



From the corner: Helping Others



Commissioners Court has proclaimed May as Older Americans Month recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of our elders and demonstrating the County's commitment to helping them stay healthy.

This year's theme, "Safe Today. Healthy Tomorrow," exemplifies the work of our attorneys and support staff in the Disability and Elder Law Practice Group. Our Office provides legal services to the Harris County Guardianship Program to establish guardianships for mentally incapacitated adults.

We work with Adult Protective Services to move individuals from unhealthy environments into safe places where they can be protected from neglect and hunger. We work with these County and State agencies to protect individuals from family members who financially exploit them.

In 2013, more than 12,000 cases were investigated in the Houston region with 8,766 being confirmed as having involved adult victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. We can be pleased with the contribution our Office makes to society as we help the older residents of Harris County be safe today so they can experience a healthy tomorrow. — Vince

Happy Anniversary!

Thank you for your service to the public:

Macy Cassin	1 year	John Odam	5 years
Philip Evans	2 years	Yvette Cortez	13 years
Jorey Herrscher	2 years	Christine McGee	14 years
Graylon Wells	2 years	Judith Jackson	16 years
Jennifer Matte	5 years		

Petty finds bunker ruins at JAG training



Assistant County Attorney Scott Petty attended his annual Army JAG field exercise in San Antonio last week. This was a joint exercise conducted by the 1st and 2nd Legal Operations Detachments. The training involved physical fitness testing, weapons qualification, land navigation, tactical movement, and other JAG-related classes. While conducting land navigation at Camp Bullis, Officer Petty found a ruin of a bunker built in 1938. Scott is pictured here with this great piece of history. You can read more about Camp Bullis' history [here](#).

HELP DESK



If you need supplies or have issues with your computer, please email the **CAO Helpdesk** at CAOAdminHelpDesk@cao.hctx.net.
 Do **NOT** contact ITC directly.

FunPlex ordered to remedy fire hazards

Our Office was granted a temporary injunction last week that will force FunPlex, a five-acre entertainment complex that markets itself as a "safe, clean place ... to entertain families," to correct major fire hazards in its building. The temporary injunction sets out a number of required actions FunPlex must take. Those actions include repairing all electrical hazards; bringing all fire detection, suppression and extinguishing systems into operational mode; and installing extinguishers in required locations. The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office had issued 28 citations over a 24-month period to the owners of FunPlex for numerous safety violations. Melissa Spinks and Fred Keys handled the case with assistance from Liz Bomser. A copy of the injunction is available [here](#).



Vinson presents at gang symposium



Assistant County Attorney Celena Vinson delivered a presentation on May 7 about our Office's efforts to crack down on gangs through injunctions that prohibit known gang members from entering certain "safety zones." Celena's presentation was part of the Annual Juvenile Gang Symposium hosted by the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department at the University of Houston-Downtown. The Symposium was an opportunity to see the many organizations working together to curb the impact of gangs on our community.

Professional Dues season is here



The State Bar of Texas requires all dues, taxes, and fees be received by their offices by June 1. Our Office will reimburse our attorneys for the payment of State Bar of Texas and Texas Board of Legal Specialization dues. Please pay those dues and then seek reimbursement by sending proof of payment to CAOInvoices@cao.hctx.net.

In addition, our Office will directly pay Houston Bar Association dues and TDCAA memberships.

Connect 5 Five questions for Sumpter Frazier



Sumpter Frazier is an Assistant County Attorney in the Protective Services-Family group. He has been with our Office since 2003.

What was your favorite song in High School? In the Still of the Night by The Five Satins

What was your favorite TV show in High School? Rin Tin Tin

What's your favorite hobby? Baseball

Describe yourself in one word? Dependable

What's on your bucket list? I would like to do some archaeology work in the Holy Land.



WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BOTH LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS, ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS AS WE SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HARRIS COUNTY AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST PUBLIC LAW FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES.

