

Mental Health in Municipal Courts

Speakers

Kristi Taylor



Kristi Taylor is the Executive Director of the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH). She has over 25 years of experience as an attorney and policymaker. After receiving a BBA with Honors in Finance from the McCombs School of Business and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law, Taylor represented children and parents in the child welfare system for seven years. In 2006, Taylor was selected by the Supreme Court of Texas to create the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families. She later served as a Staff Attorney and Assistant Director of the Children's Commission. In 2017, Ms. Taylor spearheaded the planning for a new judicial commission on mental health and was named the Executive Director in 2018.

Molly Davis brings juvenile law subject-matter expertise and dedication to working with at-risk youth to the Judicial Commission on Mental Health. Prior to joining the JCMH team in 2020, she served as a prosecutor in the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office for 12 years. Ms. Davis was assigned to the Juvenile Division for 6 of those years, handling over 2000 juvenile cases as lead counsel, the majority of which were serious felonies involving matters of mental illness, competency, and complex trauma. During this time, Ms. Davis also served as the program administrator of a juvenile court diversion program for children with sexual behavior problems.

Molly Davis



Summary



Since 1992, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center has offered specialized continuing legal education to prosecuting attorneys who serve in municipal courts across the state.

Currently, more than 700 attorneys are licensed in Texas to prosecute in municipal courts. The TMCEC Prosecutors Seminar is uniquely designed to help prosecutors and other attorneys stay abreast of information necessary to maintain professional competence. Presentations focused on emerging topics, ethics, legislation, and case law.

Kristi and Molly Mental Health Law for Municipal Courts regarding legal requirements and best practices for both adults and youth.