

The Judicial View

EXPEDITED DOCKET

In May of 2016, County Criminal Court 11 implemented its expedited docket to help move cases through the judicial process faster. Judge Kelly believes that both the victim and the defendant deserve swift justice. Judge Kelly stated, “people often forget that other people’s lives are on hold, but not me.” Thus, in an effort to keep things moving efficiently, she sets cases to be resolved within six months of its filing date. In a judicial system where a case could potentially take years before it is disposed, Judge Kelly has managed to find a successful system for keeping cases moving through the judicial system. Since implementation of the expedited docket, over 80% of cases were disposed of within six months. She attributes its success to everyone in her court including—the prosecutors, the defense attorneys and court staff. Everyone plays his or her part to keep the judicial system efficient.

INTERCEPTED: A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

The Intercepted program was implemented by Judge Kelly in June 2016. Intercepted is a nine month pre-trial diversion program for adults between the ages of 17-25 charged with a misdemeanor assault case. Each potential candidate is screened and must meet the following criteria: be between the age of 17-25, have an unadjudicated misdemeanor assault charge, have no prior convictions for assault, violent charges, or prior felony convictions. The candidate must want to make a change in his or her life. The scope of the treatment contains three phases: Evaluation, Treatment, and Aftercare.

This program serves to give the offender an opportunity to take responsibility for his or her actions while diverting young, first-time offenders from being subjected to the penalties of an Affirmative Finding of Family Violence. This program was created to help offenders gain access to resources such as mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, anger management, and domestic batterer’s treatment with the goal of helping those offenders who are headed in the wrong direction. The Intercepted program is voluntary, and upon successful completion of the program the pending case will be dismissed. Currently 21 active members are participating in the diversion program. Since the start of the Intercepted program back in June 2016, four individuals have already successfully completed the nine month program.



COURT DOCKET AND DECORUM

- ◆ Docket call is at 8:30 A.M.
- ◆ Cell phones must be silenced, not visible, and may not be used for photography or recording.
- ◆ Please advise all clients and witnesses that there will be no hats, sagging pants, midriffs, or offensive t-shirts allowed in the courtroom.
- ◆ Children under the age of 13 are not permitted inside the courtroom unless they are under a subpoena to testify.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Feed the Homeless

On June 29, 2017, County Criminal Court No. 11 was able to provide 95 sacked lunches to homeless men and women in Dallas.

Back to School Drive

Starting July 10, 2017 until August 14, 2017 County Criminal Court 11 will hold its Back to School drive to benefit the students at James S. Hogg Elementary School.

Attorney Appreciation Day

On July 10th, we will acknowledge our hardworking attorneys by providing coffee and donuts in appreciation for ensuring our docket runs smoothly.



CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE KELLY

On April 29, 2017, Judge Kelly was honored by Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. Psi Chapter at their 43rd Annual Business Month Awards Luncheon. Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. is a national business and professional women's organization founded in 1929. Judge Kelly was presented with the Joyce M. Jones Community Service Award in honor of all her hard work and dedication to serving our Community.

Judge Kelly has implemented several outreach programs such as: Curls, Clippers and Conversations, and Pipeline to Possibilities. Both programs are geared towards educating various areas of the community so that individuals are less likely to commit offenses.

Judge Kelly was also recently featured in Vol. 5 No. 25 of the Texas Metro Newspaper.

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible." -Audrey Hepburn



CONQUERING THE TEXAS BAR

Former intern for the Public Defender's office who worked in County Criminal Court 11, André Craig Jr., is part of the 48.36% who passed the Bar Exam in February. The Texas Bar Examination is a rigorous 2 ½ day test with four components: the Multistate Performance Test; the Procedure and Evidence questions; the Multistate Bar Examination; and the Texas Essay questions. The minimum passing combined scaled score is 675 out of 1,000.

André was raised in a Christian home by his mother. He attended Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia for both undergrad and law school. He advises that those who may be interested in going to law school should take writing and researching classes because that is a big part of what he does on a daily basis. For those who are currently in law school, he advises "to take time for yourself because the workload will burn you out if you let it." Congratulations Andre and Good luck with your future endeavors!

KNOW THE LAW

A stay away order is a court order that prohibits a person from going near and/or contacting another person by any mode of communication.

This means that the defendant may not contact the victim protected by the order via phone, text, email, social media or in person. A stay away order also prevents the defendant from sending messages through other people close to the victim who the order is meant to protect.

A stay away order may only be lifted by the Judge. Thus, even in the event the victim whom the stay away order is meant to protect decides that he or she no longer feels the need to have it enforced, only the judge has the power to terminate it. Violation of a stay away order could result in jail time.

FAST FACTS

- In America, one woman is fatally shot by a spouse, ex-spouse or dating partner every 14 hours.
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.

<http://www.ncadv.org/>