



Municipal Judge Fact Sheet

There are 22 Municipal Court judges

Full-time judges

Sherry Statman (presiding)
 Eric Cary (overnight magistrate at central booking)
 Michael Coffey (community court)
 Barbara Garcia
 Alfred Jenkins
 George Thomas
 Steven Vigorito
 Mitchell Solomon

Substitute judges

Ferdinand Clervi*
 Kelly Evans
 Belinda Herrera
 Stanley Kerr
 Beverly Landers
 F. Witcher McCullough
 Evelyn McKee*
 Patrick McNelis
 Ronald Meyerson*
 Olivia Ruiz
 Ryan Turner
 Celeste Villarreal
 Kenneth Vitucci*
 John Yeager

*indicates retired full-time judge

- Review probable cause affidavits for all range of higher charges (everything from DWI to Capital Murder)
- Review search warrants including blood draw warrants
- Perform all duties of magistrates enumerated in Art 15.17 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure
- Review and Issue emergency protective orders
- Set bail amounts and bond conditions
- Review requests for personal bond
- Attend 16 hours of mandatory yearly judicial training
- In addition to the requirements of their respective positions, the Presiding judge and Community Court judge perform all tasks and have all skills required of associate judges

Experience matters

Austin has some of the most experienced municipal judges in the State. We are often contacted by other jurisdictions regarding questions about the law as well as invited to teach at judicial education seminars. All full-time judges have been licensed attorneys for over 15 years; four are 20+ year attorneys; and one has been licensed 38 years.

State and Local requirements for appointment

- Resident of Texas
- U.S. Citizen
- Licensed attorney in good standing
- 2 or more years' experience in the practice of law
- Must live within the Austin City Limits for 2 years prior to appointment

Summary of basic duties

- Preside at bench trial, jury trials, and various appearance dockets
- Preside at walk-in dockets
- Rule on motions
- Review probable cause affidavits for class C offenses

History of "Firsts"

- The first African-American woman appointed to a judgeship in the state of Texas was Harriet Murphy. Judge Murphy served as presiding judge for several terms.
- The first Asian-American judge in the Austin/Travis County area was Ramey Ko who served one term as a part-time judge.
- The first Indian-American judge appointed in the Austin/Travis County area was George Thomas who is currently serving as a full-time judge.