



# L. CLIFFORD DAVIS LEGAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**VOL I - ISSUE 1 - DECEMBER 2014**

## 2014-2015 Board

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AT LARGE

**Judge L. Clifford Davis**  
AT LARGE

### *President's Chat:*



It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the President of the LCDLA family. I am excited to bring you the December issue of LCDLA's monthly newsletter that includes updates and information from around Tarrant County and the metroplex. We have a new website under construction and we are always looking for interesting items to post. Please let us know and we will try to include your suggestions. You will soon be able to access our new website at [lcdla-bar.com](http://lcdla-bar.com)

- We have been invited to participate in Bobbie Edmonds' annual Christmas play - "Santa goes to jail" It will be held on 12/5/14 at the Tarrant County Courthouse

- **Our next meeting is scheduled for 12/16/14 at Bar Louie's.** All are invited, food and refreshments will be served. Once completed you can also pay your dues online using our site. Please forward this newsletter to other lawyers who we may have missed and encourage them to participate with us this year. As always, I look forward to serving as your President this year and with your help we can have another successful year under LCDLA. Enjoy

### **UPCOMING EVENTS** (see last page)

- 12/5/14 - Santa goes to jail event  
(contact Bobbie Edmonds to help @ [GoodVerdict@msn.com](mailto:GoodVerdict@msn.com))

- 12/16/14 - LCDLA Christmas gathering

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

#### **- New District Attorneys To Take Office**

Former Judge Sharen Wilson wins historic election and becomes Tarrant County's new and first ever Female District Attorney. Congratulations and good luck on your new position. Keep your eyes open for new ADA positions possibly coming available.



**Sharen Wilson** -New Tarrant County D.A

Former Judge Susan Hawk wins in a close election in Dallas County upsetting incumbent Craig Watson. Wow. Shocker! Good luck on your new position.



**Susan Hawk** - New Dallas County D.A.

## A SHORT BIO ABOUT LCDLA'S NAMESAKE JUDGE L. CLIFFORD DAVIS

**Judge L. Clifford Davis** was born in Wilton, Arkansas, on October 12, 1924. He was raised on the family farm, but after his eighth-grade year, he left the farm to further his schooling in Little Rock, where he lived with relatives while he attended Dunbar High School and Philander Smith College. After his college graduation, he was admitted to Howard University School of Law where he started early making an impact on civil rights.



He made a bold attempt to transfer back home to the University of Arkansas School of Law for his second year. Much to his surprise in the fall of 1947, Davis received a letter from the University of Arkansas, accepting him into its program. On January 30, 1948, the President of the University of Arkansas held a press conference to announce Davis's acceptance at the school as the first Black law student. Davis's efforts and subsequent success in influencing the University of Arkansas's decision to integrate its graduate programs voluntarily was groundbreaking. However, by the time this decision was made, Davis was in his third year of law school and decided to remain where he was and graduate from Howard. After graduating in the spring of 1949, he returned to Arkansas to take the bar exam and was admitted to practice on July 4, 1949.

Judge Davis began practicing in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he practiced civil-rights law, working on multiple cases challenging school segregation in the DeWitt School District. Soon after, he opened a solo practice in Camden, Arkansas, where he and attorney Shepperson Wilburn filed cases challenging school desegregation in Bearden and Helena. By 1955, after serving two years in the U.S. military, Judge Davis had moved his practice to Fort Worth, Texas, where segregation was more prevalent, and where he was one of only two black lawyers in the city. He filed suits in the U.S. District Court against the Mansfield and Fort Worth School Districts, which resulted in both those school districts becoming desegregated.

Judge Davis's commendable career culminated in his election to Criminal District Court Judge in Tarrant County in 1983, where he served as the first elected black judge in a contested judicial race in Tarrant County until 1988. Judge Davis has been recognized numerous times for his honorable and brave career. He was recognized by his peers in 1997 when he received the Tarrant County Bar Association's highest judicial award, the "Silver Gavel Award," and was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame. He has been recognized by the NAACP and awarded the "William Robert Ming Award" for his efforts with their legal affairs. He has been honored with the naming of an elementary school after him, and more recently, the Fort Worth Black Bar Association has adopted the name of The L. Clifford Davis Legal Association. Judge Davis continues to practice law, at the age of 89, at the firm of Johnson, Vaughn & Heiskell. He and his wife of over fifty years, Ethel, have two daughters, Avis and Karen.

- CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY
- FORMER STATE DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
- ARKANSAS BLACK HALL OF FAME HONOREE
- MENTOR
- BLACKSTONE AWARD RECIPIENT
- SILVER GAVEL AWARD RECIPIENT
- NATIONAL BAR ASSOC. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



**Judge Davis and Faye Watson at LCDLA banquet**



**Judge Davis speaking**



**Dedication of L. Clifford Davis School**





**A View From The Bench**  
**CURRENT SITTING LCDLA JUDGES**

**STATE DISTRICT COURT**



**Judge Wayne Salvant**  
**Criminal District Court #2**

Tim Curry Justice Center - 6th Floor  
401 W. Belknap  
Fort Worth, TX 76196-0214  
817-884-1347

Judge Salvant has been on the bench for 19 years. He is graduate of Southern University Law School and undergrad. He has four children, one who is one of our past bar President - Brian Salvant. Whenever you get the chance, stop in to see Judge as he continues to dispense justice in Tarrant County.



**Judge Louis Sturns**  
**#213 District Court**

Tim Curry Justice Center  
5th Floor  
401 W. Belknap  
Fort Worth, TX 76196-0219  
817-884-1529

Judge Sturns has been on the bench for 7 years. He is a graduate of Wichita State University undergraduate school and a graduate of the University of Kansas law school. Judge Sturns is always open to meeting and mentoring new lawyers so stop by chambers and say hi.



**Magistrate Judge Timmie White**

Tim Curry Justice Center  
Auxillary Courtroom- Basement  
401 W. Belknap  
Fort Worth, TX  
817-884-2998

College- University of Texas in Arlington

Law School- Texas Southern - Thurgood Marshall Law School

## MUNICIPAL JUDGES



**Judge Sharon Newman-Stanfield**  
**Municipal Court Judge**  
**City of Fort Worth -**  
1996 – Present

-Law School - University of Houston  
1983 – 1986

-College -University of Texas at  
Arlington (1979-1983)

Contact = 817-392-6700

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----**Judge Raquel Brown**-----  
**Municipal Court Judge**  
**City of Fort Worth -**  
2012 – Present

-Law School - SMU (1997-1999)-  
College - Howard University  
(1989-1993)

contact = 817-392-6700



**Judge Pro Tem –Ann Y. Collins**  
**Municipal Court Judge**  
**City of Fort Worth -**

Contact = 817-392-6700



**Glenn Lewis**  
**Chief Judge**  
**City of Forest Hill**

Law School – University of Texas

College – Texas Wesleyan University

- Partner at Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson,  
LLP

-Contact = [Glenn.Lewis@lgbs.com](mailto:Glenn.Lewis@lgbs.com)



**GYLNISS MCGINTY**  
**Associate Municipal Court Judge**  
**City of N. Richland Hills**

College = University of Texas at  
Arlington  
Law School = Thurgood Marshall  
School of Law  
Owner- McGinty and Associates  
[mcgintyandassociates@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgintyandassociates@yahoo.com)



**BOBBIE EDMONDS**  
**Associate Judge Forest Hill**

College – Southern University  
Law School – Southern University  
- Owner Law Offices of Bobbie  
Edmonds  
-Contact = [goodverdict@msn.com](mailto:goodverdict@msn.com)

### **FEDERAL JUDGE**

**Even though no longer a Tarrant County  
Judge we have to give a “big shout out” to  
longtime Fort Worth native and  
practitioner and now a Dallas Federal  
Magistrate Judge- Judge Renee Harris  
Toliver**



**JUDGE RENEE TOLIVER**

College = Howard University

Law School = University of Texas

1<sup>st</sup> ever African American Federal Magistrate  
Judge in the Northern District of Texas

Contact = 1100 Commerce St Rm 1409,  
Dallas, TX. 75242  
(214) 753-2385 (chambers)

## **LCDLA Monthly Lawyer Profile**

In order to make our membership more aware of each other and to get to know each other we will be featuring lawyers each month highlighting new lawyers as well as profiling practicing Attorneys

## **NEW LAWYER SPOTLIGHT**



Great advocates are born out of deep passion says Marcus; and Marcus Dell Johnson has an unwavering passion for criminal law

### **MARCUS JOHNSON**

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Marcus is a recent graduate of the Texas A&M University School of Law, where he earned the Order of Barrister Award for his advocacy skills. He has been driven by a strong focus on attaining valuable criminal law experience through participation in the school's Criminal Prosecution Clinic, and more recently, as an intern with the Tarrant County District Attorney, where he gained significant experience with misdemeanor and felony cases and an understanding of the law and the intricacies of the criminal justice system.

