

# IN CHAMBERS

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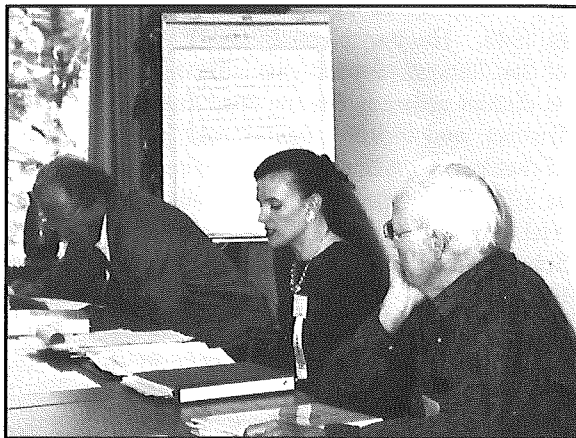
## 1991 Regional Judicial Conferences Concluded

This year's Regional Judicial Conferences were held in five cities across the state and concluded in late April with a total attendance of 538 judges and 182 spouses. The program for trial judges, "Managing Trials Effectively," incorporated a different format from previous years in that it combined large plenary sessions with small group breakouts.

The evaluation forms from the conference participants indicated that the small group breakouts were especially popular because they gave the judges the opportunity to discuss various management problems facing the trial courts and allowed them to "brainstorm" possible solutions.

The appellate judges attending the regional conferences were treated to an opinion writing seminar conducted by Mr. Bryan A. Garner, President of LawProse, Inc., a Dallas firm that teaches those in the legal profession how to improve their writing. Mr. Garner is the author of two books, *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* and *The Elements of Legal Style*, both published by Oxford University Press.

The more than 50 appellate judge who attended the regionals gave this seminar some of the highest marks ever received by a Texas Center program. Mr. Garner provided what was considered to be a high-quality, practical seminar that was educational and entertaining.



*Judge Cynthia Kent conducts a breakout session at the Southeast Texas Regional Conference. Participating are Judges W. G. Woods of Liberty and Robert Pieratt of Brenham.*

## Criminal Justice Conference Held In Austin

This year's Annual Criminal Justice Conference was held in Austin May 15-17, 1991, and drew over 300 judges from across the state. The conference at the Wyndham Southpark Hotel was sponsored by the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc. in cooperation with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and offered attending judges up to 9.00 hours of continuing judicial education.

The Honorable Michael J. McCormick, Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, was in charge of the educational content of the program which

## Professional Development Program Scheduled for June

Each year the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc., in cooperation with the Texas Association for Court Administration (TACA), sponsors professional development courses for trial court coordinators, managers and administrators. The week-long course will be held June 17-21, 1991, at the Criminal Justice Center on the campus of Sam Houston State University.

In past years, these courses have been referred to as Phases I, II and III. Invitations were mailed in February and March to judges and qualified participants. The program will begin on Monday afternoon with registration from 3:00 p.m. (continued on page 2)

emphasized the rules of evidence in criminal cases. Other presentations included updates on recent Court of Criminal Appeals decisions by Presiding Judge McCormick, criminal law matters pending in the 72nd Legislature by Tom Krampitz, Executive Director of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, and sentencing alternatives by Judges Clarence Stevenson and Ronald Yeager along with representatives from the Community Justice Assistance Division of the Texas (continued on page 2)

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# IN MEMORIAM

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## *Judge Thomas C. Ferguson*

Judge Thomas C. Ferguson of Burnet died February 10, 1991. He was 84 years old. Judge Ferguson concluded his formal education at 14 years of age upon graduation from Burnet High School. He became owner-editor of the *Liberty Hill Texas Index* in 1921 and was owner-editor of the *Blanco Courier* from 1923 until 1924. He was employed as the publisher of the *Burnet Bulletin* from 1924 until 1926 and later employed by the *Superior Sun* in Arizona in 1926.

