

Texas Association of Specialty Courts

www.tasctx.org

Mission:

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

The TASC Connection



NADCP RISE23 Conference

Houston Convention Center

June 26-29, 2023

TASC awarded 125 stipends to specialty courts across the state. Due to increased registration fee, the stipend was increased to \$1,980. *Registration for each stipend is due April 1st.* If you have already registered for the conference, but are now using a stipend please notify Amber Gregory at agregory@shsu.edu.

For all stipend information (including hotel information) please see the below link:

<http://www.txspecialtycourts.org/training-grant.html>

Please note, instead of an in-person meeting at the conference this year, TASC will be hosting its annual meeting via zoom on April 19, 2023. TASC will be conducting its annual business meeting, announcing awards to the 2023 winners, and welcoming the new TASC slate during the zoom. Additional information will be provided to TASC closer to the event.



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Texas Association of Specialty
Courts

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Funding Concerns for Your Specialty Court? Ask your Auditor about Dedicated Funds!

Your TASC Board regularly receives inquiries from both urban and rural specialty courts seeking guidance when experiencing funding deficits, particularly when the court was not awarded a CJD grant from the office of the Governor. More often than not, the courts are unaware or have forgotten the following sources of funding that should be maintained by the county treasurer or auditor in a segregated account and dedicated solely for the local specialty courts:

\$60 Drug Court Fee (Article 102.0178, Code of Criminal Procedure):

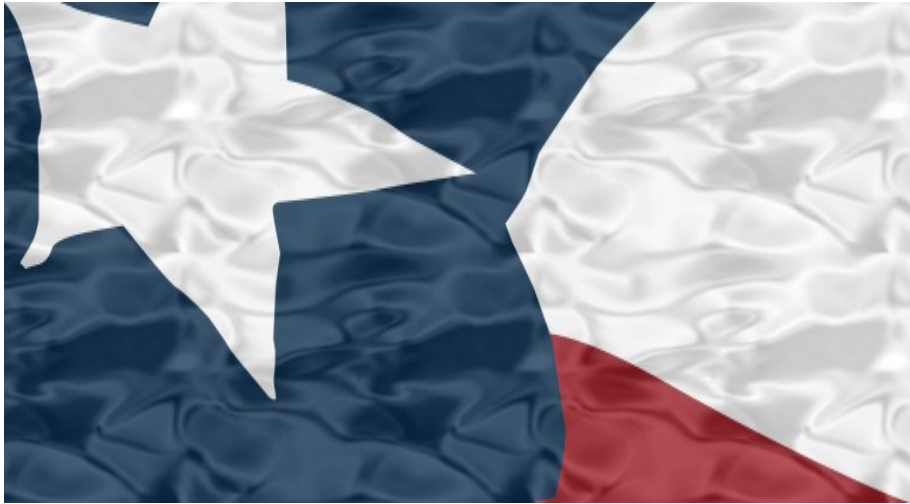
Although repealed effective January 1, 2020, any felony or Class A or B misdemeanor conviction under Penal Code Chapter 49 (DWI and related offenses) or Health & Safety Code, Chapter 481 (drug offenses), a \$60 Drug Court fee was imposed on judgments prior to 2020. In counties with established drug court programs, 50% of the fee collected is to be retained by the county exclusively for the development and maintenance of drug courts operated within the county. Although this is a declining revenue source from cases resolved prior to 2020, 50% of the drug court fees imposed in pre-2020 cases should still be collected and segregated for distribution to the local drug court.

Criminal Fees Payable to Local Government (Article 134.101, 134.102, 134.151 & 134.153, Local Government Code):

For cases beginning January 1, 2020, 23.8095% of the \$105 felony court cost collections and 16.2602% of the \$123 misdemeanor A & B court cost collections are to be retained by counties in a Specialty Court Account exclusively for the local specialty court(s) to be administered by or at the direction of the county commissioners' court. Prior to 2022, this revenue source had been underperforming due to diminished case dispositions related to the COVID pandemic; however, legislative fiscal notes at the time of passage in 2019 projected a far greater revenue stream dedicated solely for local specialty court accounts than the \$60 Drug Court Fee that was repealed.

It is also important, though, for specialty courts receiving CJD grant awards from the office of the Governor to be aware of the amount of Drug Court fee and Local Court Cost collections because grant applications require the amount of "other income" available to the applicant court. For this reason, commissioners' courts in counties with multiple specialty courts (e.g., Dallas County) often create a special budget committee to determine allocation of available funds among the courts whereby the precise amount of "other income" can be reported in grant applications.

