

TEXAS SUPREME COURT ADVISORY

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A LEGACY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AS CARL REYNOLDS RETIRES FROM OCA POST



Several years ago people inside or outside Texas courts knew the Office of Court Administration for its reports, computer services and occasional training.

That was then.

When Carl Reynolds leaves today after seven years as OCA's administrative director, the agency still publishes reports, installs computer programs and networks and sends staff to far-flung corners of the state to instruct on new practices for new efficiencies in court operations. Carl Reynolds brought new initiatives to OCA's mission. Now, it is also in the thick of planning for push-button court filings, for a systematic up-and-down-and-sideways reengineering of how Texas courts handle foster children in their care, for wider and more aggressive efforts to provide the poor with legal services.

Under Carl's direction, OCA started a new statewide indigent-defense effort that grew from task force to commission. It started the Office of Capital Writs to handle the state's responses to death-row petitioners raising new issues to overturn their convictions. And it devised a voluntary program to help courts improve how they collect unpaid fines, then made it mandatory, resulting in millions in dollars that might never have been collected.

"With uncommon energy, focus and good will," said Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, "Carl has led improvements to technology for our courts, recommended legislative amendments that have increased efficiency in the halls of justice, and maintained an excellent relationship with the judges, clerks and staff that represent the Texas judiciary."

Reynolds, who will retire from state service, will become a senior legal policy analyst with the Justice Center, a planning group affiliated with the Council of State Governments. For most of his public service he has worked on criminal-justice issues. Before he was appointed to lead OCA in 2005 he was general counsel of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Reynolds, an Ohio native, graduated Phi Beta Kappa in public policy from the University of Cincinnati and with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. He also holds a master's degree from UT's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.