



NEWS RELEASE

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Texas CASA Hosts Judicial Reception to Honor Outstanding Texas Judge

GEORGETOWN, Texas – Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) honored Harris County Judge Angela Graves-Harrington with the Texas CASA Judicial Innovation and Leadership Award on Monday, Oct. 23 in Georgetown, Texas. The award was presented at the Judicial Reception of the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference hosted by the Children’s Commission and Office of Court Administration.



“This is such a tremendous honor,” Judge Graves-Harrington said. “None of us are in this for recognition, none of us are in this for rewards — we do this because this is our life calling.”

“Our child advocates have been phenomenal. It’s all about the collective effort and being trauma informed and trauma responsive,” Judge Graves-Harrington added.

Judge Graves-Harrington is the Administrative Judge of the Harris County Board of Family District Judges and presides over the Harris County 246th Family District Court where she serves as the first woman and second African American ever elected to that bench. She is a member of the Texas Bar College, is Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and serves as Co-Chair of the Judicial Subcommittee for the Coalition of Child Serving Sectors, Community-Based Care Readiness Initiative.

“The difficult work we do isn’t possible without the leadership of these judges and their commitment to appoint CASA volunteers,” CEO of Texas CASA Vicki Spriggs said. “I look forward to continuing our work with Texas judges to build better futures for children and families experiencing the foster care system.”

“Judge Angela Graves-Harrington is a prime example of a judge who leads on and off the bench, and she selflessly gives her time and shares her expertise to the benefit of everyone around her,” Spriggs added.

Her service also includes developing the Child Welfare Clinic at Thurgood Marshall School of Law where she supports the next generation of legal professionals as an adjunct professor. Judge Graves-Harrington consistently strives to implement trauma-informed practices and policies in the Harris County child welfare system, and she participated in the Children’s Commission Trauma-Informed Court pilot project.

Prior to presenting Judge Graves-Harrington with the award, Spriggs updated statewide judges with Texas CASA’s recent milestones — including the addition of a new CASA program in Milam County, accomplishments made during the 88th Legislative Session, our Collaborative Family Engagement model being used statewide and our third edition of *A Guide to Community-Based Care*.



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About Texas CASA

Austin-based Texas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is the statewide organization of 74 local CASA programs that recruit and train volunteers to advocate for children and families in the child protection system. Last year, 9,590 well-trained volunteers served 23,943 children in 219 of the 254 Texas counties. Texas CASA supports the local CASA programs by advocating for effective public policy for children in the child protection system and by providing funding, training and technical assistance to program staff, board and volunteers.

CASA volunteers are everyday people from all walks of life in the child’s community who are specially trained to advocate for them. They get to know the child, parents and family, and gather information from everyone involved in their daily life. Volunteers

work collaboratively with professionals, family and others to promote the child's best interest in court, school, their foster placement and other settings. CASA volunteers advocate first for reunification when safe and possible, and work to keep children connected to their family and community of origin. They focus on facilitating nurturing relationships for the child and helping to find, engage and strengthen a support network for the child and family.

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