

**Cecelia Hartley**

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**From:** Wm C. Martin, III  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2008 12:12 AM  
**To:** Sunset  
**Subject:** Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and Texas Youth Commission

Speaking from a thirty-eight year career as a Family and Juvenile Court judge, I urge the Sunset Commission to reject Staff Recommendation 1.1 (that the Juvenile Probation Commission and Youth Commission be abolished and combined into a single agency). It is unfortunate that such really bad ideas continue to arise as if they are fresh and novel! Juvenile Probation works because of its close relationship with the courts and the communities from which the youth come into the programs. TYC does not work, though it properly contains the function of administering institutional corrections as an arm of the executive branch of government, because it has no relationship with those courts and communities. Combining the functions just confuses institutional and community corrections (if you do it, watch for the immediate separation into two "divisions" within the agency!) and centralizes control in the executive. This is a repeat of what we all fought out and settled in the 1970s and 1980s. I'm sorry we could never help TYC become and stay functional, but at least we kept the local corrections programs from going under. Please talk to us old folks. We remember it well.

Respectfully,

Wm. C. Martin, III

Senior District Judge

(retired from the 307<sup>th</sup> Family District Court and Juvenile Court for Gregg County, Texas)

Member of the first Juvenile Probation Commission

Currently assigned to the North East Texas Foster Care Docket (eight counties in the 1<sup>st</sup> Administrative Judicial Region)

11/25/2008