

# The TASC Connection



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## TASC 2020 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

*Early registration ended March 1.*

*Video Contest: Don't forget to get with your teams for this year's video contest. 90-second video showcasing your Specialty Court(s). Prizes include:*

*1st-designated team member receives travel, hotel and registration for the 2021 conference.*

*2nd- designated team member receives hotel and registration for the 2021 conference.*

*3rd- designated team member receives free registration for the 2021 conference.*



*Hotel Reservations:* If you have a reservation at the host hotel and no longer need it, please cancel your reservation immediately so that the room will go back into our group and someone else can obtain the reservation.

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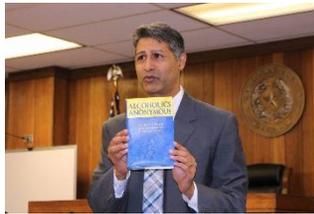
## DWI Courts: Apply Now for 2020 NCDC Foundational Training

The National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) is now accepting applications for its 3.5-day DWI Court Foundational Training, designed for courts not yet operating a DWI court program, teams that have had significant staff changes, or teams that have never attended an NCDC training before.

Your team will benefit from the one-on-one interaction with our experts while developing an action plan to maximize your resources and integrate best practices into your DWI court program. Even better, this training is available at little or no cost to you through collaboration with your State Highway Safety Office.

## Special Recognition

The McLennan County DWI/Drug Court is proud to announce that four participants graduated the program on Jan. 27, 2020. The photos are as follows: Judge Vikram Deivanayagam presenting a gift to each graduate (top), former participant and honored speaker Jarrett Fox with drug court team (middle) now employed at a drug and alcohol center helping others, and graduate Joseph Schiltz with his proud family (bottom).



December 16, 2019-Judge Robert S. Anchondo recipient of the Kevin E. Quinlan award. Each year, Responsibility.org recognizes leaders in the field who through their work, have made a significant contribution to the field of traffic safety. The Kevin E. Quinlan Award for Excellence in Traffic Safety is the highest honor our organization bestows and is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated commitment and passion for reducing impaired driving and saving lives. No one is more deserving of this recognition than Judge Robert Anchondo. One of the country's long tenured DWI Court judges, Judge Anchondo is responsible for the establishment of the El Paso DWI/Drug Court Intervention and Treatment Program.



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

## Bi-Monthly Newsletters!!

We are moving to Bi-Monthly Newsletters! Keep your submissions coming to Kimberly Duran at [Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org](mailto:Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org)



## The Harris County Star Drug Court is ALL About Gratitude

Gratitude for 16 years of transforming lives. Gratitude for over 700 graduates of the program. Gratitude for four weekly client dockets, over two dozen volunteer, dedicated team members, proven in-house treatment services as well as tenured relationships with community providers.

Over the holidays, clients and aftercare alumni were asked to share what they were grateful for. They transformed an empty tree that represented their initial state of hopelessness, into one in full bloom as they wrote names of friends and family, and sentiments of their newfound recovery on fabric leaves.



## Harris County Sober Court Goes to the Head of the Class

In January, the Harris County SOBER Court gathered to celebrate the stars of the hour by saluting the first graduating class of the new year. The Sober Court Judges shared highlights of each client's experience in the program and each graduate offered heartfelt appreciation for their counselors, officers and court team for their commitment to recovery. Here, Officer Mashala Dixon shared a proud moment with her clients. #Restoringhope



## Always on the Move is the Harris Veteran's Court

In January, the Harris County SOBER Court gathered to celebrate the stars of the hour by saluting the first graduating class of the new year. The Sober Court Judges shared highlights of each client's experience in the program and each graduate offered heartfelt appreciation for their counselors, officers and court team for their commitment to recovery. Here, Officer Mashala Dixon shared a proud moment with her clients. #Restoringhope



## 2020/21 TASC Board Slate of Officers and Amended Bylaws

President: Hank Judin, Dallas County  
*Assume position from Approved 2019-2020 Slate as President Elect*  
*Executive Committee:*

President Elect: Hon. Peter Sakai, Bexar County  
Vice President: Lesli R. Fitzpatrick, Williamson County  
Treasurer: Mary Covington, Harris County  
Secretary: Erin Morgan, Travis County

*Board of Directors:*

Bexar County: Hon. Ernie L. Glenn  
Dallas County: Hon. Hector Garza  
Harris County: Jeannette Kolarik  
Region 5 Director: Faustino Lopez, Hidalgo County  
Region 6 Director: Hon. Paul White, Angelina County  
Region 7 Director: Hon. Elizabeth Rainey, Midland County

The proposed revision to the Bylaws adds a section that details the conditions that would constitute the removal of a board member. The proposed addition will read as follows:

Section 6.14 Removal

A Director may be removed from office, for cause, by a vote of a majority of the Directors. Cause shall include, but not be limited to: (1) failure of a Director to attend in person or participate by phone, to three consecutive scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors, or (2) termination of membership as set forth in Section 2.05 of the Bylaws, or (3) suspension of membership as set forth in Section 2.06 of the Bylaws. TASC members will vote on the slate and the proposed bylaw revisions at the upcoming 2020 TASC Conference in Dallas during the TASC business meeting (April 9, 2020 at 8:30 AM).

**Texas Association of Specialty Courts**  
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## TASC..Get to Know the Board Members

*Lesli Fitzpatrick*  
*Region 1 Director*



Lesli currently serves on the Board of Directors for TASC representing Region #1 which encompasses a lot of Central Texas. Lesli works in private law practice in Williamson and Travis counties and has been licensed for nearly nineteen years. Fitzpatrick is one of the Criminal Defense Attorneys for the felony Mental Health Docket in the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Williamson County. This Court just recently applied for a grant from the Governor’s Office and if approved will become the third registered specialty court in Williamson County. Prior to her role on the felony Mental Health Docket, Lesli served as the Court Coordinator and Statistician for the misdemeanor Williamson County DWI/Drug Court for nearly seven years. While Lesli was Court Coordinator for this Court the Team received the 2018 Texas Center for the Judiciary Spotlight on Success Award for Outstanding DWI Court Team and the 2019 Texas Association of Specialty Courts Judge Ruben G. Reyes Outstanding Specialty Court Team Award. Fitzpatrick is recovered for alcoholism and will celebrate 29 years of abstinence on October 16, 2020. Lesli is married to Jimmy Fitzpatrick an Applications Engineer with Festo Corporation. They have a Tortoiseshell cat named Chloe.



**We’re on the Web!**  
<http://www.tasctx.org>  
**Check us out on Facebook!**