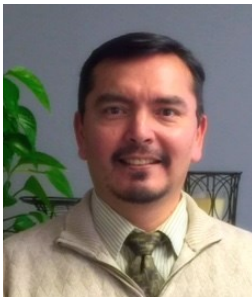


TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES

Volume 3, Issue 2

August 2017

Letter from the President



Greetings Pretrial Services Colleagues,

2017 has been a busy year for Pretrial Services in Texas. The 2017 TAPS Conference and Training institute was a great success. The 2017 TAPS elections were held in May and the TAPS Board of Directors has added some new faces. Duane Steel was elected to the position of Vice President. Aurora Roberts was elected to serve as Secretary. Letty Moreno will serve as Southeast Region Representative and Jimmy Ruiz will serve as Western Region Representative. The Northeast Region Representative position which was vacated by Duane Steele will be filled by Michael Laughlin. In this issue of the TAPS Newsletter, we would like to welcome the newest members to the TAPS board and extended an opportunity to learn a little more about them.

The regular session of the Texas Legislature has ended and the highly anticipated bills related to Pretrial Justice Reform did not pass during the session. The special legislative session did not include items directly related to our general work. Although the most significant bills related to our filed did not pass, I view the exposure that the pretrial processes received this year as a positive for Pretrial Services and Pretrial Justice. It brought forward to the public discourse the many challenges that the current system faces. It will likely help set the stage for future legislation.

The TAPS Board of Directors has been working planning the TAPS 2018 Conference and Training Institute. We are in the preliminary stages of the planning and will send out information as soon as it is available. I'm looking forward to another successful conference in 2018 and hope to see you there.

Best Regards,
Gerald Rodriguez, Jr., President
Texas Association of Pretrial Services

"In our society liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception."

*Supreme Court:
United States vs. Salerno*

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TAPS Board of Directors

Gerald Rodriguez, Jr.
President

Duane Steele
Vice-President

Aurora Roberts
Secretary

April Craig
Treasurer

Michael Laughlin
Northeast Region
Representative

Jimmie Ruiz
Western Region
Representative

Letty Moreno
Southeast Region
Representative

Mike Lozito
Immediate Past
President

Linda Ingraham
Chair, Membership

Grace M. Uzomba, Esq.
Legal Counsel



MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:



Duane Steele, Vice-President

Duane Steele is elated to have been elected to serve as Vice President of TAPS. He has over 30 years of Criminal Justice experience and has worked for Dallas County since 1990. He is currently serving as Deputy Director of Pretrial Services (CSCD). Duane received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education, from Wiley College, (home of "The Great Debaters"). He has always had a passion for working with youth and spent a large portion of his career in Juvenile Services. He has worked as a Juvenile Detention Officer in both Tarrant and Dallas Counties, as well a Field Probation Officer, Court Liaison Officer and Department Floater with Dallas County's Juvenile Probation Department. From 2007 to 2010 Duane served as Court Manager of Dallas County's specialized Truancy Courts. In 2010 he was assigned as Coordinator of Dallas County's Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB). His passion has grown from working with youthful offenders, to working with currently and formally incarcerated adults, specifically those with behavioral and mental health challenges. Prior to being named Deputy Director, Duane served as Program Manager for Dallas County Pretrial Services Duane believes this is a crucial time for Pretrial Justice in Texas. He hopes that TAPS will take an active role in building uniformity in Pretrial Services across the state. Duane is a strong proponent of pretrial education and utilizing best practices which includes the use of a Risk Assessment tool. He believes that whether the Pretrial Program is in an urban or rural area; is 24/7 or 8 to 5, a Risk Assessment can give judges and/or magistrates a better indication of whether a defendant can be safely released back into the community. Duane is looking forward to what's ahead for TAPS and Pretrial Justice across the state of Texas



