Who: Judge Julie Kocurek – Travis County District Judge

What: Survived Assassination Attempt by Onyeri & Conspirators

Where: Her home in Austin, Texas

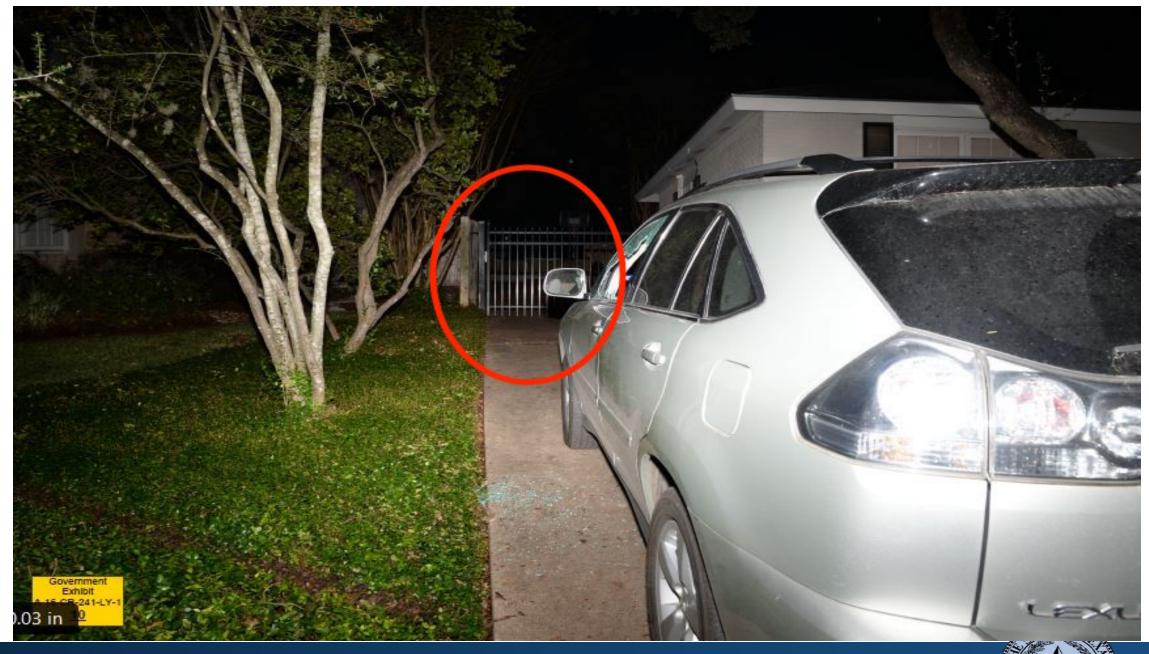
When: November 6, 2015

Why: Pending MTR w/recommended TDCJ sentence



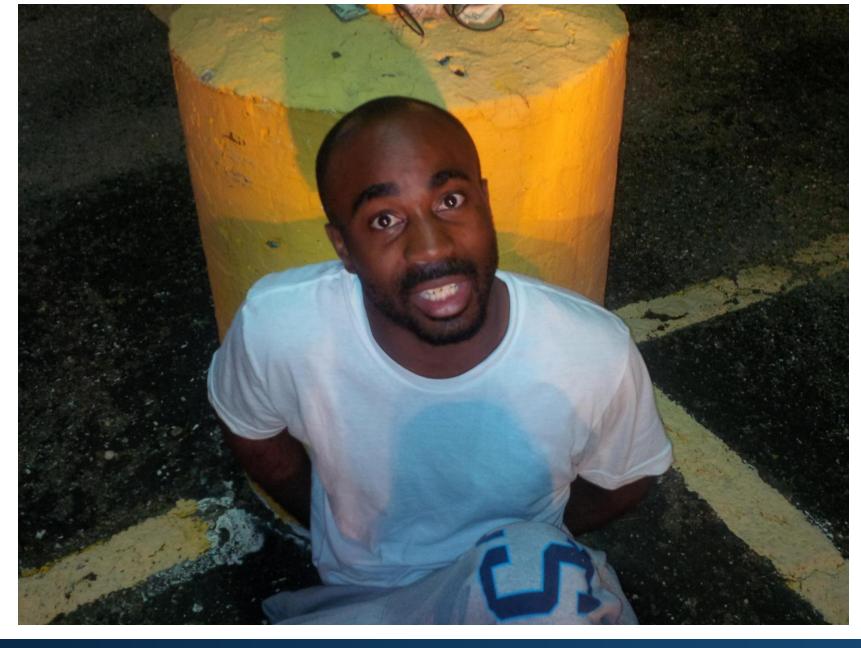












Arrested 11/09/2015
USMS Fugitive Task Force
Houston, TX

Fraud Charges Lake Charles, LA

Homicide Charge Houston, TX





Gov Abbott signs SB 42 on Sept 1, 2017

- ✓ Increased security for judges
- **✓** Creation of Court Security Director
- **✓ Establish Court Security Committees**
- ✓ Training of officers on court security
- ✓ Mandatory reporting 3 days to OCA
- ✓ Provides for any Texas peace officer to provide personal security
- ✓ Removes personal/residential info from public records
- ✓ Imposes court fees to Judicial & Court Personnel Training and Court Security Training Programs



Challenges!!!

Municipal – **1278** JP's – **803**

Co Ct at Law/Probate – 263

Co Judges – 254 Dist Judges – 469

Associate, Senior, Specialty, - 600

