

The TASC Connection



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TASC 2019 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

Rooms are filling up fast for the conference! The host hotel, San Luis Resort is completely sold out. Below is a link with additional hotel information to make your reservations if you haven't already. Please read the information under each hotel listed prior to making reservations.



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

Stipend Awards went out on 11/26 so be sure to check your emails! Also, deadline for stipend registrations was 12/07!

Keep an eye out for an email next month including details about the Specialty Court Flag Competition!



SAMHSA Grants to Expand Treatment Capacity in Treatment Courts

SAMHSA is accepting applications for FY2019 Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult Treatment Drug Courts and Adult Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts. The

purpose of this program is to expand substance use disorder treatment services in existing adult problem solving courts, and adult Tribal Healing to Wellness courts, which use the treatment drug court model in order to provide SUD

treatment (including recovery support services, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination) to defendants/offenders.

DEADLINE: Friday, 01/04/19

Juvenile Drug Court Representation INTERNATIONAL Success “Way Beyond” Borders

Juvenile Drug Court Judge Sam Medrano, Special Programs/Drug Court Director Rosie Medina, and Drug Court Defense Attorney Omar Carmona were invited to Peru and recently made the trip to discuss El Paso County Juvenile Drug Court Program and initiatives. There was great participation and

dialogue exchanging ideas between the two countries. Everyone, presenters and those attending, came away from this remarkable experience more enriched with a deeper understanding of both cultures and how they affect different judicial proceedings.

Congratulations Judge Medrano, Director Rosie Medina, Drug Court Defense Attorney Omar Carmona for A Huge Success Beyond Our Borders! You did a GREAT JOB representing not only El Paso County, the Court and Department, but the Country as well!

Mission:

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



Tarrant County Launching New Program

In November or 2018, Tarrant County launched the first in Texas, “Public Safety Employees Treatment Court Program,” authorized by the recently enacted Chapter 129 of the Texas Government Code. This law authorizes a diversion

program for fire, law enforcement, emergency medical responders and similar professionals who become involved in the criminal justice system.

Way to go Tarrant County taking care of our First Responders!



Special Recognition

Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Program is celebrating 15 years with over 500 successful graduations!



VALOR: Collin County's Newest Treatment Program for Veterans

VALOR (Veterans Accessing Lifelong Opportunities for Rehabilitation) is a groundbreaking program that offers work opportunities and extensive treatment alternatives for felony and misdemeanor Veteran offenders who are incarcerated. This program is available for Veterans from across the State of Texas. The program is an

unprecedented collaborative effort between the North Texas Regional Veterans Court, Collin County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) and the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Creation of this treatment-intensive program was led by Judge John Roach of the North Texas Regional Veterans Court. "While presiding over

Veterans Court I realized that there was a gap in services for Veterans who become incarcerated," Roach said. "Rather than having the Veteran just sitting there doing time, I wanted a way to provide substantive treatment for those struggling Veterans with invisible wounds. There is no doubt in my mind that the VALOR program will be a model for the Country."

Have a Submission for the Newsletter??

We want to know the latest news in your county on Specialty Courts and Diversion Programs! Also, send us recognitions of achievement or court anniversaries! Or if

you just want to submit an article relating to the work we do for informational purposes, please send submissions to Kimberly Duran at

Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org



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

**Check us out on
Facebook!**

DWI Treatment Court Graduation Breakfast

The Hidalgo County Felony DWI Treatment Court Program held a breakfast graduation ceremony at Costa Messa Restaurant in McAllen, Texas. The Honorable 398th District Judge Keno Vasquez presides over this program. The Felony DWI Court Program offers in-house inpatient treatment services, intensive outpatient treatment services, cognitive interventions, and recovery support services for program participants in need of services. The Hidalgo County Community Supervision and Corrections Department's Director, Arnold K. Patrick, developed the program in 2011 to reduce the recidivism rates among DWI offenders by providing intensive treatment services along with intensive supervision. The breakfast for all 52 DWI court participants was sponsored by a local non-profit community supervision improvement foundation who promotes the use of evidence-based practices in the supervision and treatment of justice-involved individuals.



2019-2020 TASC Vacant Positions

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) is accepting applications for the Executive Committee and open Board of Director positions for the 2019-2020 TASC Board. If interested in applying, please go to our website <http://www.tasctx.org> and complete the application. Declarations are due by January 2, 2019.