



THE

Voir Dire

Voir dire - "To speak the truth." Black's Law Dictionary

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Patrick Wilson—County & District Attorney

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Stats Through November 2014

• **Criminal cases filed with our office are projected to increase by more than 11% over 2013.**

• **345 open records requests processed**

• **Over \$138,000 restitution paid to merchants in hot check cases**

• **Over \$237,000 collected in bond forfeiture cases**

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One of Ellis County's Finest

On November 17, 2014, Ellis County lost one of its finest when Charles Ewing Sullins lost his fight with cancer. Chief Deputy Charles Sullins was 68 years old.

After growing up in Hillsboro and graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1964, Charles served his country in the Navy. In April of 1965, Charles married his wife of 49 years, Paula Goodman. Together they assisted in raising 65 kids, some biological and some as cottage parents at the Waxahachie Presbyterian Children's Home for 11 years. Charles' law enforcement career spanned 40 plus years. He began his ca-



reer with the North Richland Hills Police Department. From there he spent the next 16 years with the Waxahachie Police Department, including serving some time as the Chief. While at Waxahachie, Charles became the first certified police officer in Ellis County by the Texas Commission on Law

Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. Charles worked for the Hill County Sheriff's Office, Red Oak Police Department, and served as a Commander of a 9-County Drug Enforcement Task Force. In 1995, Charles went to work for the Ellis County Sheriff's Office. Charles worked for 16 years with the ECSO where he was one of two Chief Deputies overseeing the jail operations. Charles also supervised the drug task force until his retirement in 2011. Known for his selflessness, compassion, fairness, and devotion to family, we lost one of Ellis County's finest.

A Story of Respect, Honor and Family

The WHS varsity volleyball game on October 7, 2014 was simply another line on the schedule for the Lady Indians. One of the toughest teams in the state of Texas, Waxahachie was riding a 10-0 district record, and planned to make Mansfield Timberview the next mark in the win col-



umn. Very few knew that a freshman, playing varsity volleyball

for Timberview, was coming to the same town where her father lost his life on July 28th, 2012. Her name, Kailyn (KJ) Williams, wearing number 7 for the visiting Timberview Wolves, is the daughter of fallen Waxahachie Police Officer Josh (continued on page 2)

Legal Update

Chung v. State

The Defendant's cell phone is not a "container" subject to the automobile exception when it was in his car at the same time the drug dog alerted to the presence of drugs in the vehicle. The Defendant's giving the officer the passcode to unlock his cell phone to determine from whom he had just missed a call, was not consent to search the entire phone.

Chiarini v. State

The owner of condominiums did not commit UCW when he carried a handgun in the common area of the condo complex. Property can be said to "belong" to one if that person has

an ownership interest in the property (Affirmed).

Johnson v. State

When an officer saw a person, who matched a description from a 911 call reporting a suspicious person at the same apartment complex, sitting in a car parked in a manner that was consistent with the way "getaway" vehicles are parked, did those facts provide enough reasonable suspicion for the officer to initiate an investigative detention?

Yes. Although the same facts under different circumstances could be totally innocuous, the officer had specific, articulable facts combined



with rational inferences that, under the totality of the circumstances, amounted to reasonable suspicion.

Police Beat

Kudos to Constable Roy Callender

Constable Callender of Precinct 1 initiated a Medication Disposal Program. After purchasing a mailbox from the Post Office, painting and securing it, the RX Drug Drop Box was created. The

box is located in the lobby of the Ellis County Sub-Courthouse in Ennis, Texas at 207 S. Sonoma Trail. Prescription drugs can be dropped off during business hours where they can be properly destroyed.

Kudos to Grand Prairie PD

Two of GPPD Youth Boxers qualified for the USA Boxing World Championship Team Trials in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

A Story of Respect, Honor and Family (continued)



Williams. Josh Williams, a 17 year veteran for the Waxahachie police department, lost his life in the line of duty after being hit by a drunk driver on Ferris Avenue.

Kailyn talked to her mother Deanna earlier in the week, and wanted to know if there would be anybody there to watch her play. Her mother told her I'm sure there will be, but only a handful knew the entire story.

With game time at hand, and Deanna alone in the stands with Waxahachie police officer Billie Whitt Wallace, they slowly started to file in. In a matter of minutes, a dozen Waxahachie police

officers were in the stands, seated next to Williams' wife Deanna to show support and respect for one of their own, and for their extended family. As the teams warmed up, Kailyn looked up from the court and found her mother, surrounded by a dozen Waxahachie police officers. With a broad smile, she waved. Her family had indeed come to watch her play.

