

Donna Kay McKinney

District Clerk



Bexar County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 16, 2013

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District Clerk begins collecting state mandated filing fee

Bexar County District Clerk Donna Kay McKinney has started collecting, as of Monday, September 16, a state mandated fee of \$20 on any civil action and certain other proceedings requiring a filing fee. House Bill 2302 passed in the last legislative session requires the collection of the fee. It affects all new suits and any counterclaim, cross-action, intervention, interpleader or third-party action requiring a filing fee in all civil matters.

"There was some confusion about when to start imposing the fee," Ms. McKinney said. "The District Attorney's Office, based on an opinion from the Office of Court Administration, recommended we start collecting the fee on September 1. However, I wanted to give a little more time for the local legal community to be aware of the fee."

Since late August Ms. McKinney has disseminated notices of the fee to the bar association.

The fee will be collected by the all of the county clerks and district clerks in the state. Subsequently, it will be sent to the Comptroller quarterly who will forward the money to the Office of Court Administration to help implement "TexFile," the statewide electronic filing program. TexFile will help reduce paper dependency and allow for faster retrieval of case documents, streamline our District Clerk's paperless document management, and reduce the amount of space needed for physical storage.

The improved technology will integrate with the existing case management system and allow for electronic delivery of service records. It also will allow for an easier transition into a countywide document management software platform that is currently being implemented.