Appellate Judges - 80

Sup Ct/CCA - 18

Federal Judges - 144

Retired/Resigned/Non Re-Elected/Spouses – ?

Judges in Texas 3,909 +





"New info released in investigation into threats against judge"

"23 News: Man Accused of Making Death Threats Against Judge Speaks Out"

"Life Under Death Threats: Dangers Faced By Judges, Prosecutors"

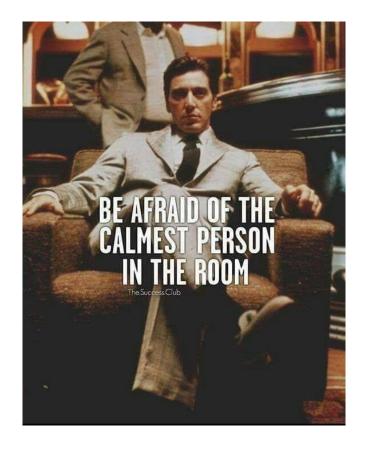
"Inmate Pleads Guilty to Threats Against Trump, Judges"

"Woman accused of posting threats against 2 judges"

Judge: "1 Killed in Texas Courthouse Shooting"

"Threats against judges rise across Texas" (Aug 2017, KHOU)







Court Security Incident Reporting

LEA providing security **SHALL** provide a report to OCA regarding any court security incident that occurs in or around a building housing a court within **3 DAYS**.

Copy to be provided to presiding judge!

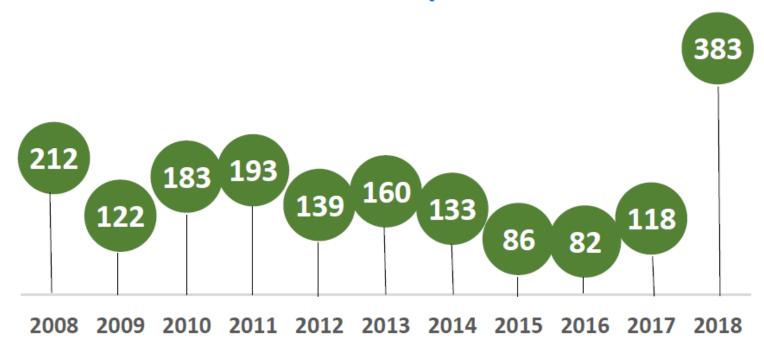
Burden of reporting has shifted to the LEO.





Texas Court Security Incidents Fiscal Year 2018 Summary Statistics

Incidents Reported





What is a Court Security Incident?