~ Photos and Story By

Scott Dorsett

(reprinted almost verbatim with permission, originally from the Waxahachie Daily Light - too good not to reprint!)

www.waxahachie.tx.com

Crime Stoppers of Ellis County



The Crime Stoppers program began in 1976 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A local police officer teamed up with

the media offering a cash reward for information leading to an arrest. An

anonymous hotline was established and it worked!

Crime Stoppers breaks down the largest obstacles in getting people to provide information – fear and apathy. By offering a safe, anonymous reporting method, it gives people an alternative way to provide information about crimes and pays them a cash reward.

Crime Stoppers accomplishes this by partnering with law enforcement, the media, the community, and dedicated volunteers. Established in the 1980s Crime Stoppers of Ellis County meets monthly. You can learn more about this great organization at their website:

www.elliscountycrimestoppers.org

Jokes of the Day

The judge asked the defendant what he was charged with.

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," was the reply.

"That's not illegal! How early were you shopping?"

"Before the store was open."

Christmas morning a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a beautiful diamond necklace. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening just before opening presents, the husband came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it only to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Why is getting Christmas presents for your kids just like a day at the office? You do all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.

My problem is that I keep stealing things when I go Christmas shopping. Can you give me something for it!

Doctor: Try this medicine...and if it doesn't work come back and bring me a new video camera.



Ann Montgomery-Moran

Congratulations!

ECDAO Attorney of the Year

Ann Montgomery-Moran

ECDAO Employee of the Year

Carol Page



Carol Page

Recently Disposed

Roberto Hernandez convicted by jury of **DWI with 2 prior convictions** received a **10 year probated sentence**.

Curtis Dickey convicted by jury of **Assault-Family Violence** sentenced to **30 days and \$1,000 fine-probated for 1 year**.

Jordan Mangrum plead guilty during jury selection to **Assault-Bodily Injury** and received **1 year probated for 2 years and a \$300 fine**.

A person charged with **DWI** was found **not guilty** by a jury.

Jacob Adkins, charged with **DWI**, had a trial to the jury that resulted in a hung verdict.

Sheena Armstrong, plead guilty to a **First Degree Injury to a Child Charge** and was sentenced to **45 years in prison**. **Ms. Armstrong** also plead to a **Third Degree Injury to a Child Charge** and was sentenced to **10 years in prison**.

Ellis County & District Attorney's Office

Meet Our Staff

“My-Am-uh” Oklahoma. (Miami, Oklahoma). Oklahomans seem to pronounce Miami quite differently than their Floridian counterparts. Instead of an “eee” at the end there is an “uh”. Misdemeanor clerk Angela Moss makes a distinct point to make you correctly pronounce Miami (uh), Oklahoma where she originated. Angela claims the city name and the pronunciation both come from a local Indian tribe of Ottawa County. Both assertions are supported by Wikipedia. In the eighth grade she left the pronunciation challenged Oklahomans and moved to Ennis, Texas where she played the trombone in the band and graduated high school. Next came Navarro College with concentrations in business and child development. She eventually landed a job with the Ellis County and District Attorney's Office. Originally starting as a receptionist, Angela quickly moved into the misdemeanor sec-

tion where her smiling face has been a constant for the last seven and a half years. Angela handles all of the misdemeanor cases when the defendant's last name begins with the letters P-Z. She works the cases from start to finish. These duties include intake from the various law enforcement agencies, inputting the information into our computer system, setting up the files, filing the proper paperwork, handling the dockets, handling the calendaring, dealing with attorneys, officers, and court staff, training other misdemeanor clerks, filing, and closing of the cases. Angela is one of three clerks that annually handles approximately 2,200 misdemeanor cases. Her plate is extremely full. We are lucky to have such a wonderful and dedicated employee. We are glad she moved from My-Am-Uh to Ennis, Texas where the names are much easier to pronounce.



Angela Moss
Misdemeanor Clerk
972-825-5035
angela.moss@co.ellis.tx.us

Many merry Christmases, friendships, great accumulation of cheerful recollections, affection on earth, and Heaven at last for all.

Charles Dickens



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109 S. Jackson • Fourth Floor • Waxahachie • Texas • 75165 • Phone: (972) 825-5035 • Fax: (972) 825-5047

Seeking justice, serving, protecting, and representing Ellis County and the State of Texas through partnerships with law enforcement and our community.