeutic judicial management, intensive supervision, education, and collaborative treatment. The goal of the court is to decrease recidivism by recognizing the absolute value of every human person and expressing compassion toward the most vulnerable in the justice system, while encouraging accountability and responsibility.

Who IS ELIGIBLE?

- Resides in Bexar county
- Case filed as misdemeanor family assault
- Pre-adjudication Only
- No active or pending felonies
- Moderate or Severe Substance Abuse Disorder
- Moderate & High Risk Offender

Who is NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Resides outside of Bexar county
- Cases NOT filed as misdemeanor family assault
- Sentenced to probation
- Active or pending felonies
- Mild Substance Abuse Disorder
- Low Risk Offender

What does Reflejo Court have to offer?

Reflejo court takes a public health approach utilizing a multidisciplinary model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, community supervision, law enforcement, mental health, social services, and treatment communities work together to provide offenders with the necessary tools to build healthy relationships and maintain sobriety.

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

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

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

Incentives available as participant progresses.

Judge meets with the participant every other week and knows the unique circumstances of each participant.

Domestic violence cases continue to rise in Bexar County and are overwhelming our courts. Reflejo court combines treatment and strict supervision, offering offenders the opportunity to address the core issues that triggered these incidents of violence and hope for a better life.

For more information contact Case Manager Jacqueline Aguirre at
Jacqueline.Aguirre@bexar.org or (210) 291-3179

ESPERANZA COURT

Honorable Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl 175th Criminal District Court



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 has the privilege of being an adjunct faculty member of her alma mater, St. Mary's University School of Law, teaching a Trial Advocacy course. She is the former Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and a former adjunct professor at the University of Texas in San Antonio for the Criminal Justice Department. She has spent the majority of her 27 year law career in the criminal justice arena, and 19 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 ThriveWell Cancer Foundation. Ms. 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, St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni board, City of San Antonio Municipal Court Advisory Committee, 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, Pan American League member 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 21 and 24.

ESPERANZA COURT

Honorable Judge Jennifer Pena 290th Criminal District Court



Jennifer Peña is currently the Judge of the 290th District Court. This court handles all felony matters. In addition to presiding over the 290th District Court, Judge Peña assists with presiding over the Esperanza Court, a specialty court that focuses on individuals struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

Judge Peña graduated from the University Of Texas in Austin in 1998 and St Mary's Law School in 2001. Soon after Judge Peña began teaching at La Universidad de Guayaquil in Ecuador. In 2002, Judge Peña started her legal career in Cameron County as an Assistant District Attorney. She moved back to San Antonio and continued to serve as an Assistant District Attorney with Bexar County. In 2009, Judge Peña opened her own law practice. Her focus was on criminal cases in State and Federal Courts where she worked with both juvenile and adult offenders. In addition to her criminal practice, she represented parents and served as ad litem to children in Children's Court.

Judge Peña was introduced to Specialty Courts in 2010 serving as a defense attorney for the misdemeanor DWI Court. After seeing the positive impact these specialty courts had on the lives of the participants she joined Judge Roman's Esperanza Court and Judge Glenn's Felony Drug Court as the defense attorney assigned to help participants with any legal issue they may encounter and overall encouragement to stay in the program. In 2018, she was elected to serve as Judge for the 290th District Court. Over the past year, Judge Torres-Stahl has encouraged Judge Peña to resume her work with Esperanza Court, which she has been doing so since then.

Judge Peña is married and has two children.

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.

**For more information contact Case Manager Rachel Estrada at
Rachel.Estrada@bexar.org or (210) 335-0572**

FELONY DRUG COURT

Honorable 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 42 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 countless 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 each Individual. A TRAS is administered by Probation upon entry into the program.

FELONY DRUG COURT

Honorable Judge Ernie L. Glenn

COURT OVERVIEW

Multi-disciplinary Team:

All parties are involved in the court proceedings and decisions, including the judge, prosecutor, defense attorneys, probation officers, counselors, case managers, and mental health services managers.

Length of Participation: Minimum of 52 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, including family violence, on a case by case basis; sex offenders are exclude
- ◇ Active gang affiliation is a disqualification --- will review past affiliation 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.

**For more information contact Court Manager Diana Zamarron at
dzamarron@bexar.org or (210) 335-3063**

FELONY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Jefferson Moore 186th Criminal District Court



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.

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.

