

# Office of Court Administration

## Court Security Division



The Office of Court Administration's (OCA) Court Security Division will:



Support the establishment of court security committees through training and technical assistance;



Assist courts with conducting and reviewing security and emergency preparedness assessments and developing improvement plans;



Support the implementation of privacy protections for judges by facilitating the restriction of public access to the residence address of a judge or judge's spouse; and



Serve as a clearinghouse of information regarding judicial and court security best practices.

OCA has hired **Hector Gomez** as its first Security Director. Mr. Gomez comes to OCA with more than 30 years of experience with the US Marshals Service. In his new position, he is available to provide training and to assist judges, law enforcement officials, and county officials in the development, coordination, and implementation of security policies and continuity of operations plans. Contact Mr. Gomez at 512-463-1679 or [Hector.Gomez@txcourts.gov](mailto:Hector.Gomez@txcourts.gov).

Resources and additional information regarding OCA's Court Security Division are available at: <http://www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/court-security/>.

## The “Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Courthouse Security Act of 2017”

### Senate Bill 42, 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature

Highlights of the Act are as follows:

- Privacy Protections for Judges: One of the Act’s key features is the protection it affords to judges and their spouses relating to public access to their personal information. The law places restrictions on public access to the residence address of a judge or judge’s spouse that may be maintained in records of the Texas Ethics Commission, a county registrar, and a county appraisal district. The law also allows a judge and judge’s spouse to replace their home address on their driver’s license with the address of the courthouse in which the judge serves. The protections apply to all municipal, county, district, appellate, and federal judges in the state. Information about how to secure these privacy benefits is available from OCA Court Security Director Contact Hector Gomez at 512-463-1679 or [Hector.Gomez@txcourts.gov](mailto:Hector.Gomez@txcourts.gov).
  
- The Act also:
  - Requires county clerks, upon the written request of a judge, to omit or redact personal information from an online database that is made public;
  - Requires that a courthouse security committee be established by the presiding judge of a municipality or the local administrative district judge in each county, respectively;
  - Establishes a \$5.00 filing fee on any civil action or proceeding requiring a filing fee to generate revenue to support judicial and court personnel training;
  - Transfers responsibility for [reporting security incidents](#) to OCA from the local administrative judge to the law enforcement official responsible for providing court security;
  - Requires any person providing security to hold a court security certification issued by a training program approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; and
  - Authorizes any commissioned peace officer in the state to provide personal security to a judge, regardless of the location of the law enforcement agency that employs or commissions the peace officer.