



TML NEWLY ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS' ORIENTATION

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Bennett Sandlin was the executive director for the Texas Municipal League from 2010 through 2025. In that capacity, he led an organization that represents more than 1,170 Texas cities before legislative, administrative, and judicial bodies. Before becoming executive director on October 1, 2010, he served as the League's general counsel, with a focus on tax, economic development, budget, and finance issues. Bennett is a 1993 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and has previously worked at the Municipal Affairs Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. After retiring from TML, Bennett's focus is on training city officials how to best serve their citizens.

Lee Woodward is the city secretary and public information officer for the City of La Porte, Texas. She is a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC), past president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA), and an instructor of Texas municipal election law, open government, records and information management, and parliamentary procedure. Woodward has earned the designations of Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM) from the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University and Certified Public Communicator through TCU and is an executive graduate of the Texas Women Leading Government's (TWLG) Texas Women's Leadership Institute (TWLI). She carries the credentials of Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP) of the National Association of Parliamentarians; Certified Parliamentarian (CP) of the American Institute of Parliamentarians; Master Municipal Clerk, Athenian Fellow, and Athenian Leadership Dialogue Society Facilitator of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC); and Certified Records Manager (CRM) of the Institute of Certified Records Managers (ICRM). She is a graduate of Texas A & M University (College Station) and The Johns Hopkins University. Her favorite motion is appeal from the decision of the chair.

Sarah Tompkins is an attorney in the legal department at Texas Municipal League, serving since 2022. Sarah received her undergraduate degree in English Literature from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2012 and her law degree from the University of Texas in 2015. Prior to joining TML, Sarah served as a legislative attorney at the Texas Legislative Council after completing a one-year clerkship at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Dan Johnson is the recently retired City Manager of Richardson, Texas. His 45 years as a public administrator have been served in a variety of capacities in the DFW Metroplex. He spent 25 years with the City of Richardson with 10 years as City Manager, and 15 years as Deputy City Manager. Dan's prior 20 years were with the City of Carrollton as City Manager and Deputy City Manager – and as a Director with the North Central Texas COG, and Budget Officer for Sherman, Texas.

Dan is a native Texan, born & raised in Dallas. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Austin College, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Texas. He is also a graduate of the Public Executive Institute of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. In 2022, Dan was named a "TCMA Distinguished Member" of the Texas City Management Association - one of only twelve in the 100-year history of TCMA.

He also received the TCMA Lifetime Achievement Award and is the inaugural recipient of TCMA's Excellence in Ethics and Integrity Award. Dan has received "Life Member" status in both ICMA and TCMA. Dan is active on numerous academic, professional and community advisory boards.

Dan, and his wife Tina, live in Richardson. Dan continues as an active public administration consultant advisor and instructor on topics of municipal service, including Ethics & Governance, Economic Development, Public Finance & Budgets, Transit-Oriented Planning and Development, and Public Management & Leadership, among other topics. Even "retired", Dan is an Adjunct Professor at both the University of North Texas and the University of Texas in Dallas, a trainer for the Texas Municipal League, and is the Local Government Policy Advisor for the North Texas Commission.

Cristian Rosas-Grillet, serves as legal counsel for the Texas Municipal League. Prior to joining TML earlier this year, Cristian served as assistant city attorney for various cities across Texas for almost 10 years. He also served as a drafting attorney for the Open Records Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. Cristian graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in psychology and received his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

Tad Cleaves serves as assistant general counsel for the Texas Municipal League. During his 14 years' experience as an attorney, he has served as an in-house City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for multiple cities in Texas, as well as outside counsel to cities across the state while employed with private law firms. Tad earned a history degree at The University of Texas and a mathematics degree at Texas Tech University before studying law at the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

JJ Rocha serves as the director of public policy and engagement for the Texas Municipal League, where she leads legislative strategy, stakeholder outreach, and advocacy efforts on behalf of Texas cities. JJ earned a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Edward's University and completed her Master of Public Affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin in 2014. Since joining TML in 2010, she has held multiple roles across the organization throughout her tenure.

Rick Ramirez serves as the director of state and federal relations for the Texas Municipal League, where he advances legislative and intergovernmental strategies on behalf of Texas cities. He previously held senior intergovernmental relations roles with the cities of Sugar Land and Austin and brings years of experience in governmental relations, having worked with the Texas Legislature, Congress, and state and federal agencies since 2014. Rick holds an engineering degree from Texas A&M University and is a licensed professional engineer with a focus on municipal engineering.

Amber McKeon-Mueller serves as the director of legal services for the Texas Municipal League. Amber provides legal information to city officials, speaks on issues relevant to cities, and monitors legislation during the legislative session. She graduated from the University of Texas School of Law and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska. Prior to joining the TML Legal Department in 2018, she worked for the Texas Attorney General's Office as a litigator. She also litigated for over 6 years in private practice in San Diego, California.

Stephanie Huser is a member of the TML Legal Services team, where she serves as a resource for city officials across the state. In addition to presenting and drafting resources related to developments in municipal law, she monitors the legislative session to keep cities informed of changing regulations and legal trends. She is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and has previously worked as a research attorney for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. Her experience also includes working for the City of New Braunfels and state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and General Land Office.

Andrea J. Barefield, TML President and Councilmember, City of Waco

Andrea Jackson Barefield was elected to serve on the Waco City Council representing District I in 2018 and is currently serving her third term. Andrea currently serves as a Client Services Manager at the Ardurra Group, where she focuses on client development, strategic positioning, and development of new service capabilities.

She previously served as the Executive Director of the Texas Brazos Trail Region – part of the Texas Heritage Trails Program. She serves on numerous boards and commissions including Texas Municipal League, Texas Association of Black City Council Members (Chair) National League of Cities, REAL- Race Equity and Leadership- NLC (Board Liaison, former Co-Chair) Texas Travel Alliance Board, Prosper Waco Board (Vice Chair), NAACP (Vice President), Communities in Schools Board, McLennan County Community Investment Fund, StartUp Waco Board and the Texas Lyceum.

Andrea joined the Ardurra Group engineering firm in 2023 as a Client Services Manager. Before that, she served as Executive Director of the Texas Brazos Trail Region. Andrea is also a proud member of the Waco Central Texas Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and Waco Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Andrea is a Sam Houston State University graduate, where she met her husband, Elijah, and they have been happily married for 21 years. They have two beautiful sons, Drew and Jaxon.