FELONY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Jefferson Moore 186th Criminal District Court

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) 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.

Felony Veterans Treatment Court 437th and 186th District Courts Referral Quick Reference Guide

FVTC Referral packets must include:

- Signed referral from the originating court
- Defendants full name, case and SID #
- Good contact phone # and email for the defendant (CSO's name if on probation)
- Defense attorneys name, contact phone # and email if pending MTR or disposition
- Last four of the social security #

Defendants must be a veteran of the United States Military or National Guard

**** (Active duty assessed on a case by case basis) ****

Must be on bond

Must be able to provide DD214

Must be a legal us resident/citizen living in Bexar or surrounding counties

Must be willing to attend a VA mental health assessment

Defendants must have an eligible felony offense either already granted or pending disposition.

Non-eligible cases (past and current) include:

Sex offenses to include Child Pornography

42a.054 (3g) cases

Defendants with cases to be reviewed on a case by case basis include:

- Intoxication assault
- Fraud
- Injury to Child/Elderly
- Burglary-Force

FVTC packets need to be emailed to John Herman (JohnPHerman@Bexar.org) and Carolyn Alvarado (Carolyn.Alvarado@Bexar.org)

**Please note FVTC evaluations may take up to 4-6 weeks to be completed so resets for court dates need to be set accordingly.
Judicial questions or concerns may be addressed via email to either FVTC staff members.**

For more information contact

**Felony Veterans Treatment Court Program Coordinator John Herman at JohnPHerman@Bexar.org or (210) 753-4368
Felony Veterans Treatment Court Case Manager Carolyn Alvarado at Carolyn.Alvarado@Bexar.org or (210) 606-5319**

BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY DRUG COURT

Honorable Judge Peter Sakai 225th District Court



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 had graduates and 893 children reunified. (As of October 1, 2020—FDC will have 417 graduates and 934 children reunified).

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 210-335-0727

Basil Franks 210-335-3389

Vanessa Knight 210-335-2835

Tomas Reyes 210-335-0463

BEXAR COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT

Honorable Judge Peter Sakai 225th District Court

COURT OVERVIEW

The **Bexar County Early Childhood Court** (ECC) was established in 2015 under the guidance of Judge Peter Sakai, 225th Judicial District Court.

The mission of the Bexar County Early Childhood Court is to establish a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated systems approach to help families with children ages 0-5. This intensive court model is designed to work intimately and early in the life of a child to develop mental and physical health and well-being that maintain the parent-child bond. The program provides these unique services via community partners specializing in therapeutic models just for infant and toddlers. These families volunteer to work with our court team and specialized providers to help nurture the paternal role that infants need to thrive. Research has shown us that bonding and attachment are paramount in infant and children under the age of three. Additionally, we prepare the family for early education and introduce them to the Pre-K for SA school system.

Court Team:

Lorena Medellin, Early Childhood Court Manager
210-335-3026

Caroline Briones, Early Childhood Court Monitor
210-335-0723

Amanda Garcia, Early Childhood Court Monitor
210-335-1407

Macy Clark, Early Childhood Court Monitor
210-335-2830

**For more information contact
Children's Court Division & Programs Administrator Barbara J Schafer at
bschafer@bexar.org or (210) 335-2959**

FELONY MENTAL HEALTH PRETRIAL DIVERSION

Honorable Judge Ron Rangel 379th District Court



Judge Ron Rangel has served as the judge of the 379th Criminal District Court since his election in 2008. This court handles serious criminal felony cases that range from state jail felonies to capital murders. Judge Rangel earned a Bachelor's degree in History in 1991 and a law degree in 1996, both from St. Mary's University. He has worked as a caseworker for Child Protective Services, as a felony prosecutor, and as a criminal defense attorney.

During Judge Rangel's service on the bench, he has presided over numerous high profile jury trials, including the first two child victim human trafficking cases and the first adult continuing human trafficking jury trial in Bexar County. Judge Rangel has earned a reputation for exceptional community service projects. He is an active speaker at various seminars and colleges, including working in his 8th year as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He has received numerous awards, such as the "2013 Man of the Year" by the Observer Newspaper group, numerous "Judge of the Year" awards from numerous organizations and other various community service awards. He is in his 6th year of service as an Administrative Judge, currently as the Local Administrative Judge. He is the spokesperson and representative for all 27 Bexar County district courts and has been responsible for courthouse operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Judge Rangel has pushed through many criminal justice reform measures, including creating and now presiding over Felony Mental Health Pretrial Diversion and has since worked closely with local providers to assist the needs of citizens caught in the criminal justice system.

