



DISTRICT CLERK THOMAS A. WILDER

NEWSLETTER

December 2024

VOLUME 11 Issue 3

A message from the

District Clerk

Dear Legal Professionals:

As we look toward the new year of 2025, I see possible big changes coming in our courts and the District Clerk's office.

New judges will be sworn in as well as incumbents. This will be added to a large turnover of judges who took office in 2023.

A new court case management system is being researched for our Civil, Family and Juvenile sections. Requirements are being studied using our County IT department and District Clerk staff. We will be requesting input from the judiciary and attorneys in the near future. After the two new County Commissioners are seated on January 1, 2025, funding and other issues will be discussed, and decisions made by Commissioners Court.

We have a new HR director that has several new ideas that should help us with our employee situation that is tough as many of you know about.

I am challenging our management team to consider some new ideas on budget, personnel training, and a top to bottom review of office policy and business practices that might be improved.

Finally, we are looking at AI software for any benefits, but I assure you that we will be very cautious with this new technology before implementing in our office.

Best wishes, for a joyous Christmas Holiday Season and a Happy New year.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Wilder".

District Clerk
DClerk@TarrantCountytx.gov





Web Access
Go to
<https://dcsa.tarrantcounty.com>
to apply today!

Important Dates

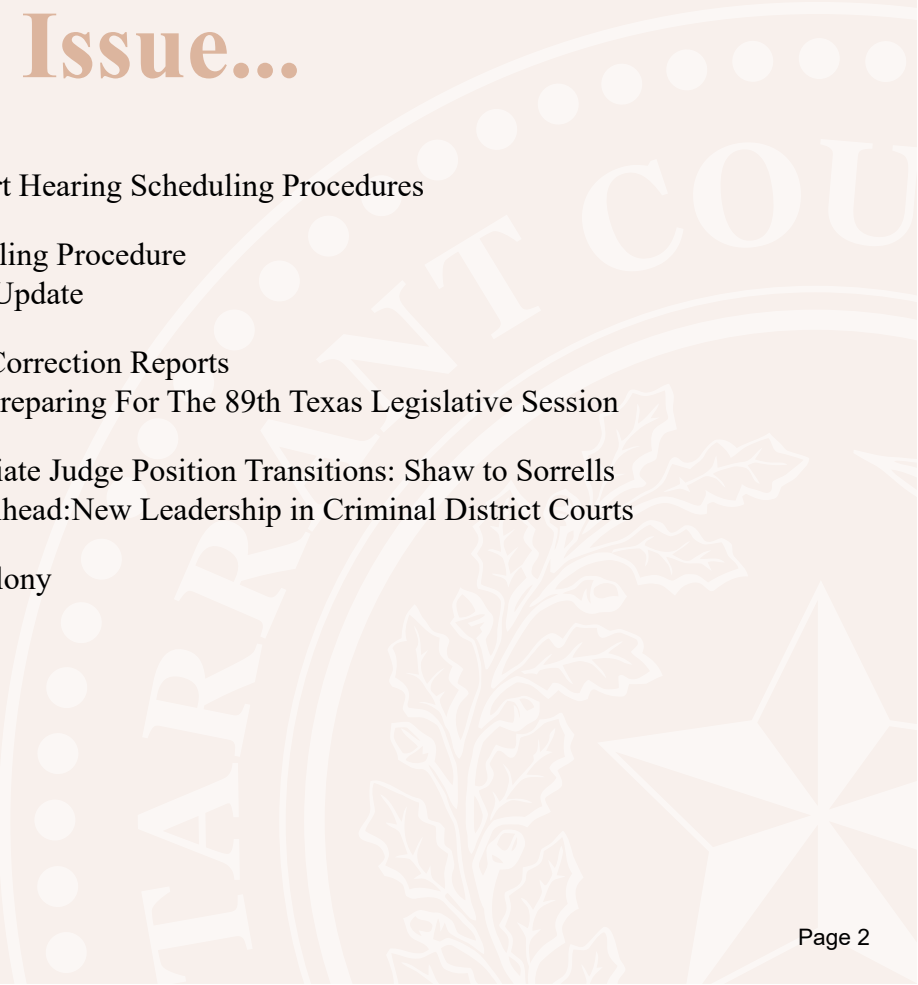
County Holidays

December 24-25	Christmas Holiday
January 1	New Years Day
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 17	Presidents' Day



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Employee Spotlight

Maria Lara

Maria was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Like many immigrant families, her dad brought her to the U.S in the 70's in search of a better future.

