

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Steven Douglas Monk**

Steven Monk served in the military before working in law enforcement, primarily in Rosenberg, Texas. After the military, he worked at the Richmond State School in Richmond and as the Chief Investigator for abuse and neglect in the Victoria Child Welfare office. When he heard about a position with the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department he applied and was accepted. He also worked for the Adult Probation Department before settling on the position of Chief Juvenile Probation when it came open.

Mr. Monk was Chief of Juvenile Probation when the jail was converted to the FBC Juvenile Detention Facility. Fort Bend County put juveniles in neighboring facilities until the FBC facility was opened. Travel for juveniles was a logistics nightmare until facility opened. He advocated for protections for kids brought to the facility. When he later earned a law degree he eventually left the Juvenile Detention system and practiced law. He spends a lot of his time defending juveniles and sometimes serves as an acting judge. He prefers being a lawyer. He knows the system and the principals handling cases and juveniles. He enjoys advocating for juveniles, many of whom deserve a second chance and respect.

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Administrator, Austin State Hospital

Mike Humphries – Chief, Juvenile Probation Department

Al Dobson – Adult Probation

Gary Lacina – Probation Officer

Judge Dickerson – Chief Judge, FBC Juvenile Board

Ervin Hurda – FBC Sheriff

Judge Culver – FBC Juvenile Board judge

Judge Brown – FBC Juvenile Board judge

Judge Clark – FBC Juvenile Board judge

Judge Josh Gates – FBC County Judge

Fred Felshman – Assistant District Attorney

Judge Harold Kennedy – Associate Judge, juvenile detention

Places / Businesses

Richmond State School, Richmond

Vietnam

Germany

Victoria Child Welfare

Juvenile Detention Center

Juvenile Probation Department

Adult Probation

Juvenile Probation Officer

Simonton

Commissioners Court

FBC Sheriff's Department

Richmond City Hall

Arcola

Child Protective Services (CPS)

Victoria

Fort Bend County

Brazoria County

Angleton

Katy PD [Police Department]

Florida

Austin

Austin State Hospital

Juvenile Board

FBC Office of the District Attorney

Events

Steven joined the military and volunteered for Vietnam but was assigned to Germany as a mortar man in the infantry.

After the military he went to work for the Richmond State School working with the profoundly handicapped.

He was hired by the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department and accepted positions of ever increasing responsibility working with judges and lawyers to recommend sentences or treatment programs.

He decided to go to law school and later left the FBC Juvenile Detention Center only to return as an advocate for juveniles as a lawyer and part-time judge handling sentencing.