



**Chris Daniel**  
Harris County District Clerk

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## **Court cases about mistreatment of African-Americans to be discussed at Black History Month celebration**

Court cases that reveal the mistreatment of African-Americans in southeast Texas will be discussed at a Black History Month celebration in downtown Houston.

The event at the Harris County 1910 Courthouse, 301 Fannin, is open to the public. It begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 13.

One of the speakers, Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel, will describe the case of Nelly Norris, a freed slave who successfully fought off an attempt to re-enslave her and her children.

“This is a heartbreaking case that reveals that freed slaves often faced the harrowing prospect of losing their freedom once they had gained it,” Daniel said. “My staff recently unearthed this case in our historic documents collection so it will be the first time that the public has heard about it.”

Among the other speakers who will describe notable cases: State District Judge Alexandra Smoots-Hogan, State District Judge Al Bennett, State District Judge Elaine Palmer, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, State District Judge Maria T. Jackson and U.S. Magistrate Judge George Hanks.

State District Judge Mark Davidson organized the event for the Harris County District Courts. Daniel said, “I hope that the public feels welcome to come to this informative, free event.”