



THE *Voir Dire*

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

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BY THE NUMBERS

As Ellis County grows, so too does the work of this office. Through May of this year, there were 667 new felony cases and 1,030 new misdemeanor cases filed with our office, by more than 16 different law enforcement agencies. That projects to more than 4,000 new cases for 2017. With only 10 criminal prosecutors to handle that load, that's an average of more than 400 cases each.

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Sheriff Edge's Vision: E-L-L-I-S

When asked about his vision for the sheriff of Ellis County, candidate Charles E. Edge replied: Ethics, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity, and Service to the public; an acronym spelling ELLIS. A better answer could not have been pronounced. It was this answer as well as many others that earned Edge the title of Ellis County Sheriff. On April 25, 2017, Sheriff Chuck Edge, as he is commonly known, was sworn into office as the 40th Sheriff of Ellis County.



Sheriff Charles E. "Chuck" Edge

Sheriff Edge is most familiar to the citizens of Ellis County as the former Chief of the Waxahachie Police Department. He served as Chief of Police from 2007 to 2014. During his tenure, the Waxahachie Police Department was recognized by the Texas Police

Chiefs Foundation for its best practices and procedures. Prior to entering law enforcement, Sheriff Edge served in the United States Army from 1981 through 1986 as a Flight Engineer/Aircraft Maintenance Manager. Sheriff Edge logged more than 500 flight hours including 100 combat hours in Desert Shield/Storm on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Since leaving the Army, Sheriff Edge joined the ranks of law enforcement and has served in varied managerial capacities.

With Sheriff Edge's vision, the future looks bright for the Ellis County Sheriff's Office. Our office is looking forward to working with our new sheriff in his efforts to serve and protect the citizens of Ellis County. Welcome to the county!

Ethics
Leadership
Loyalty
Integrity
Service to the public

The Rule of Law

BOUVIER'S LAW DICTIONARY defines the "Rule of Law" as:

"No one is above the law, and every act of government must be done through laws. The Rule of Law has many controversial aspects, but its core requires fair laws that apply to all persons in a state, that are enacted for the benefit of the citizens, and that are fairly and impartially applied without regard to the status of the persons to whom they are applied, by officials who are themselves bound by the laws

in every aspect of their duties."

John Bouvier, a French-born American jurist, wrote the *Law Dictionary Adapted to the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Several States of the American Union* in 1839. His words are as true today as they were in 1839. We are a country governed by the Rule of Law—not the rule of men. The core of the Rule of Law requires fair laws that are applied equally to all persons regardless of position,

stature in life, or birth rite. It entails fairness in the creation, application, and punishment for violations of all laws.

We recently celebrated our nation's 241st birthday, so this is a good time to reflect on some of the principles guiding our social experiment in self governance. We should recognize the men and women of all levels of government who guarantee the fairness and impartiality of the Rule of Law. We hope everyone had a Happy 4th of July!

Legal Update

State v. Rodriguez

A warrantless search of a college dorm room, at the request of the dorm’s resident director who discovered drugs in the room during a routine inspection, does constitute a violation of the Fourth Amendment. Students enjoy the same Fourth Amendment protection in their dorm rooms as any other citizen in a private home. Although dorm personnel have the authority to enter dorm rooms themselves to perform health and safety inspec-

tions, they do not have the authority to give police officers consent to enter dorm rooms.

US v. Wallace

Obtaining prospective cell site data does not constitute a search within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. Like historical cell site information, there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in the prospective GPS data and location of a cell phone. Prospective cell site data falls outside the purview of the 4th Amendment.



Police Beat



Pay It Forward Cards!

Chief Eddie Salazar and the Ferris Police Department distributed Pay It Forward Cards as part of their

Act of Kindness Campaign. The goal is to show kindness and appreciation to others everyday.



Red Oak Police Department participated in advanced pistol training including shooting with your weak hand and reloading with one hand in a combat situation.



Waxahachie Police Department Explorer Post placed 2nd in the Lewisville Explorer Competition on June 30th.

New Faces at the Ellis County and District Attorney’s Office



Dan Cox
New JP Attorney



Bryan Norris
New Investigator



Mark Blankenship
New Investigator

Congratulations to Stacey Auvenshine & Ray Rike



Stacey Auvenshine

Congratulations to Stacey Auvenshine on becoming certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children.



Ray Rike and Patrick Wilson

Ray Rike has retired again. We will miss his jovial nature, and his 30 years of local government experience. If being a renowned expert in the field of government law becomes boring, we hope you consider Ellis County again.

