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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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The Trend Continues

Growth has become the theme of this stat box. This edition is no different. Through the month of August, actual criminal cases filed with our office increased by more than 15% over the same period last year. We are projecting an increase of more than 18% for the year, with related growth in our CPS and civil caseloads.

Congratulations to Judge Cindy Ermatinger



Gov. Perry appointed Cindy Ermatinger as Judge of the newly created **443rd District Court** in Ellis County effective 9/2/14, for a term to expire at the next general election. Ermatinger is a former assistant district attorney for Dallas and Ellis counties, where she specialized in juvenile delinquency, child abuse and family violence

prosecutions. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Ellis County Bar Association, Ellis County Defense Bar Association, Trial Lawyers College, and Texas and Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers associations. She is an associate board member of the Midlothian Education Foundation and a graduate of the Midlothian and Waxaha-

chie Leadership Program. She is also a past member of the Ellis County Bail Bond Board and the American Business Women's Association and Midlothian Rotary Club. Ermatinger received a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a law degree from the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

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Going to the Dogs!

On September 10, prosecutors from our office attended a lunch-time presentation and demonstration by Corporal Mike McCorkle of the ECSO and his canine partner Riko.

Officers - human and canine - from several departments in the county participated.

The presentation detailed the



training and use of canine officers in the field as well as the presentation of evidence involving those canine officers

in court. Demonstrations included agility training and a drug search of a vehicle.

The prosecutors were impressed with the professionalism and dedication of all of the officers. We want to express our gratitude to all of those who attended and participated.

Legal Update

Ex Parte Thompson

Part of Texas' improper photography statute has been ruled an unconstitutional violation of the 1st Amendment.

Mckinney v. State

An officer generally has to observe more than just flight in a high-crime area to justify a detention of a suspect.

Aviles v. State

A warrantless blood draw based on the third strike implied consent statute is unconstitutional.

Riley v. California

The police may not search the digital information on a cell phone seized from an individual who has been arrested without first obtaining a warrant.



Police Beat

Kudos to Maypearl PD



Maypearl Police Department started two great programs recently: the K9 Unit and the Senior Visits Program. Maypearl added a 4 year old German Shepherd to its force trained in

both narcotics detection and tracking. This is a first for the Maypearl PD. In addition to the K9, Maypearl initiated the Senior Visits Program. Any senior citizen over the age of 60, that lives alone, can sign up for the program. An officer will stop by once a week for 15-30 minutes to just check on the citizen. Great job Maypearl!

Kudos to Ferris Officer Stephen Tiner.

Officer Tiner recently found a 3-year old child wandering in a roadway at two in the morning. The child was reunited with a very worried parent several hours later. No criminal charges are expected to be filed. Now that's protecting our most vulnerable citizens!

ECSO Explorers Set Record at State Competition

The ECSO Explorers brought home the Best in State trophy at the 2014 Texas State Explorer Competition. In doing so, the explorer team recorded the highest average score in the history of the competition. 93 teams from over 50 agencies throughout the State of Texas

competed in the event. ECSO Explorers received 7 first place awards, 2 second place awards, and 1 third place award. The Explorer team attained an



average score of 99.75% for their combined team work and knowledge of Texas law. Congratulations to the Explorer team: Captain Colten Prater,

Lt. George Cody Pashall, Sgt. Shelby Snodgrass, and Cpl. Gage Adams. Captain Prater and Sgt. Snodgrass each received a \$500 scholarship. Additionally, Captain Prater won the physical agility competition for the fourth year in a row.

Ellis County recognized the Explorer's achievements by a proclamation of the Commissioners' Court.

From SAGU to Ethiopia, Emily Smith is Busy

Emily Smith is employed as the scanning clerk of the Ellis County & District Attorneys Office. We are just part of her busy schedule. In December she will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Church Ministry from SAGU. She is a member of Theta Alpha Kappa So-

ciety for Academic Performance. In August she traveled to Ethiopia for two weeks on a dual purpose mission trip. In the mornings she worked with missionaries' children teaching discipleship, and the afternoons were spent in conferences with the Ethiopian children. In March she became engaged,

and she plans on getting married after graduation. Oh yes, she works at Cotton Patch in her spare time. We are proud of Emily!

Tip her well next time she serves you.



Jokes of the Day

Robin Williams Quotes/Tribute

The Statue of Liberty is no longer saying, 'Give me your poor, your tired, your huddled masses.' She's got a baseball bat and yelling, 'You want a piece of me?'

