



# GARY FITZSIMMONS

## DISTRICT CLERK COURIER

Summer 2010



First, I want to thank all staff members for working diligently over the past year to not just maintain our level of customer service, but to improve it in many areas while facing a budget crisis. As I announced in our recent staff meetings, 2011 will be even more challenging as we cut another ten percent from our budget. However, even with these cuts, it is possible that we will face a three percent pay cut across the County, which I believe is a more equitable option than furloughs. Therefore, I encourage all of you to plan for this contingency and to explore ways to make your jobs more efficient and share ideas with colleagues so that we will still enjoy the reputation as one of the most competent departments in Dallas County.

Gary Fitzsimmons

### Sandra Sifford Named Civil/Family Assistant Manager

With the Dallas County Clerk for 23 years, Sandra Sifford has a wide range of experience in both criminal and civil management. Beginning Friday, July 2, she will play a leading role in completing the conversion of civil and family district courts. She attended Alabama State University before moving to Dallas in 1984. She completed Dallas County Community College's program to receive an Associate in Science degree in Criminal Justice from Cedar Valley College in 2003. She is currently attending the University of North Texas Dallas Campus where she will receive her Bachelor of Art and Science degree in Criminal Justice.



### George Vent Named Trust, Accounting, Collections Manager; Felicia Pitre Appointed Civil/Tax Supervisor

George Vent was named Manager of Trust, Accounting and Collections after distinguishing himself implementing major changes initiated by District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons after he was elected to office in 2007. In addition to managing accounting and collections, George oversees the Registry of the Court, where funds are deposited for bonds in civil cases, and ensures that the District Clerk's management of trust funds established by civil and family court orders complies with Texas' state laws.



A part of the District Clerk's staff since 2007, Felicia Pitre has been named Civil/Tax Supervisor. Most recently, Felicia served as Passports Supervisor where she developed several proposals for generating new sources of revenue through that office and looking for new ways to streamline operations. She will bring that same resourcefulness in problem solving to her position as supervisor of clerks that serve 14 District Courts in a critical period as they complete conversion to a digital format, a major objective for the District Clerk. She can now be reached at 214-653-6048

The District Clerk Courier is a quarterly publication produced by Brittny Owens and edited by Marsha Bills.

## Shundra Young Is New Collections Supervisor; Veteran Deputy Edmundo Rojano Promoted to IV-D Coordinator

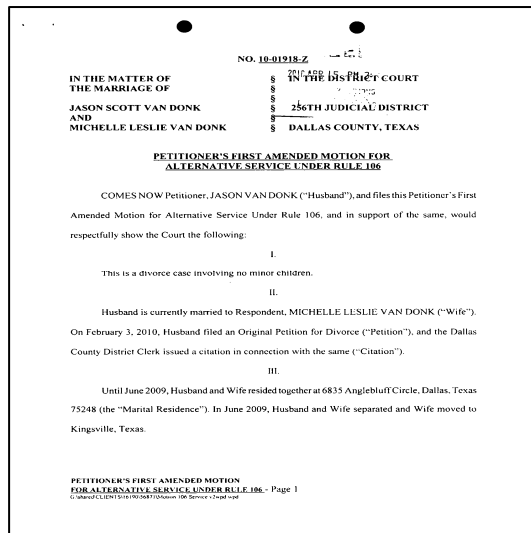
Shundra Young joined the Trust, Accounting and Collections department in 2009 after moving from Tyler, Texas, where she worked as a paralegal for four years. Shundra attended Tyler Junior College where she received an associates degree in pre-law and attended Texas A & M Commerce, where received a BA in math in 2008, as well as teaching certification. Already well-prepared for a variety of positions in the workplace – from legal work to teaching math – Shundra is currently working towards a masters degree in mathematics from Phoenix University.



Edmundo Rojano, who has served in the District Clerk's office for five years, worked most recently at the Lank Bank desk in the Tax section before his promotion to IV-D Courts Liaison. Known for his versatility and ability to adapt quickly to different environments and new technology, he will support the Family and IV-D courts as they move forward in a digital environment serving more customers every year.



## Milestone Ten Millionth Image Scanned; More Civil, Family and Criminal Courts Go Paperless



In April, a remarkable milestone was reached in the three-year-old digital courts project: district clerk deputies scanned the 10 millionth image in the continuing project.

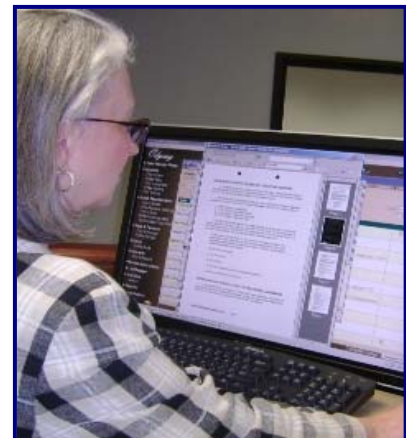
Begun with a specialized team of imaging clerks, the project has now reached the point at which court clerks are scanning images as they come to the court, hastening the addition of more courts to the paperless format.

