



From the Corner: Cooperation & Coordination



The recent case filed against three smoke shops connected to numerous overdoses of synthetic drugs in Hermann Park is a reminder of what can be accomplished when the various parts of government coordinate their efforts to focus their respective resources to better the community.

On August 9, Assistant County Attorneys Celena Vinson and Rosemarie Donnelly, working with the City of Houston Legal Department and the Texas Attorney General, obtained a temporary restraining order against Spice Boutique and Spice Inc. to stop the sale of Kush and other dangerous drugs. The court also froze bank accounts preventing the owners from secreting those funds before a court could determine whether they were the product of a criminal enterprise.

Following the hospitalization of 16 people in Hermann Park from overdoses of Kush on June 23, Mayor Turner directed the Houston Police Department to stamp out the synthetic drug in Houston. Extensive surveillance and undercover operations connected the Spice stores to the Hermann Park incident. HPD requested the assistance of the Harris County Attorney in filing civil actions against the stores. Our Office coordinated with other agencies to secure the TRO at the same time the police were executing search and arrest warrants prepared by the Office of the District Attorney. Those combined efforts led to the arrest of two store owners, four employees, and the seizure of thirty gold bars, automobiles, and \$230,000 in cash.

We can be pleased with the “service to all” provided by dedicated Assistant County Attorneys and staff as we continue to work with law enforcement, the District Attorney, the Attorney General, and city officials to send the message that businesses that choose to sell these dangerous substances will face severe consequences.

Protective Services attends Family Law Seminar



The State Bar of Texas hosted its 42nd Annual Advanced Family Law Seminar from August 1 through 4 in San Antonio. Attendees included Managing Attorneys Lynn Chamberlin and Steven Dieu, Assistant County Attorneys Francie Aguirre, William “Butch” Cox, Robert “RJ” Hazeltine-Shedd, Courtney Hernandez, Hailey Janecka, Michelle Moore, Dan-Phi Nguyen, Jamie Rawlinson, Amy Strickling, Jessica Diaz, Richard Hipp, and paralegal Sally Almendarez. Assistant County Attorney Sandra Hachem spoke on “Emergency Orders for Child Protection” during the Child Abuse breakout session on August 3.

Annual Street Olympics supports county youth



The 30th annual Street Olympics, hosted by Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Locke, was held August 5. Founded in 1987 by Commissioner El Franco Lee, Street Olympics has grown from a summer recreational program to include major components to address social service, health care, educational, and vocational needs of Harris County youth. Pictured below from left are intern Carter Dickson, Debbie Dillard, Commissioner Locke, Bethany Dwyer, and interns Bryan Davis and Avery Addison.

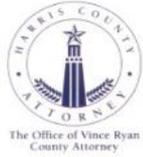


5 things YOU didn't KNOW about ME



Nicolle Tamparong is the Technical Liaison for our Office.

1. I go to school at University of Houston, studying Computer Information Systems.
2. I am from the Philippines, and I moved to America when I was 11.
3. I compete in Powerlifting, where I have done 3 meets so far: one of them being Collegiate Nationals.
4. I am currently being coached into learning Olympic-style weightlifting, where I will compete in my first meet in October.
5. In my spare time, I like to draw and do digital painting.



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 Info

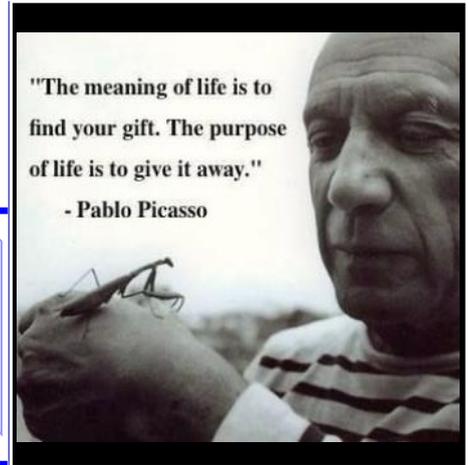
County Attorney [SharePoint](#)
County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)
HCAO Alert Line: 713-274-5289

County Attorney [Website](#)
Payroll Reports & Benefits [Online](#)
County Attorney [Directory](#)

Coming Attraction



Donation Drive to Support Be a Resource for CPS Kids (BEAR)
Friday, Sept. 16 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.
in the Conference Center (lower level)



DFPS Commissioner visits CAC



Henry Whitman

Our Office was well represented at the August 4 meeting hosted by the Children's Assessment Center for recently appointed Department of Family and Protective Services Commissioner Henry Whitman to address local community partners. Commissioner Whitman discussed goals for the Department and spoke with Vince Ryan about the newly formed TDCOA committee to address CPS issues. Also attending were Tiffany Reedy, David Masquelette, Stephanie Ewing, and Cynthia Montemayor.

Exhibit celebrates 50 years of space law



The Law Library is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the multilateral Outer Space Treaty. Law Library Intern, Keith Lacy, pictured here with Assistant Law Librarian Heather Holmes, and members of the library staff, have assembled a number of primary law resources and other space-related visual content, which is currently on display in the library lobby. Learn more about the exhibit and the library's monthly theme on the [Law Library Events page](#).

School supply drive huge success

Our office came together to ensure the students of Cullen Middle School will be ready for the first day of classes by hosting a school supply drive. The supplies we collected will be distributed to students at an ice cream social hosted by the school on August 19 and on the first day of classes on August 22.

Erin Vincent, Kelsey Binns, Kimberly Beltran, Donna Stephens, Helena Mainer, Shanda Walter, and Juanita Page organized the school supply drive on behalf of our Office.



Cox set to retire after 24 years of service



William (Butch) Cox has announced his retirement from the Office of the Harris County Attorney after 24 years of service. Butch worked in the Litigation Civil Trial Division of the Office but made his mark in the Children's Protective Division, serving for a time as Chief of the Family Group and most recently as the attorney assigned to the 311th Judicial District Court. He earned his board certification in family law in 1984. "Butch has mentored many of us and he will be sorely missed as he embarks upon his retirement journey on August 31, 2016," Assistant County Attorney Tiffany Reedy said.

Oncken set to retire after 19 years of service

Gary Oncken is retiring from the Office of the Harris County Attorney effective September 30, with his last day at the Office being August 24. Gary has worked for our Office since 1997 representing the Department of Family and Protective Services in cases involving abused and neglected children. Gary was assigned to the Children's Assessment Center handling sexual abuse cases for five of his 19 years with our Office. Gary plans on moving to Midlothian, Texas to be closer to his daughters and his grandchildren.



Night Court, Houston's all-lawyer charity show will run Aug. 17-20 at the Hobby Center. Attendees can receive 2 hours of ethics continuing legal education credit. This year's show, Texas Law and Order, will feature music of Motown and The Blues Brothers, among others. Tickets on sale now at [nightcourt.org](#).