Canada is like a loft apartment over a really great party.

What's right is what's left if you do everything else wrong.

Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves?



You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

I'm sorry, if you were right, I'd agree with you.

I used to think that the worst thing in life was to end up alone. It's not. The worst thing in life is to end up with people who make you feel alone.

No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'

If it's the Psychic Network why do they need a phone number?

Recently Disposed

Roger Sikes convicted by a jury of **Sexual Assault of a Child and Indecency with a Child**, agreed punishment of **4 years in prison on each**.

Defendant found not guilty of failure to ID, fugitive from justice.

Defendant found not guilty of possession of marihuana.

Russell Robinson, Jr. was convicted by a jury of **Continuous Violence Against the Family** sentenced to **99 years in prison**.

Sam Felder, Jr. convicted by jury of **Theft \$500-\$1500**, sentenced to **365 days in jail and \$4000 fine**.

Defendant found not guilty of Violation of an Expunction Order x 2.

Jason Darouse convicted by jury of **Criminal Trespass** and sentenced to **100 days in jail**.

Chad Capello convicted by jury of **Criminal Trespass** and sentenced to **30 days in jail**.

Sonny Thompson was convicted by a jury of **Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon** & received an **8 year sentence**.

Seizure Judgments against **Charles Sallie** in the amount of **\$412.61**, **Zamone Hayden** in the amount of **\$711.00**, and **Ronald Gillespie** of a **2003 Harley Davidson Softail motorcycle** were awarded to the State of Texas.

Leonard Hennard was convicted of **Assault Against a Family Member with Prior Convictions and Assault Against a Family Member by Occlusion**, and was sentenced to **20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on each**.

Ronald Robinson convicted by a jury of **Theft \$50 - \$500**, agreed punishment of **60 days in jail**.

Melanie Ruiz convicted by jury of **DWI**, agreed punishment of **2 years probation and a weekend in jail**.

Phillip Smith convicted by jury of **Reckless Driving** and sentenced to the **30 days in jail and a \$200 fine**.

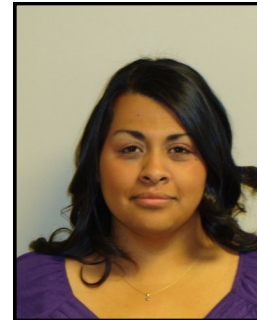
Defendant found not guilty of DWI.

Ellis County & District Attorney's Office

Meet Our Staff

With about ten years of employment with the Ellis County & District Attorney's office, JoAnna Miranda's tenure tops all of the clerks but one. Although her title is Civil Clerk, this in no way does justice to the job duties performed by JoAnna. She handles expunctions, non-disclosures, asset forfeitures, Public Information Act requests, destruction orders, motor vehicle accidents, personnel issues, personal injury claims, civil litigation on behalf of Ellis County, and any other legal matter affecting the County. Being one of only two clerks handling civil matters for the whole County, her plate is always full. Every day brings JoAnna new challenges and adventures.

JoAnna is a life-long resident of Waxahachie. She attended kindergarten through 12th grade in the Waxahachie Independent School District. After attending Navarro College, she worked for a personal injury law firm for 6 years and a medical billing company for 5 years before landing the position with the ECDA's office. Both of JoAnna's parents and her husband graduated from Waxahachie. If you lived in Waxahachie in the last forty years, JoAnna probably knows the scoop about you. She can be seen walking through downtown on her breaks during the work-day or chasing her son around the town. JoAnna is a great asset to the office and we are lucky to have her.



JoAnna Miranda

Civil Clerk

972-825-5035

joanna.miranda@co.ellis.tx.us

WANTED FELON

Richard Alan Byrne



Richard Alan Byrne is wanted on multiple warrants including bail jumping, possession of a controlled substance, failure to appear, and resisting arrest. Byrne is also a suspect in threats made to public officials in Ellis County.

Byrne is a tattoo artist and has multiple tattoos on his body. It is believed that he has grown facial hair to hide the tattoos on his face.

DOB: 8/21/74

Height: 5' 7"

Weight: 170 lbs.

Hair Color: Brown-

Eyes: Green

Race: White



If you have information on his whereabouts please contact Jeff Ward or Bob Allwardt of the Ellis County and District Attorney's Office at 972-825-5035.

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VOIR.DIRE@CO.ELLIS.TX.US

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.](#)