Aurora Roberts, Secretary

Aurora Roberts is the new Secretary for the Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS). She has been employed with Harris County Pretrial Services (HCPS) for just under twenty seven years and has been a member of TAPS for four years. Aurora's tenure with HCPS has exposed her to business processes and practices in both the Pretrial Screening Division and the Defendant Monitoring Division, where she currently serves as the Division Manager. She ensures that the twenty eight direct reports in her Division provide effective and efficient defendant supervision services to the thirty eight Harris County courts. She is a graduate of the University of Houston, University Park. Aurora credits attendance at NAPSA conferences ,the experience at the National Institute of

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Corrections Orientation for New Pretrial Executives and more recently her involvement with TAPS, with increasing her knowledge and understanding of the Pretrial Services Profession and its significant role in the Justice System. She has served on the Board of Directors for several Non-Profit organizations. One of the goals that Aurora would like to pursue as a member of TAPS is to bring a greater level of knowledge and understanding of the discipline to line staff. Often times the employees who are in the field completing the day-to-day tasks are so involved in processes involving the 'what' and the 'how', that the 'why' is sometimes not fully realized. Knowledge of, NAPSA standards, industry research, Bipartisan efforts to reform the Justice System, as well as participation in efforts led by the TAPS, will greatly increase the efficiency of line staff who provide services to the criminal justice system and to the community.



Leticia Moreno, Southeast Region Representative

My name is Leticia Moreno and I am the Pretrial Services Manager for Bexar County, Texas and the newly selected Southeast Region Representative of the Texas Association of Pretrial Services. In my new role, I would like to both offer and gain awareness and understanding of the processes of Pretrial Services offices in Texas. I plan to gain an understanding of what has been implemented and working for our agencies according to local and national standards.

I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. I am a graduate of Louis W. Fox Technical and Academic High School. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from The University of Texas at San Antonio and a Master of Science degree in Finance from Webster University.

I began my work for Bexar County Pretrial Services in 1997 and have thoroughly enjoyed my work as a public servant. In Bexar County, we have strived to become a positive model of the Pretrial Services office and maintain and follow standards set forward by the National Association of Pretrial Services. I have also enjoyed training and serving as a role model to new employees and supervisors and helping them understand and appreciate their role in the criminal justice system.

Jimmie Ruiz, Western Region Representative

My name is Jimmy Ruiz, I am the newly elected Western Region Representative of Texas Association of Pretrial Services. I am currently the director of Ector County Pretrial Services and Post Sentence Monitoring Department. I have been with the department since 2006 and appointed director of Ector County Post Sentence Monitoring since 2008. I was also assigned to launch the Ector County Pretrial Services Program. We are currently operating and look forward to serving TAPS as the Western Region Representative.

I have recently attended a TAPS conference and have learned a lot from it. I look forward to attending more conferences and am happy to be allowed to serve as part of the board. I am excited to learn more and get more ideas to bring back to the Western region and pass along ideas.

As the Western Region Representative I will be able to help other Pretrial Services programs in the Western Region as well as continue to expand our current program. I look forward to meeting new people and learning from other counties with established Pretrial Services Programs.

Michael Laughlin, Northeast Region Representative

Mike Laughlin, was recently elected Northeast Region Representative. He holds a Master's Degree in Counseling from Midwestern State University, in Wichita Falls, Texas. He worked for 10 years providing mental health, career development, and chemical dependency counseling services in the public and private sectors, including management of inpatient/outpatient detoxification and substance abuse treatment programs. From 1993-2015, he worked for the U.S. District Courts, spending his last 18 years as a Senior U.S. Probation/Pretrial Officer and treatment/reentry specialist in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Dallas.

He is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor, Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Certified Pretrial Services Professional, and Global Career Development Facilitator-Instructor. In June 2015 Mike joined Dallas County as the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program Coordinator, and has since served in leadership roles of Pretrial/Diversion within the Criminal Justice Department. He was promoted to Smart Justice Jail Diversion Program Manager in the fall of 2015 where he currently leads a grant-funded, large-scale, data-driven, risk/evidence-based system re-design of how the local criminal justice and treatment systems divert many behaviorally-disordered defendants from detention/prosecution, and into community supervision, treatment, and community resources

BELL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT AND SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

By Linda Ingraham
Director, Bell County Pretrial Services

Bell County started a Mental Health Court and Social Work Program in April 2011 with a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. There are three different moving parts with this program. This is really important piece.