Marcus hopes to use his work experience, strong dedication, and unwavering passion to serve clients in the DFW metroplex. Marcus passed the bar earlier this month and is eager to get started.

Referrals are always appreciated. LOL. Marcus is married (to an attorney) and lives in Ft. Worth with his family. Welcome Marcus! We can use your youthful energy. see you at the next bar meeting. You can contact Marcus at [aceproperty1@yahoo.com](mailto:aceproperty1@yahoo.com)

## **NEW LAWYER IN TOWN SPOTLIGHT**



Selim Fiagome is the founder and managing partner of The Fiagome Law Firm PLLC located in Mansfield, TX.

### **SELIM FIAGOME**

Selim is an experienced litigator in state and federal court. He has practiced law since 2004 and has represented individuals and Fortune 500 companies in a wide range of litigation and business transactions. His law practice focuses on business law, nonprofit law, contracts, products liability, commercial litigation, employment litigation, insurance law, and criminal defense. . Formerly an Asst. Federal Defender in Tulsa, OK, Selim has returned to Texas practicing Federal Criminal defense in Dallas and Ft. Worth. He can be reached at [sfiagome@fiagomelaw.com](mailto:sfiagome@fiagomelaw.com)  
Welcome back

## **ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT**



Andrea W. Kelly is a seasoned practitioner who has worked extensively in the public and private sectors. She served a total of 12 years as an Assistant District Attorney for Tarrant County and an Assistant Chief Counsel for

### **ANDREA W. KELLY**

the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (formerly INS), before leaving the government to pursue private practice in 2005.

Andrea graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 1987 with a Journalism degree, and received her Juris Doctor in 1992 from Cornell University School of Law in Ithaca, New York. She has been admitted to the State Bar of Texas since 1992, and is licensed to practice in federal court also. She practices in various areas from her Arlington office but especially handles Immigration matters and family law matters. Contact her at [andreakellylaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andreakellylaw@sbcglobal.net)



## ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT



**LEON HALEY**

Leon is one of a handful of prominent LCDLA lawyers practicing in Tarrant County. Leon has handled all types of high profile criminal cases. He is widely known for his flamboyant trial skills and his down to earth personality and style. Leon is from Ft. Worth. He went to Antioch Law School in Washington, DC. He always seems to give back to others and has been a willing mentor to anyone who wishes his help. Leon can be reached at (817) 335-0200.

## LAWYER HUMOR



Honey, our lawyer wishes us,  
but in no way guarantees,  
a Merry Christmas.

## MONTHLY SHOUT-OUTS

- To Judge L. Clifford Davis on his release from the hospital and his continued support and mentorship of the LCDLA. We love you Judge.
- To Mary Panzu - our President -for getting LCDLA up and running strong once again
- To Stan Hatcher, Esq. on his successful restaurant "Hatcher's" at DFW Terminal E. Great food. You go Stan!
- To John White - Good to see you back up and moving well. Keep in touch.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. **STAFF ATTORNEY** (project position)  
Probate Court 1 – Tarrant County- Closes  
11/30/14- [www.agency.governmentjobs.com](http://www.agency.governmentjobs.com)
2. **General Attorney** - Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Announcement #:**SWHB143750931260148R  
**Open period = 11/16/14-12/15/14 -**  
[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
3. **Assistant City Attorney**- Municipal Prosecutor  
Dallas-[www.tml.associationcareernetwork.com](http://www.tml.associationcareernetwork.com)
4. **Cordell & Cordell, P.C.** – seeking experienced  
2 year family law associate for Ft. Worth office.  
<http://www.cordellcordell.com/careers/current-openings>

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/5/14 - "Santa goes to jail" event at Tarrant County Court House 10:30am-12
- 12/4/14 - Texas A&M Law School- Appellate Brief writing - sponsored by Federal Bar Assoc. \$35 fee non-members; \$25 for members; \$15 for students. @ Noon-3pm
- 12/4/14 - Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association holiday party at "The Space," 2516 Florence in Deep Elum, 6-11pm. Open bar!
- 12/4/14 – Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association holiday party –Capital Bar – Ft. Worth -6pm -