- An incident or event that causes security posture to elevate.
- Agency becomes more vigilant, observant, cautious.
- May add temporary manpower, patrols.
- Disrupts or alters court's schedule.
- Contraband, medical episode, bomb threat, active shooter, evacuation.
- May occur in another department within courthouse.
- Subjective YOU make that determination.



Examples of Behaviors & Activities to Report

- Comments regarding killing/harming someone.
- Strangers asking about building security features/procedures.
- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left behind.
- Vehicles left in no-parking zones at important buildings.
- Chemical smells or fumes unusual for the location.
- Requests for sensitive information: blueprints, security plans, VIP travel schedules, having no need to know.
- Supply purchases that could be used to make bombs or weapons, uniforms.
- Photography or video of security features; cameras, checkpoints.



Texas Ethics Commission – Redacts personal information of judge and spouse.

<u>County Appraisal District</u> – Redacts residential information of judge and spouse.

<u>County Registrar</u> – Redacts personal and residential information of judge and spouse.

<u>Texas DPS</u> – *Replaces residential address with courthouse address for judge and spouse. Includes License to Carry (LTC)

*Alternative Address Program



Lifetime Protection







SB 42 Security Questionnaire

Judge/Spouse answers security questionnaire – Submitted to OCA Court Security Division to process.

OCA provides only the information required for the 3 entities to have personal/residential information redacted.

Approximately 30 days, Judge/Spouse can proceed (at their option) to their local DPS office with a copy of their Oath.



DPS will confirm Judge/Spouse are in the <u>Alternative Address Program</u>, in addition to Oath.

DPS will issue DL in address of courthouse where judge serves (or have served in case of retirement, elections, etc.

Standard \$11 Change of Address fee for each person. Going forward, you can renew online. No need to return to DPS.

* Can also have your LTC changed to your courthouse address (your option), \$11 Change of Address applies.



If YOU intend to PURCHASE a firearm

In the event you intend to purchase a firearm...

Take with you, documentary proof of your name and your home address (cable, cell, utility bill, etc.), in addition to your DL.

This will satisfy ATF's requirement when you fill out ATF Form 4473 (Federal Firearm Transaction Record)



Request for Confidentiality – County Appraisal District

Expanded list of qualified persons able to exercise privacy protection



SB 510







Protection applies to <u>CURRENT/FORMER</u> employees of a federal/state judge

Employees interact with litigants experiencing crisis, extensive criminal histories, mental instability and potentially dangerous persons in criminal or civil actions.

Protects and reduces possibility of disgruntled litigants from being able to determine where employee resides.

Execute *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts <u>Form 50-284</u> and provide to local County Appraisal District.*

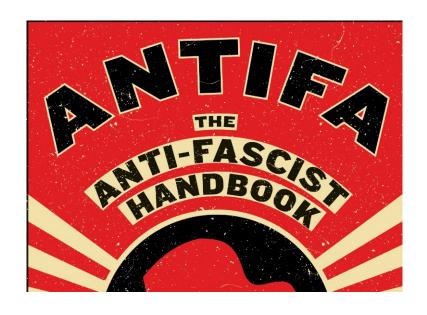


Contemporary Judicial Threats





Groups sharing a common belief system - advance their agenda with acts of violence, intimidation, or terror.













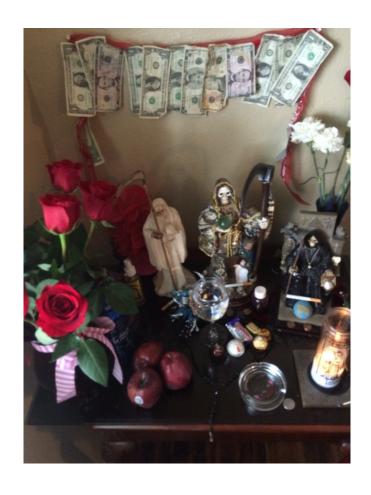


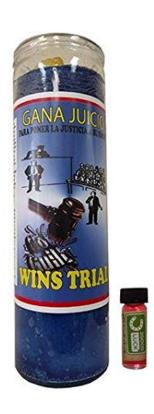
Sovereign Citizens

Group Motivation? Most groups are driven by **MYTH**, **BELIEF SYSTEM or FEAR** that subscribes the individual into the movement.

