

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

Important Dates

Stipend Applications Deadline	January 13, 2023
Award Forms Deadline	January 13, 2023
Board Application Deadline	January 13, 2023
Stipend Award Announcements	February 17, 2023

Do you have a STAR Team or Team Member?

What's keeping you from nominating your team or members of your team for a TASC award? Is it the time to fill out the nomination form? Is it that you don't think your nominee will win? Is it that you are too humble to brag on your accomplishments or those of your coworkers?

Would it surprise you to know that almost every year we have to send out the solicitation email multiple times just to get ONE nominee for each award? What about the fact that there areas of the State that have NEVER submitted a nomination?

You guys are doing GREAT work! HARD work! UNDERAPPRECIATED work! Please nominate your colleagues for an award this year! We know we have fantastic, dedicated professionals in our midst that should be honored. *We can't find them without YOU!*

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Texas Association of Specialty Courts

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NADCP RISE23 Conference



Award from the Governor's office was approximately \$249,277.00; which will allow for 166 stipends at \$1,500 each in order to account for higher travel costs for next year's NADCP conference.



*Houston Convention Center
June 26-29, 2023
Houston, TX*

Upcoming Conferences

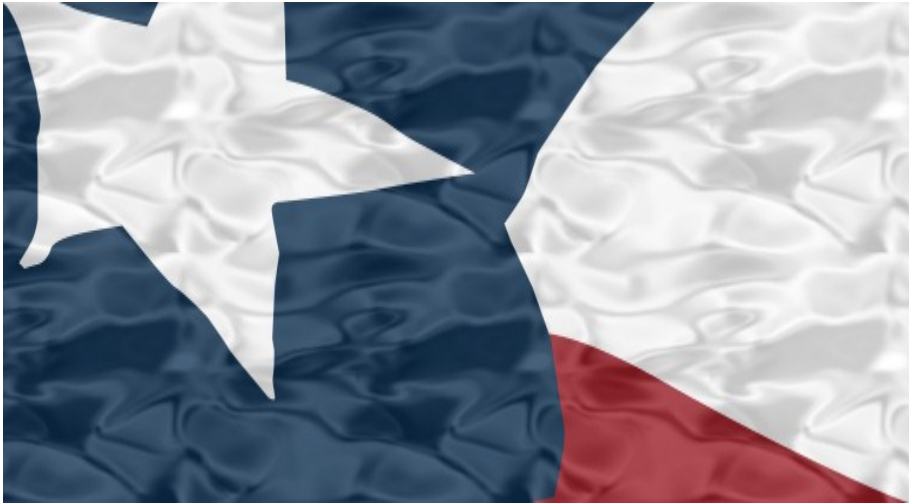
Looking for upcoming training and conference opportunities. Check out Correctional Management Institute of Texas.

<http://www.cmitonline.org/cal.php>

National Recovery Month Celebration

To celebrate this year's National Recovery Month in September, the Harris County STAR Program threw a party on each of the four STAR dockets. Clients were presented purple recovery ribbons to wear, a bookmark professing: Prevention Works... Treatment is Effective...People Recover. Refreshments were served and clients shared what recovery meant to them and how it had impacted their lives. This was all done in conjunction with the monthly Friends & Family Week so that their supporters could be a part of the spirit of recovery.





Check us out on Facebook!

Responsibilities of a TASC Director

The TASC Board of Directors has worked hard to reach out to all areas of the State for representation. Our efforts to diversify the culture, location, and field discipline of the Board have been intentional and deliberate; however, the struggle to fill vacancies in certain parts of the State persist. The responsibility of a Director includes monthly Zoom meetings (which are typically held over the lunch hour and last 30-45 minutes), attendance at the annual retreat (which is 2 days and typically held either at SHSU or at the location of the upcoming conference), attendance and assistance with the annual Conference (which is typically held in April), and any assignments volunteered for on any of the additional committees. Serving as a Director has minimal time commitments, and it has the benefits of collaborating with others across the State, having a voice in shaping policy and practice, and being a part of spreading awareness of Specialty Courts. Please consider submitting a Declaration of Candidacy when they are sent out for submissions. If you don't feel you are ready for a Director position, please reach out and volunteer for any of the various committees we have. You will soon see that you are every bit as qualified and ready as any of the rest of us! We can't wait to hear from you!

Region 5, 6, 7, Dallas County, and At Large Place I Director positions will be up for election next year.

TASC Legislative Committee Update

With the leadership of Judge White chairing TASC's Legislative Committee, several bills were presented at the last TASC Board Meeting for the committee to continue to monitor. Such bills are included below:

HB 541 – CSR can be converted to donations to charitable organizations.

