

# TCAT

## “The Verdict”



Teen Court  
Association of Texas  
Summer 2012

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The Teen Court Association of Texas (TCAT) was formed to foster and encourage Teen Court programs and provide education and networking to its members throughout the state of Texas. TCAT is a non-profit organization whose objective is to encourage, sponsor, and promote the facilitation of Teen Court programs throughout the state of Texas. TCAT was formed in 1990.

The first TCAT conference was held in Tyler, Texas in 1990 with 18 members in attendance.

TCAT currently has over 50 members.

Membership is \$35 per year. Contact TCAT Vice President Pamela Bell at 806-378-4224 for more information.



## 2011-2012 TCAT Board of Directors

Did you know that each year the TCAT board members travel across Texas to hold a winter and summer meeting? This year the winter meeting was held in February in Ft. Worth and the summer meeting in July in New Braunfels. The Board also holds a third meeting each year at the annual conference. Although these positions are “volunteer,” each board member dedicates time and energy to meeting the goals of the TCAT organization and works hard to produce a great conference every year.

If you are interested in serving as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer in the future, contact nominee committee member Mike Mullen at [mmullen@cstx.gov](mailto:mmullen@cstx.gov) or TCAT president Lindsey Simpson at [lsimpson@longviewtexas.gov](mailto:lsimpson@longviewtexas.gov). Positions will be elected in November at the annual conference. Open positions will be: Secretary, Vice President, President Elect, and President.

TCAT has plenty of other volunteer positions including serving on the following committees: Awards, Nominating, Education, Bylaws, Communication, and Legislative. These committees usually meet via conference call and/or e-mail throughout the year and again during the annual conference.

We are always in need of volunteers so please consider serving on the board or joining a committee!

Pictured above left: Kristie Dempsey, Lindsey Simpson, Leslie Comeaux, Susan Wolf, Benita Bennett, Pamela Bell in Ft. Worth

Pictured above right: Benita Bennett, Pamela Bell, Lindsey Simpson, Mary Alice Smallbone, Susan Wolf, Kristie Dempsey in New Braunfels.



### **2012 Teen Court Mock Trial Competition**

On Saturday March 24, 2012, eleven Texas Teen Courts competed in mock trials at Texas Wesleyan Law School, in Fort Worth, Texas. Participating courts included Collin County, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Wichita County, Burleson, HEB, Plano, Coppell, Longview, Odessa, and Lewisville/Flower Mound. Local judges, law students, and attorneys presided over the cases. During the trials the students played the role of defendant /witness, as well as a defense or prosecuting attorney. These actors were evaluated on their courtroom skills and demeanor. The Judges scored on the established criteria for the event. Awards were given at the end of the event. Lewisville/Flower Mound took first place, Longview took second, and Fort Worth received the Jurors' Choice Award.

Over 150 youth, law students, judges, and volunteers participated in the event. There were 20 teams total that participated. Each team consisted of two attorneys, the defendant/witness, and jurors.

In 2007 Texas Wesleyan Law School was approached by the Lewisville/Flower Mound Teen Court along with other teen courts in the area. They agreed to host the event and very generously utilize law students to assist. This annual competition is a unique opportunity for the law students to work with the youth in the teen courts. Students share their knowledge and experience and coach youth between rounds.

Pictured left to right: Jeremy Scroggs (former teen court volunteer), Madeleine Loney, Judge Summers, Attorney Katrina Washington, law school volunteer, Emily Tetsch, Haddy Badjie and Lewisville/Flower Mound Teen Court director Laurie Yonkers.



# What's Happening?

**New Braunfels Teen Court** recently awarded two student attorneys with the “golden gavel” award for their participation in 5 or more Teen Court sessions. Tyra Shraeder and Brianna Castilleja are pictured at right with past TCAT president Justin Nichols and volunteer Dr. Alyssa Robson.



**Collin County Teen Court** issued scholarships to Seniors that have volunteered in the program. Recipients are attending Princeton University, WestPoint, Baylor, University of Arkansas, Michigan State University, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, and Patrick Henry College.

Collin County Teen Court also received an \$11,680 dollar grant from CoServ in June 2012 to use for Scholarships for the 2012-2013 year.

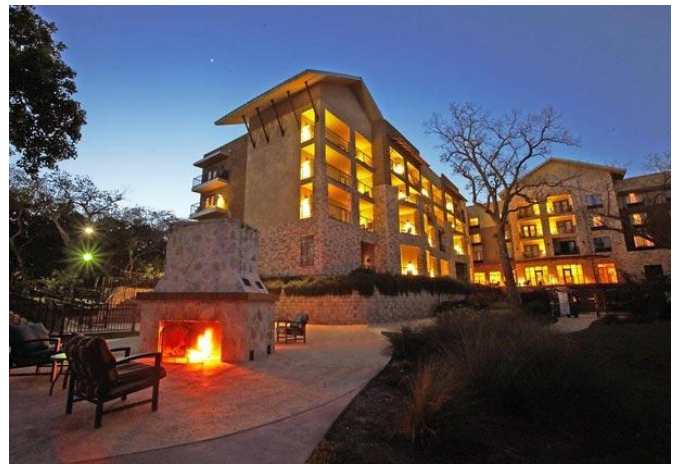


**Longview Teen Court** held a volunteer appreciation dinner in May to recognize the hard work and volunteer hours the student attorneys have dedicated to the Teen Court program over the past year. The dinner was held at Shogun Japanese Restaurant in Longview. Longview Teen Court awarded two scholarships this year totalling \$2,500 to two graduating student attorneys.



**Fort Worth Teen Court** will be moving their offices to a new facility in SW Fort Worth. The move should be completed in October 2012. Teen Court will have 5 rooms dedicated to the program for offices and courtrooms as well as other rooms available as needed. Fort Worth Teen Court is excited that the move will allow them to have court on two floors (if needed) instead of three. The move will also be more convenient for volunteers and participants due to free parking close to the building.

The mailing address will remain the same.



## **TCAT Conference 2012 : New Braunfels, Texas!**

*Save the Date:* The Teen Court Association of Texas will hold our 2012 conference November 6-9 at the Courtyard by Marriott River Village in New Braunfels, TX.

Look for registration packets coming mid-August. The cost of the conference will be \$170, which includes your 2012-2013 TCAT dues, breakfast, lunch, two dinners, and over 12 informative speaker sessions as well as breakout and round table sessions. A banquet dinner will be held Wednesday night at the historic Faust Hotel in Downtown New Braunfels with shuttle service provided.

During the week of our conference New Braunfels will be holding their annual Wurstfest, a unique celebration rich in German culture and full of Texas fun! Enjoy good fun, food, special events and the finest in Alpine and Bavarian style entertainment.