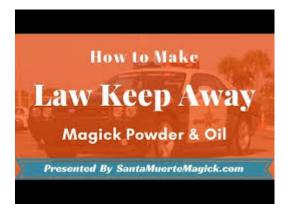


SANTA MUERTE















Folk Saint/Diety – Associated with protection, financial well-being, Popular – Prisons, drug trade, cartels, and criminality



COURTHOUSE SECURITY







EFFECTIVE EXTERIOR SECURITY

Surveillance Cameras

Cost-effective deterrent

Pan, Tilt, Zoom (PTZ), Digital

Six (6): 2 roof, 2 midway, 2 looking back

Motion detectors

AXIS embedded analytics: cameras computer driven; computer stored images match

images captured by cameras.





LIGHTING

Cost-effective deterrent.

You can never have enough.

Combine with motion detectors to flood area.

FACILITY DESIGN

Minimize plate glass walls

No windows in courtroom

Set building farther back from public street

Law enforcement input for new courthouse





LANDSCAPING

Knee walls (2 feet)
Concrete barriers
Earthen berms





Landscaping Boulders





Bollards



INTERIOR SECURITY

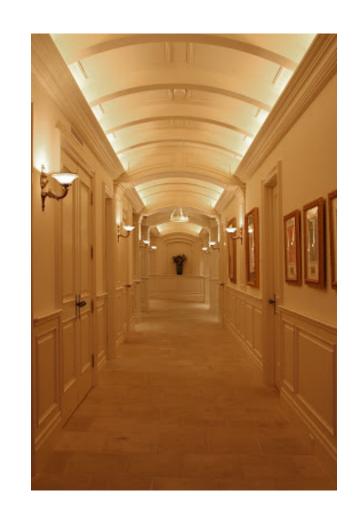
- ■Public access minimize and limit to one principal entrance.
- Ground level doors closed permitting emergency egress (alarm/crash bar).
- Security screening checkpoint at principal entrance, offset left or right from entry.
- ■Screen all visitors, belongings, packages, and mail entering the courthouse.
- ■Establish one or more restricted public access control points (employees only).
- •All interior doors remain locked except those intended for public use.
- ■Use an entry control system, (key or swipe cards) and maintain strict accountability.
- ■Eliminate a **no piggybacking** policy through a controlled entry.



MOVEMENT WITHIN COURTHOUSE

Internal Circulation: Safe and secure movement of the judges, prisoners and public within the courthouse.

- □ Requires 3 independent routes throughout building for each group to circulate within the courthouse.
- ☐ Independent routes to ensure safe passage for each group.





SERVICE ACCESS TO COURTHOUSE

Building must operate to allow service functions Supply deliveries by company trucks
Trash pickup
Mail pickup and deliveries





Loading dock entrance must be staffed if open.

X-ray all items entering courthouse

Physically inspect items unable to x-ray

Screen all deliverymen/workers, tools and require ID





MIDDLE PERIMETER

Cameras and lighting of all hallways.

Patrols

Fixed Posts – especially judicial areas.

Locked and alarmed stairwells – Emergency Use Only.







