

Top Story

CLEAT Bills Pass Senate and Progress
Through House



CLEAT continues to push legislation to combat rogue District Attorneys, such as Travis County DA Jose Garza, who misuse their office. We are addressing this issue through bail reform bills, as well as legislation that would amend statutes that have been misused against law enforcement.

CLEAT priority bills **SB 781/HB 2486**, related to confidentiality of law enforcement personnel files, and **SB 1637/HB 2436**, related to the deadly conduct statute, are both progressing through each chamber, and our public affairs team continues to push these items forward at every stage of the process.

We have also been heavily involved in the dues check-off matter put forth by Senator Tan Parker in **SB 2330**, and continue to work on the language for **HB 4029** for our campus police officers and their retirement.

[Read More](#)

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Legal Highlights

San Antonio
Arbitration Win #1

CLEAT Supervising Attorney, Karl Brehm was successful in a recent arbitration which overturned a termination of an officer substituting such for a 45-day suspension. The officer was terminated and later criminally indicted after his on-duty encounter with a motorist led to officers making entry into the motorist's residence and a subsequent use of force incident as the driver refused to surrender to officers. The DAs handling of the criminal trial led to a mistrial and later dismissal.

The officer returned to work after the Arbitrator expressed concerns whether "the officer's due process rights were properly honored by the department."

Portland PD
Member No-Billed

A long-time CLEAT member from Portland PD received incredible assistance from CLEAT Staff Attorney John Bradshaw in a local high-profile case involving multiple investigations, a lengthy suspension, and likely considerable political pressure.

Thanks to the assistance from Bradshaw, this member, who had a stellar record for over 20 years prior, was recently **no-billed** and returned to duty without any additional punishment or new complaints.

The member was grateful for CLEAT's legal representation and pleased with the result.

San Antonio
Arbitration Win #2

CLEAT Supervising Attorney Karl Brehm helped another member through a recent arbitration, and was able to get the officer's termination reduced to a 30 day suspension.

Travis County
Legal Victory

Staff Attorney Brad Heilman recently attended a discipline meeting for a Travis County SOA member. Our member was up for termination; however, with the help of CLEAT Legal services, the termination was reduced to a temporary suspension.

Mesquite PA Fight for Fair Pay

Executive Director Robert Leonard and General Counsel Jane Bishkin met with the president and vice president of MPA concerning fair pay.

CLEAT is proud to back them every step of the way. Together, we're fighting to ensure officers get the fair wages they deserve.

[Read the News Story](#)

89th Legislative Session

CLEAT Bill Moves Through Senate Committee on
Criminal Justice



The CLEAT Legislative team and local groups San Antonio POA, San Marcos POA, Dallas NLLEO, Fort Worth POA and more were present at the Capitol, where several CLEAT bills were heard recently, including SB 781—Personnel Files, SB 1637—Deadly Conduct, HB 2713—Municipal Civil Service, and HB 331—Heart Attack Presumption.

Executive Director Robert Leonard and Deputy Executive Director Jennifer Szimanski both testified at the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice for two major CLEAT bills, as noted in a recent press release that went out statewide.

[Read the Press Release](#)

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Around the State



San Antonio

Supervising Attorney Karl Brehm and Staff Attorney Ricardo Garcia Tagle both presented to the recent SAPD academy class, which included several legacy officers!



Dallas

CLEAT Recruitment Specialist Sonia Godinez attended the Women's Month Dallas Police Women's Symposium alongside NLLEO Greater Dallas Chapter.



Amarillo

Field Rep Pete Faraone attended the Amarillo POA general meeting with CLEAT Vice President Norm Fisher.



Lubbock

Lubbock academy cadets were welcomed to the CLEAT family after a presentation by Field Rep Pete Faraone and Training Coordinator Jeff Lake. Two of our new Lubbock regional attorneys were also available to speak on CLEAT Legal services!



Williamson County

WilCo Corrections Officers were treated to some snacks after a generous delivery by CLEAT Recruitment Director Janet Cole and her team if Cheri Siegelin and Sonia Godinez.



Travis County

Recruitment Director Janet Cole, Specialists Cheri Siegelin and Sonia Godinez, Staff Attorney Brad Heilman, and Supervising Attorney Kathy Reyes were joined by board members from Travis County SOA for a two-day early morning appreciation and recruiting event at the Travis County jail.



Uhland

New CLEAT members from Uhland PD were welcomed to the family by CLEAT Field Rep Danny Arredondo, who was happy to meet with the officers and Chief!



El Paso

Supervising Attorney Jim Jopling and Field Rep Pete Faraone attended a recent EPMPOA meeting. EPMPOA President Patrick Natividad provided information on local topics and updates to members.



Beaumont

CLEAT Field Rep Bryan Skinner spoke with cadets in the Lamar Regional Police Academy in Beaumont today about CLEAT membership benefits and the importance of being covered by the CLEAT Legal Plan.



Port Arthur

Field Rep Bryan Skinner was glad to help out at a recent Officer Appreciation Cookout with Port Arthur POA. The CLEAT swag he brought to hand out was also a big hit!



South Padre

Field Rep Steve Ayala provided Chick-fil-A to our brothers and sisters of South Padre Island PD working the Spring Break detail.



Brownsville

Steve Ayala and Region Director Jesus Regalado helped Brownsville POA provide food for over 250 officers from all over the RGV assisting with the Charro Days event.

Organization News

Welcome New Staff Attorneys!

Rey Ramirez

Houston Metro

Rey, a distinguished criminal defense attorney in Houston, brings 34 years of legal experience to CLEAT. He holds a J.D. from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, an MBA from the Texas A&M system, and an LLM from the University of Dayton. Rey previously served as Chief Prosecutor in Webb County, TX, and later led Harris County's Public Defender's Mental Health Division, advocating for individuals with psychological challenges in the criminal system. Rey has represented members of the Harris County Mexican American Sheriff's Organization and CLEAT in various legal matters, including officer-involved shootings (OIS) and criminal proceedings.



Amber Simpson

Dallas Metro

Amber earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law where she graduated cum laude. She has previously practiced law as a general litigator, focusing on personal injury and labor and employment law. She has also previously worked as a Municipal Prosecutor with the City of Dallas. Amber is admitted to practice in the State of Texas as well as the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. With a background that includes many family and friends in law enforcement, Amber is excited to work with the members of CLEAT.



Kay Cee Cole

South Texas/San Antonio

Kay Cee was born and raised in San Antonio. After receiving her Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's School of Law, Kay Cee began her career practicing in labor and employment law, criminal law, family law, and civil litigation. She has an extensive background in representing employees and labor organizations in arbitration of contract and discipline grievances, negotiation, and federal agency complaints. Kay Cee is eager to work with our CLEAT members!



Events



Saturday, April 26:
Ride for the Fallen

[Register Here!](#)

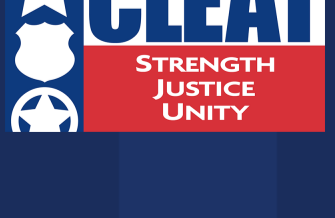


Saturday, April 26:
TX Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony

[Click for Details](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

September 5-6:
49th Annual
CLEAT Convention
@ the McAllen
Convention Center



About

CLEAT provides exceptional legal representation, legislative and political power, assistance in labor negotiations, and association development to over 28,000 members throughout Texas.

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