



IN CHAMBERS

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1992 Regional Conferences Focused on Judicial Ethics: No Regional Conferences in 1993

The five regional conferences held this spring had a special emphasis on judicial ethics. Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips and Justice Lloyd Doggett of the Texas Supreme Court, along with Justice Mack Kidd of the Austin Court of Appeals, brought the participants up-to-date on the Supreme Court Task Force on Judicial Ethics and on the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Senior District Judge Hume Cofer shared with the judges a working draft of a proposal by the Committee on Judicial Ethics entitled "Statement by the Texas Judiciary of Ethical Principles and Guidelines" which will be voted on by the judges at the annual conference in September.

Judge Michael Keasler, Dean of the Regional Judicial Conferences, and his faculty composed of judges and staff from the Commission on Judicial Conduct, offered a nuts-and-bolts approach to judicial ethics and focused on both the public and personal conduct of judges. Small group sessions were utilized where group leaders presented various scenarios which led to many lively discussions both in and out of the classrooms. "A very timely presentation" was the comment made most frequently on the course evaluation forms.

There will be a state-wide conference in Austin in the Spring of 1993 instead of the five regional conferences



A small group session at the 1992 Southeast Texas Judicial Conference in Huntsville. Pictured left to right: Judge Jack R. King, Beaumont; Judge June Jackson, Hempstead; Faculty Member Judge Thomas Bacus, Wichita Falls; Judge Carl Walker, Houston; and Faculty Member Judge Joseph B. Morris, Dallas.

normally held by the Texas Center. The conference will be entitled "College for Advanced Judicial Studies" and will offer twelve different courses, each lasting two days. Because enrollment in each course will be limited to a certain number of participants, judges will be asked to list several preferences for courses when registering and will be

assigned to preferred courses on a first-come, first-served basis. The conference will be held in four Austin hotels on March 7-10, 1993.

Much more information and details will be forthcoming as the planning of the conference progresses under the leadership of Dean Mike Keasler.



Judges in attendance at a plenary session of the 1992 West Texas Judicial Conference in Odessa.

IN MEMORIAM

Justice Rudolph S. Esquivel

Justice Rudolph Esquivel of San Antonio died April 3, 1992. He was 67 years old. He received his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1950. He served in the Bexar County District Attorney's office from 1952 until 1955, in the Legislature from 1961 until 1964, and as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2, from 1975 until 1980. He was elected to the 4th Court of Appeals in 1980 and served on that court until 1988. After resigning from the bench, Justice Esquivel joined the law offices of Jim Perkins, where he practiced law until his death.

Judge James A. McKay, Jr.

Judge James McKay of San Antonio died January 10, 1992. He was 74 years old. Judge McKay received his J.D. from the University of Texas in 1941. He served as a Captain in the Army during World War II, and retired in 1962

as Lieutenant Colonel, USAR. Judge McKay was elected to the 150th District Court in San Antonio in the general election in 1962 and assumed the bench January 1, 1963. Judge McKay retired from the bench in 1982. He served as president of the San Antonio Bar Association in 1955 and of the Community Welfare Council of San Antonio in 1956. He was chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission of San Antonio from 1957 until 1958 and of the 20th District Americanism Commission of the American Legion.

Justice Zollie Steakley

Justice Zollie Steakley of Austin died March 24, 1992. He was 83 years old. He attended Hardin-Simmons University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree, and received his J.D. in 1932 from the University of Texas School of Law. Steakley was in private practice in Sweetwater and later in

Austin for 18 years. From 1957 until 1961 he served as Secretary of State. In 1961, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas and subsequently elected to the Court in 1962. He was re-elected for two more terms and then retired after completing 20 years of service. After his retirement, he was employed by the Attorney General's office. Justice Steakley received many professional honors including: The University of Texas Chapter of the Order of the Coif; Rosewood Gavel Award as Distinguished Jurist presented by the St. Mary's University School of Law; Outstanding Achievement Award, Texas Leaders Round Table; The Justinian Order, Sam Houston Senate of the Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity; and the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Hardin-Simmons University.

Contributions to the Texas Center

Since the January 1992 Issue of *In Chambers*

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John F. and Nancy Onion

Justice Joe Spurlock, Sr., Memorial

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Justice Zollie Steakley Memorial

Glen M. Harrison
Weldon Kirk
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NEW JUDGES

Chad Cable

County Court at Law, Sulphur Springs
Newly Created Court

David F. Crain

County Court at Law #3, Austin
Succeeding Michael J. Schless

Susan Larsen

8th Court of Appeals, El Paso
Succeeding Jerry Woodard

Bill Peek

202nd District Court, Texarkana
Succeeding Guy Jones

Dwight E. Peschel

25th District Court, Seguin
Succeeding B. B. Schraub

John Street

48th District Court, Fort Worth
Succeeding Wm. L. Hughes

Martha B. Tanner

166th District Court, San Antonio
Succeeding Peter Michael Curry

Kevin Wiggins

5th Court of Appeals, Dallas
Succeeding Warren Whitham

Don Windle

County Court at Law #3, Denton
Succeeding Hollis Godfrey

Judicial Calendar

**Professional Development
Courses for Court Coordinators,
Managers and Administrators**
June 15-19, 1992
University Hotel, Huntsville

**Institute for Appellate Court
Attorneys**
September 2-4, 1992
Driskill Hotel, Austin

**Judicial Section
Annual Conference**
September 22-25, 1992
El Paso Convention Center
El Paso

TACA Annual Conference
October 20-23, 1992
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Austin

**Constitutional County Judges
Education Course**
Date and Location to be
Announced

Texas College for New Judges
December 6-11, 1992
University Hotel, Huntsville

**Texas College of Advanced
Judicial Studies**
March 7-10, 1993
Hotels to be Announced, Austin

Criminal Justice Conference
May 19-21, 1993
Doubletree Hotel, Austin

**Professional Development
Courses for Court Coordinators,
Managers and Administrators**
June 21-25, 1993
University Hotel, Huntsville

**Institute for Appellate Court
Attorneys**
September 8-10, 1993 (Tentative)
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

**Judicial Section
Annual Conference**
September 21-24, 1993 (Tentative)
Hotel and City to be Announced

TACA Annual Conference
October 19-22, 1993
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Austin

Juvenile Justice Seminar
November 3-5, 1993 (Tentative)
Hotel to be Announced, Austin

Texas College for New Judges
December 5-10, 1993
University Hotel, Huntsville

State Bar to Meet in Corpus Christi

The 1992 Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Texas will be held June 24-27 at the Bayfront Plaza Convention Center. The State Bar has put together an outstanding selection of continuing legal education courses, exhibitions and social activities. In keeping with the theme of the Quincentenary, this year's annual meeting also will offer a unique opportunity to better understand the influence of Spain on the Texas legal system. For more information about the annual meeting call the State Bar of Texas at (512) 463-1517.

The Board of Directors of the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc., will meet on Friday, June 26, at 1:30 p.m., followed by a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Section at 2:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held in South Padre Island Rooms C & D of the Sheraton Hotel in Corpus Christi.

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

Roy J. Rawls
Executive Director

Tricia Hall
Editor

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