



TML Newly Elected City Officials' Workshop

You've got questions...
we've got answers.

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Tito Rodriguez

TML President and Mayor Pro Tem, City of North Richland Hills

Tito Rodriguez currently serves as the president-elected of the Texas Municipal League and the mayor pro tem of the City of North Richland Hills. He was first elected to the North Richland Hills City Council in May 2011.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez was raised in San Antonio and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri. He retired from the State of Texas, Office of the Attorney General as a special investigator in the Child Support Enforcement Division in 2015 after a 32-year state career. After his retirement, he took a position with the Birdville Education Foundation as its executive director. He left this position in mid-2017 to dedicate his time with various nonprofits, community, and municipal organizations, including the Texas Municipal League, the National League of Cities, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Trinity Metro, and the United Way of Tarrant County.



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC

City Secretary/Communications-Legislative Director, City of Bryan

Mary Lynne Stratta was appointed City Secretary of the City of Bryan, Texas in 1990, and has over 40 years of experience in local government administration. She is a graduate of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, administered through the University of North Texas, holding the designation of Texas Registered Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Stratta was awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk designation by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) in 1996 and was certified as a Master Municipal Clerk by IIMC in 2004.



Stephanie Huser

Legal Counsel, Texas Municipal League

Stephanie Huser serves as one of the legal counsels in the TML Legal Services Department. She is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and has previously worked as a research attorney at 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.



Bennett Sandlin

Executive Director, Texas Municipal League

Bennett Sandlin is Executive Director of the Texas Municipal League. Prior to being named executive director in 2010, he was General Counsel of the League, where he helped cities primarily in the fields of tax, economic development, budget, and finance issues, including the municipal hotel occupancy tax and the economic development sales tax. Bennett authored the Revenue Manual for Texas Cities and was an instructor in Public Funds Investment Training. 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.



Dan Johnson
Former City Manager

Dan Johnson is the former city manager of Richardson, Texas. Johnson's more than 45 years as a public administrator have been served in a variety of capacities in the DFW Metroplex. Johnson was appointed to the position of city manager in 2012. Johnson also served as Richardson's deputy city manager from 1996 until his appointment to city manager. Prior to his move to Richardson in 1996, Johnson served for 11 years at the City of Carrollton, including three years as city manager, and eight years as deputy city manager. Earlier service included responsibilities as director of regional services for three years at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (D-FW metro area), and he was budget officer in Sherman, Texas, for five years.

Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Austin College, and a Master of 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. Johnson is the 1995 Distinguished Alumni recipient for the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas.

He is a past president for the Urban Management Assistants of North Texas, the North Texas City Management Association, and the Texas City Management Association. Dan serves on the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Advisory Board, the University of Texas at Dallas Development Board and the Advisory Council for the UT Dallas School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences. He also serves as treasurer and Board Executive Committee Member of the North Texas Commission.



Brenda N. McDonald
Founder, Brenda N. McDonald, PLLC

Brenda McDonald was a founding partner in the North Texas law firm of Messer, Fort & McDonald, PLLC but has recently started her own firm.

She has over 30 years of experience representing both municipalities and private development entities in general municipal matters, land use matters, public/private partnerships, real estate transactions, project financing and economic development incentives. Brenda currently serves as the City Attorney for the towns of Argyle and Sunnyvale and the cities of Ennis, Haslet and Pilot Point. In both public and private practice, Brenda has helped create the public/private partnership framework for numerous large scale development and redevelopment projects in North Texas. Brenda is a co-author of Texas Municipal Zoning Law 3rd ed. published by Lexis Publishing Company.

She is a proud Texas Aggie having received her undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture and her Master's degree in Urban Planning, both from Texas A & M University. She received her law degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law, J.D., where she studied with renowned land use attorney Robert Freilich.



Evelyn Njuguna
Director of Legal Services, Texas Municipal League

Evelyn Njuguna is the Director of Legal Services at TML where she provides legal information to city officials, presents on issues relevant to cities, and monitors legislation during the legislative session. She graduated from the University of Tennessee where she received both her undergraduate and law degrees. Evelyn previously worked at TML in 2006-2008, and returned to TML in 2018 after serving as an Assistant City Attorney at the City of Houston and First Assistant City Attorney at the City of Missouri City.