Maria went to Trimble Tech High School where she participated in the VOE program which allowed her to attend class and work during normal school hours. After graduating, she transferred to the adult program (JTPA) with the County; a year later she was officially hired with Tarrant County. Her dad instilled in her a very strong work ethic. On many occasions, on her days off he would ask her, "Why aren't you at work?", so here she is and has been for the last 36 years! Maria enjoys her job with the County and is looking forward to retiring in the next few years.

Outside of work, Maria enjoys walking her dog and searching for bargains at garage and estate sales. Maria and her husband, Gustavo love to entertain, so if she invites you to her home, be prepared for a long and fun night filled with great food, spirits, dancing, and karaoke.



Civil Court Hearing Scheduling Procedures

Reminder!

Attention Legal Professionals,

This is a friendly reminder that court clerks are unable to schedule or cancel hearings. Please contact the court coordinators directly for all scheduling needs. You may reach out via phone or email to the coordinators.

Please do not call or email the court clerks, as they are unable to assist with scheduling tasks. If the coordinators are unavailable, kindly leave a message, and they will return your call as soon as possible.

Inclement Weather Filing Procedure

NOTICE

In the event Tarrant County Government Offices are closed due to inclement weather, the District Clerk's office will utilize one of the following filing procedures:

Option 1

Self-represented filed with Civil/Family cases only

T.R.C.P. Rule 5. Enlargement of Time **If you elect to use this filing option, (on the next open hours) inform the clerk of the court in which you are filing the pleading(s) to keep the postmarked envelope.

Option 2

Place the pleading(s) in the designated deposit box located at the information station at 401 W. Belknap, Justice Center or 200 East Weatherford St, Family Law Center.

**T.R.C.P. Rule 5, Paragraph 2

If any document is sent to the proper clerk by first-class US mail in an envelope or wrapper properly addressed and stamped and is deposited in the mail on or before the last day of filing same, the same, if received by the clerk not more than 10 days tardy, shall be filed by the clerk and be deemed filed in time. A legible postmark affixed by the US Postal Service shall be prima facie evidence of the date of mailing.

Option 3

File documents electronically through an e-filing service provider.

Manager Relocation Update

Departmental Refresher for Experienced Managers

Bobbie Jackson, who previously worked in Civil before her tenure in Family Law, is returning to the Civil department. Similarly, Sharon Byrd, with prior experience in Family Law, is now back in that department.

These strategic moves offer both managers an opportunity to refresh their skills and perspectives in familiar environments, leveraging their historical knowledge while bringing renewed energy to their respective teams.

Congratulations to Bobbie and Sharon on their repositioned roles!

E-FILING RETURN FOR CORRECTION REPORTS

We have provided e-filing reports below, by section, for FY 2024. Our staff continues to work diligently to process all e-filing in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please refer to the detailed comments in the returned for correction email from your point of contact. For more information regarding reasons a clerk may return an envelope for correction, please visit section 4.8.4 on the Technology Standards PDF located on the Judicial Committee on Information Technology [website](#).

DEPARTMENT	INITIAL	INITAIL REJ.	SUBSEQUENT	SUBSEQUENT REJ.	TOT ACCEPT	TOTAL REJ.	GRAND TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Civil	15,603	2,275	173,740	10,930	189,343	13,205	202,548	6.97%
Tax	5,550	44	24,469	840	30,019	884	30,903	2.94%
Family	11,992	2,708	162,533	8,831	174,525	11,539	186,064	6.61%
AG	6,149	309	33,012	1,480	39,161	1,789	40,950	4.57%
Felony / Civil	1,535	311	7,037	85	8,572	396	8,968	4.62%
Criminal	0	0	56,396	2,799	56,396	2,799	59,195	4.96%
GRAND TOTALS	40,829	5,647	457,187	24,965	498,016	30,612	528,628	6.15%



Legislative Update: Preparing for the 89th Texas Legislative Session

Our legislative affairs team is actively gearing up for the upcoming 89th Texas Legislative Session. As bills begin to be filed, our team will conduct thorough reviews to identify legislation that could impact our department's operations, budget, and service delivery.

Of particular focus will be the identification of potential unfunded mandates – new requirements that could be imposed without corresponding funding allocation. Early detection of such measures is crucial, as it allows us to engage with legislators and stakeholders during the session to address concerns and advocate for appropriate funding mechanisms.