Useful Links

- County Attorney [SharePoint](#)
- County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)
- County Personnel [Regulations](#)
- County Attorney [Website](#)
- Payroll Reports & Benefits [Online](#)
- County Attorney [Directory](#)

Coming Attractions

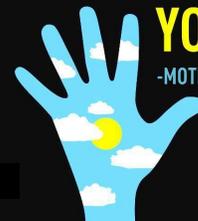
Our Office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day.



NEVER WORRY ABOUT NUMBERS. HELP ONE PERSON AT A TIME, AND ALWAYS START WITH THE PERSON

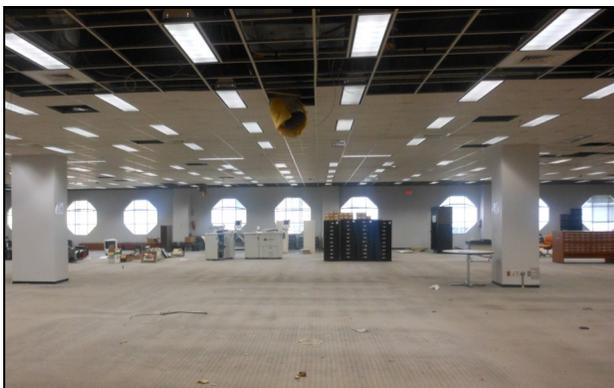
NEAREST YOU.

-MOTHER THERESA

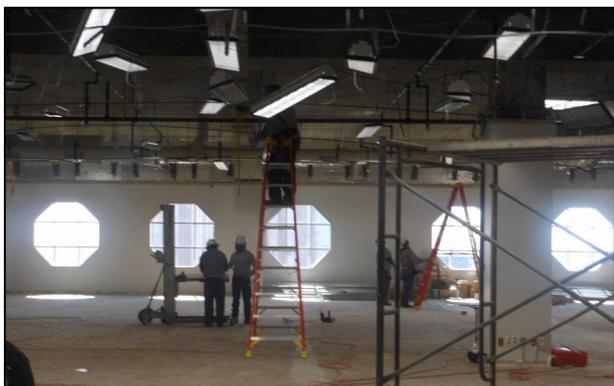


Progress continues on 17th Floor build out

To give us some perspective on just how much progress has been made on our 17th floor build out at 1019 Congress Plaza, we've collected three pictures taken of the same view over the course of the renovation. As you can see, the space is no longer the open floor plan that once housed the law library's stacks. Walls are going up, and crews are making progress on installing the electrical and plumbing fixtures.



This photo was taken just after the library stacks were removed.



This was taken about a month ago as crews began work on lighting and other electrical issues.



Here's a view of the progress as of this week. We have walls.

Protective Services takes on training initiative

Assistant County Attorneys from the Protective Services Practice Group will train approximately 600 Texas Department of Family Protective Services caseworkers in June and July. The goal of the trainings is to improve the quality of affidavits — often the key piece of evidence relied upon by judges in assessing cases of child abuse and neglect — drafted by the caseworkers. The two-hour sessions will be taught by 22 of our attorneys and will expand upon the existing computer-based training module used by the State. Our Office is the only county or district attorney's office offering an in-person, interactive component to the typically passive-learning, computer-based course.



Curtrina Majors



Deanna Carlson



Richard Hipp

Assistant County Attorneys Deanna Carlson and Richard Hipp have played an integral role in preparing our attorneys to deliver the trainings. Protective Services Office Manager Curtrina Majors has deftly handled the task of coordinating the logistics, including finding appropriate locations throughout Harris County for the 25 classes.

Kitchen improvements underway on 15th floor



The remodeling of the kitchen on the east side of the 15th floor began on Friday, May 16. A special thank you to Rocio Gomez and Hermelinda Venegas who got the project started by emptying the contents of all of the cupboards and drawers. The final project should be completed this week. We appreciate everyone's patience and look forward to new paint, flooring, and counter-tops.