The Bell County Mental Health Indigent Defense Program's primary purpose is to assess clients who are identified as having a mental health diagnosis when they are arrested and fill in the gaps that exist in their network of mental health and social services. In addition to networking them to services, we provide case management services throughout their time on the status docket. We communicate, and work with, their defense attorneys on establishing and assisting clients meet goals in order to increase their chance of long-term success. In short, this team approach during docket has proven benefits in lowering the recidivism rate within this population. Although we primarily service clients in the Bell County area, we do work with clients out of the area as well. Typically, our program interfaces with Central Counties Services for mental health and intellectual developmental disability assessment, diagnosis and treatment. We have long-standing relationships with several substance abuse treatment facilities, free clinics, transportation services, housing accommodations, employment assistance agencies, indigent health care coverage office and other health/counseling service centers.

What's Happening in Your Agency?

Give us an update on developments in your County. Post open positions and let others know what's happening in your program. The TAPS Newsletter allows you to communicate with other Pretrial Practitioners. Take advantage of a great opportunity to share your news. All it cost is the time it takes to write it!



SAME CHARGE...DIFFERENT BOND

By Kelvin L. Banks
Director, Harris County Pretrial Services

Have you ever wondered how two people charged with the same crime, in the same jurisdiction, receives a different bond?...Or how two people that are co-defendants on a crime could possibly have differing bond amounts set?... And when either of these situations occurs, are they an indicator of a flawed or injustice system?

Within local jurisdictions, Pretrial Services has the responsibility of assessing-risk and making bond recommendations in adult criminal matters. Pretrial Services' bond recommendations are based on the basic premises of the Bail Reform Act of 1966 and the Bail Reform Act of 1984. The Bail Reform Act of 1966 focuses on the assurance that a defendant will return to court for future hearings, if released on a bond. The Bail Reform Act of 1984 focuses on the potential danger a defendant poses to the community, if released on a bond.

As recommended in the Essential Elements of an Effective Pretrial System and Agency (2017), pretrial services systems should use evidence-based objective risk tools to inform the release decision. In general, pretrial risk tools can reasonable predict the defendant's future appearance probability and their threat to the community. On July 29, 2017 Harris County Pretrial Services implemented the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) risk tool offered by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The PSA has nine (9) risk factors that can be objectively scored. The risk factors include:

- 1) Age at current arrest
- 2) Current Violent Offense
- 3) Pending Charge at the time of the offense
- 4) Prior misdemeanor conviction
- 5) Prior felony conviction
- 6) Prior violent conviction
- 7) Prior failure to appear in the past two years
- 8) Prior failure to appear older than two years
- 9) Prior sentence to incarceration

Once a defendant's risk score is totaled, there are three (3) risk indicators:

- 1) New violent criminal flag is triggered based on a set threshold.
- 2) Failure to appear (FTA) score ranges from one (1) to six (6).
- 3) New criminal activity (NCA) score ranging from one (1) to six (6).

On both the FTA and NCA respective scales, a defendant's risk is classified as low (1-2), average (3-4), or high (5-6). Generally, a low risk defendant may have limited to no release conditions in their bond. An average risk defendant may have release conditions to mitigate their risk. For a high risk defendant, there are no conditions or combination of conditions that can assure community safety or appearance in court.

Utilizing a validated risk assessment tool provides an objective means to assess each individual defendant's risk. In the United States Supreme Court case, *Stack v. Boyle*, twelve individuals were charged with conspiracy in federal court. At the bail hearing, the district judge set bond in the amount of \$50,000 for all twelve defendants, despite evidence of their differing financial resources, family ties, health, and criminal records. It was determined that this was a violation of their Eighth Amendment rights, in that a defendant has a right to bond that is based on their individual risk factors. And thus, two defendants with the same charge, in the same jurisdiction, can receive a different bond based on their respective risk scores. Also, two co-defendants on the same crime could possibly have different bond amounts set based on their individual risk scores.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

4TH ANNUAL TAPS CONFERENCE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

4TH ANNUAL TAPS CONFERENCE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS





NAPSA News

National Association of
Pretrial Services Agencies

45th NAPSA Conference and Training Institute

September 10-13, 2017
Pittsburgh, PA

Registration is open for the 45th National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Conference and Training Institute. If you have never attended a National Pretrial Conference, this is your opportunity to get the national perspective and network with Pretrial practitioners from across the nation. Visit the NAPSA Website at www.NAPSA.org or see Page 9 for additional info.

