



Judge Victor Villarreal

Webb County Court-at-Law II
1110 Victoria St., Suite 404
Laredo, Texas 78040

August 28, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable
Tano Tijerina, Webb County Judge
1000 Houston St.
Laredo, Texas 78040

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 1
1000 Houston St.
Laredo, Texas 78040

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Wawi Tijerina
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 2
1000 Houston St.
Laredo, Texas 78040

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable John Galo
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 3
1000 Houston St.
Laredo, Texas 78040

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Jaime Canales
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 4
1000 Houston St.
Laredo, Texas 78040

REPORT TO WEBB COUNTY

Dear Webb County Judge Tijerina:

Webb County Court-at-Law II (CCL II) continues to strive to become a court of excellence and I am grateful for the opportunity to inform Webb County of the improvements at CCL II. Consistent with my pledge when you interviewed me, this is

my fourth monthly report that the Court gives to Webb County. If you want me to change its format, address additional issues, or have any questions in the future, please let me know.

Webb County Court-at-Law II has improved the closure and judicial resolution of open cases.

On April 14, when my appointment by the Webb County Judge and Webb Commissioner’s Court became effective, there were 6,207 cases open at CCL II. Since then 854 new cases have been filed and assigned to CCL II, and we have closed 2,432. This means that of the 7,061 old and new total cases in CCLII since April 14, by closing 2,432, we have reduced the caseload by 34%.

During my fourth month alone we closed 743 cases, including 309 criminal cases, 11 juvenile cases, 290 civil cases (2 civil cases filed in the District Clerk’s Office and 288 cases filed in the Webb County Clerk’s Office), and 55 family law cases. For your convenience, the cases are itemized below.

Cases Closed in CCL II, 4/14/17-8/25/17

Case Type	4/14 – 5/12	5/13 – 6/23	6/24 – 7/20	7/21 – 8/25	NUMBER
Criminal	215	366	261	309	1,151
Juvenile	2	211	85	11	309
Civil (District Clerk)	7	9	20	2	38
Civil (County Clerk)	0	33	174	288	495
Family	53	60	125	55	293
Guardianship/Probate	0/5	63/0	0/0	74/4	146
TOTAL	282	742	665	743	2,432

Our case management system continues to improve, and we are committed to ensuring that litigants can have their day in court swiftly and fairly.

Guardianship Compliance

On June 29 two representatives of the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) visited CCL II to discuss the Guardianship Compliance Program. They provided information on resolving the issues we inherited at CCL II, such as statutorily unauthorized waived bonds; unfiled initial inventories, annual reports for the person, annual reports of the estate; missing assets and records; and questionable expenditures. CCL II continues to work with guardians to update inventories and annual reports. Guardians are provided necessary forms via the CCL II website or are emailed the forms. We have closed 137 guardianship cases, including 63 in which the person under guardianship was deceased and 74 in which minors under guardianship reached the age of majority.

CCL II will continue to focus on cases that the Office of Court Administration has recommended closure, including cases that guardians now have expired temporary

orders, open cases wherein guardianships were not established, and cases wherein the guardians failed to qualify, i.e., they failed to meet the legal requirements to be appointed guardians.

CCL II's DWI Court Statistics

CCL II's DWI Court provides a comprehensive treatment and supervision program that helps individuals become better equipped with tools and techniques that allow them to better focus on the underlying reasons behind their recidivism. Last month, 14 candidates successfully completed 6-9 months in CCL II's DWI Program and celebrated their graduation as well as their independence from alcohol addiction.

We are proud that that this effort helps reduce the adverse impact of repeat DWI offenders in the Webb County criminal justice system. All agencies involved concur that a more effective treatment alternative is needed to cope with the problem. The program provides a cost-efficient and effective alternative for non-violent defendants who were arrested on misdemeanor and/or felony charges, who show signs of an alcohol dependency, and who reflect a sincere willingness to change their lives. Committing to a goal of daily sobriety, defendants enter an intensive program of alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services.

The following is a statistical overview of the DWI Court Program since its inception:

Overview of CCL II's DWI Court Program, 2015-2017

YEAR	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017
Intakes	56	54
Discharges	27	43
Intake Percentage	70.1%	80.0%

Importantly, the salaries of the DWI Court employees are no longer paid by Webb County funds.

The future.

When I asked you to appoint me to serve our mutual constituents as judge of CCL II, I committed to do more with less, to reform CCL II, and to restore public confidence. These monthly reports are meant to apprise Webb County of the efforts, improvements, and reforms at CCL II. On behalf of CCL II, I am committed to ensuring fairness, impartiality, and equal access to justice for all who seek relief in this court. My staff and I work hard to keep the court open for business Monday-Friday, also working late and on weekends as necessary. People with cases before CCL II continue to be given opportunities to be heard and to have their days in court.

The Webb County Commissioners Court and CCL II share the same goals: improving the quality of life for residents of Webb County, maintaining trust in our

systems of government and justice, and earning respect based on measurable and reported results. After the 2017-2018 budget is approved, I will report the budgetary impact of the staffing changes at CCL II.

Respectfully,


Judge Victor Villarreal