Remember When : billboard's #1 Songs of the Summer

2006 - "Promiscuous" -

Nelly Furtado feat. Timbaland

2007 - "Umbrella" -

Rihanna feat. Jay-Z

2008 - "I Kissed A Girl" - Katy Perry

2009 - "I Gotta Feeling" -

The Black Eyed Peas

2010 - "California Gurls" - Katy

Perry feat. Snoop Dogg

2011 - "Party Rock Anthem" -

LMFAO feat. Lauren Bennett and GoonRock

2012 - "Call Me Maybe" -

Carly Rae Jepsen

2013 - "Blurred Lines" -

Robin Thicke feat. T.I. + Pharrell

2014 - "Fancy" -

Iggy Azalea feat. Charli XCX

2015 - "Cheerleader" - OMI

2016 - "Once Dance" -

Drake feat. WizKid & Kyla

[From billboard's Summer Songs](#)

Recently Disposed

Deborah Werkmeister found guilty and sentenced to 10 years TDC and a \$10,000.00 fine for theft of property less than \$100,000 but greater than \$200,000, enhanced by being a public servant.

Kevin Coffey found guilty of sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child by contact and sentenced to 20 years TDC on each to run consecutively.

Tyron Davis found guilty of 6 counts of failing to sign application for ballot, and 2 counts of false identification as a peace officer, and sentenced to 2 days in county jail and \$1,000 fine.

Daniel Hammons found guilty and sentenced to 75 years TDC each of two separate sexual assault of a child charges, to run consecutively.

Susie Lynch found guilty and sentenced to 730 days in a state jail facility for theft of property less than \$1,500, enhanced by two prior convictions.

Javier Martinez pleaded guilty to aggravated assault against a public servant and sentenced to 40 years TDC.

Aaron Perez found guilty to burglary of a habitation and sentenced to 7 years TDC.

Gerryke Young found guilty of organized retail theft and sentenced to 5 years TDC.

Jordan Caskey found guilty of burglary of a habitation and sentenced to 4 years TDC.

Jeremy Alvarez pleaded to failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements and sentenced to 25 years TDC.

Charles Johnson found guilty of theft of property less than \$2,500 enhanced by two prior convictions and sentenced to 15 years TDC.

Cedric Jones pleaded to sexual assault of a child and sexual performance by a child and sentenced to 20

years TDC on each charge to run consecutively.

James Goss found guilty of assault - family violence - impeding breath and sentenced to 45 years TDC.

Jaylona Hernandez pleaded to sexual assault of a child and sentenced to 8 years TDC.

Melissa Kappus pleaded guilty to DWI 3rd and sentenced to 4 years TDC.

Alvin Grover Nelson, Jr. found guilty of 11 counts of cruelty to animals and sentenced to 2 days in the county jail and a \$750 fine.

A person was found not guilty of indecent exposure.

Calvin Cole found guilty of unlawful possession of a firearm and sentenced to 25 years TDC.

Frank Ortiz plead to life sentences on the charges of murder and aggravated kidnapping respectively, and to 20 years TDC on an aggravated assault.

Ellis County & District Attorney's Office

Meet Our Staff

Our criminal justice system can be a sterile and cold place for victims of crime. They begin the long and arduous process as a victim, hoping in the end for justice or healing, or both. They must endure the crime, the investigation, the arrest, the build up to trial, the long delays, the testifying, and the living with the result. This is the reason the Victim Assistance Coordinator is such an important and necessary job for the DA's office. This person is the conduit between the victim and the criminal justice system. With over 3,600 cases filed by our office in 2016, you can imagine the workload. Throw in mental commitments and protective orders, and the job seems insurmountable. Luckily we have Barbara Anglen. Barbara recently took over this position for our office. Having been with the Ellis County and District Attorney's Office for almost four years, she has been a receptionist, a misdemeanor clerk, and a felony clerk. She has been involved in every aspect of the prosecution side of the office. Her hard work, attention to detail, and organizational skills are outstanding. She has tackled every job thrown at her with quiet steadiness and commitment. Prior to coming to the office, she worked for U.S. Aluminum for thirteen years. Starting in their credit department (from her experience in banking), she soon became an estimator. U.S. Aluminum recognized her dedication and attention to detail. Barbara worked her way into becoming their top estimator. Estimating and bidding such large jobs as the now razed pink elephant (dark moment in Ellis County history). With U.S. Aluminum's closing and Barbara's reluctance to drive to Dallas, Ellis County was able to steal a wonderful employee. If any one can tackle an insurmountable job, it is Barbara Anglen. She will do it with the same quiet and steady resolve she has done everything else. Wishing to stay in the background, sometimes (as with U.S. Aluminum) hard work brings the attention to you. The victims are lucky to have Barbara Anglen.



Barbara Anglen
Victim Assistance Coordinator
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IDENTITY SOUGHT IN BURGLARY OF A BUSINESS!

The Crime Stoppers of Ellis County are seeking leads to identify this man alleged to have broken into Wolverton Air located at 704 Solon Rd. in Waxahachie. If you have information concerning the identity of this man, please contact Crime Stoppers of Ellis County at 972-937-PAYS (7297).

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