



# TEXAS JUSTICE COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION



Excellence and Integrity



*March 20, 2006 In this issue- Education Reform, Judge of the Year, JCJ Scholarship, Annual Conference*

## **THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER** **ANNOUNCEMENT EVER!**

The way you get your education has forever changed! The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has announced that they have adopted the reforms for judicial education requested by our organization, the Texas Justice Court Judge's Association.

First, a few of the highpoints on the changes:

- **ALL** Texas Justice Court Judges one day schools you have attended in the current education year **do count** toward your required 20 hours of annual continuing education
- You now may obtain your continuing education through 18 different sources if you have been a Judge for more than two years. Historically, you have had only one place to receive accredited training.
- Newly elected judges will still attend an eighty hour school with the Texas Justice Court Training Center, and a follow-up 20 hour school their second year.
- The 18 different educational sources are listed at the end of this email
- Any twenty (20) hour school must be attended in its entirety for the judge to receive credit for that school. In other words, you cannot sign up for a twenty hour school, attend the first day, leave, and expect credit!

There were some who opposed our ideas about broadening the scope for educational opportunity. We are thankful the Appeals Court agreed with our vision. The complete paste of the applicable section is included in this email, and the complete document from the Court of Criminal Appeals is either available or will soon be available at the website at [www.tjcja.com](http://www.tjcja.com) .

## **2006 JUDGE OF THE YEAR APPLICATION**

Once again, we are asking for your nominations for this year's award. To be eligible to receive the Judge of the Year award, you must be a member in good standing of the Texas Justice Court Judge's Association.

If you wish to nominate a Judge, the nomination form is posted at the website at [www.tjcja.com](http://www.tjcja.com).

If you have not joined JCJ, take time to review our website at [www.tjcja.com](http://www.tjcja.com). We hope that once you see our commitment to judges and clerks, you will consider becoming a member. We are one of the fastest growing public sector organizations in Texas.

## **2006 JCJ SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES**

It is also time to think about nominations for the 2006 Texas Justice Court Judges Association Scholarship! The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a high school graduate or college student who is a child or grandchild of a JCJ Association member in good standing. The scholarship is not restricted to a particular field of study. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have more scholarship questions, contact Judge Mitch Shamberger at [jp4@smith-county.com](mailto:jp4@smith-county.com).

More information on the scholarship, as well as the application, is posted at the website at [www.tjcja.com](http://www.tjcja.com).

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES COMING UP**

**Texas Justice Court Judge's Annual Conference**- San Antonio, July 18-21<sup>st</sup>- If you haven't been to one of our Annual Conferences, you are missing out. You can network with other judges concerning legislation, education, or just exchange ideas on how to do things in court. It is also a BLAST!

You can click on this link or go to the website to read about the conference:

<http://www.tjcja.com> LOOK FOR THE ALAMO!

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Here is selected Text from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The complete text is available at the website at [www.tjcja.com](http://www.tjcja.com).

### **RULE 3. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.**

- a. Each Justice of the Peace will, as an official duty:
  - (1) complete within one year after taking office, an 80 hour course of instruction from the Texas Justice Court Training Center in the performance of the duties of office; and
  - (2) complete in the second year after taking office, a 20-hour course

of instruction from the Texas Justice Court Training Center in the performance of duties of office; and

(3) ~~(2)~~ each fiscal year thereafter, complete a 20 hour course of instruction approved by a Justice Court Education Committee in the performance of the duties of office. A Justice Court Education Committee may not deny course credit to a justice of the peace who receives approval for such credit through another Justice Court Education Committee. A Justice Court Education Committee may approve, or pre-approve, courses taken from the following list of qualifying entities;

- (1) Texas Justice Court Training Center
- (2) V.G. Young Institute of County Government
- (3) Texas Department of Health and Human Services
- (4) National Judicial College, Reno
- (5) Local, state, or national bar association
- (6) Texas District and County Attorneys Association
- (7) Texas Municipal Court Education Center
- (8) Texas Association of Counties
- (9) Office of the Secretary of State
- (10) Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.
- (11) American Academy of Judicial Education
- (12) Institute of Judicial Administration
- (13) Any accredited law school
- (14) Texas Trial Lawyers Association
- (15) Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- (16) Wright Lecture Series
- (17) National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- (18) Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

\* (4) Grant funds may not be used to pay for the cost of training from the aforementioned 18 training entities, except for the Texas Justice Court Training Center and the V.G. Young Institute of County Government.

### **PENDING APPROVAL BY THE COURT**

- b. A person who serves in the dual capacity as a justice of the peace and as a municipal judge may be permitted to receive credit toward fulfillment of the requirements of the rules of judicial education for each office by attending a course of instruction for either office, provided that the curriculum is pertinent to the duties and responsibilities of each office. The determination of the applicability of the course to each or either office shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the a judicial-education committee having jurisdiction over each office in accordance with that committee's procedures.

- c. Only courses of instruction completed through a continuing education program approved by the Justice Court Education Committee can be utilized to satisfy the requirement of Rule 3.a.(1).
- d. The Texas Justice Court Training Center will be the keeper of records for credit hours approved for all justices of the peace for the purpose of fulfilling Rules 9.b and 10. Also, they will prescribe the format, guidelines, and timelines for record keeping to be used by other justice court training entities, and all such entities will report to the Texas Justice Court Training Center for this purpose.
- e. A Justice Court Education Committee may make rules regarding attendance at their training events and may deny costs for an attendee who violates those rules.
- f. d. Once Rule 3a(1) has been satisfied, justices of the peace who are also licensed attorneys may obtain training sponsored by the organizations listed in Rule 2c.