.....

Pretrial Certification Testing

The NAPSA Board of Directors and Education Committee are pleased to announce on-demand testing for its Certified Pretrial Services Professionals (CPSP) Level One certification exam. The twice-yearly exam is being replaced with a new on-line testing platform that allows pretrial professionals to take the exam throughout the year to better meet their individual schedules. Interested persons need to complete necessary forms and make payment to NAPSA. Once approved, practitioners will be provided a link to the testing platform to complete the exam. For more information click [here](#).

TAPS NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

The Texas Association of Pretrial Services is seeking an enthusiastic, innovative newsletter editor to coordinate the publication of the TAPS Newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year and is distributed electronically to our members and supporters. The term of the position is usually around two years. Please consider volunteering if you have an interest in editing, writing, graphic design and most importantly if you have an interest in sharing important Pretrial Services information and news from around the State of Texas with our members and supporters. The TAPS Board is ready to lend lots of support in the process. If you are interested and/or want to learn more about the position, please contact any of the board members or Email our TAPS Secretary, Aurora Roberts at: Aurora.Roberts@pts.hctx.net.



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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The 2017 NAPSA conference offers nationally renowned scholars, practitioners and presenters that provide exceptional information and research about the field of Pretrial Services. The conference will feature research and information to elevate the national discussion of the need for pretrial services and the incredible work being done by pretrial professionals at the local, state and federal levels.

In addition, 60 instructional workshops will provide participants the opportunity to review the foundations of pretrial, learn the latest research findings, hear about the implementation of evidence-based practices and understand current practices available from those working in the field.

We invite pretrial services and diversion program staff, judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, jail staff, law enforcement, policy makers, researchers and advocates to attend the conference. Please join us at Wyndham Grand Hotel as we recharge our passion, network with our peers and lead the charge for Pretrial Justice. Please join us in Pittsburgh!

NEW for the 2017 Annual Conference – Essential Elements Executive Training
Special Training Session on Sunday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

