



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, April 22, 2014  
**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Deece Eckstein, (512) 854-9754  
**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Deece Eckstein, IGR, 854-9754  
**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Biscoe

### **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON AGREEMENT WITH PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS TO HOST A LEGISLATIVE FELLOW IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICE DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 2014.

### **SUMMARY AND IGR COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Partners of the Americas is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, DC. Travis County has an opportunity to host a Legislative Fellow from the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, during the next five weeks. The fellow will learn about state and local government in Texas and work on a research project in the area of transparency and open government. The fellow would be housed in and supervised by the IGR Office, but would also interact with other county departments and several state agencies.

IGR recommends that the Court approve the attached Host Agreement with Partners of the Americas.

### **BACKGROUND:**

[Partners of the Americas](#) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to link up government and civic leaders in the countries of the Western Hemisphere in order to enrich mutual understanding, share best practices and promote goodwill. Founded almost 50 years ago, its work covers areas as diverse as agriculture, cultural and educational exchange, domestic violence prevention, social inclusion and youth.

Under its [Professional Leadership Exchanges](#) initiative, it organizes and administers exchange programs to “provide participants with insights into other societies and cultures and nurtures the development of people who have emerged as leaders in government agencies, nonprofit organizations

and private businesses.” One of those exchanges is the [Legislative Fellows Program](#), which aims to bridge civil society and government and brings together emerging leaders from the United States, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Paraguay to participate in short-term fellowships abroad.

This spring, a former participant in the fellowship program now working in the Legislature inquired about Travis County’s interest in hosting a Legislative Fellow during the month of May.

### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

A legislative fellowship is designed to be mutually beneficial for Legislative Fellows and host organizations. Fellows work with mentors at their host organization to design and execute a scope of work, which often includes site visits and on-the-job training. Legislative Fellows have the opportunity to work on new or existing projects, and share his/her best practices.

Partners of the Americas arranges travel, housing and living expenses for the Fellow. There is no cost to Travis County. The County’s only obligation is to provide office space (a desk, computer, phone, and internet access) and to train and supervise the Legislative Fellow according to the work plan. Suitable office space is available in the IGR offices in the 700 Lavaca Building.

The proposed Legislative Fellow’s name is **Carina Reyder**. Ms. Reyder has two Bachelor degrees, in Public Administration and in Law, and is currently completing a Master’s degree in Law, focusing on Legislative Science at the [Minas Gerais Federal University](#). She has worked for the [Minas Gerais](#) state government since 1999, and is proficient in English. Her fellowship application is attached.

Host organizations are asked to develop a work plan to maximize the Fellow’s education, experience and value to the host organization. The theme of Ms. Reyder’s fellowship will be transparency and open government. She will:

- ★ become familiar with the structure of Texas state government and its policies regarding transparency and open government, and the agencies charged with their administration;
- ★ become familiar with the structure of county government in Texas and the statutory framework for local government transparency, including the Open Meetings and Open Records Acts;

- ★ review legislation relating to local government transparency proposed during the last session, along with the white papers and other studies in support thereof, to become familiar with the issues involved. The Fellow will study the strengths and weaknesses of those proposals, and the outcomes of the efforts to pass them; and
- ★ review current proposals on transparency in local government, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses, and assist the IGR Office in recommending a policy for the Commissioners Court on transparency issues.

Ms. Reyder will arrive in Austin on Sunday, April 27. During the week of April 28 – May 2, she will participate in state government orientation briefings organized by Senator Kirk Watson's office. Her first day with Travis County will be Monday, May 5. Her fellowship will conclude on Friday, May 30.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:** N/A.

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:** None.

**NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY OR BE INVOLVED WITH THIS REQUEST:**

John Hille, Transactions Division Director  
Travis County Attorney's Office  
Phone: 854-9415  
Email: [John.Hille@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:John.Hille@co.travis.tx.us)

Elizabeth Hanshaw Winn  
Travis County Attorney's Office  
Phone: 854-9415  
Email: [Elizabeth.Winn@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Winn@co.travis.tx.us)

Daniel Bradford  
Travis County Attorney's Office  
Phone: 854-9415  
Email: [Daniel.Bradford@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Daniel.Bradford@co.travis.tx.us)

Debbie Maynor  
Human Resources Management Division  
Phone: 854-9165  
Email: [Debbie.Maynor@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Debbie.Maynor@co.travis.tx.us)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Partners of the Americas Fellowship Application for Carina Reyder,  
February 9, 2014.