- HB 252 – Would modify non-disclosure to expand preferential treatment currently afforded to Vet Courts to other specialty courts.

- HB 93 – Would prevent judge ordered probation for felony DWIs.

HEAT & HER in Dallas



Dallas pre-trial diversion courts AIM and DIVERT have been successfully utilizing the HEAT program facilitated by the local outpatient substance use and mental health provider, Integrated Psychotherapeutic Services (IPS), for the past two years. The Dallas County District Attorney's

Office is excited to now bring HER training to Dallas by being awarded a MAVS grant. On behalf of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Social Ventures Partner will accept the award during half-time at the Dallas MAVS game on February 16th.

Welcome New TASC Secretary

The TASC Board welcomes Stephen Ellison as the new Secretary. Stephen has been a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor for the past six years serving the Midland County Drug Court.

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.

TASC Updated Bylaws

As a current TASC member in good standing, you are entitled to vote on proposed bylaw amendments. Please use the survey link below to cast your vote on the proposed amendments.

Votes will be accepted until 5:00 PM, December 2, 2022. The TASC Bylaws will be amended at that time if the majority of the votes received are in favor of the amendments.

https://shsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ealcmTFIqpXFZz0

Big Texas Rally For Recovery Comes To Houston

October 1 was the day set aside in Houston for the Big Texas Rally for Recovery, held at the Botanic Gardens. A typical Houston hot day didn't keep over 1,500 people from coming together to enjoy the live music, performers, face painters, dozens of vendors and much more. The main attraction was Headliner Randy Grimes, former NFL player who shared his life of addiction and the journey that brought him to wholeness and grace. STAR Drug Court



Judge and TASC Board of Director Kelli Johnson opened the event by reading a proclamation from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and the Open Door Mission Choir performed some inspirational songs about hope and recovery.

*Keynote Speaker:
Randy Grimes*

Tarrant County Judge Charles “Chuck” Vanover Receives Two Awards

Judge Charles “Chuck” Vanover has served as County Criminal Court Judge in Tarrant County since 2015. He presides over the Tarrant County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and Public Safety Employees Treatment Court (PSETC).

On June 23, 2022, the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) Ft. Worth TX Chapter 133 presented Judge Vanover with the Individual Public Service/Law & Order (PS/L&O) Exceptional Service Award and the Silver Patrick Henry Award at the June Chapter Dinner Meeting.

MOWW Chapters present the Individual Public Service/Law & Order (PS/L&O) Exceptional Service Award to those currently serving PS/L&O leaders who display exceptional leadership and management in the performance of their duties. Note: This is the first time the Fort Worth Chapter has presented this award to a deserving individual in the public service/law & order community.

The MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Award (named for the Revolutionary War patriot, Patrick Henry) may be awarded to an adult who has made significant patriotic contribu-

tions to the cause of patriotism, either within the Military Order of the World Wars or within their respective community. As Chapter Commander, Col Green is able to only present two (2) of these awards to deserving individuals annually.

Judge Vanover served a prior career in Public Safety for over 11 years as a Police Officer and Fire Fighter EMT, including being trained and serving as a SWAT team member. Also, Judge Vanover served as a prosecutor with the Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office for almost 12 years following law school.

In addition to Judge Vanover’s work as a Jurist, he also proudly served our State and Nation as a Judge Advocate for the Texas Guard.



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/>



NDCI
NATIONAL DRUG
COURT INSTITUTE

Tis the Season to Paint Pumpkins

The first blast of cool weather ushered in the ghoulish goblins of Halloween and the Harris County Specialty Court and Felony Mental Health Court staff gathered on October 26 to enjoy some witches brew and monster mash (donuts and juice!) While watching reruns of the 1960s sitcom *The Addams Family*, participants painted pumpkins to represent their All Hallows Eve expectations!



Team Building

In the spirit of teambuilding, the Harris County Specialty Court staff took some time off from the daily grind and headed to Dave and Busters for some competitive bowling. A good time was had by all, beginning with lunch and then we took it to the lanes for three games of gutter ball! No future tournament aspirations here, but a load of fun and fellowship.



TASC at TAAP Conference

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts was front and center at the 48th Annual Conference of the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals held in San Antonio, Texas. With a Roaring 20s theme, Judge Elizabeth Rainey delivered a very well received workshop on Specialty Courts. Harris County STAR Drug Court Manager Keith Liles served as the Conference Chairperson.

