

## From the Corner: TDCAA benefits all



The recent Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA) Civil Law Seminar in Austin provided excellent presentations on the latest developments in county law and opportunities for members of our Office to see many of the people we assist throughout the year.

Training is just one of the many benefits we receive as members of the TDCAA.

The TDCAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving Texas prosecutors and attorneys in government representation. The TDCAA website lists other benefits members may find useful including upcoming training opportunities, a news feed with articles of interest from across the nation, and an archive of the monthly journals dating back to 2007. Of equal importance, the TDCAA provides opportunities for Texas District and County Attorneys and their staff to come together to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss issues common to our Offices. Through connections made at conferences and meetings, County and District Attorneys' offices are able to act as a resource for one another, sharing experiences and knowledge.

I am currently a member of the TDCAA Board, a position I also filled during my last three years as Mike Driscoll's First Assistant. As a member of the long-range planning committee we are continuing to work to develop programs and services that will benefit TDCAA members and the people of Texas.

The 2016 Annual Criminal and Civil Law Update will be held Sept. 21-23 at the Galveston Island Convention Centre. Please check with your supervisor and consider attending. [Click here for the details.](#) — Vince

**Inclement weather? Call the HCAO Alert line for information on Office closings and other information.**  
713-274-5289

## Law Library celebrates Law Day 2016



To celebrate Law Day 2016, the Law Library created an exhibit that explores the *Miranda v. Arizona* decision and presents a brief timeline of its evolution. Representations of *Miranda* in pop culture and in real life are also included. Three prize-winning posters from the Houston Bar Association's annual Law Day contest are on display as well as a copy of the contest's winning essay. Every week in the month of May, the HCLL blog, Ex Libris Juris, spotlighted some aspect of the *Miranda* ruling. These "Miranda Monday" blog posts examined how the case has influenced the protection of our constitutional rights.

## HCAO honors employees



Kimberly Beltran, aka "Morticia Adams," gives her best answer.

HCAO friends and family gathered in the Conference Center on May 18 to celebrate our Office's accomplishments during 2015 and honor employees for their years of service. In a lively game of Family Feud, the Adams Family (Joe Lawson, Hector Morales, Oscar Burnias, Kimberly Beltran, and Brian Quintero) battled the Kardashians (Eileen Begle, Curtrina Majors, Jennifer Fox, Karen Dunn, and Kelsey Binns). Contestants predicted how our Office responded to survey questions relating to our Office and Harris County in general. Douglas Ray served as host. Cedric Loeb was recognized for his 30 years of service to the HCAO. Check pages 3 and 4 for more photos.

**5 things YOU didn't KNOW about ME**



Keima Bundrige is a paralegal in the Protective Services Practice Group

1. I am a Couponing Clearance Queen, whose motto is, "I have a coupon for that."
2. I am an athlete who has competed in four bodybuilding Competitions.
3. I have a sister the same age as my oldest daughter (10).
4. I love the color black and would have no problems having an all-black wardrobe.
5. I was born in Brooklyn, New York, was raised in Rosedale (Queens), NY, and only moved to Texas 8 years ago.



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.

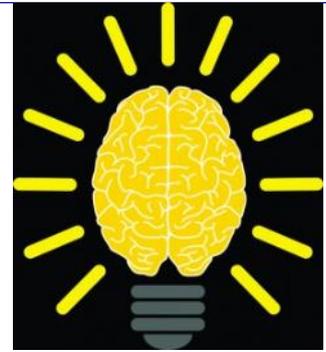


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Coming Attractions:

Completion of two hours of wellness training (online or onsite) fulfills an eligibility requirement of the Healthy Actions Medical Plan (HAMP). [Click here](#) to learn more.



Genius begins great works; labor alone finishes them."

— Joseph Joubert

CAO staff participates in Will-A-Thon



Brian Quintero, LaKeisha Simmons, and Sally Almendarez volunteered at the Houston Bar Association's Will-A-Thon held at the Tidwell Park and Community Center on May 11. Wills and other estate planning documents were prepared, witnessed, and notarized for free to low-income seniors, disabled persons, and veterans of all ages.

HCAO attends spring TDCAA conference



The Harris County Attorney's Office was well represented at the Texas District and County Attorneys Association conference in Austin, May 11-13. County Attorney Vince Ryan and Assistant

County Attorneys Randy Smidt, Sarah Ibrahim, Manuel Quintanilla, Cherelle Sims, Erin Vincent, Jorey Herrscher, Keith Toler, and Bruce Mosier were among the approximately 150 attendees. Four learning tracks were offered this year: litigation, health law, transactions, and public protection. Recent changes in legislation dealing with guns on government property dominated discussions on Wednesday. Three Harris County Assistant County Attorneys made presentations: Lisa Dahm presented a HIPAA update; Eileen Begle discussed the Bermuda Triangle of workers compensation, the ATA, and FMLA; and Sandra Hachem talked about CPS emergency orders.

Law Library wins marketing award



The Harris County Law Library has been named the 2016 recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries Excellence in Marketing Award in the Best Campaign Division. The AALL recognized the Library's work in promoting the Centennial Celebration in October 2015. Mariann Sears will accept the award

on behalf of the Law Library in July at AALL's 109th annual meeting and conference in Chicago.

Judge nixes computer wedding

Federal Judge Al Bennett dismissed a case filed by a man seeking a court order to marry his computer. The plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the district clerk, the governor, and attorney general on behalf of himself and all other individuals who wish to marry an object, animal, or multiple people at the same time. The Judge granted a motion to dismiss filed by Assistant County Attorney Laura Hedge, finding that the Court had no jurisdiction over an "obviously frivolous complaint" and that the case could be dismissed sua sponte. You can read the order [here](#).



County awarded costs in civil rights suit

A federal magistrate has ordered a plaintiff to pay \$25,753.55 to Harris County following the dismissal of a suit filed against the County. Judge Sim Lake entered final judgment in Harris County's favor on December 30 in a case arising from the death of Norman Ford Hicks Sr., 72, who died in custody in January 2015 from complications of a heart attack after suffering blunt head trauma and a broken nose during an altercation with detention officers. The Court had previously held that plaintiffs failed to demonstrate a pattern of constitutional injuries to mentally ill inmates and failed to provide evidence of a policy that caused a failure to render medical care. Lisa Hulseley was the lead attorney on the case with assistance from Keith Toler. The case is Hicks v. Harris County. You can read the magistrate's order [here](#).

CAO at Texas Black Expo networking event



Darryl King, President & CEO of Principle Partnering Group; Community Outreach Coordinator Debbie Dillard; Mayor Sylvester Turner; and Executive Assistant Jacqueline Terrell attended the Professional Networking event for the Texas Black Expo, Inc.'s 13th annual summer celebration tradeshow on May 13.

# CAO Annual Awards Ceremony features Family Feud!



10-year awards: Fred Keys, Garland McInnis, Lina Garcia and Paul Morris



15-year awards: Randy Smidt, Christine McGee and Barbara Staszyc



25-year awards: Glen Van Slyke, Patricia Butler and Stan Staszyc



20-year awards: Terry Lindner, Debra Breckenridge, Nick Turner, Marva Gay and Gene Gundersen



30-year award: Cedric Loeb

# Family Feud: The Addams Family vs. The Kardashian Family

