



# GARY FITZSIMMONS

## DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK Fall 2009



When I sought the office of District Clerk in 2006, a major part of my campaign platform was my pledge to bring the office into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with technology. I am extremely proud of the work our office has done to move the Digital Courts Project forward. After a successful roll-out in the 302<sup>nd</sup> District Family Court, we sought to bring greater efficiency to our customers and the judiciary by digitizing all civil e-filed documents. And on August 17, we created Dallas County's first criminal felony digital court, the 283<sup>rd</sup> Criminal District Court. I want to thank every staff member - from clerks to managers and our chief deputy - whose hard work has made these accomplishments possible. We are well on our way to helping fulfill my promise to the citizens of Dallas County to make our District Courts among the most efficient in the State of Texas.

-- Gary Fitzsimmons, District Clerk

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### **Criminal Courts Staff Members Digitize Almost 11,000 Documents Over Weekend to Prepare for 283<sup>rd</sup> Court's Go-Live Digital Process**

On Monday morning, August 17, 2009, the 283<sup>rd</sup> Criminal District Court went live with all current case documents. This landmark achievement was made possible by a team of District Clerk staff that digitized almost 11,000 documents in two days, a Herculean task.

Documents in all pending cases in this court are now digitized, and from this point, all new documents will be as well. This will enable Judge Rick Magnis, in whose court the program is being tested, to view documents from the bench, and will make these documents available to attorneys in the defense workroom and in the court hall way, as well as to court staff.

Additionally, members of the media and the public will be able to view documents on courthouse computers, saving time by not having to go through the records department or court clerks to retrieve information. District Clerk staff who worked during the weekend of August 15 and 16 to prepare for this milestone included: Kelly Barnhart, Miriam Broadway, Christopher Brown, Tina Cooper, David Daniels, Monica Davis, Anne Erwin, Virginia Etherly, Bo Jackson, Fae Lilley, Michael Linarez, Barbie Murphy, Ana Reyes, Jesusita Tovar, Stan Tungate, Tanya Varnado and Catherine Walters. This team, which included our Chief Deputy, managers, supervisors and clerks, demonstrated the dedication it has taken to achieve this milestone in Dallas County history.



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**"Service to others is the rent you pay  
for your room here on earth."**

**-- Muhammad Ali**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## July

2 Vickie Dentler  
4 Mary Ann Cannon  
4 Melissa Harden  
4 Sally Null  
5 Sheria Linscome  
7 Leslie Young  
8 Betty Orozco  
9 Migel Hernandez  
12 Tarvaya Jordan  
12 Matt Little  
13 Michele Leers  
14 Tenisha Bowens  
16 Carol Jones  
17 Vicki Artis  
17 Carla Barclay  
17 Salonda Brown  
17 Ruth North  
19 Donna O'Neal  
19 Shundra Young  
20 Mariela Avalos  
20 Irma Torres  
21 Veronica Vaughn  
23 Leonard Blackwell  
24 Rita Liston  
25 Jeanette Hollingsworth  
25 Leslie Richardson  
31 Adam Bourgeois

## August

1 Mike Lindley  
2 Carol Langley  
4 Jessica Esparza  
4 Tanya Jones  
5 Denise Mailey  
8 Traketa Edwards  
8 Michele Morneault  
7 Susan Sam  
9 Florretta Hampton  
9 Roberta Williams  
9 Catherine Addison  
10 Maria Sanchez  
12 Angela Thompson  
13 Rosemary DeLaCerde  
13 Debra Parker  
13 Marsha Sweet  
16 Susan Haynes  
17 Jo Ann Gardner  
18 Glenn Pittman  
20 Angie Flores  
20 Dana Jackson  
24 Nedra Bolin  
24 Isaac Elizarraras  
27 David Daniels  
28 Katie Nutting  
30 Virginia Etherly  
30 Gail Gomez

## September

2 Monesha Beckett  
2 Melvita Shoals  
2 Tanya Varnado  
6 Ruthie Gibson  
8 Denise Asberry-Hughes  
10 Troylandria Jackson  
11 Trenton Hearn  
12 Shelly Hoffman  
14 Dorothy Lankford  
10 Joyce Colbert  
15 L'Tanya Evans  
15 Cheryl Easter  
17 Gary Nimitz  
19 Miriam Broadway  
19 Bonnie Rivera  
21 Dondra Gray  
21 Maryesther Petton  
21 Rhonda Ford  
24 Monica Davis  
25 Gay Denise Smith  
27 Jennifer Holman  
28 C. Timmins-Walker  
30 Regina Taylor



## Happy Anniversary!

### 5 year

Mindy Fowlkes  
Jeannette Hollingsworth  
Michele Morneault  
Lela Robinson

### 10 year

Teresa Jones  
Rosa Orozco  
Susan Sam  
Roberta Williams

### 15 year

Sharonda Davis  
Theresa Heard  
Jackie Mathis-Jones  
Angela Thompson

### 20 year

Eva Richardson  
Donna O'Neal  
Lisa Ragan  
Betty Orozco

## 25 Years!



Michael Clark



Tina Cooper



Michele Leers



Dorothy Lankford

"What lies behind us and before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."  
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Jeremy Cooke, clerk in the 302<sup>nd</sup>, prepares to remove files as the Family Court nears its goal of becoming completely paperless. And in Civil Courts, all documents e-filed are now electronically managed for greater court efficiency and customer service. Customer feedback for the digital courts project has been extremely positive from the legal community, one of the major stakeholders in the District Clerk's office and its operations.



**"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them.**

**They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."**

**– General Colin Powell**

#### **Joint Christmas-in-July Toy Drive Held by Benevolence Committee and Facilities a Success**

Thanks to the generosity of District Clerk and Facilities employees, and the hard work of the Benevolence Committee members, the departments' joint toy drive to benefit Buckner Children's Home netted enough toys to bring plenty of holiday cheer to the boys and girls at the home. Shown at right are committee members Carol Langley, Bo Jackson and Dondra Gray, who helped wrap boxes for drop off points in George Allen, Henry Wade and Frank Crowley. Below are Carol Johnson and Wendy Quintanilla from Facilities, left, and Dorothy Lankford and Maryesther Petton from the Benevolence Committee.



#### **SAFPF COURT MOVES TO GEORGE ALLEN COURTS BULIDING**

Barbara Lemaire, shown at left, is the new clerk in the Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF) court now on the seventh floor in the GACB. Presided over by the court's founder, Judge Robert Francis, the court is really an on-going program designed to help offenders avoid further abuse by offering them a wide range of programs -- from counseling and support to drug testing and medical assistance. "This program makes me feel like I'm making a difference in some one's life everyday, so I love my job here," says Barbara.

# Quarterly Featured Recipe

## MISSISSIPPI MUD CAKE

1 c. butter	2 c. sugar
4 eggs	1 tsp. vanilla
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. flour	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. cocoa
1 small can coconut	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped pecans
1 jar marshmallow cream	

Cream sugar and butter well, add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Add vanilla, cocoa and flour. Fold in coconut and pecans. Use a greased and floured 9x13 pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 40 minutes or until tests done. While cake is hot, spread marshmallow cream over the top then pour on frosting.

## FROSTING

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. butter	$\frac{1}{2}$ c. cocoa
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. can milk	1 box powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla	

Mix butter, cocoa milk, heat. Beat in powdered sugar. After pouring over cake, swirl to create design.

Submitted by: Patricia Elliott



Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share? If so, email it to [Brittney.Owens@dallascounty.org](mailto:Brittney.Owens@dallascounty.org)