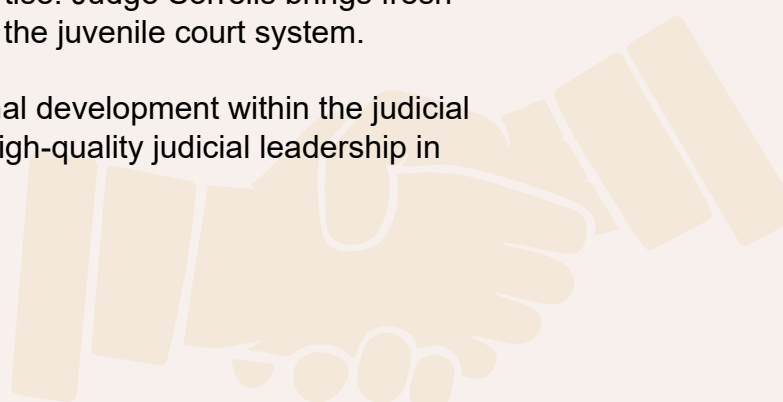
We will continue to monitor the legislative process closely and work diligently to protect our department's interests while supporting positive policy developments that enhance our ability to serve Texans effectively.

Juvenile Court Associate Judge Position Transitions: Shaw to Sorrells

The Juvenile Court has announced a significant personnel change with the recent promotion of Associate Judge Riley Shaw to Director of the Juvenile Probation Department (JPD). Following Shaw's departure from the associate judge role, newly appointed Associate Judge Lee Sorrells will step into the vacant position.

This transition represents a smooth succession in the juvenile court leadership, ensuring continuity of judicial operations and expertise. Judge Sorrells brings fresh perspective and commitment to the critical work of the juvenile court system.

The appointment highlights the ongoing professional development within the judicial community and the consistent efforts to maintain high-quality judicial leadership in sensitive areas like juvenile justice.



Judicial Transitions Ahead: New Leadership in Criminal District Courts

In the upcoming January 2025 transition, two significant changes are set to reshape the landscape of local criminal district courts. Longtime judges Wayne Salvant of Criminal District Court #2 and George Gallagher of the 396th Criminal District Court will be retiring, making way for their newly elected successors.

District Judge William Knight will take the helm of Criminal District Court #2, succeeding Judge Salvant, while District Judge Vincent Giardino will assume leadership of the 396th Criminal District Court, replacing Judge Gallagher. These changes represent a natural progression in the judicial system, bringing fresh perspectives and leadership to these critical judicial positions.

The transitions are expected to occur smoothly in January 2025, ensuring continued efficient operation of these important judicial districts. Local legal professionals and community members can look forward to meeting and working with these newly elected judges as they begin their terms.

These judicial appointments underscore the ongoing renewal and democratic process within the local court system, reflecting the community's engagement in selecting its judicial leadership.

Contact your District Clerk's Office



The Felony/Civil Division

The Felony/Civil section of the District Clerk's office handles Expunctions, Non-Disclosures, Occupational Driver's License, Seizures and Bond Forfeiture cases.

It is located on the 3rd floor of the Tim Curry Justice Center. The Felony/Civil section currently accepts electronically filed documents for Expunctions, Non-Disclosures, Felony Occupational Drivers Licenses, Bond Forfeiture (NISI's) and Seizure cases only.

For filing fee information please refer to the District Clerk website for the most current fees.

Visit us online!

E-Filing Questions?

Call for assistance

Family:	817-212-6954
Civil:	817-212-6953
Criminal:	817-884-1342
Felony/Civil:	817-884-2508

Felony/Civil Filing Fees

Our business hours are
Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm.

During these hours you can reach the
Felony/Civil clerks for assistance.

Administrative Felony/Civil Clerk

817-884-1156

Auxiliary

Lead Auxiliary Clerk

817-884-2514

Expunctions

817-884-1231

Seizures

817-884-2508

Family

Infoline:	817-212-6954
Filedsk:	817-212-6953
Document Production:	817-884-1342
Disposed Records:	817-884-2508
Juvenile:	817-838-4645

Civil / Tax

Infoline:	817-884-1240
Filedsk:	817-884-2536
Document Production:	817-884-1591
Tax:	817-212-7207

Locations



**Tim Curry Criminal
Justice Center**

401 W Belknap Street
Fort Worth, TX 76196



**Tom Vandergriff Civil
Courts Building**

100 N Calhoun Street
Fort Worth, TX 76196



**Scott D. Moore Juvenile
Justice Center**

2701 Kimbo Road, East Building
Fort Worth, TX 76111



Family Law Center

200 E Weatherford Street
Fort Worth, TX 76196