Form Name: Legislative Fellows Application - Grant 224 - Class I  
 Submission Time: February 9, 2014 8:49 pm  
 Browser: Chrome 32.0.1700.107 / Windows XP  
 IP Address: 201.17.184.44  
 Unique ID: 136180914  
 Location: -19.916700363159, -43.933300018311

## Class I Application Form

### I. General Information

Complete Name	CARINA ANGÃLICA BRITO REYDER
Gender	Female
Address (Place of Residence)	Rua Leopoldina, 62 / 801, Bairro Santo AntÃnio Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais 30330230 Brazil
Home Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Work Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Cell Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Personal Email	[REDACTED]
Work Email	[REDACTED]
Skype Name	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	Apr 13, 1976
City of Birth	Ipatinga
Country of Birth	Brazil
Marital Status	Single
Citizenship	Brazil
Do you have a green card?	No
Have you been to the U.S. before?	Yes
Passport Number	[REDACTED]
Passport Expiration Date	[REDACTED]
Passport Copy	[REDACTED]

### II. Current Job Information

Name of Employer	State Secretariat for Civil Affairs and Institutional Relations
In what sector do you work?	Government
City	Belo Horizonte
Job Title	Legislative Technical Advisory
Name of Supervisor	MÃrcio Luis Oliveira
Supervisor's Email	marcio.luis@casacivil.mg.gov.br
Supervisor's Telephone Number	553139150088
Employer's Address	Cidade Administrativa Presidente Tancredo Neves Rodovia Prefeito AmÃrico Gianetti, 4001, EdifÃcio Gerais, 1Ãº andar Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais 31630901 Brazil
Website	www.casacivil.mg.gov.br

### III. Emergency Contact

Emergency Contact	Caio Cordeiro
Relationship to Emergency Contact	friend
Emergency Contact's City	Belo Horizonte - Minas Gerais - Brasil
Emergency Contact's Phone Number	[REDACTED]

### IV. Language Proficiency

Please rate your ability to speak, read, and write in English	Speaking = Excellent Reading = Near Native Speaker Writing = Excellent
Please describe your English language background. Note if you have taken a language proficiency exam, lived abroad, or taken any English language courses.	I got full marks at the English proficiency exam by the Minas Gerais Federal University.  Currently I am taking English classes with a personal teacher.

### V. Experience Abroad

Have you participated in other fellowships or educational experiences abroad? If so, briefly describe where you were and what you did.	<p>On October 2013, I went to Yale University for meeting with Susan Rose-Ackerman, the Henry R. Luce Professor of Jurisprudence (Law and Political Science) with joint appointments between Yale Law School and the Yale Department of Political Science.</p> <p>She has taught and written widely on corruption, law and development, administrative law, law and regulatory policy, the nonprofit sector, and federalism.</p> <p>We discussed about the impact of the legislation and government transparency. She gave me her book and other bibliographies.</p>
--	--

### VI. Fellowship Interest

Which of the following sub-themes would you like to focus on during your fellowship?	Citizen Participation Transparency
Why are you interested in being a Legislative Fellow?	<p>By working with the legislative process and studying Masters in Law on the area of Legislation Science, my participation in this program will enable to gain a significant international experience, discussing current issues and sharing the learned.</p> <p>The great opportunity is to learn within an institutional environment for a long time and work together people with common interests but different knowledge, what wouldn't be possible without the program.</p> <p>I'm writing a book about the making of law, covering new concepts and knowledges of practices adopted by governments that are well organized as the United States. The Legislative Fellows Program will add information enriching this research.</p>

