

# **Austin Travis County Sobriety Center Local Government Corporation Board of Directors Biographies**

## **Hohengarten, Nancy**

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### **Travis County Court at Law 5, Presiding Judge**

Former Asst. AG, Asst. DA and criminal defense attorney  
University of Houston, JD

Judge Hohengarten has served as the presiding judge of the County Court at Law Five since March, 2004.

## **Brice, William (Bill)**

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### **Downtown Austin Alliance, Vice President of Operations**

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, BS Business Administration

Bill joined the Downtown Austin Alliance staff in 2003. Through his position as VP of Operations, he works with local elected officials, criminal justice agencies, social service agencies, and downtown organizations to develop and implement creative approaches to improve cleanliness and public safety, and to address homelessness, in the Downtown Public Improvement District. He serves as the Alliance's liaison to property owners, governmental entities, and a number of collaborative bodies related to these issues.

Prior to joining the downtown Austin Alliance, Bill had 14-years of experience working in nonprofit management and executive positions with Special Olympics, the Vail Valley Tourism and Convention Bureau, and the YMCA. His nonprofit experience includes fundraising, sports and event management, communications, and marketing. Immediately prior to joining the Alliance, he served as the executive director of the Bellefonte Family YMCA in central Pennsylvania.

## **Moore, Craig**

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### **Travis County District Attorney's Office, Assistant DA - Felony Prosecutor**

University of Texas School of Law, JD  
LBJ School of Public Affairs

Craig Moore is an Assistant District Attorney with the Travis County District Attorney's Office where he prosecutes serious felony crimes in the state district courts. Craig obtained his undergraduate degree from Austin College, and later obtained his law degree and master of public affairs degree from the University of Texas School of Law and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. He has broad experience practicing civil and criminal law.

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Craig is very active in the legal community, including his memberships with the Austin Young Lawyers Association, Austin Bar Association, Austin Black Lawyers Association, the Robert W. Calvert Inn of Court, and the State Bar of Texas Pattern Jury Charges – Criminal committee. He has also participated in the Leadership Austin and Leadership State Bar of Texas programs. Craig currently serves as a commissioner for the City of Austin’s Firefighters, Police Officers, and EMS Civil Service Commission, and he is a former member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas Board of Directors.

#### **Ortega, Jana**

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##### **OrtegaLaw PLLC, Sole Practitioner**

St. Mary's School of Law

For over 10 years, Ms. Jana Ortega, owner of OrtegaLaw, has focused solely on representing those accused of criminal offenses. Jana believes in the value of giving back to the community and is deeply committed to empowering children with opportunities to succeed and educating them on the importance of education. She devotes significant time and resources to various organizations and non-profits throughout Austin and the State of Texas. She has previously served as Chair of the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar, President of the Hispanic Bar Association of Texas and Chair of the HBAA Charitable Foundation. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Con Mi Madre, the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas, and the Texas Bar Foundation.

Jana is the single mom of Sydney, a Sophomore at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, and of Coco and Louie, poodle mix fur babies.

#### **Smith, Douglas**

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##### **Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Policy Analyst**

University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work, Masters

Douglas Smith graduated magna cum laude from St. Edward’s University in 1994 with a B.A. in Psychology. He trained peer counselors at a crisis hotline in Austin and served as a Program Director for a homeless-service organization.

In 2000, he earned his M.S.S.W. from the University of Texas at Austin with a concentration in macro-level practice. He served as a Policy Analyst in the Texas House of Representatives’ Committee on Human Services, as well as a Legislative Director for a member of the House. He helped to develop policies for the state related to workforce development, public assistance, and poverty alleviation. He also served as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, teaching courses on Public Policy Analysis, Poverty and Public

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Policy, and the Dynamics of Organizations and Communities. Doug brings a unique perspective to criminal justice issues.

In addition to his policy and social work experience, he also served nearly six years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for crimes committed as a direct outcome of addiction. While incarcerated, he was a Peer Educator, helping to change the culture of violence inside prison. Doug's voice is critical to the discussion of strategies to address substance abuse to avoid incarceration, conditions of confinement, and reentry issues for formerly incarcerated individuals.

#### **Brown, Andy**

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##### **The Brown Firm PLLC, Attorney**

Andy is the owner and founder of The Brown Firm, PLLC, where he represents startups and small businesses in growth and disputes. He was also Chair of the Travis County Democratic Party from 2008-2013.

Andy graduated from The University of Texas School of Law in 2002, having served as Submissions Editor on the Texas International Law Journal. During law school, Andy spent one summer interning for federal judge Gabriel Cavallo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He passed the bar exam on the first try, and served as law clerk to the Honorable Randy Crane, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Andy is a native Austinite and learned Spanish while living in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Chile. He's married to Sara and has two children under the age of two, one dog, and two cats. He enjoys gardening, community involvement, and running. He has a blackbelt in Taekwondo, and once received a bloody nose while sparring with US Olympic Gold Medalist Steven Lopez.

#### **Hiser, Deborah**

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##### **Husch Blackwell, Attorney**

As a member of the Husch Blackwell firm's Healthcare Life Sciences & Education team, Deborah focuses her practice on representing physicians, behavioral health providers, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and multispecialty clinics in operational and regulatory matters.

She is experienced in peer review, including development of peer review policies and procedures, and representation of both physicians and providers in peer review hearings. She regularly serves as a hearing officer and mediator in dispute resolutions between hospitals and medical staff and is a Certified Mediator and specializes in HIPAA.

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With a master's degree in social work, Deborah particularly enjoys using her counseling skills to resolve conflicts before they develop into matters of litigation. Before joining Husch Blackwell, Deborah practiced with Brown McCarroll.

#### **Ziebell, Christopher**

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##### **Emergency Services Partners, LLC,**

Assistant Professor, Surgery & Perioperative Care

A member of the SETON HealthCare family since 1998, Dr. Ziebell has served in a variety of leadership roles. This includes having serving as Chief of Staff for SETON Southwest Hospital, SETON Northwest Hospital, and the SETON Family of Hospitals. He is currently Medical Director of the Emergency Department at University Medical Center Brackenridge, Executive Director of the SETON Event Medicine Institute, and vice-Chairman of the SETON Family of Hospitals Board of Trustees. He also serves as chairman of the Quality and Patient Safety Committee. He serves as a member of the Austin/Travis County EMS Advisory Board, and is a former chairman of the EMS Steering Committee of the Travis County Medical Society.

Prior to joining SETON, Dr. Ziebell lived and worked in Muncie Indiana for five years, where he also served a number of leadership roles. He is a graduate of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. He earned his MD at the University of Minnesota, and his Bachelor's of Arts Degrees from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota.

#### **Strakowski, Stephen**

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##### **Dell Medical School - UT, Chair, Dept. of Psychiatry**

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, MD

Dr. Stephen M. Strakowski is the inaugural Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to joining the Dell Medical School team, he served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy officer in UC Health (the academic health system associated with University of Cincinnati), and a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychology and Biomedical Engineering at UC. Dr. Strakowski graduated summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a BSE in 1984 and alpha omega alpha from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with an MD in 1988.

Dr. Strakowski is an educator and mentor, teaching medical students, psychiatry residents, and graduate students in biomedical engineering, psychology and neuroscience. He is widely sought

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as a grand rounds speaker and lectures regularly at national and international symposia and scientific meetings.

Dr. Strakowski maintains an active practice within the Department of Psychiatry, and he provides consultations for difficult to treat patients (primarily with bipolar disorder) both regionally and nationally. He has been recognized as a “Best Doctor” by several national organizations for many years.