

# HIDALGO COUNTY

COUNTY COURT AT LAW

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<b>Job Title:</b> Court Reporter	<b>FLSA Status:</b> Non- Exempt
<b>Dept. Code:</b> 021-027	<b>Civil Service Status:</b> Exempt

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## **SUMMARY:**

Under direction, records, transcribes, and maintains records of court proceedings. Makes verbatim record of court proceedings using written symbols in shorthand, machine shorthand, or oral stenography; furnishes a statement of facts of court proceedings to requesting parties. Provides equipment used in performing duties, including stenographic machine, computers and printers, along with necessary reference material.

## **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Attends all court sessions and makes full record of evidence, objections, rulings, voir dire and arguments when requested by Judge or any party to a case, together with all objections to admissibility of evidence, rulings and remarks of Court;
- Makes full record of jury arguments and voir dire examinations when requested by attorney for any party to a case, together with all objections to such arguments, rulings and remarks of Court;
- Documents and files all exhibits with various Clerk of Courts; preserves all shorthand or machine notes taken in court for three (3) years from date taken for future use and prepares accurate transcript, as instructed, of court proceedings for appeals or future court use;
- Prepares official transcripts of all evidence or other proceedings, or any portion thereof, subject to laws of the State, the rules and instructions of presiding Judge of the Court;
- May conduct deposition of witnesses, receive, execute and return commissions, and make a certificate of proceedings in any county that is included in the judicial district of the court; may prepare jury charges in civil cases; may perform administrative or secretarial services which assist in administrative functions of the Court;
- Regular attendance
- Get along with co-workers.

## **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.

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**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

- High School diploma or GED
- Must have good computer skills
- One year court reporting experience
- Bilingual is preferred (English/Spanish)

**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.
- Certification by the Supreme Court of Texas and two (2) years experience as a certified shorthand reporter;
- Requirements for certification are that reporters pass an oral exam that consists of dictation and that they pass a written exam at 75 percent accuracy;
- Certified court reporters are also required to complete a specified number of hours of continuing education courses every two (2) years.

**OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

- Knowledge of machine shorthand theory and minimum standards established for certification as a Certified Shorthand Reporter by the Supreme Court of Texas, of Texas law and proper court procedure;
- Ability to apply correct punctuation;
- Employee may be assigned other duties in addition to those listed and duties may change according to changing needs of department.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk or hear. The employee frequently is required to stand. The employee is occasionally required to walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move over 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

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**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounter while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**

Maintain physical conditions appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities, which may include the following:

- sitting for extended periods of time
- operating assigned office equipment

Maintain mental capacity, which permits:

- making sound decisions and using good judgment
- maintaining confidentiality
- demonstrating intellectual capabilities

Effectively handle a work environment and conditions, which involve:

- working closely with others
- working in a multi-task environment

Maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception needed for:

- making observations
- reading and writing
- operating assigned equipment
- communicating with others

**ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM:**

Required to follow all departments' safety regulations.

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## HIDALGO COUNTY COURT AT LAW

Job Title: Court Coordinator

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Dept. No: 021-027

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;
- 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.

**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.

## HIDALGO COUNTY

COUNTY COURT AT LAW

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**Job Title: Assistant Court Coordinator**      **FLSA Status: Non- Exempt**

**Dept. Code: 021-027**      **Civil Service Status: Exempt**

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### **SUMMARY:**

Under general direction of District Court/ County Court At Law Judge and Court Coordinator in performing duties such as answering telephone, preparing and maintaining the department budget, ordering supplies and preparing purchase requisitions, and preparing time sheets for each employee within the department and acts as Spanish translator for the court.

### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Primary employee to answer telephone calls and assist individuals and/or redirect call to appropriate department, if necessary;
- Clerical work, (i.e., answering telephone, taking messages, assisting the general public with any questions, scheduling meetings, in-office filing, etc.);
- May assist Court Coordinator in scheduling court hearings;
- May assist Court Coordinator in making daily docket entries (from court hearings) on court files;
- May assist with the use of the respective jury room;
- May answer a variety of questions from the public, via telephone and/or in person. Assists the public directly when possible and refers them to another office if appropriate;
- May prepare, maintains and administers the department budget;
- May order necessary equipment and supplies for the department, including preparing purchase requisitions;
- May maintain and prepares time sheets;
- May maintain inventory of equipment and supplies in department;
- May maintain filing within the department;
- Knowledge of automated court system;
- May act as back-up for Bailiff in obtaining files for daily docket;
- Acts as the court's official translator;
- Interprets for Spanish speaking defendants, witnesses, and will translate documents in Spanish.
- Regular attendance
- Get along with co-workers

### **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

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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
- One year administration experience in the legal system
- Must have good computer skills.
- Bilingual is preferred (English/Spanish)

**CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:**

- None

**OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

- Employee may be assigned other duties in addition to those listed and duties may change according to changing needs of department.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk or hear. The employee frequently is required to stand. The employee is occasionally required to walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move over 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounter while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**

Maintain physical conditions appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities, which may include the following:

- sitting for extended periods of time

- operating assigned office equipment

Maintain mental capacity, which permits:

- making sound decisions and using good judgment
- maintaining confidentiality
- demonstrating intellectual capabilities

Effectively handle a work environment and conditions, which involve:

- working closely with others
- working in a multi-task environment

Maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception needed for:

- making observations
- reading and writing
- operating assigned equipment
- communicating with others

**ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM:**

Required to follow all departments' safety regulations.

## HIDALGO COUNTY

### COUNTY COURT AT LAW

**Job Title:** Bailiff/Interpreter **FLSA Status:** Non-Exempt

**Dept. Code:** 021-027 **Civil Service Status:** Exempt

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Bailiff is in charge of courtroom security and procedures, overseeing the maintenance of juries and witnesses, assisting judge, coordinator and District Clerk's office with courtroom clerical duties.

#### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Provides for the protection of the Judge during working hours. Ensures judge's safety against violent defendants and disgruntled spectators.
- Escorts persons found in contempt of court from the courtroom and holds them in custody until picked up by a deputy sheriff;
- May transport prisoners to and from courtroom;
- May perform security watch of prisoner(s) within the courtroom;
- Maintains order in the courtroom;
- May supply copies of jury lists and other resources to Judge and counsel;
- Instructs spectators, prospective jurors and jurors regarding their conduct in the courtroom;
- Escorts jurors to and from jury box and insures that all parties and counsel involved in a case are present before the proceedings begin;
- Meets with other bailiffs periodically regarding courthouse safety and security
- May conduct appropriate follow-up activities with defendants, including taking fingerprints, making copies of invoices, agreements and judgments and escorting defendants to jail;
- Assures that the courtroom is open and prepared for court sessions;
- Calls cases to be tried and calls witnesses to the stand;
- Acts as an escort to juries in deliberation and stands watch outside jury room during deliberation;
- Provides jurors with certificate of service.
- May pull court files for morning docket call and files away files after morning docket;
- May assist judge with docket entries in court files;
- May assist court coordinator by noting future hearings set during morning docket call;
- May supply copies of jury lists and other resources to the judge;
- May assist District Clerk's office by signing up defendants for plea bargains, stamp filing court documents and certifies court orders;

- May complete and review various court-related forms, assuring that the documents are complete, i.e., dates filled in, all necessary signatures obtained in appropriate places, etc.
- May conduct appropriate follow-up activities with defendants, including taking fingerprints, making copies of invoices, agreements and judgments and escorting defendants to jail
- Regular attendance
- Get along with co-workers

**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 general education degree (GED);
- At least 21 years of age with at least two (2) years experience in a courtroom, a court's clerk's office, or a law enforcement agency; or
- Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities
- Must have good computer skills
- Must be Bilingual (English/Spanish)

**CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:**

- May be required to be TCLEOSE certified.
- May be required to be bondable.

**OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

- Employee may be assigned other duties in addition to those listed and duties may change according to changing needs of department.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk or hear. The employee frequently is required to stand. The employee is occasionally required to walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, and crouch.

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The employee must occasionally lift and/or move over 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounter while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Maintain physical conditions appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities, which may include the following:
- sitting for extended periods of time
- operating assigned office equipment

Maintain mental capacity, which permits:

- making sound decisions and using good judgment
- maintaining confidentiality
- demonstrating intellectual capabilities

Effectively handle a work environment and conditions, which involve:

- working closely with others
- working in a multi-task environment

Maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception needed for:

- making observations
- reading and writing
- operating assigned equipment
- communicating with others

**ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM:**

Required to follow all department's safety regulations.

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**Hidalgo County**  
**Department of Budget & Management**  
**FISCAL NOTE**

•Fiscal notes are prepared by the Department of Budget & Management to present the budgetary impact of requests by departments/offices or of new proposals that were not approved during the budget process.

To: Commissioner' Court  
From: Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer  
CC Date: Tuesday, October 04, 2011

Agenda Item: 28912

Summary of request/proposal:  
**COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 7 (1100):**  
**Approval to create the following full-time positions:**

Fund	Position	Slot#	Obj	Current Budgeted		Total Requested
				Salary	Adjustment Requested	
1100	COURT REPORTER	0002	113	0.00	73,000.00	73,000.00
1100	COURT COORDINATOR	0003	113	0.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
1100	ASSISTANT COURT COORDINATOR	0004	113	0.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
1100	BAILIFF/ INTERPRETER	0005	113	0.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
				0.00	214,000.00	214,000.00

**Budgetary Impact:**

INCREASE/DECREASE ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT (OBJECT) NAME	AMOUNT
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 113	CCL #7 - REG F/T EMPLOYEES	\$52,676.92
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 211	CCL #7 - HEALTH INSURANCE	\$3,544.60
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 212	CCL #7 - LIFE INSURANCE	\$26.60
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 220	CCL #7 - FICA	\$4,029.78
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 230	CCL #7 - RETIREMENT	\$5,056.98
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 250	CCL #7 - UNEMPLOYMENT COMP	\$263.38
1-1100-412-00-027-001-0- 260	CCL #7 - WORKER'S COMP	\$0.00
	<b>2011 Budgetary Impact</b>	<b>\$65,598.26</b>

2012 Budgetary Impact: \$266,493.00

**Possible Funding Sources: CO WIDE ADM - OTHER**  
**(PENDING APPROVAL OF INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER)**

**Comments:**


**HIDALGO COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER COURT  
2011 SALARY SCHEDULE**

**1-1100-412-00-027-001-0**

**AI - 28912**

**COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 7**

Slot #	Obj Code	POSITION TITLE	2010 BUDGETED SALARY	2011 ADJUSTED SALARY	2011 BASE SALARY	% Inc.	AMOUNT INCREASE	OTHER INCREASE	2011 BUDGETED SALARY APPROVED	2011 ACTUAL SALARY	Other Allowances					2011 ACTUAL TOTAL COMPENSATION
											Longevity 115	Interpet. 116	Supplem. 117	Auto A. 118	Clothing 119	
0002	113	COURT REPORTER	0.00	73,000.00	73,000.00	0	0.00	0.00	73,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0003	113	COURT COORDINATOR	0.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	0	0.00	0.00	55,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0004	113	ASSISTANT COURT COORDINATOR	0.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	0	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0005	113	BAILIFF/INTERPRETER	0.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	0	0.00	0.00	41,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
			0.00	214,000.00	214,000.00		0.00	0.00	214,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Approval to create the above positions under the County Court At Law No. 7. (slot no.'s 0002-0005)  
Personnel actions pending CC approval.