

The Burnet County Attorneys Office



Who we are

► Eduardo Arredondo, Burnet County Attorney

- 4 Assistant County Attorneys
 - Colleen Davis, First Assistant County Attorney
 - James Lacy
 - Scott Keese
 - Agata Vana
- 5 Legal Assistants
 - Jana Mitchell, Office Manager
 - Ashley Edwards
 - Josie Beardsley
 - Orenda Chism
 - Lynne Rathman



Statutory Duties of the County Attorney

- ▶ Texas Constitution Article 5 §21
 - ▶ "The County Attorneys shall represent the State in all cases in the district and inferior courts in their respective counties; but if any county shall be included in a district in which there shall be a District Attorney, the respective duties of District Attorneys and County Attorneys shall in such counties be regulated by the Legislature."
- ▶ Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.01
 - ▶ "It shall be the primary duty of all prosecuting attorneys, including any special prosecutors, not to convict, but to see that justice is done. They shall not suppress facts or secrete witnesses capable of establishing the innocence of the accused."

Statutory Duties of the County Attorney, con't.

- ▶ Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.02
 - ▶ "The county attorney shall attend the terms of court in his county below the grade of district court, and shall represent the State in all criminal cases under examination or prosecution in said county; and in the absence of the district attorney he shall represent the State alone and, when requested, shall aid the district attorney in the prosecution of any case in behalf of the State in the district court. He shall represent the State in cases he has prosecuted which are appealed."
- ▶ Texas Government Code 41.007
 - ▶ A "county attorney, on request, shall give to a county or precinct official of his district or county a written opinion or written advice relating to the official duties of that official."

What we do:

- ▶ Adult Misdemeanors
- ▶ Juvenile Misdemeanors and Felonies
- ▶ Department of Family and Protective Services
- ▶ Protective Orders
- ▶ Commissioners Court
- ▶ Justice of the Peace Courts(4 courts)
 - ▶ Class C Tickets
 - ▶ Truancy
 - ▶ Property Hearings
- ▶ Mental Health Commitments
- ▶ Attorney General Opinion Requests
- ▶ Appeals
- ▶ Advise Commissioners Court, Elected Officials and Department Heads
- ▶ TCOLE Officer Employment Termination Hearings
- ▶ Texas Workforce Commission Hearings and EEOC Hearings
- ▶ Emergency Services
 - ▶ Floods
 - ▶ Fires
 - ▶ Covid
- ▶ Communicable Disease/Health Commitments
- ▶ Attorney Pro Tem

Adult Misdemeanors

- ▶ Cases from 15 agencies in the County
 - ▶ Punishment in Burnet County Jail or probation up to two years
 - ▶ Filed in the Burnet County Court at Law
 - ▶ Created Blood Alcohol Taskforce
 - ▶ Appeals
- ▶ 2023
 - ▶ Filed 739
 - ▶ Disposed 1,367
 - ▶ 2024
 - ▶ Filed 827
 - ▶ Disposed 1,771
 - ▶ 2025 (through June)
 - ▶ Filed 350
 - ▶ Disposed 704

Juvenile

- ▶ **ALL** Juvenile cases from Class C up to and including Capital Murder
 - ▶ Work closely with Juvenile Probation
 - ▶ Filed in the 33rd and 424th District Courts
 - ▶ Focus on rehabilitation
 - ▶ Punishment includes probation, placement outside home, TJJD, or transfer to adult system
 - ▶ No detention center in Burnet County; most available beds are 4+ hours away
- ▶ By the Numbers:
 - ▶ One Petition may include multiple charges
 - ▶ 2023
 - ▶ 107 Offenses
 - ▶ 2024
 - ▶ 96 Offenses
 - ▶ 2025 (Through June)
 - ▶ 73 Offenses

Department of Family and Protective Services-Child Protective Services

- ▶ Protect Children at risk of Abuse or Neglect
- ▶ Filed in the Child Protection Court of the Hill Country
- ▶ By the numbers:
 - ▶ One Petition may include multiple children
- ▶ 2023
 - ▶ 23 cases
- ▶ 2024
 - ▶ 23 cases
- ▶ 2025 (Through June)
 - ▶ 5 cases

Protective Orders

- ▶ Available to any citizen of Burnet County
 - ▶ No cost to Applicants
 - ▶ Victims of family violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking may be eligible
 - ▶ Filed in the Burnet County Court at Law
 - ▶ Prohibits the respondent from contacting or coming near the victim
- ▶ By the numbers:
 - ▶ 2023
 - ▶ 56 Protective Orders
 - ▶ 2024
 - ▶ 61 Protective Orders
 - ▶ 2025 (Through June)
 - ▶ 23 Protective Orders

Advise County Departments

- ▶ Contract Review
- ▶ Open Records
- ▶ Open Meetings Act
- ▶ Attorney General Opinion Requests
- ▶ Commissioner Court
- ▶ Subdivision Laws
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Internal Investigations
- ▶ Real Estate

Justice of the Peace Courts

- ▶ Class C Tickets
- ▶ Parks and Wildlife/Boating/Park Rule Violations
- ▶ Truancy (Burnet CISD)
- ▶ Forfeiture
 - ▶ Property
 - ▶ Animals
- ▶ Justice of the Peace 1, 2, 3, 4
- ▶ Only state that allows jury trials for Class C offenses

Mental Health

- ▶ Work Closely with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- ▶ Order for Protective Custody or Emergency Detention
- ▶ Jail Diversion
- ▶ Court Ordered Outpatient or Inpatient Mental Health Services
- ▶ Court Ordered Medications
- ▶ Competency related issues
- ▶ Predominantly handled in Probate Court or County Court at Law
- ▶ Serve on Judicial Commission on Mental Health

Community Involvement

- ▶ Host local students as interns
- ▶ Adoption Day
- ▶ Meet with students through Marble Falls Rotary Career Day
- ▶ Annual presentation on juvenile issues at BCISD schools
- ▶ Presentations to local community groups
- ▶ Attorneys and staff serve on various non-profit boards and organizations
 - ▶ Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center
 - ▶ CASA for the Highland Lakes
 - ▶ Burnet County Santa's Helpers
 - ▶ Friends of the Herman Brown Free Library
 - ▶ Judicial Commission on Mental Health
 - ▶ Hill Country Bar Association
 - ▶ Rotary
 - ▶ Sleep in Heavenly Peace
 - ▶ School Related Organizations
 - ▶ Teen Court

Training and Education

- ▶ All attorneys required to complete 15 hours of CLE each calendar year, including 3 hours of ethics
- ▶ In the past 3 years, Attorneys from our office have taught courses at:
 - ▶ TDCAA Annual Conference
 - ▶ TDCAA Elected Prosecutor Conference
 - ▶ Faculty member Justice Court Training Center
 - ▶ Judicial Commission on Mental Health Annual Conference
 - ▶ Texas Association of Counties Conference
 - ▶ Texas Childrens Commission Trial Skills Conference
 - ▶ Texas Bar Association Advanced Child Protection Conference
- ▶ BiAnnual DWI training for law enforcement and prosecutors
- ▶ Child Protective Services State Office Compliance with Federal Monitor
- ▶ Testifying before state legislature
- ▶ Serve as a resource for surrounding counties



QUESTIONS?