The TASC Board is pleased to report that revenue from the Judge Reyes Act (Mixed Beverage Tax) enacted in 2021 has exceeded legislative fiscal notes. And because this revenue it is dedicated solely for CJD grant awards from the office of the Governor, the Board is committed to encourage grant awards by CJD to the fullest extent possible for not only the sustainability but also expansion of specialty courts in Texas.



Texas Association of Pre-trial Services Conference

May 9-12, 2023

Hilton Dallas-Rockwall Lake Front

2055 Summer Lee Drive

Rockwall, TX 75032

Early Registration ends on March 31st

Registration Link:

https://www.eventleaf.com/e/2023_TAPS_Annual_Conference

Get to Know the Board Members

Chief Rosie Medina began her career working with Juvenile Drug Treatment Program's in 1998 and has been a part of two successful programs in New Mexico and Texas. Since 2003 she has served in various administrative capacities to include PAVE Coordinator, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator, Director of Special Programs and now El Paso County's first Latina Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. In her most recent role as Director of Special Programs, Ms. Medina managed and lead two specialty courts; the El Paso County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court and Project HOPE which is a juvenile mental health court program in addition to five other specialized programs for moderate to high-risk offenders. Rosie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University, a Masters in Justice Management from the University of Nevada, Reno and has previously served as a faculty member for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, has served as a consultant for the Organization of American States and provided Juvenile Drug Treatment Court training to members of the Peruvian Judiciary and public health officials to assist in their planning and implementation efforts of Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts. She currently serves as a Consultant for the National Drug Court Institute providing training and technical assistance to Columbian government officials and stakeholders who are in varying stages of planning and implementing Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts in their country. In addition, Chief Medina serves as the Director at Large for the Texas Association of Specialty Courts.



AIM Awarded Dallas MAVS Grant



The Dallas County District Attorney's Office was excited to accept a grant awarded by the MAVS Foundation. On behalf of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Social Ventures Partner accepted the award during half-time of the Dallas MAVS game on February 16th. Present for check presentation included (from left to right): Katie Edwards, President of MAVS Foundation, Tony Fleo, CEO SVP, Judge Brandon Birmingham,

former presiding AIM Court Judge, Judge Audra Riley, current AIM Court Judge, District Attorney John Creuzot, Cynthia Marshall, CEO Dallas Mavs, & Darryl Turpin, HEAT/HER Founding Partner. Also during half-time, a short 2-minute video clip was played briefly summarizing the HER Program and its importance to the Dallas County AIM Young Adult Court Program.

We want to hear from your treatment courts! Please submit articles, stories, and all other information about your court programs to Kimberly Duran at kimberly.duran@dallascounty.org for our quarterly newsletters.

Resources

Check out NDCI and the Specialty Court Resource Center for tons of information and resources for specialty courts!

<http://www.txspecialtycourts.org/>

<https://www.ndci.org/>



Texas Infrastructure Training

The Texas Specialty Courts Resource Center, in collaboration with NADCP, is excited to bring a two-day training event on April 24-25, 2023, in Huntsville, TX, at Sam Houston State University, for program coordinators.

This highly interactive and engaging training provides skills, knowledge, and tools to identify program needs and help teams change and achieve their goals. The workshop-based training engages you to be an active learner, practice new skills, and brainstorm ways to engage a treatment court team. At the training, you will learn how to facilitate group discussions, get team buy-in, and understand the life cycle of the treatment court program and how that can affect decision-making and tools to help instill change for the program.

Training Location: Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Training Dates: April 24-25, 2023

Training intended for program coordinators

Space is limited. Register with the link below for the training before April 7, 2023.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/3b8bf81b-d1e6-45ff-aaf7-c5b392a3b07e/summary>

2023-2024 TASC Slate of Officers

Welcome new TASC Board Members
for 2023—2024!

Executive Committee:

President Elect: Judge Larry Phillips
Grayson County

Vice President: Judge Elizabeth Rainey
Midland County

Secretary: Stephen Ellison
Midland County

Treasurer: Mary Covington
Harris County

Communication Director: Elizabeth “Liz”
Wiggins

Travis County

Legislative Director: Judge Aurora Mar-
tinez Jones

Travis County

Board of Directors:

Region 1 Director: Judge Yolanda Huff
Bexar County

Region 5 Director: Faustino Lopez
Hidalgo County

Region 6 Director: Craig Fritz
Brazoria County

Region 7 Director: Allen Bell
Midland County

Dallas County Director: Judge La’Donna
Harlan

At Large Director Place #1: Rosie Medina
El Paso County