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## TARRANT PROSECUTOR WINS STATE AWARD NAMED FOR MURDERED PROSECUTOR

*Melinda Westmoreland a recipient of TDCAA's C. Chris Marshall Award*

(San Antonio, TX) – Melinda Westmoreland, a senior Assistant Criminal District Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Misdemeanor Division for the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, was honored last week, being named this year's recipient of the C. Chris Marshall Award. This award is presented by the Texas District & County Attorneys Association (TDCAA) each Fall to the most distinguished faculty member and teacher.

Westmoreland's expertise in trial advocacy and child abuse cases has made her a highly-sought after criminal law teacher and trainer around the state. In addition to being a regular faculty member for TDCAA's extensive continued legal education programs, she has been a featured presenter at the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, Texas Christian University, Cook Children's Hospital, and the Texas A&M School of Law. In May 2015, she also served as a Special Prosecutor for a high-profile child murder case in McClennan County.

"We're glad the TDCAA has recognized what we've always known about Melinda!" **said Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson.** "Not only is she an exceptional trial lawyer, but she's an excellent teacher, which is why we've put her in charge of the active training schedule for our Misdemeanor attorneys. She's also the coach for the mock trial team at Texas A&M Law School. Her energy is limitless."

The award is named in honor of C. Chris Marshall, a Tarrant County assistant criminal district attorney who was a statewide leader in appellate law and had a passion for teaching. Marshall was the Chief of the Tarrant DA's Appellate Division in July 1992 when an Arlington man, enraged over the loss of custody of his sons, went on a shooting rampage in a 4<sup>th</sup> floor courtroom of the Tarrant County Courthouse. Marshall and another man were killed in the attack, and several were injured, including two judges and another ADA. Marshall was only 41 years old, and is remembered today with multiple courthouse honorariums.

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