The District Clerk wants to thank key members of the judiciary who were instrumental in taking the first steps to this major conversion: specifically Judge Tena Callahan, 302<sup>nd</sup> Family District Court; Judge Martin Lowy, 101<sup>st</sup> Civil District Court; and Judge Rick Magnis, 283<sup>rd</sup> Criminal District Court. Without their openness to new technology and the understanding that the process would be challenging, the project would have been impossible.

Full implementation of the digital judicial process is scheduled for the 255th, 256th, and 303<sup>rd</sup> Family District courts are in progress. Completion of the process for all remaining family district courts, including Title IV-D courts, should be implemented by year end.

In the Civil District Courts, the 95th, 116th, 160th, 101st, and 134th Civil District Courts are also expected to be completed by year end. The District Clerk's office is now working with its tax firm to migrate submission of paper tax cases to digital format.

In the Criminal Courts, all new indictments filed after January 1, 2010 for each of the 16 criminal district courts are now digital eliminating paper case jackets. One new Criminal Court is being added to the paperless format every three weeks, with completion of all courts expected by year end.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## APRIL

Michael Linarez 4/3  
 Marilyn Shipp 4/3  
 Charlotte Wilson 4/5  
 Verlinda Flowers 4/9  
 Whitney King 4/9  
 Bonnie Bowser 4/10  
 Rosa Orozco 4/12  
 Mikeshia Allen 4/14  
 Cynthia Bailey 4/16  
 Jacqueline Martinez 4/16  
 Connie Darnell 4/17  
 Edmundo Rojano 4/18  
 Bernice Reid 4/21  
 Felisita Lozano 4/22  
 Jesus Rangel 4/22  
 Theresa Heard 4/27  
 Tanyika Champion 4/28  
 Melinda Thomas 4/28

## MAY

Clair Moses 5/1  
 Tenisha Everett 5/4  
 Rita Rodgers 5/6  
 Adrienne Heads 5/8  
 Barbara Lemaire 5/4  
 Nan Turner 5/9  
 Stan Tungate 5/10  
 Barbara Barton 5/12  
 Cheryl Whitman-Rivera 5/12  
 Diana Williams 5/12  
 Kimberlee Young 5/12  
 Debora Clark 5/23  
 Anita Freeney 5/27  
 Shirley Gomez 5/30  
 LaMonica Littles 5/30

## JUNE

Doris Grant 6/2  
 Ronda Sutton 6/2  
 Sandra Lopez 6/3  
 Nelly Palacios 6/3  
 Jenny Kirtley 6/4  
 Angelina Meade 6/4  
 Krystal Hills 6/6  
 Liska McCasland 6/6  
 Jeffie Swanson 6/6  
 Edgar Martinez 6/8  
 Ana Reyes 6/10  
 Michael Clark 6/13  
 Aurora Miranda 6/13  
 Patricia Briscoe 6/16  
 Jesse Lopez 6/18  
 Zelda Ridge 6/21  
 Danita Devereaux 6/21  
 Diane Taylor 6/22  
 Andra Sherrod 6/23

# Happy Anniversary!

Thanks to these deputies for their service to the District Clerks Office:

### 5 years

Michael Linarez  
 Brittny Owens

### 10 years

Celeste Brown  
 Ann Ellis  
 Angelina Meade

### 15 years

Diane Taylor

### 20 years

Jacci Cotton  
 Chloris Clark

# 25 Years of Service!



Congratulations and thank you to Deniece Asberry-Hughes for 25 years of exemplary service and dedication to the District Clerk's office where she trains criminal court clerks, leaving an enduring impact on the courts and the reputation of this office.

# Quarterly Featured Recipe

## APRICOT SALAD

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2- 3oz. packages orange-flavored gelatin
- 2 cup boiling water
- 1/3 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1- 30oz. can apricots
- 1- 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. crushed pineapple
- 2 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup bugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Chopped pecans, optional

### DIRECTIONS:

- Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add marshmallows; stir until dissolved.
- Drain apricots and pineapple, reserving juice. Set aside  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup apricot juice and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup pineapple juice for topping. Combine remaining juice, and add water to measure 2 cups; stir into gelatin.
- Chill until consistency of unbeaten egg white.
- Chop apricots; fold apricots and pineapple into gelatin. Pour into a 13x9x2-inch dish. Chill until firm.
- Melt butter; add flour stirring well. Add sugar, egg, and reserved apricot and pineapple juice.
- Cook over medium heat until thickened. Chill. Fold in whipped topping.
- Spread over gelatin mixture. Sprinkle with pecans, if desired.
- Yield about 15 servings.

Submitted by: Sandra K Moresco



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)