COURT OVERVIEW

Multidisciplinary team approach that includes the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, court case managers, pretrial services and treatment providers. An alternative to the traditional court system emphasizing a problem-solving model. Connecting participants to treatment, rehabilitative services and supports. Regular status hearings with judicial monitoring and review of the community-based treatment plan and court ordered conditions. Incentives are offered to reward adherence to treatment plan and conditions. Sanctions are imposed when participants do not adhere to treatment plan and conditions. The court promotes a participants mental health stability and sobriety to enable them to become productive, law-abiding members of the community.

- Eligibility:**
- ◆ 17 years or older
 - ◆ Bexar County resident
 - ◆ Mental health diagnosis
 - ◆ Must be willing to comply with treatment
 - ◆ Felony offense
 - ◆ High risk, high needs

Program duration: 12-18 months

Who can refer: Courts, Attorneys, Prosecutors, Pretrial Services, Community

- Program benefits:**
- ◆ Mental health treatment and medications
 - ◆ Case management services
 - ◆ Community referrals and supports
 - ◆ Substance abuse treatment
 - ◆ Transportation assistance
 - ◆ Case dismissed upon successful completion

**For additional information contact Court Manager Michelle Starr-Salazar at
mstarr-salazar@bexar.org or (210) 335-0835**

JUVENILE PRE-ADJUDICATION DRUG COURT AND SPECIALTY DOCKETS

Honorable Judge Lisa Jarrett 436th Juvenile District Court



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.

Honorable Judge Carlos Quezada 289th Juvenile District Court



Judge Carlos Quezada was elected to the 289th District 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.

**For more information contact
Deputy Chief Mental Health Services Division Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz at
jvonstultz@bexar.org or (210) 335-7515**

JUVENILE POST-ADJUDICATION DRUG COURT JUVENILE PRE-ADJUDICATION DRUG COURT AND SPECIALTY DOCKETS

Honorable Judge Jacqueline Herr Valdes 386th Juvenile District Court



Judge Valdes was sworn in as Judge of the 386th District Court on January 1, 2021. She presides over a general jurisdiction trial court with a preference for juvenile matters. In addition to conducting her regular docket and detention hearings, Judge Valdes also presides over several juvenile specialty courts and dockets, as she believes that juveniles have the best chance to succeed when they are provided with specialized services and programs to address their specific needs. Her specialty courts consist of the Juvenile Post-Adjudication Drug Court and Pre-Adjudication Drug Court. Her specialty dockets include Crossroads Specialty Docket, designed to address the mental health needs of young females, and STRIVE Specialty Docket, geared toward youth between 16-17 years of age who have had difficulties in meeting educational and employment goals. Judge Valdes will be adding an additional “Re-entry” specialty docket in the coming months. This new docket will focus on children who are coming back into the community after completing a residential treatment program. Each of these Specialty Courts and Dockets provide a collaborative team approach to children referred to the Juvenile Justice System who have underlying issues that would benefit from specialized services, supervision, and treatment.

Judge Valdes was born and raised in San Antonio. She obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics from Trinity University and a Juris Doctorate Degree from St. Mary’s Law School. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Valdes dedicated over 10 years of her career in the practice of juvenile law at the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office. Judge Valdes is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Juvenile Law.

**For more information contact
Deputy Chief Mental Health Services Division Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz at
jvonstultz@bexar.org or (210) 335-7515**

COURT PROGRAMS

In addition to specialty courts, Bexar County has specialized court programs. The specialized court programs represent a non-traditional approach to helping youth and parents. Addressing the effects of substance abuse, trauma and co-occurring mental health disorders through evidence-based treatment, case management and court supervision. Youth and parents are empowered to lead sober, healthy, and responsible lives. Breaking the cycle of substance use and criminal justice involvement. Reunifying and stabilizing families.