Ferguson was appointed deputy district clerk of Burnet County in January, 1927, and served for two years during which time he studied law. He received his law license in January, 1929. He served as city attorney for the City of Burnet; as special counsel for the County of Burnet; as city attorney for Marble Falls and Johnson City. He later became Mayor for the City of Burnet. He was appointed county judge of Burnet County to serve out an unexpired term. In 1947, he was appointed district judge for the 33rd District Court and was re-elected to that bench three times. He retired in 1971. Judge Ferguson was appointed by Governor Price Daniel to serve as chairman of the State Board of Insurance in 1962. He was a member of the State Bar of Texas and a Charter Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

## *Justice Herbert C. Martin*

Justice Herbert Charles Martin of Amarillo died July 6, 1990. Martin received his LL. B. from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1929. He practiced law for 22 years, serving two terms as district attorney in Littlefield. He then served as an associate justice on the 7th Supreme Judicial District Court of Civil Appeals. He was in private practice from 1957 until 1989.

## *Judge Jack B. Miller*

Judge Jack B. Miller died February 18, 1991. He was 69 years old. Miller graduated from Texas A & M University in 1934 and received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1948. He was elected county judge of San Saba that same year. He served as district attorney for the 33rd Judicial District, and in 1960 was elected judge of that bench. After Judge Miller retired in 1976, he began teaching a course in trial advocacy at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. He taught this course for 12 years and was a tenured professor of law. Miller served as mayor of San Saba from 1977 until 1984. He was serving on the board of directors of the Lower Colorado River Authority at the time of his death.

## *Judge George W. Svanas*

Judge George W. Svanas of Odessa died January 9, 1991. He was 65 years old. Svanas attended Draughns Business College in Oklahoma and received his bachelor of law degree from Oklahoma University in 1950. Svanas came to Odessa, Texas with Phillips Petroleum and worked there until he joined the law firm of Stowe and Harman in 1954. In 1967, he and his wife formed the law firm of Svanas and Svanas, where he practiced until he was appointed judge of the newly created Ector County Court at Law No. 2. Judge Svanas was a member of the State Bar College, American Bar Association, Texas Judicial Council and a member of the board of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Ector County.

## *Judge Marvin O. Teague*

Judge Marvin O. Teague of Austin died February 20, 1991. He was 57 years old. Teague received his undergraduate and master's degree from Southwest Texas State University and his law degree from the University of Houston. He served as city attorney in Spring Valley from 1969 until 1971. He served as senior administrative assistant for the Court of Criminal Appeals from 1971 until 1972, after which he practiced law in Houston until 1981. Teague joined the Court of Criminal Appeals in January, 1981 and remained on that court up until the time of his death. Judge Teague was a member of the Houston Bar Association, the Travis County Bar Association, Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He also served as editor of the Significant Decisions Report for the *Voice for the Defense* for six years. Judge Teague was an author for the *Texas Criminal Practice Guide*.

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## *Criminal Justice Conference from page 1*

Department of Criminal Justice. Judge E. Lee Gabriel from Denton spoke on the topic of criminal evidence as it relates to experts, scientific evidence and opinion evidence. Chris Marshall, Assistant District Attorney, Fort Worth, spoke on hearsay, and David Chapman, also from Fort Worth, spoke on DWI.

Next year's conference is scheduled for May 13-15. The location will be announced in the August issue of *In Chambers*.

## *Professional Development Program from page 1*

until 5:00 p.m. and will conclude by noon on Friday.

Several judges are on the faculty of the seminar and offer the coordinators invaluable information from a judicial perspective. Scheduled to speak are: Judges Dan Downey of Houston, Paul Ferguson of Houston, Larry Gist of Beaumont, Cynthia Stevens Kent of Tyler, Lamar McCorkle of Houston, and James Zimmermann of Dallas.