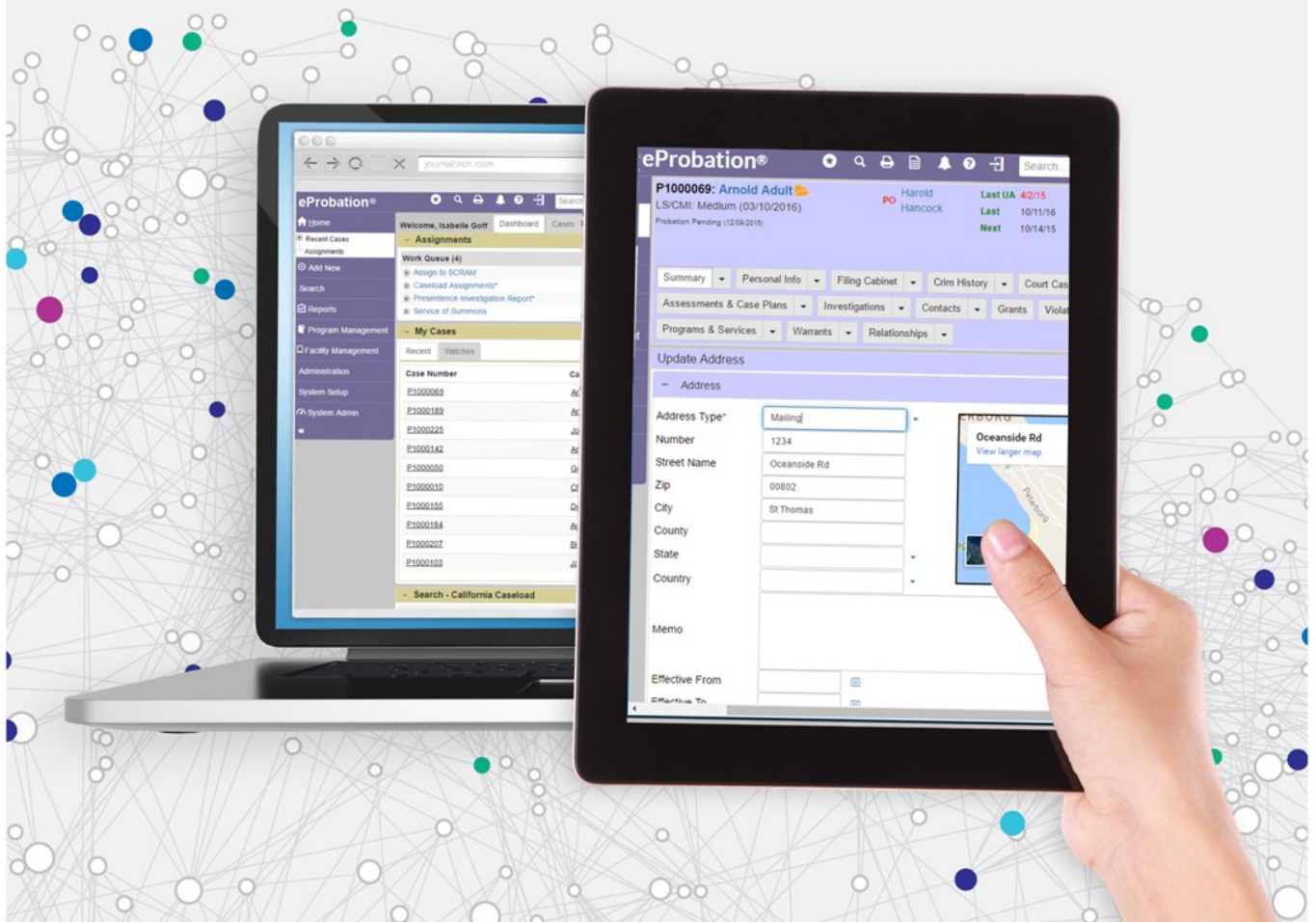
This special training session is designed by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and NAPSA. The training session will focus on the essential elements necessary to improve pretrial outcomes for policy leaders, decision makers and pretrial administrators who are committed to building or reforming programs that improve decision making at the pretrial stage of the criminal justice system. This interactive session will provide a platform to build a strategy around elements that are policy or implementation obstacles and will provide attendees with a strategy to problem solve these obstacles within their jurisdiction that and or improve sound pretrial practices. This session is offered through an application and invitation process to thirty (30) qualified applicants who are policy leaders, decision makers or pretrial administrators within their pretrial system. A separate fee of \$150.00 will be charged for this event and participants must register for the conference. Applications are due by Friday, June 2, 2017.

Visit www.napsa.org or click [here](#) for a schedule of conference activities.

<i>Conference Registration Fees</i>	Early Bird (On or before 7/14/17)	Regular (On or before 9/9/17)	On-Site
Member	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$600.00
Non-Member	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$700.00
Local Conference Registration (PA Resident)	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$450.00
One-day Conference Registration	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$225.00
Spouse/Guest: Sunday Keynote & Reception	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Spouse/Guest: Monday Awards Luncheon	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Spouse/Guest: Conference Wide Event	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Spouse/Guest Package (all 3 events)	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$225.00

The registration fee includes all conference events for the registrant only. If a spouse/guest is interested in attending an event, a spouse/guest event ticket must be purchased.