Family Court:

Judge David A. Canales	EAGLES Court
All 14 District Court Judges	Family Violence Prevention Program
Judge Rosie Alvarado	PEARLS Court
Judge Angelica Jimenez	PEARLS Court

Juvenile Court:

Judge Lisa Jarrett	Crossover Court
	Family Enrichment Court
	Juvenile Re-entry Court
	RESTORE Court
Judge Carlos Quezada	JUNTOS Court
	Juvenile Re-entry Court
	MIND Court
Judge Jacqueline Herr Valdes	Crossroads Court
	Juvenile Re-entry Court
	STRIVE Court

EAGLES COURT

Honorable Judge David A. Canales 73rd Civil District Court



Judge David A. Canales presides over the 73rd Judicial District Court in Bexar County, Texas. He was first elected in 2012 to serve a 4-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Judge Canales sought re-election, unopposed in the primary and general elections, in 2016 and 2020. His third term began on January 1, 2021. He earned his J.D. from Texas Southern University in 2006, summa cum laude, graduating as class valedictorian. He began his legal career as an associate attorney at Sidley Austin in Chicago, Illinois, before moving to San Antonio, Texas, and opening a solo law practice focused on civil, personal injury, and family law matters. As a state district judge, Judge Canales presides over a court of unlimited general jurisdiction that gives preference to civil and family law matters.

Judge Canales chairs and serves on numerous committees, including co-chairing the San Antonio Legal Services Association in Bexar County, formerly known as the Community Justice Program (CJP), a local organization whose vision is to ensure that everyone in the San Antonio community has equal access to justice regardless of their ability to pay for legal services. He is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars.

Judge Canales is married to Cecilia, his wife of 25 years. They are parents of 3 boys, Samuel, Elias, and Benjamin.

COURT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2020, Judge Canales helped found and he currently presides over E.A.G.L.E.S. Court (Esteem, Achievement, Grit, Learning & Leadership, Empowerment, and Strength), a therapeutic restorative foster care court in Bexar County. The vision of EAGLES Court is to invest in teen boys between the ages of 14 to 18 placed in foster care, helping them value their whole selves and their inherent strengths. The Court provides therapeutic care, case management, life skills training, programming, and mentoring to our teen boys.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) vision is founded on the belief that every person and child has the right to be safe, empowered, and free from violence and the fear of violence. Central to this belief, FVPP seeks to eliminate domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, human trafficking and possession of firearms. Additionally, FVPP aims to reduce related social problems, such as child abuse, substance abuse, sexism, racism, and other forms of oppression.

The FVPP program serves all 14 District Court Judges.

**For more information contact
Children's Court Division & Programs Administrator Barbara J Schafer at
bschafer@bexar.org or (210) 335-2959**

PEARLS COURT

Honorable Judge Rosie Alvarado 438th Civil District Court



Elected in 2017, Judge Rosie Alvarado serves the citizens of Bexar County, Texas in the 438th District Court hearing a wide assortment of civil matters. In addition to her duties as a district court Judge, Judge Alvarado presides over a restorative care court, called PEARLS Court. The mission of PEARLS Court is to invest in female girls ages 14 to 18 who have been placed in foster care. PEARLS Court supplies therapeutic care, case management, life skills training, programming, and mentoring.

Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court, Judge Alvarado serves as a Commissioner on the Texas Children's Commission. She also serves on the Bexar County Juvenile Court Board, and is the Chair of the Bexar County Children's Court Oversight committee within the Bexar County district courts administration. Judge Alvarado was licensed to practice law in 2002 and during the course of her practice focused on personal injury, family law and federal civil trial law. She earned her BA in

biology from St. Mary's University and her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law, in San Antonio. She is licensed to practice law in all Texas courts, and in the United States District Court for the Western and Southern districts of Texas.

Judge Alvarado has received recognition and awards, including the La Prensa Foundation Salute to Outstanding Women in Action and the Northside Education Foundation Pillar of Character Award. When not serving the citizens of Bexar County, she is an engaged and proud mother of two teens. Her hobbies include cycling and fitness, gardening, writing, and adventuring (skiing, white water rafting, hiking, camping, and scuba diving).

Honorable Judge Angélica Jiménez 408th Civil District Court



Judge Angélica Jiménez is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Spanish Literature and received her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law. Prior to her election Judge Jiménez practiced primarily family law and some civil litigation. She was elected to serve Bexar County as Judge of the 408th Civil District Court in 2016. On January 1, 2019 she and Judge Rosie Alvarado became the presiding judges of the PEARLS Court. A program within the Restorative Foster Care Courts of Bexar County that assist youth within the Foster Care System between the ages 14-18 who are about to age out of the System. Judge Jiménez has taken this on in addition to her regular duties as Civil District Court Judge. This program was started by Judge Renee Yanta in 2015 and continues to help youth in foster care in and around the Bexar County area. Restorative Foster Care Courts provide case management and oversight by the Court, trauma informed therapeutic care, mentoring and life-skills training.