INNER PERIMETER – THE COURTROOM

Reinforce judicial bench with ballistic material: Kevlar, layered sheet steel and plywood Key-controlled lighting/HVAC systems

Lock doors when court is not in session

Courtroom windows obscured with opaque or solid material

New construction omit windows

Secure evidential weapons (i.e., guns, knives) during court proceedings

Monthly testing of duress alarms, quarterly testing of entry

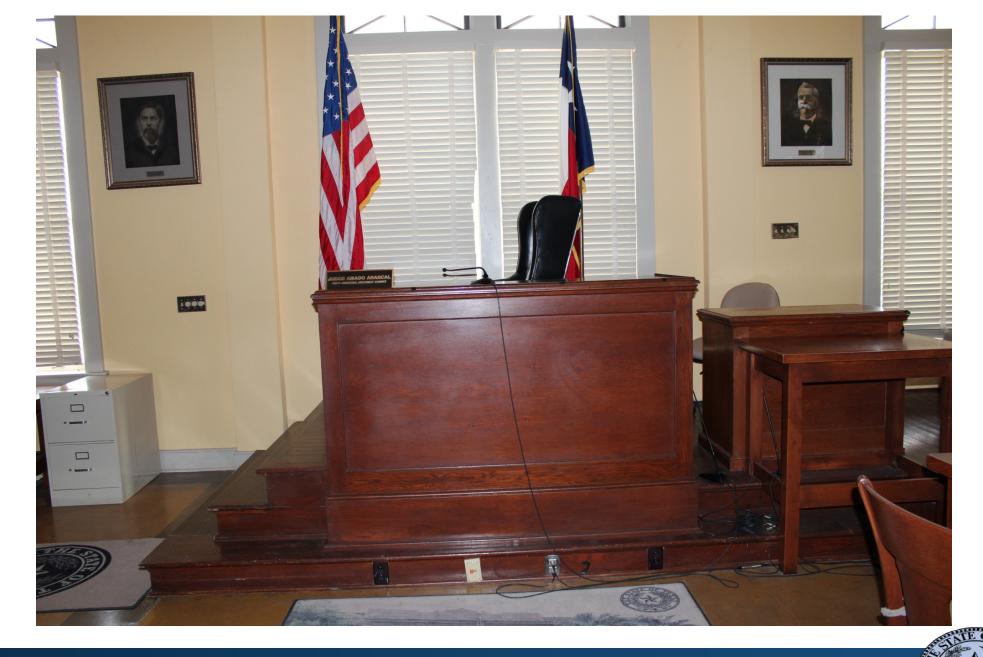
Entire courtroom searched prior to public admission