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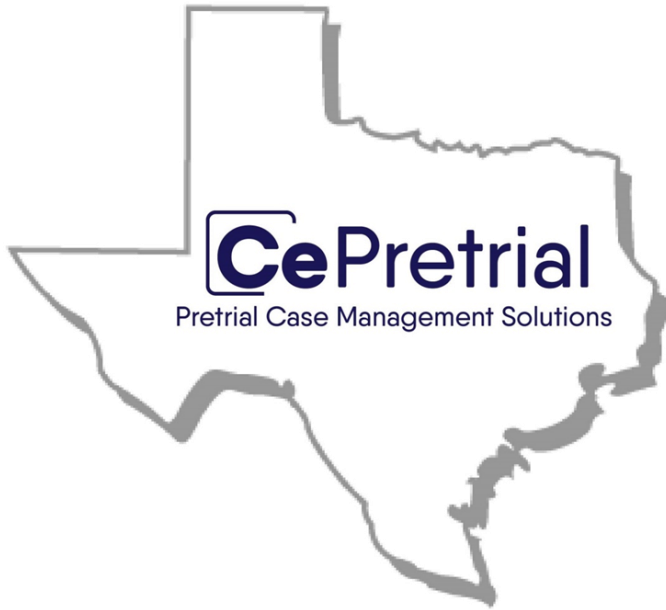
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TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES

TAPS Annual Membership Form

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

NAME:		TITLE:	
***(If organizational – list name of other voting members)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Level I - 1 voting member <input type="checkbox"/> Level II – 2 voting members <input type="checkbox"/> Level III – 3 voting members			
NAME:		TITLE:	
NAME:		TITLE:	
AGENCY:			
AGENCY ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE & ZIP:	
PHONE:		FAX:	
EMAIL:			

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

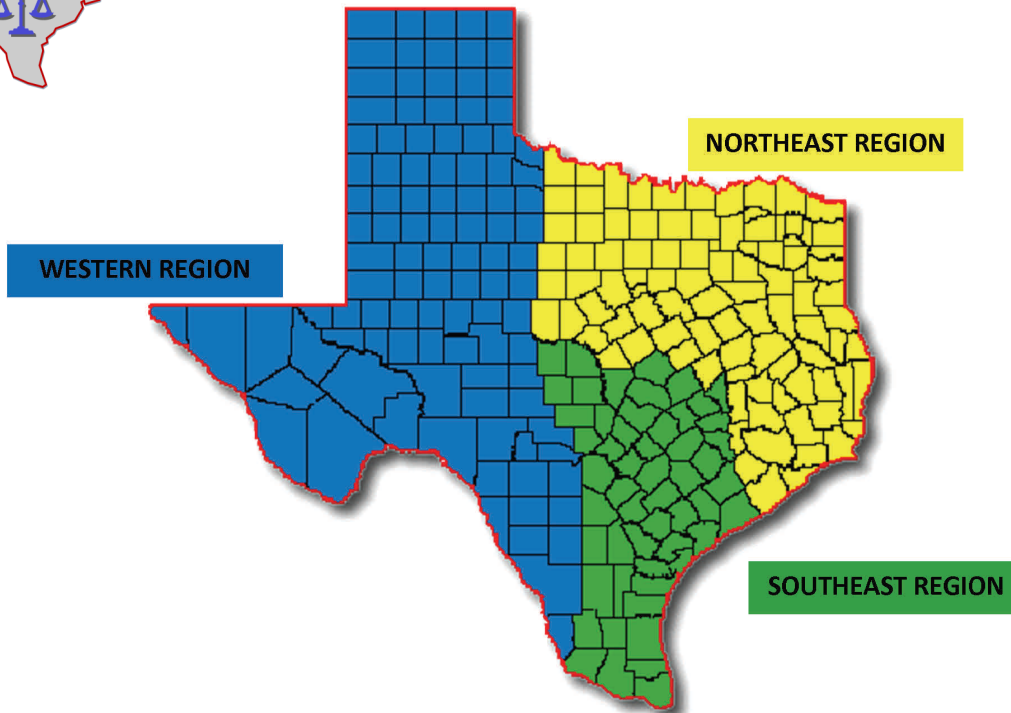
- \$ 35 **Professional** (An individual employed in the field of Pretrial Services)
- \$ 25 **Associate** (An individual not employed in the field of Pretrial Services who subscribes to the purposes and goals of the Association)
- \$ 25 **Student** (Full-time Students of criminal justice, law or other related discipline)
- \$200 **Organizational – Level I** (A Pretrial Services Agency with 1 – 25 Employees)
- \$250 **Organizational – Level II** (A Pretrial Services Agency with 26 – 50 Employees)
- \$300 **Organizational – Level III** (A Pretrial Services Agency with over 50 Employees)
- \$500 **Corporate** (Person, Association or Business that supports and/or subscribes to the purposes and goals of the Association)

