



## Core Curriculum Day 1

### **3:00 – 5:00: Registration**

- There are no classes on this day. This is a travel day and there is time for attendees to register in the afternoon.
- There are no meals provided on this day.

## Core Curriculum Day 2

### **7:00 – 8:00: Late Registration and a continental breakfast will be provided**

### **8:15 – 8:30: Introduction & Orientation**

### **8:30 – 9:15: General Session**

- *Self-Care and the Stress of the Bench – Hon. Bill Gravell*  
Fulfilling all of the responsibilities of a justice of the peace has always been stressful, and the last year and a half has only added to that stress level. This course will cover tips and techniques on dealing with this stress in a productive and helpful manner.

### **8:30 – 11:30: Breakout Sessions**

- *Clearing Your Docket While Helping Your Community – Texas Fair Defense Project*  
Many courts are experiencing case backlog due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other factors. In this class, judges will discuss best practices for clearing their docket while ensuring justice and fairness for all members of the community.
- *ODL and Understanding DPS Driver History Reports – Hon. James Kerbow & Rebecca Glisan, TJCTC Staff Attorney*  
Judges often find DPS driver history reports confusing and indecipherable. Judges will learn how to navigate these reports as well as the rest of the ODL process.
- *Jeopardy!: Juvenile Criminal Edition – Amber Myers, TJCTC Staff Attorney*  
This course will review common issues that arise in juvenile criminal cases in a “Jeopardy!” game format.

### **11:30 – 12:30: Breakout Sessions**

- *Professionalism on the Bench – Hon. Brad Cummings*  
With great power comes great responsibility. This class will explore dealing with difficult people while maintaining appropriate judicial demeanor.

- *Beyond Covid: The Future of Virtual Hearings – Hon. Kyle Hartmann*  
Virtual hearings are here to stay! How can judges utilize them to maximize efficiency and convenience for the court and the public? Find out in this class!
- *Now-Show, Now What? When the Defendant Doesn't Appear – John Lackey, TJCTC Staff Attorney*  
Courts have many options when a defendant doesn't appear in a criminal case. This course will describe those options, including FTA or VPTA charges, along with the benefits and drawbacks of each option.

**12:30 – 1:30: Lunch will be provided**

**1:30 – 3:30: Breakout Sessions**

- *Death Investigations: Cause & Manner of Death*  
Need to brush up on death investigation skills? Learn best practices for investigating deaths and completing death certificates in this course.
- *Step-by-Step Debt Claim Cases: Filing Through Judgment – Hon. Amy Tarno*  
Courts are seeing an increase in debt claim filings. This class will walk you through the process for a debt claim case, including default judgments, service issues, and other common problems.
- *Truant Conduct: Making a Difference – Hon. Thelma Rodriguez*  
Truancy cases have been on the minds of many, especially with the rise of virtual school. This class will focus on how to process truancy cases, with a focus on helping children in need.

**3:30 – 4:30: Breakout Sessions**

- *Beyond Death Certificates: Inquest Reporting - Texas Department of State Health Services*  
Although filling out the death certificate is the primary function of an inquest, there are many other reporting responsibilities that fall on the justice of the peace. Learn when these reports are required and how to file them in this course.
- *Role of the Prosecutor in Justice Court Criminal Cases – Colleen Davis*  
There must be a good working relationship between judges and the prosecutors who work in their courts, but it is also important to avoid any appearance of impropriety. This course will examine how to manage this relationship and solve any communication problems that could lead to a less effective criminal court process.
- *Jail Credit and Alternatives to Payment of Fines and Costs - John Lackey, TJCTC Staff Attorney*

Significant changes have occurred in how jail credit must be applied to criminal judgments. This class will tell you what you need to know about those changes and will review other options that are required for courts to consider.

## **Core Curriculum Day 3**

**7:30 – 8:30: Continental breakfast will be provided**

**8:30 – 10:30: Breakout Sessions**

- *Eviction Scenarios – Bronson Tucker*  
This class will explore eviction cases using real-life scenarios that judges frequently encounter.
- *Receivership & Exempt Property Hearings – Randy Sarosdy*  
Debt collectors and others frequently request the appointment of a receiver to collect a judgment. This class will cover how to handle those requests, as well as the new rules dealing with the judge's responsibilities concerning exempt property.
- *Parks & Wildlife Scenarios – Hon. Tracy Byrd*  
Do you have an alligator in your backyard? This course won't cover that, but will cover other scenarios that arise in other Parks & Wildlife cases.

**10:30 – 11:30: General Session**

- *Mental Health Processes & Resources – Judicial Commission on Mental Health and Lee Johnson*  
What resources are available when dealing with mental health issues, such as mental health warrants or Art. 16.22 determinations? This class will describe resources available and how to utilize them to improve these critical processes.