Security duty means no clerk/prisoner duties

Stay alert



















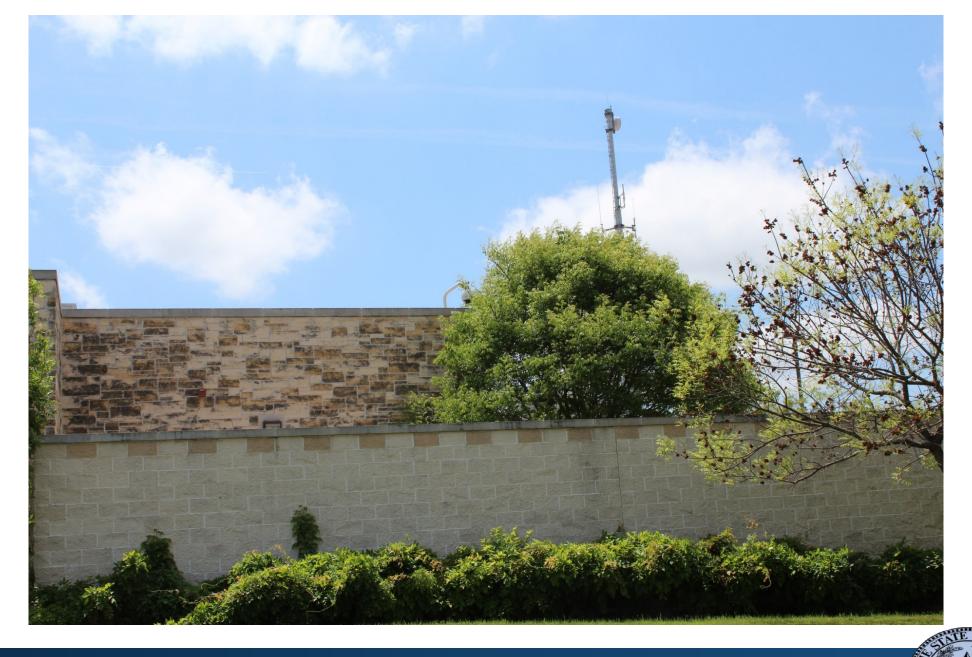


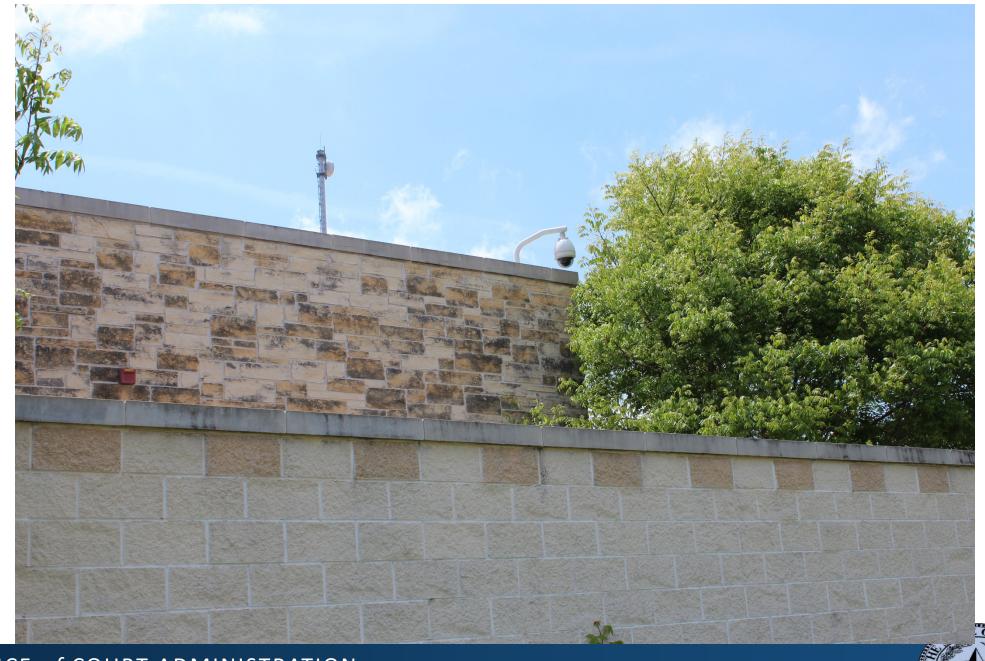
























JUDGE'S CHAMBERS

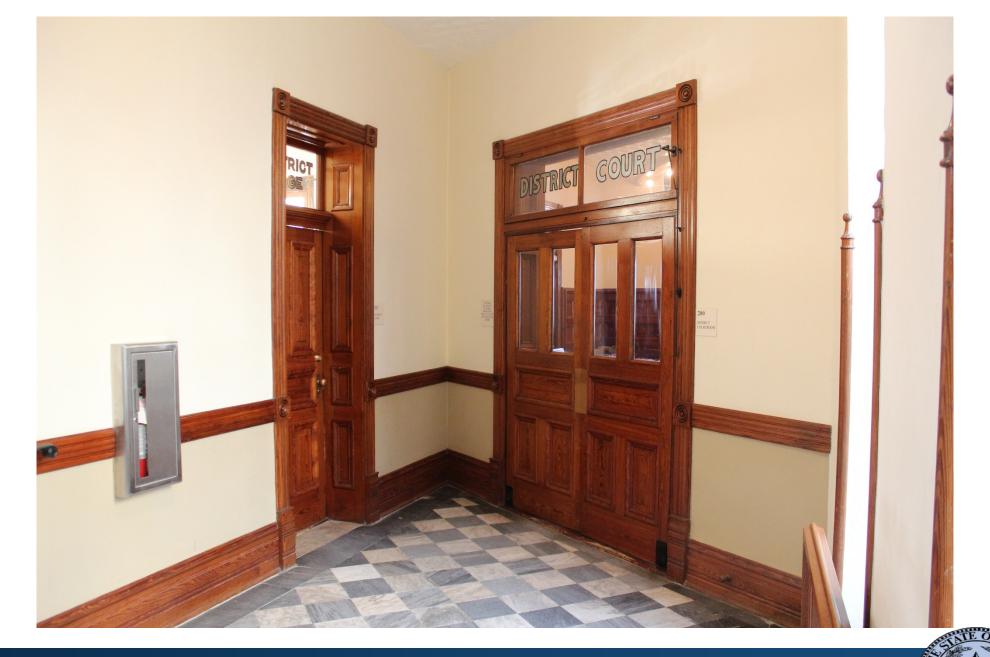
Entry Control Package
Cameras and Lighting
Fixed Duress Alarms
Personal Duress/Panic Alarms for Judges
Instant geo-location of receivers interfacing with cameras



