Make checks payable to: Texas Association of Pretrial Services
Submit this form along with payment to:

Texas Association of Pretrial Services
P. O. Box 685153
Austin, TX 78768-5153



TAPS Regions



Western Region

Andrews	Gray	Nolan
Armstrong	Hale	Ochiltree
Bailey	Hall	Oldham
Bandera	Hansford	Parmer
Borden	Hardeman	Pecos
Brewster	Hartley	Potter
Briscoe	Haskell	Presidio
Carson	Hemphill	Randall
Castro	Hockley	Reagan
Childress	Howard	Real
Cochran	Hudspeth	Reeves
Coke	Hutchinson	Roberts
Collingsworth	Irion	Runnels
Concho	Jeff Davis	Schleicher
Cottle	Jones	Scurry
Crane	Kent	Sherman
Crockett	Kerr	Sterling
Crosby	Kimble	Stonewall
Culberson	King	Sutton
Dallam	Kinney	Swisher
Dawson	Knox	Taylor
Deaf Smith	Lamb	Terrell
Dickens	LaSalle	Terry
Dimmit	Lipscomb	Tom Green
Donley	Loving	Upton
Ector	Lubbock	Uvalde
Edwards	Lynn	Val Verde
El Paso	Martin	Ward
Fisher	Maverick	Webb
Floyd	Medina	Wheeler
Foard	Menard	Winkler
Frio	Midland	Yoakum
Gaines	Mitchell	Zapata
Garza	Moore	Zavala
Glasscock	Motley	

Northeast Region

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Angelina	Hamilton	Rains
Archer	Hardin	Red River
Baylor	Harris	Robertson
Bosque	Harrison	Rockwall
Bowie	Henderson	Rusk
Brazoria	Hill	Sabine
Brown	Hood	San Augustine
Callahan	Hopkins	San Jacinto
Camp	Houston	Shackelford
Cass	Hunt	Shelby
Chambers	Jack	Smith
Cherokee	Jasper	Somervell
Clay	Jefferson	Stephens
Coleman	Johnson	Tarrant
Collin	Kaufman	Throckmorton
Comal	Lamar	Titus
Comanche	Lampasas	Trinity
Cooke	Leon	Tyler
Coryell	Liberty	Upshur
Dallas	Limestone	Van Zandt
Delta	Madison	Walker
Denton	Marion	Waller
Eastland	McLennan	Wichita
Ellis	Mills	Wilbarger
Erath	Montague	Wise
Falls	Montgomery	Wood
Fannin	Morris	Young
Fort Bend	Nacogdoches	
Franklin	Navarro	
Freestone	Newton	
Galveston	Orange	
Grayson	Palo Pinto	
Gregg	Panola	
Grimes	Parker	

Southeast Region

Aransas	Llano
Atascosa	Mason
Austin	Matagorda
Bastrop	McCulloch
Bee	McMullen
Bell	Milam
Bexar	Nueces
Blanco	Refugio
Brazos	San Patricio
Brooks	San Saba
Burleson	Starr
Caldwell	Travis
Calhoun	Victoria
Cameron	Washington
Colorado	Wharton
Comal	Willacy
Dewitt	Williamson
Duval	Wilson
Jim Hogg	
Fayette	
Gillespie	
Goliad	
Gonzales	
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Kenedy	
Kleberg	
Lavaca	
Lee	
Live Oak	