<p>Describe the type of organization where you work. Explain your role and responsibilities at this organization. How long have you been in this position?</p>	<p>I am career civil servant currently holding the position of Coordinator of Logistics for the Legislative Technical Advisory at the Secretariat for Civil Affairs and Institutional Relations of the Minas Gerais State Government.</p> <p>Since 1999, I have worked to the Government. For the last 6 years I have developed my activities at the Legislative Technical Advisory, offering support to the State Governor on elaborating laws and decrees because in Brazil, the Chief Executive has competence to start the legislative process by his proposals.</p> <p>So, the activities involve everything related to preparation of text of the bill, according the objectives that the public policy aims at; the monitoring the progress of the proposal, establishing the interface among Executive and Legislative; until the analysis of the approved content aiming to support the Governor's decision by sanction or veto the proposition of law.</p> <p>Since 2011, I coordinate the Logistics Department of the Legislative Technical Advisory. I have the responsibility to develop studies on improving the quality of legislation and its impacts, by sharing experiences and searching innovation that can promote greater transparency to the legislative process as a whole, as well as provide ample access to citizens, increasing its legitimacy.</p> <p>My responsibility by coordinate the Logistics Department involves also developing methods and procedures aimed at improving normative acts in order to disseminate good practices, such as the evaluation of legislative impact, which is under studies lately.</p>
<p>How does your job relate to legislative processes?</p>	<p>In Brazil, most of the bills are initiated by the Chief Executive because he has private competence in some themes such as budget, taxes, organization and functioning of public administration.</p> <p>The Legislative Technical Advisory of the Secretariat for Civil Affairs and Institutional Relations of the Minas Gerais State assist the Governor offering support on elaborating laws and decrees. So, the activities involve everything related to preparation of the bill, according the objectives that the public policy aims at; the monitoring the progress of the proposal, establishing the interface among Executive and Legislative; until the analysis of the approved content aiming to support the Governor's decision by sanction or veto the proposition of law.</p> <p>The Logistics Department that I am Coordinator develops studies on improving the quality of legislation and its impacts by sharing experiences and searching innovation that can promote greater transparency to the legislative process as a whole, as well as provide ample access to citizens, increasing its legitimacy.</p>

<p>Briefly describe the type of host organization where you would like your fellowship to take place. Please detail the names of organizations you have researched, work environment sought, desired sector, etc.</p>	<p>By working with the legislative process, studying Masters in Law on the area of Legislation Science, and writing a book about law making, my preference is for the Federal Government, if possible. It can be in one of the two houses of the United States Congress (the House of Representatives or the Senate).</p> <p>However, I am also interested by state governments that have a strong legislative activity and that develop projects for improvement in the work of drafting laws.</p>
<p>Anticipated Results: Explain thoroughly your learning goals, and describe what you hope to accomplish during your fellowship.</p>	<p>I intend to know the functioning of the American legislative process and the institutional relationship between the Executive and the Legislature. Therefore, it is important to know the flow of activities to understand how legislation is conceived and in which sectors of Government .</p> <p>For me it is important to know which practices are adopted for the care of having good legislation and with greater transparency, as the Executive monitors the progress of the proposals and how it participates in the middle of the process, and finally , if they use some methodologies to assess the impact of legislation before and after their production.</p>
<p>Describe how you will use the knowledge and skills you gained in the fellowship back in your community or workplace.</p>	<p>My goal is to return from the Legislative Fellows Program and spread the knowledge acquired in the professional and academic community.</p> <p>The Department Legistics, which I coordinate, has the responsibility of researching the best practices of drafting the law and suggest the implementation of the measures to improve this process. So, I intend to discuss the contents learned from the responsible team and other employees involved. I am sure that it will be possible to implement innovative actions in pursuit of greater transparency and social participation in the lawmaking process.</p> <p>Moreover, knowledge from the program will enrich the book I'm writing about drafting of law, which aims to help encourage more research on the subject, because the literature is insufficient, in Brazil.</p>

<p>Please describe the service projects or campaigns, if any, in which you have effectively engaged your community or workplace. What role did you play in making it successful?</p>	<p>The Logistics Department - of the Legislative Technical Advisory -, created in 2011 , has been considered an innovative project of the Government of Minas Gerais for being the only one in Brazil to belong a formal structure of government.</p> <p>One of the projects to be finalized in 2014 by the Logistics Department is to establish quality recommendations for quality of law , to be followed followed by all government sectors. The practical knowledge arising from my participation in the program will be an important success factor for this goal.</p> <p>Other project related to Logistics Department is to establish a real-time monitoring of the proposals in the Legislative. Is being invested over a million real to build a system for it. When I return of the program, I can help in building the system, suggesting the inclusion of innovations used by the U.S. Government.</p> <p>In the academic community , the projects covered include writing articles , participating in seminars and to publish the book about the making of law that I am writing.</p>
--	---

## VII. Supporting Documents and Information

CV/Resume	[Redacted]
CV/RÃ©sumÃ©	[Redacted]
Letter from Employer	[Redacted]
How did you hear about the Legislative Fellows Program?	Partners Exchange/Fellowship Participant
Name of Partners Exchange/Fellowship Participant	Tiago Hollerbach

*ABReyder*

By signing below, I confirm that all of

the above stated information is true to

the best of my knowledge.