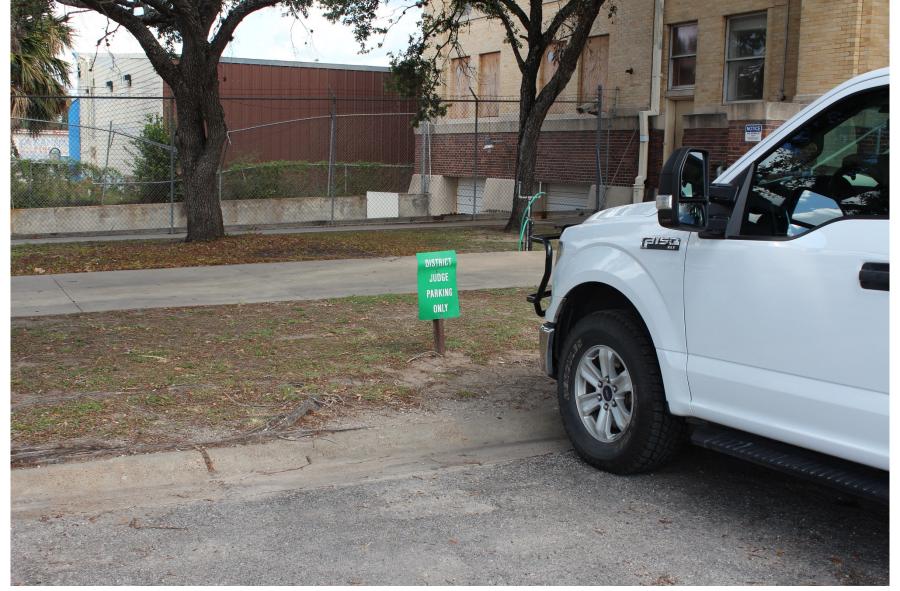




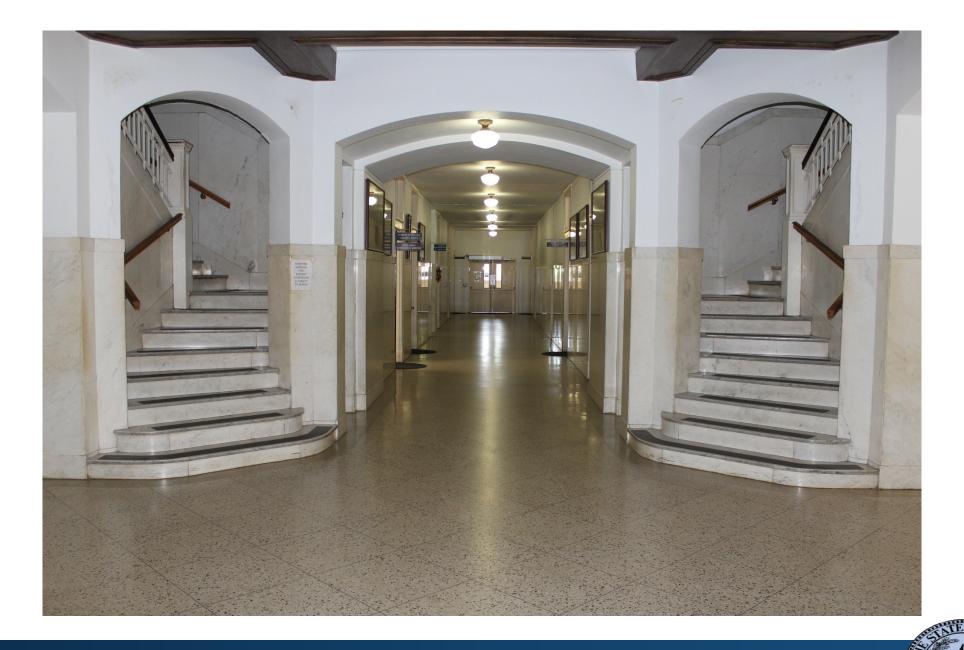




















































FACILITY SELF-PROTECTION

Evacuations Plans?

Who makes decision to evacuate or shelter in place?

- Fire
- Bomb
- Natural Disaster
- Chemical Attack
- Riots
- Medical Episode
- Criminal Event near Courthouse
- Active Shooter





Active Shooter

















Courthouse Riot



- ➤ <u>Practice</u>, <u>practice</u>, <u>practice</u> evacuation drills.
