

Mission Accomplished: Envisioning Success

Clerk of the Year Award Nominee Region 8 Nominee



Hon. Heather Marks

County: San Patricio
Position: District Clerk
Years in Office: 5 ½ years

List of Association Committees Served:

Education Committee	2023-2024
Technology/Website Committee	2023-2024
Memorial Committee	2023-2024
Community Outreach Committee	2019-2020, Chair: 2021-2022
Singing Clerks	2019-2020

List of other "Association" Notable Services:

TAC Leadership 254 Graduate	2021-2022
Texas Justice Court Training Center-JPCA Civil Process Education Advisory Board	2022-present
CDCAT Region 8 Spring Conference, Co-host/Co-chair	2023
CDCAT Region 8 Fall Conference, Roundtable Facilitator	2023
CDCAT Everything Jury Panel Member	2021
CDCAT Region 8 Fall Conference, District Clerks Roundtable Panelist	2021
San Patricio County Salary Study Committee	2020-2022
<i>Serving on my county's Salary Study Committee was a very rewarding experience. Though it proved to be extremely challenging, it was an accomplishment that I am very proud of because of the many benefits we were able to reap for our current county employees, as well as strides made that help us to recruit and retain staff.</i>	
San Patricio County Bail Bond Board	2019-present

List of Personal Information and Civic Service:

San Patricio County Child Welfare Board	2019 to present
San Patricio County Area Go Texan	2020 to present
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas-Cursillo Secretariat/Servant Community	2006 to present
Gregory-Portland Education Foundation	2021 to present
Rotary International	2011 to present
ChatWork Civic Club, Portland	2019 to present
Aransas Pass Women's Club	2021 to present
G-P Middle School PTO	2023 to present
Leadership Portland, Steering Committee	2022 to present
Taft A&H Booster Club	2019 to present
Portland Chamber of Commerce volunteer	
Corps Christi Area Delta Gamma Alumni Association	
Junior League Sustaining Member (McAllen/Corpus Christi)	

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Award Nominee
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I am so very honored to be considered for this award. Though I took office in 2019 and don't yet have lots of years of tenured experience under my belt in the clerk's office, I have thoroughly enjoyed jumping in to immerse myself into my office, my county and particularly into CDCAT.

I have quickly learned that I love my job so very much. From the opportunities to serve and work alongside some wonderful people to the challenges of day-to-day "clerk life" in a growing county, it has been so very exhilarating to work to approach these challenges as opportunities to improve and evolve. Whether we are testing the ways we have "always done things" or working to create innovative new solutions to everyday problems, it is exciting to be able to challenge ourselves to offer the very best customer service and experience for those we work alongside.

In the past five years, it has been thrilling to be a part of automating our jury system, working alongside architects to contribute to the design of offices and courtrooms of a new 90,000+ square foot justice center, strategizing and promoting improvements in courthouse security, working to enhance our case management system to improve our record keeping and court operations, serving on a team to migrate our case storage to the cloud, and a large-scale record preservation and digitization project, just to name a few! Oh, and then there was also a statewide freeze and global pandemic we all navigated, too! Through all of it, I have found my CDCAT to be an absolute lifeline. In addition to fantastic education offerings, I have had the opportunity to form relationships with clerks across the state of Texas who have become dear friends, taught me so much along the way and always been willing to lend a hand or an opinion when asked. The MOST valuable resource of CDCA T is it's people!

I have learned that you get out what you put into the association, and that there is a seat for everyone at the table. When I felt like I was too new to help or contribute, I have been encouraged and challenged to dive in. Whether volunteering for a committee (or even agreeing to chair one), participating as a presenter in a panel discussion, or even finding myself up on stage with the Singing Clerks, it is through these "outside of my comfort zone" moments that I have gained more knowledge and confidence as a clerk!

Another incredible experience was participating in the TAC 2021-2022 Leadership 254 Class, where I received top-notch leadership training to use in my office and also learned a tremendous deal about my role in the landscape of county leadership as a whole. Among my favorite knowledge gained was that of finding ways to better communicate and break down silos in my county in order to work better together with fellow elected officials and other stakeholders in order to be more effective in my own role.

I am so very lucky to be able to serve as a district clerk, to work with amazing people in my office, my county and throughout the state, and especially to be a part of history as a record keeper and clerk. None of this would be possible without such an amazing staff and team of dedicated and caring deputy clerks and I am grateful for them each day! I look forward to continuing to contribute to CDCAT for many more years to come and hope to be able to always find ways to pay back and pass on all the knowledge, support, and confidence that I have received!