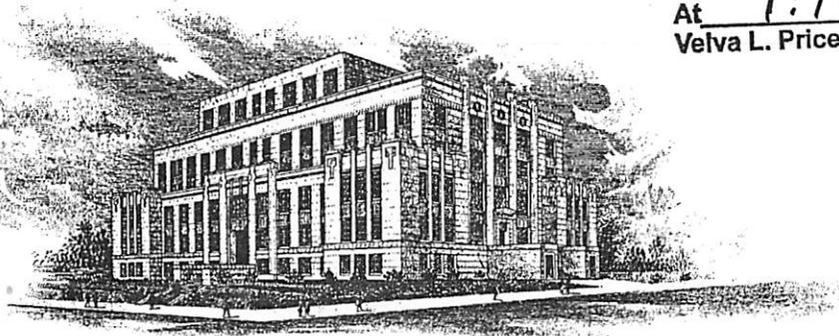


FEB 19 2016 CJe

At 1:17 P.M.  
Velva L. Price, District Clerk



## ORDER

File Number D-1-GN-61-121012  
(LOCAL RULES AND GENERAL ORDERS)

The Presiding Criminal Judge for the Criminal Courts located in Travis County, Texas makes these findings regarding courtrooms and offices that are essential to the operation of the courts, and utilized by the courts as described in Texas Penal Code Section 46.03:

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Texas Legislature enacted HB 910, 84<sup>th</sup> RS, effective January 1, 2016, authorizing handgun license holders to openly carry handguns secured in shoulder or belt holsters in the State of Texas to include in government buildings and on government property with limited exceptions contained in the Texas Penal Code §46.03 and 46.035; and

WHEREAS, one of the exceptions in Texas Penal Code §46.03 is the premises of any government court or offices utilized by the court; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Criminal Judge for the Criminal Courts for Travis County presides over the Criminal Courts in the Blackwell Thurman Criminal Justice Center and can thus determine which offices are utilized and essential to the operation of the courts; and

WHEREAS, the below signed Judge has established that the entire building of the Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center (the "CJC") including all floors, constitute the premises of the criminal district courts. These areas in the CJC, including the hallways, common areas, stairwells, elevators and restrooms, are all used by jurors, witnesses, parties, attorneys, officers of the court and judicial personnel. Use of these areas is integral and necessary for the District Courts' operations.

WHEREAS, the below signed Judge has considered the offices that the Criminal Courts utilize, and has determined that the below offices are essential to the operation of the Criminal Courts and central to their business:

**ORDER**

**File Number D-1-GN-61-121012**

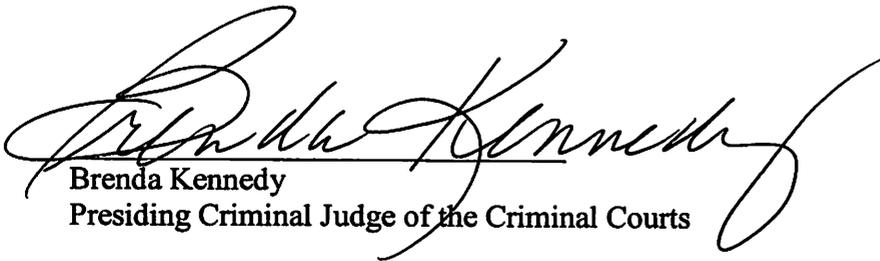
1. The Travis County District Clerk provides the records and clerical support for the District Courts. All of the District Court files are kept by the District Clerk's Office, which is located in the CJC and the Heman Marion Sweatt Courthouse.
2. The Travis County Auditor provides invaluable assistance to the courts in reviewing the financial functioning of the courts, as well as auditing all expenditures necessary for maintaining indigent defense. The Auditor currently operates out of the 700 Lavaca building.
3. The Capital Area Private Defender Services (CAPDS) manages all appointed counsel and currently operates out of the Brizendine House, which is located on County Property adjacent to the CJC. CAPDS serves an essential role in criminal cases as indigent defendants are legally entitled to counsel and CAPDS provides oversight that used to be performed by the Judges themselves.
4. The Travis County District Attorney represents the State of Texas in each and every felony criminal case. The Courts could not proceed with any day's docket without a criminal prosecutor. The District Attorney operates out of the Gault Building at 509 West 11<sup>th</sup> St. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Granger Building at 314 West 11 St.
5. The Travis County Mental Health Public Defender, currently located at 2201 Post Road, and will be moving to the Rusk Building at 910 Lavaca in April, 2016, provides necessary legal counsel for all indigent defendants with mental health issues. They are in the District Courts on a daily basis and essential to manage our criminal caseload.
6. The Travis County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD), currently located at the Executive Office Building, located at 411 West 13<sup>th</sup> St., serves as an arm of the court, investigating criminal defendants before punishment by providing presentence reports to the Court, and monitoring defendants after sentence who are placed on probation. There is a CSCD officer placed in each court daily and each officer plays a necessary role in handling the courts' criminal dockets.
7. Pre-trial Services, also currently located at the Executive Office Building, is an office developed specifically to serve the criminal judges in determining both the amount and eligibility for bonds. This office also serves as an arm of the court, and monitors defendants who are released on bond and ensures that they show up for court and comply with the courts' orders regarding their release.
8. The Office of Court Administration, currently located at the Gault building at 509 West 11<sup>th</sup> St. manages the Courts' dockets, the appointments of counsel for indigent defense, and serves as an arm of the court.

NOW, THEREFORE THE BELOW SIGNED JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS ORDERS:

1. The Judge believes the findings and recitations set out in the resolution are true and correct, and they are hereby adopted by the below signed Judges.
2. Thus, the below signed Judge by this order, hereby resolves that the Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center, including hallways, common areas, restrooms, elevators and stairwells and the offices listed in this Order, those floors officing the District Clerk in the Heman Marion Sweat Courthouse, those floors officing the County Auditor in the 700 Lavaca Building, the Executive Office Building located at 411 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St., the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Granger Building located at 314 West 11<sup>th</sup> St., the Gault Building located at 509 West 11<sup>th</sup> St., the Rusk Building located at 910 Lavaca, the Brizendine House, and those floors housing the Mental Health Public Defender in the Building located at 2201 Post Road, are subject to Texas Penal Code §46.03 and §46.035, and request the Travis County Commissioners Court and the Sheriff's Office to take appropriate measures to prohibit licensed handgun holders from entering these locations with handguns.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS THE 19 DAY OF February, 2016.

THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS

  
Brenda Kennedy  
Presiding Criminal Judge of the Criminal Courts