## Judicial Education Reporting Procedures

At the behest of the Supreme Court, the Texas Center has worked with the State Bar to establish a single registry concept of reporting continuing judicial education hours. The new procedures for active, retired and former judges of appellate, district and statutory county courts follow:

A. If you attend a course which has been approved by the State Bar of Texas for MCLE, turn in the State Bar CLE Course Attendance Form to the CLE sponsor at the conclusion of the course. When the completed CLE Course Attendance Form is returned to the State Bar by the CLE sponsor, your attendance at the course will be recorded in all of your applicable compliance records, including continuing judicial education, MCLE, Board of Legal Specialization and Bar College, to the extent the program has been credited for those purposes.

B. In all other instances, send a Judge's Certification for Credit Form to the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.

**Note:** Constitutional County Judges will continue to send certification for credit to the Texas Center for all courses and programs attended.

## New Judges

**Fortunato P. Benavides**

Court of Criminal Appeals, Austin  
*Succeeding Marvin O. Teague*

**Ron Chapman**

5th Court of Appeals, Dallas  
*Succeeding Pat McClung*

**John Creuzot**

Criminal District Court #4, Dallas  
*Succeeding Frances J. Maloney*

**Jan Elizabeth Hemphill**

Criminal District Court #1, Dallas  
*Succeeding Ron Chapman*

**Robert E. Hollman**

County Court at Law #2, Odessa  
*Succeeding George W. Svanas*

**Bea Ann Smith**

3rd Court of Appeals, Austin  
*Succeeding Robert A. Gammage*

**Phillip H. Zeigler**

52nd District Court, Gatesville  
*Succeeding Bobby L. Cummings*

## Judicial Calendar

### Trial Court Management Seminar

June 17-21, 1991  
University Hotel, Huntsville

### Institute for Appellate Court Attorneys

September 11-13, 1991  
Crest Hotel, Austin

### Judicial Section

**Annual Conference**  
September 24-27, 1991  
Galvez & Flagship Hotels,  
Galveston

### Texas Association for Court Administration

**Annual Conference**  
October 15-18, 1991  
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Austin

### Juvenile Justice Seminar

November 6-8, 1991  
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

### Constitutional County Judges Education Course

November 19-22, 1991  
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

### Texas College for New Judges

December 8-13, 1991  
University Hotel, Huntsville

### Southeast Texas

**Judicial Conference**  
February 19-21, 1992  
University Hotel, Huntsville

### South Texas

**Judicial Conference**  
March 11-13, 1992  
Hotel to be Announced  
San Antonio

### Central Texas

**Judicial Conference**  
March 25-27, 1992  
Location to be Announced

### Northeast Texas

**Judicial Conference**  
April 8-10, 1992  
Hotel to be Announced, Marshall

### West Texas

**Judicial Conference**  
April 22-24, 1992  
Hotel to be Announced, Odessa

### Criminal Justice Conference

May 13-15, 1992  
Location to be Announced

### Trial Court Management Seminar

June 15-19, 1992  
University Hotel, Huntsville

### Institute for Appellate Court Attorneys

September 9-11, 1992  
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

### Judicial Section

**Annual Conference**  
September 22-25, 1992  
Westin Hotel, El Paso

### Texas Association for Court Administration

**Annual Conference**  
Date to be Announced  
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

### Juvenile Justice Seminar

November 4-6, 1992  
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

### Texas College for New Judges

December 6-11, 1992  
University Hotel, Huntsville

# Contributions to the Texas Center

Since the January 1991 Issue of *In Chambers*

Bill Bass  
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D. Camille Dunn  
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John L. McKellips  
E. W. Patteson

Tom Ramey  
Texas Association for  
Court Administration  
Harold L. Valderas  
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***Judge Marvin O. Teague Memorial***

Joe B. Brown

The Executive Committee of the  
Judicial Section of the State Bar of  
Texas will meet on June 21, 1991  
at 2:00 p.m. in the Mesquite Room  
at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in  
Houston.

**IN  
CHAMBERS**

**Texas Center  
for the  
Judiciary, Inc.**

**Roy J. Rawls  
Executive Director**

**Tricia Stringer  
Editor**

Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.  
P.O. Box 12487  
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