



Judge Victor Villarreal

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

January 22, 2018

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 and County Commissioners:

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 eighth 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 1,454 new cases have been filed and assigned to CCL II, and we have closed 3,677. This means that of the 7,661 old and new total cases in CCL II since April 14, **by closing 3,677, we have reduced the caseload by 48 percent.** Moreover, we have reduced the backlog of cases prior to April 14 by 58.45 percent.

Since my last report, we closed 169 cases, including 87 criminal cases, 36 juvenile cases, 23 civil cases (20 civil cases filed in the District Clerk’s Office and 3 case filed in the Webb County Clerk’s Office), and 23 family law cases. For your convenience, the cases are itemized below.

Cases Closed in CCL II, 4/14/17-1/21/18

Case Type	4/14	5/13	6/24	7/21	8/26	10/07	11/11	12/9	NUMBER
	5/12	6/23	7/20	8/25	10/6	11/10	12/8	1/21	
Criminal	215	366	261	309	181	116	112	87	1,560
Juvenile	2	211	85	11	35	23	28	36	431
Civil (District Clerk)	7	9	20	2	118	7	186	20	369
Civil (County Clerk)	0	33	174	288	116	74	1	3	689
Family	53	60	125	55	34	36	34	23	420
Guardianship/Probate	0/5	63/0	0/0	74/4	37/0	0/0	0/2	0/0	185
TOTAL	282	742	665	743	521	256	363	169	3,677

Our case management system continues to improve, and we are providing litigants their day in court swiftly and fairly.

CCL II’s DWI Court Graduation

On January 24, 2018 five candidates will be recognized for successfully completing 6-9 months in CCL II’s DWI Program. The candidates will celebrate their graduation from the DWI Court as well as celebrate their independence from alcohol addiction.

Since April 2017, the DWI Court has nearly doubled its number of monthly referrals and successful graduates. DWI Court staff has received over 130 client referrals since the beginning of the program, admitting over 95% of those referrals and has

successfully graduated over 80% of persons admitted into the program thus far. This number is projected to increase to 90% in January 24, 2018, when the program will graduate an anticipated 5 individuals. CCL II's DWI Program helps reduce the adverse impact of repeat DWI offenders in the Webb County criminal justice system. The Program channels non-violent defendants, arrested on misdemeanor and/or felony charges, who show signs of an alcohol dependency and a willingness to change their lives. Committing to a goal of sobriety, defendants enter into an intensive program of alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services. The 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.

Access to Justice: Class in the Courtroom

County Court-at-Law II and the Laredo Young Lawyers Association (LYLA) announced their "Access to Justice: Class in the Courtroom" program that will enable Laredo elementary, secondary, and college students to learn about our justice system through monthly educational programs in court.

Last December County Court-at-Law II and the LYLA co-sponsored "The Trial of Santa Claus" after Kris Kringle was arrested at Daiches Elementary School for impersonating Santa Claus on school property without permission. With Judge Villarreal presiding and LYLA members acting as prosecuting and defense lawyers, fourth graders served as jurors and found Santa Claus not guilty.

Future monthly programs will include mock trials and actual trials and hearings that focus on issues that are more relevant for secondary and college students. Plans include working with Laredoans Against Drunk Driving and other organizations to highlight the legal consequences of drunk driving, texting while driving and drug abuse; the juvenile justice system in action; and guardianship and other efforts to protect elders and persons with disabilities.

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 and as justice requires. 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.

Respectfully,

Victor Villarreal

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