- ➤ Determine where to assemble if evacuated.
- > Distribute plan and update as needed.



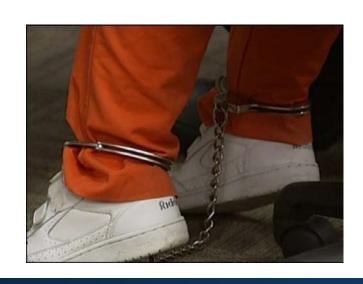
Courthouse Fire



COURTROOM SECURITY

RESTRAINTS –

Handcuffs
Waist Chain
Leg Irons
Security Box





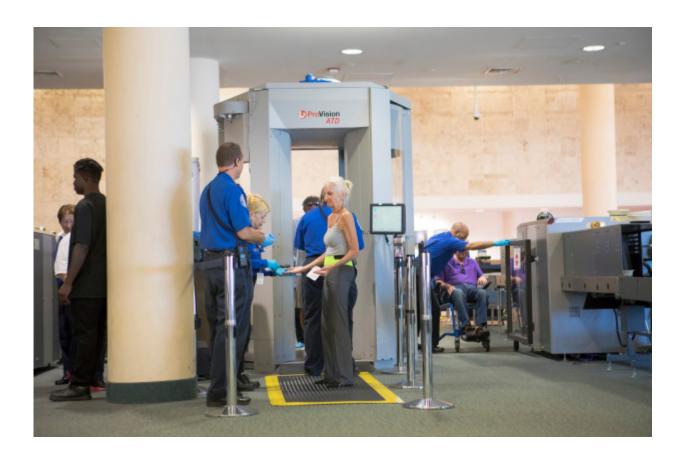


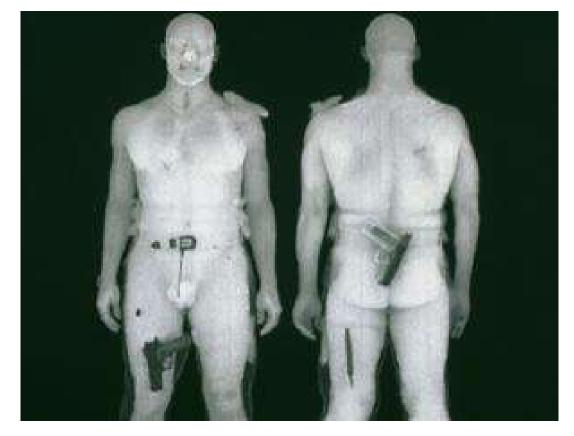


























Hector Gomez
Court Security Director
205 W. 14 St.
Austin, TX 78701

hector.gomez@txcourts.gov

www.txcourts.gov

Ph: 512.463.1679

