

The TASC Connection



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ugliest Christmas Sweater	2
Legislative Update	2
Special Recognition	3
Featured NCJFCJ Article	3
West Texas MADD Awards	3
Success Stories	4

TASC 2019 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

Planning for the 2019 Annual Training Conference is in high gear and the committee is looking forward to seeing all our members there! The conference is scheduled for April 10-12, 2019, at the **Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort** located in Galveston, Texas. Registration deadline is March 1st, 2019!

We have some great sessions submitted this year covering topics including ethics, law enforcement, mental health, supervision, treatment, family courts, and veteran’s court.

Don’t forget to start thinking of ideas for the Specialty Court Flag Competition! Specialty Court Teams will be asked to design a cloth flag (either front or double-sided) to represent their program and team. Each flag will be displayed at the conference



and prizes will be given to the top three flags.



El Paso County DWI Program making the news!

El Paso County DWI Program making the news with a message to be safe over the holidays!

Check out the full news story below!

<https://kfoxtv.com/news/local/el-paso-county-dwi-intervention-program-reminds-people-to-be-safe-during-holidays>

Ugliest Christmas Sweater Contest

The staff of the Dallas County Divert Court held a holiday party for participants on December 18, 2018.

The participants enjoyed BBQ sandwiches while hearing some wise advice from Judge Autry on how to stay

safe and sober over the holiday season. A talent show was followed by a very fun ugly sweater contest! Photos here show final contestants and the overall winner, who sported a sweater with glowing lights and the face of our own Judge Garza as Santa!



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

Legislative Updates

The First Step Act, which passed the U.S. Senate 87-12 and the House 358-36, will usher in significant changes to federal sentencing laws as well as improvements to programs that aim to reduce recidivism and provide support to people who are involved in the criminal justice system.

The First Step Act also reauthorizes the **Second Chance Act**, building on and strengthening

the landmark legislation originally passed 10 years ago. The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018—sponsored by U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT)—provides \$100 million per year to establish and enhance state and local programs that promote successful reentry for people returning to the community after incarceration.

Send Us Your News!!

We want to hear about what is going on in your county and courts, so send us your news! Do you have anyone you would like to recognize or is your court or program celebrating an anniversary? Or if you would like to write an article related to the field and work we do, we would

love to include it in our next newsletter. Please email submissions to Kimberly Duran at Kimberly.Duran@dallascourty.org



Special Recognition

Judge B. Michael Chitty of the 422nd District Mental Health & Drug Court congratulates Nicholas Horneman for his successful completion of the M.H./Drug Court program. Mr. Horneman graduated on December

7th from the program and states he is excited about his future drug free.



Featured Article with NCJFCJ

The El Paso County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court’s very own Rosie Medina had a featured article with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). This is a nationwide organization with a wide spanning membership, so having them publish an article is a great honor. Director

Medina wrote about covering the four “steps to identify roadblocks contributing to stagnation or rapid movement in order to recalibrate program design”: collecting data, interpreting evidence based results, formulating action plans and monitoring the implementation of the action plans.

Please click on the link below to read Director Medina’s article on “Are the Phases/Levels in Your Program Meeting the Expected Metrics?”

<http://www.ncjfcj.org/are-phaseslevels-your-program-meeting...>

Congratulations Rosie and thank you for continuing to make El Paso County shine so bright!

West Texas 2018 MADD Awards

Congratulations to Judge Anchondo for being recognized as a Community Difference Maker!

Law Enforcement Award – Most DWI Arrest in City: Sergeant John Clive - DES Police Services Division; Officer Nickolus Van Buren - El Paso Police Department

Law Enforcement Award - Community Difference Maker: Lieutenant Jon T. Dauch - DES Police Services Division; Roberta Farley - Texas Department of Public Safety; Officer Erik Segura - El Paso Police Department; Officer Daniel Torres - El Paso Police Department El Paso County Sheriff’s Office

Leadership Award - Community Difference Maker: Judge Robert Anchondo - Criminal County Court 2; Geneviev Curtis - KFOX Investigative Reporter; Sergeant Jaime Espaza - El Paso Police Department; Lieutenant Antonio Montoya - DES Police Services Division; El Paso Community College Chief Ramirez

Criminal Justice Award - Community Difference Maker: Ray Duke - 34th District Attorney’s Office; Captain Tolupe Akinsanya - Ft. Bliss Judge Advocate Office



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

**Check us out on
Facebook!**

Treatment Court Success Stories

Alton Jones is a 35-year-old Operation Enduring Freedom veteran who served in the Army for 3 years. Mr. Jones spent 1 year in a war zone where he received hostile fire. Mr. Jones came into the Veterans Treatment Court he was suffering from a diverticulitis, PTSD, depression and alcoholism. Mr. Jones has since had surgery for his diverticulitis, enrolled in a Crane Operator Program and is about to graduate. Mr. Jones goes to counseling weekly at the VA for his depression, PTSD and Intensive Out Patient classes to maintain his sobriety. Mr. Jones also started part-time at Home Depot in the lumber department, he has been recently been promoted to a full-time position. Mr. Jones makes it a point to tell everyone about the VTC program, he says VTC saved his life. Mr. Jones spoke at the VTC veteran's day celebration and plans to be a mentor for other veterans who come in the program once he graduates.



Byron Stringfellow is a 69-year-old Vietnam veteran who served 4 years in the Marines. Mr. Stringfellow came into the VTC program deep in his addiction to crack cocaine an addiction he had been dealing with for 30 years. Mr. Stringfellow was living with his dealer and was in danger of getting evicted. After enrolling into VTC SSC NT was able to speak with Mr. Stringfellow's landlord about getting him into treatment and he was able to keep his apartment. Mr. Stringfellow started a 90-day program at the VA Domiciliary in Bonham, TX. SSC NT went to visit Mr. Stringfellow while in rehab to ensure he knew the court was still supporting him during the process of recovery, and to make sure he was successfully working his treatment plan. Mr. Stringfellow was released from rehab on November 14th and is celebrating almost 3 ½ months clean and sober. Mr. Stringfellow is now back engaged with the court and is scheduled to start his Intensive Outpatient Classes in the upcoming weeks as well as start on his community service hours now that he is clean and sober.



Veteran's Community Court

City of Dallas