Judge Jiménez currently volunteers in various programs in the legal community and serves on the Hispanic Law Alumni Board for St. Mary's University School of Law, the Law Alumni Board for St. Mary's University School of Law, and the Bexar County Juvenile Board.

COURT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our vision is to serve adolescent youth in foster care in Bexar County with successful experiences that build their confidence and resiliency. The PEARLS (Preparation, Esteem, Achievement, Resiliency, Learning, Strength & Stamina) Court and EAGLES (Esteem, Achievement, Grit, Learning & Leadership, Empowerment, and Strength) sharing accountability with government and private organizations work to ensure these youth can successfully participate in and feel that they belong in our community.

These two courts provide foster care teen youth with resiliency, esteem-building, and life-skill training, by enhancing this curriculum by introducing the teens youth to new experiences with positive and inspirational role models. The youth can explore education, recreation, along with meeting healthy and inspirational men and women and toll in a variety of jobs and roles, as part of the process of directing the youth to focus on their strengths and meet new goals.

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.





THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE FOUNDATION

The Therapeutic Justice Foundation (TJF) is the result of Judge Al Alonso’s innovative judicial vision and his collaboration with a group of dedicated community leaders. Founded in 2010, the Foundation’s continued support has proven a valuable resource for Therapeutic Court participants. All proceeds from contributions and fundraising events go directly towards benefiting the participants of the Bexar County Therapeutic Courts.

Mission Statement: To provide financial support toward the success of the participants of the Bexar County Therapeutic Courts through treatment, education, training and public awareness.

As of July 2020, the Therapeutic Justice Foundation had spent approximately a quarter of a million dollars in assisting participants with much needed services

- ◆ Annual Commencement
- ◆ Emergency Food Pantry
- ◆ Transitional Housing
- ◆ Monitoring Devices
- ◆ Treatment Resources
- ◆ Annual Training Conference
- ◆ Pro-Social Activities
- ◆ Therapeutic Court Mentors
- ◆ Bus Passes/Tickets
- ◆ Food Gift Cards
- ◆ Urinalysis Vouchers
- ◆ College Scholarships
- ◆ Holiday Food Baskets
- ◆ Family Recreational Gift Cards
- ◆ Research Studies
- ◆ Court Parking Vouchers
- ◆ Incentives



Judge Al Alonso graduated from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Science and received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from St. Mary’s School of Law. As part of his Master of Judicial Studies, he authored **Best Practices in Drug Courts**, a thesis approved by the National Judicial College. Elected as Administrative Judge in 2010, he represented 15 Bexar County Courts at Law. He has been board certified in criminal law since 1975 by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and has over 50 years experience in the criminal justice system with 16 years spent in the judiciary.

It was in 2001 that Judge Alonso established the first Bexar County Adult Drug Court, paving the way for the 14 Specialty Courts now in existence. In 2007, Judge Alonso was President of the Texas Association of Drug Court Professionals representing over 100 Texas Drug Courts.

Selected in 2009 as one of two representatives from the state of Texas, he served in the Congress of drug court professionals for the National Drug Court Institute. In addition to his leadership of the Therapeutic Justice Foundation, he is currently a practicing private attorney.

Donations Appreciated!

Mailing Address: Therapeutic Justice Foundation - 104 Babcock Rd, Suite 107 - San Antonio, Texas 78201

www.therapeuticjusticefoundation.org

210-225-7114

DEFINITIONS

10-Key Components	The core framework for most types of problem-solving court programs.
Assessment	A way of diagnosing and determining treatment.
Best Practices	Are the foundation which all specialty courts should operate. https://www.nadcp.org/standards/adult-drug-court-best-practice-standards/
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	Are practices that have a definable outcome; are measureable; and are defined according to practical realities, such as recidivism.
Incentives	Are used to reinforce positive behaviors, such as meeting treatment goals.
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.
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.
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.

THE 10 KEY COMPONENTS OF SPECIALTY COURTS

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals' (NADCP) Standards Committee developed a manual on specialty courts which sets forth ten key elements of a successful specialty court.

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

