

The TASC Connection



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TASC 2020 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

The Conference Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the 2020 Awards Committee. Duties include reviewing all submitted award applications and being available for a teleconference with other committee members prior to February 15, 2020 to discuss and vote on the award recipients.

Stipends were awarded on November 22nd. Stipend registrations are open until January 31. Early registration is open until March 1st. Late fee of \$15 will be added to registration costs after March 1st. Below is the link for the conference and registration.

<http://www.tasctx.org/conference.html>

<http://www.cmitonline.org/tasc/stipend/register.html>



STIPEND INFO REMINDER:

The stipend provides up to \$1,000.00 in funding, which will be used to pay for the conference registration fee, and can also be used to reimburse expenses for airfare or mileage (not both), parking, lodging and per diem. Please be advised CMIT requires itemized meals receipts for reimbursement. If you have already registered for the conference and submitted payment, you **will not be reimbursed**. It is your responsibility to ensure that the awarded stipend funds are maximized and used to its fullest.

Merry Christmas



2020 Women in Criminal Justice Conference

The 2020 Women in Criminal Justice Conference is scheduled for March 23-26th in San Marcos. Topics include a range of professional development and self-care issues. All women working in the criminal justice field are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit *Correctional Management Institute of Texas* website.

Special Recognition



Mission:

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) builds and strengthens Texas specialty courts through collaboration, advocacy and education.

The Honorable 430th District Court Judge Israel Ramon, Jr., held the 26th Hidalgo County Veterans Treatment Court Graduation Ceremony on December 4, 2019. A total of seven graduates were presented with graduation certificates and military coins. The McAllen High School ROTC conducted the Presentation of Colors, and a BBQ meal for all attendees and program participants ensued after the ceremony. The Veterans Treatment Court panel members were also recognized for providing much-needed services for all program participants. The robust Veterans Court panel includes members from different community organizations to include: The McAllen Veterans Center, Veterans Administration, Family Endeavors Supportive Services for Veterans Families, Veterans Court Mentor Program, Texas Rio Grande Valley Legal Aid, Inc. - Veterans Advocacy Project, Hidalgo County Adult Probation, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health -Peer to Peer Program, Hidalgo County Veteran Service, Hidalgo County Public Defender's office, Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office, and the UTRGV Veteran's Service Center. The BBQ meal, along with cake and refreshments, was sponsored by the Hidalgo County Community Corrections Improvement Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports community correction agencies in their efforts to promote the utilization of evidence-based practices in the supervision and treatment of offenders.



The Honorable Jaime Jay Palacios, Hidalgo County Court at Law Two, held a Holiday Breakfast for the Hidalgo County Misdemeanor DWI Court Program participants and DWI Court panel members at Luby's Cafeteria in Edinburg, Texas on Monday, December 9, 2019. A total of 33 participants attended the breakfast. During the breakfast, Judge Palacios congratulated eight participants for advancing to phase three of the program, and two cognitive self-change certificates were also awarded. Four lucky attendees walked away with raffled holiday baskets filled with goodies and gift cards. A local non-profit organization sponsored the Holiday Breakfast. Representatives from the adult probation department, the court, treatment providers, and the public defender's office also attended the ceremony.



Special Recognition



DWI Drug Treatment and Intervention Program
15th Year Anniversary
November 15th, 2019

The Mountain Star Rehabilitation Program(MSRFP) was established in 2014 as a non-profit 501(c) (3) for the purpose of providing financial support to programs which further the success of participants in El Paso County’s DWI Intervention and Treatment Program. This program has twice been designated as one of four DWI Model Academy Courts nationwide. The first of its kind in the state of Texas, the focus is not only on participants, but extends to include Family Intervention and Treatment and collaboration with agencies from throughout the community that support lifelong recovery In celebration of the 15th year of the DWI Treatment Program, the MSRFP will held a fundraiser banquet.



In the News: *San Antonio judge launches Specialty Courts Coalition to bring awareness to therapy, counseling programs*

“Flanked by judicial colleagues and other criminal justice stakeholders, County Court-at-Law Judge Yolanda Huff officially launched the Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition on Wednesday.

The newly formed group consists of the judges who oversee the 14 specialty courts in the county and the staff members that assist them with the intense therapy and counseling required to participate.

Specialty courts and dockets focus on specific types of offenses or offenders, Huff said at the gathering held in the Double Height Courtroom of the historic Bexar County Courthouse.

Huff said the coalition’s mission is to build collaboration among the courts to identify gaps, advocate for resources and provide training.

County Judge Nelson Wolff told the crowd that what began in 2001 with Judge Al Alonso’s Drug Court has now grown into more than a dozen specialty courts and dockets that are “doing tremendously hard work, God’s work,” in Bexar County.” (article written by Elizabeth Zavala on 11/06/19)



TASC...Get to Know the Board Members

Captain Lori Compton has been employed with the Kaufman County Sheriff's Office in Kaufman, Texas since January 2003 and has been in law enforcement for 20+ years. She has held numerous positions during her law enforcement career including: Transport Deputy, TCOLE Instructor, Detention Lieutenant, Detention Officer, and Correctional Officer. She currently holds the position of Detention Captain/Assistant Jail Administrator at the Kaufman County Law Enforcement Center supervising 124 employees and 450+ inmates.

Captain Compton began her Criminal Justice career at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Institutional Division as a Correctional Officer. After moving into her career within a county Sheriff's Office, she obtained her Peace Officer's License and Jailer's License. In 2010, Captain Compton was asked to serve as the Law Enforcement Liaison for the 422nd Drug & Mental Health Diversion Court under Judge B. Michael Chitty. Upon seeing how defendants were transformed and how their lives trajectory changed through treatment and counseling she soon became an advocate for Specialty Courts. In 2017, Judge John Roach created a five county Regional Veteran's Court that would serve the needs of those Veteran's in rural counties that found themselves involved in the legal system. When asked to serve as one of the Law Enforcement Liaisons for the North Texas Regional Veteran's Court, Captain Compton was excited to accept the position and become a team member. In 2018, she was nominated to the TASC Board of Director's and happily serves as the At Large Place #2 Director.

*Captain Lori Compton
At Large #2 Director*



**Texas Association of
Specialty Courts**
*Attention: Amber Gregory
George J. Beto Criminal
Justice Center
Sam Houston State
University
Huntsville, Texas 77341-
2296*

Email: agregory@shsu.edu
Phone: (936)294-3916



Increase in Access to MAT in Rural Communities

A new study shows that the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) has led to a 111 percent increase in the availability of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in rural communities. CARA allows nurse practitioners and physician assistants to obtain waivers to prescribe MAT for opioid use disorder. The study indicates that since the enactment of CARA in 2016 the number clinicians with waivers per 100,000 population has increased 111 percent. This significant increase holds promise for improving access to MAT, particularly in rural communities with few physicians.

We're on the Web!
<http://www.tasctx.org>
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Facebook!**