

# HIDALGO COUNTY COURT AT LAW

Job Title: Court Administrator

FLSA Status: Exempt

Dept. No: 021-001

Civil Service Status: Exempt

## **SUMMARY:**

Under general direction of County Court-At-Law Judge, inventory and manage the court's docket and calendar according to the Judge's policies and procedures. Ensures effectiveness and efficiency when assisting judge in administering courtroom procedures, providing information upon request on scheduled court proceedings within the courtroom.

## **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Schedule court hearings and prepare court orders;
- Maintain court docket on civil and criminal causes;
- Make recommendations for any changes and/or solutions to the Judge concerning outdated procedure that may affect the efficiency of the court's docket and calendar as well as the personnel involved;
- Attend daily court hearings and take notes on each case;
- Ensure correct docket entries (from court hearings) are made on court files and computer system as a matter of record;
- Complete and review various court-related forms, assure documents are complete, i.e. dates filled in, all necessary signatures obtained in appropriate places;
- Enter dismissals, revocations of probation and nisi orders into computer system as a matter of record;
- Notify defendants, attorneys, and bondsmen of all settings;
- Make sure all documents, passes and postponements of hearings or settings are approved by the Court before notifying attorneys of same;
- Assist with printing and preparing criminal/civil docket for next scheduled day court activities;
- Appoint counsel in certain circumstances with the final approval of Judge;
- Ensure that all parties and/or court personnel are aware of Judge's policies and procedures and any changes that may occur;
- Assist in the courtroom, explain probationary orders to the defendant, and look up case number and/or information;
- Arrange for substitute court reporter as required;
- Assist and work with out of county docket;
- Answer a variety of questions from the public, via telephone and/or in person. Assist the public directly when possible and refer them to another office, if appropriate;
- Answer questions of the news media concerning policies and procedures of the court but not about specific cases that are being tried, or going to be tried, which may have a direct bearing on the outcome;
- Make arrangements for Judge and/or any other staff to attend seminars such as registration for seminar and hotel and airline reservations;
- Act as liaison between Judge and counsel;
- Take dictation and prepare correspondence to counsel;
- Review files and make sure case is set for a hearing, trial, etc. ( makes sure case is moving along smoothly);
- Not allow any unnecessary delays in case processing;
- Monitor trial settings not being reached;
- Schedule and conduct docket control conferences both telephonic and in person;
- Schedule trial settings as quickly as possible on next available trial week;

- Inventory all cases assigned to the court;
- Train employees with Judge's approval
- Plan, assign, and direct work;
- Responsible for arraignments and notices of same;
- Assist with waiver of arraignments including dates held and dates for pre-trials and pleas of guilty;
- Address employees' complaints and/or needs and resolve problems;
- Responsible for the jury system, requesting juries, including excusing juror when they are assigned to court ( with Judge's approval);
- Provide copies of jury lists and other resources to Judge;
- Maintain awareness of new developments in court administration and maintain special materials and files relating to records, rules of procedure and other items related to court activity;
- Answer all administrative questions to enable the Judge more bench time and research work time; however, any irregular problems must be discussed with the Judge and the course of action to be taken;
- Report to Judge regarding any problems, suggestions, or recommendations for the efficiency of the Court;
- Administer and maintain the department's budget, processing requisitions, obtaining purchase orders;
- Assist with jail list and/or requesting inmates for hearings on a daily basis;
- Perform clerical work, (i.e. answering telephone, taking messages, assisting the general public with any questions, dictation, typing, scheduling meetings, in-office filing, etc.);
- Keep the Judge's personal calendar updated;
- Prepare and submit time sheets, change of status, etc., and maintain personnel files of employees;
- Keep an inventory of supplies and equipment for the court;
- Schedule meetings with and for the Judge and any other task assigned by the Judge;
- Attend seminars, i.e., Court Administration series sponsored by the Texas Center for the Judiciary, whenever possible that have a direct bearing on the court and may possibly help the future management of the court;
- Serve as an interpreter for all criminal and civil cases before the court;
- Attend continuing education classes for Licensed Court Interpreters;
- Broaden the knowledge of all personnel in the court as to how their performance has a direct bearing on the efficiency of the court.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties and responsibilities.

#### **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

- High School Diploma or GED;
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; and/or
- Former Probation Officer; and/or
- Former paralegal for a law office; and/or
- Any combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties required;
- Must have good computer skills;
- Bilingual;
- Must be a Licensed Spanish Court Interpreter.

**CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:**

- Must have proof of a current valid Texas Motor Vehicle Operator's License;
- Must be able to be insured by County Insurance Carrier.

**OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

- Knowledge of court policy and procedures;
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing;
- Ability to train and supervise others;
- Ability to maintain effective working relationships with members of the judiciary, other county employees, and the public;
- Must possess an expertise in the field of court administration.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS:**

- Ability to read, analyze, and interpret legal documents;
- Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies, or members of the business community.

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- Complete and review various court-related forms, assure documents are complete, i.e. dates filled in, all necessary signatures obtained in appropriate places;
- Make sure all documents, passes and postponements of hearings or settings are approved by the Court before notifying attorneys of same;
- Assist with printing and preparing criminal/civil docket for next scheduled day court activities;
- Appoint counsel in certain circumstances with the final approval of Judge;
- Ensure that all parties and/or court personnel are aware of Judge's policies and procedures and any changes that may occur;
- Arrange for substitute court reporter as required;
- Assist and work with out of county docket;
- Answer questions of the news media concerning policies and procedures of the court but not about specific cases that are being tried, or going to be tried, which may have a direct bearing on the outcome;
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