

# Executive OF THE Month



First off, tell us a little about yourself Kristin.

*I live in Houston. I love to cook and I'm a really, really bad driver!*

How did you find out about PEP?

*I met Charles H. at a criminal justice seminar in 2016.*

What is your line of work/profession?



*I am the presiding judge of the 232nd Criminal District Court in Harris County.*

What are your three greatest attributes?

*I try to be patient, kind and fair.*

What drives you from day to day?

*Seeing amazing stories of rehabilitation and redemption in and out of court.*

If you had to put a label to what has made you successful, what would it be (i.e. your keys to success)?

*My drive to learn new things.*

When someone comes across trials and tribulations, what advice would you give someone to help them persevere?

*Take a deep breath and believe in yourself!*

What is the most inspirational book you've ever read?

*The Bible*

And if you had to be stranded on an island for 60 days, who would you choose to be stuck with you and what three items would you take?

*I'd take chocolate, my English bulldog (Wellington) and the stash of books on my nightstand I've been wanting to read.*



I can still remember meeting Judge Kristen G. on her first visit to PEP. The crazy part is that no one knew she was a Judge for Harris County until the end of the event. And when she got up to tell us about herself, my whole class was in shock, because here we were—convicted felons serving prison sentences—and here was one of the Judges who probably sentenced some of us. The normal stereotype is that Judges never care about what happens to convicts after they're sentenced to prison, so the last person you expect to see at a program like PEP is a Criminal Justice Judge.

However, when Judge Kristen began to give us her testimony, she told us that although she sends people to prison, she genuinely cares about us. She also said that she was blown away by the transformations all of my brothers had made. But it's what she said in closing that brought me to tears. She told us that if we get out and are struggling with legal issues like getting our licenses back that she would do everything she could to assist us. And it may seem minute to a lot of people, but to a person that has always despised authorities and considered them heartless; it was a paradigm shift to how I perceived law enforcement. I saw it as a message from God proving me wrong and it was truly a humbling moment that I'll never forget.

But what topped the whole event off, was the standing ovation that she received from my brothers and I after her impacting speech. And she continues to amaze me by coming back to PEP events time and time again. It's like she's become a part of our extended family and not just an executive of the program, which is why we chose her as our "Executive of the Month" for January.

It's a new year with new beginnings and Judge Kristen exemplifies our 10 Driving Values in a powerful way; especially when it comes to "Fresh Start Outlook" and "Servant-Leader Mentality". Continue to be a light to others Judge Kristen—ALL RISE!

-Michael G.  
(a.k.a. Baby Simba)

# Entrepreneur Of The Month



*John S. born June 21,1973 from the home of the World Series Champions— The Astros—Houston, TX. John has over 30 years as an entrepreneur. John has owned and operated automotive dealerships throughout the greater Houston area. John's skills are centered around product knowledge, consumer relations, sales, finance, trade evaluations, credit assessments, closings, delivery, and establishing referrals. John's success will include "Rip N Flip Investments" beginning the spring of 2019. As a residential redeveloper, John will be creating jobs renovating the eyesores by producing quality housing. John wants to create jobs within the community and he also wants to create a social impact on every house, with character and integrity. We will set ourselves apart by working step by step with our buyers to create an easy transition and to serve our customers from start to finish, by adding volume to their lives with their new investment purchase. We will specialize in solving real estate problems on tough renovations and difficult improvements for homeowners. Home owners will be able to rest assured knowing they are placed on high standards with Rip N Flip Investments.*



**-John S.  
(a.k.a. Eeyore)**



# Think Tank Event

Hello my name is Raphiel B. I had a great day at our Think Tank Event. My brothers and I received a lot of knowledge on businesses from the executives point of view. One reason this event was very special to me was, because it was our first event to actually interact with the executives and gain knowledge that will go toward the business plan we are preparing. I truly gained some valuable insight towards my business plan and I'm very eager to meet more incredible executives at our next event. I have learned a lot so far and I had a great time because an event with knowledge about business is always good. I am very grateful to use this time to pursue something so amazing as this. Thank you to PEP and the executives for believing in us and giving us a chance to become something in life.



Raphiel B.  
(a.k.a. Energizer Bunny)



prison  
entrepreneurship  
program

*Writer's  
Corner*

*Dear Chronicle,*

I've been struggling with the whole transition with PEP, but one thing that has been the hardest for me is dealing with a new cellie; especially one that's super PEP. Do you have any advice for me that could help?

Sincerely, The Struggler

*Dear Mr. Struggler*

Join the club. I believe everyone struggles with those exact same things on some level. As far as the cellie situation goes; I'll say this: We should all strive for excellence in all our endeavors. One thing that will help us is to find some common ground is *respect*. Respect should always be a priority; and if you're lead by a higher power, then you have something to work with. However, if you're just trying to keep it simple, then remember that it will take time. Not everyone is on the same level. It will take baby steps to get to where you want to be; and as long as you're moving in the right direction; then you'll be making progress.

*Sincerely,*

*Alex P. Aka Tinky Winky*

*Dear Chronicle,*

I'm curious as to why everything keeps changing. As soon as I get used to something, PEP decides to change it. What's up with that?

Sincerely, Mr. Curious

*Dear Mr. Curious,*

If you want PEP's answer, then please consider one of our 10 driving values: **Innovation**. However, if you want my personal opinion; then my answer is simply this, that's the way of the world. One of the many struggles that we'll face is change. We'll come across many challenges while we're in here, but imagine how many we'll face on the outside. Here's a question to ponder: **If something so trivial has so much power over a person, what kind of effect could something on a larger scale have?** Not to say your issue is small, but consider this; if you want something that you've never had, then sometimes you have to do something that you've never done. Change is inevitable; but we must be receptive to it at times. One thing I like to say a lot is that *"I never change, I evolve."* Just find your **WHY**; and keep that on your mind at all times.

*Sincerely,*

*Alex P. Aka Tinky Winky*

