

SUMMER 2020

# THE JUDICIAL VIEW

The official newsletter of  
Dallas County Court 11  
Hon. Shequitta Kelly, Presiding  
[www.dallascounty.org/cc11](http://www.dallascounty.org/cc11)



## COVID-19 Brings Changes To The Court Room

### JUSTICE IS STILL HAPPENING - REMOTELY

COVID-19 has brought many changes to our world. Important institutions have been forced to quickly adapt. Schools have moved online, companies have figured out how to stay open, hospitals have made drastic changes in delivering care, and the justice system has adapted as well.

Dallas County Judge Shequitta Kelly is helping lead the way in efforts to ensure that our legal system continues to function fully during this public health crisis. The Dallas Morning News featured the work of Judge Kelly on adopting video hearings in a story published in April 2020.

The story focuses on the work underway by courts across Dallas to adapt to the new realities of functioning in a world where social distancing is required.

"When I saw that they were shutting down juries, I was thinking of the safety of my court. I need to limit the exposure for all of us.

And at the same time, I need to be able to make sure the defendant still has his rights. And I still have to protect the community" said Judge Kelly in the interview.

*(continues on page 2)*

## CONTACT US

Address: Frank Crowley Courts Building 133  
N. Riverfront Boulevard, 4th Floor, Dallas, TX  
75207

E-mail: [jgraham@dallascounty.org](mailto:jgraham@dallascounty.org)

Phone: 214-712-5077

Follow us on:



Facebook - [CountyCriminalCourtNo.11](#)



Twitter - [dallasccc11](#)



Instagram - [DallasCourt11](#)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel, "Judging Dallas" that Judge Kelly initiated in 2019. It offers tidbits and information to Dallas County residents and FCCB visitors about different aspect of the justice system. "Judging Dallas" also broadcasts in the Lew Sterrett jail which houses thousands of inmates at a given time.



**SUBSCRIBE**



Watch Judge Kelly in action on the CCC11 website by clicking "Watch Live Stream."

# COVID-19 Brings Changes To Court Room

(continued from page 1)

"Hearings in Kelly's virtual court include attorneys, court coordinators and court reporters on one video-conference call. The defense attorney also is on a separate video call with the defendant on another device. The two video sessions face each other, so everyone can participate. It's still possible for defendants and their attorneys to speak without others overhearing." Judge Kelly is hearing pleas via Microsoft Teams. If an attorney has a defendant that would like to enter a disposition then the attorney and client must download Microsoft Teams. The attorney can contact the Court Coordinator Jacobe Graham via email at [jgraham@dallascounty.org](mailto:jgraham@dallascounty.org) to be added to the courts calendar.

NEWS > COURTS

## Dallas County judges hear criminal cases via video as coronavirus spreads

This article has comments enabled.

Jury trials have been postponed until May as courts go virtual and remote to keep operating.



Judge Shequitta Kelly, a misdemeanor court judge poses for a portrait where she works from home amid the coronavirus pandemic, on Thursday, April 9, 2020. (Vernon Bryant / Staff Photographer)

By LeVendrick Smith  
4:27 PM on Apr 14, 2020



You can read the entire story on the *Dallas Morning News* website by [clicking here](#).

## CourtCall Comes To The Courtroom

Judge Kelly is the first Judge to have a successful bond hearing using the new CourtCall system. This is a remote appearance program designed to service the specific needs of the Judiciary. With this system courts are equipped around the nation and Canada with audio visual technology. This system works by allowing inmates to go to any kiosk and complete hearings with the Judge or conduct business communications with their attorney. This system eliminates the need for risky and costly transportation outside of the facility. This system also provides a new much needed form of conducting legal business without exposing many people to COVID-19. For the Dallas County Criminal courts hardened kiosks are being provided and Judge Kelly aims to release these kiosks August 1st of 2020 in various towers throughout Lew Sterrett Justice Center.

## Summer Spotlight

### *Summer Intern - Haley Taylor Schlitz*

This summer spotlight focuses on our 2020 Summer Intern Haley Taylor Schlitz. Haley is 17 years old and just finished her first year of law school at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. In May of 2019, she graduated with high honors with a Bachelor's of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (Education) with an emphasis in Special Populations from Texas Woman's University. She is the youngest graduate in the history of TWU. Homeschooling allowed her to advance through high-school at her own pace, graduating at age 13, ready for college. Haley is pursuing a career as an attorney where she hopes to advocate for greater access to Gifted & Talented programs for students of color and girls.

