



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:

HON. NATHAN L. HECHT
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

David Slayton

VICE CHAIR:

HON. SHARON KELLER
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 14, 2014
1:00 p.m.

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
Supreme Court Building
201 W. 14th Street, Room 104
Austin, Texas

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On November 14, 2014, Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht called the meeting¹ of the [Texas Judicial Council](#) (“Council”) to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the [Supreme Court of Texas](#) (“SCOT”) in Austin, Texas.

The following members of the Council were present:

Hon. Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Hon. Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Mr. Carlos Amaral, Information Services Group, Inc., Plano
Hon. Gary Bellair, Presiding Judge, Ransom Canyon Municipal Court
Hon. Bill Boyce, Justice, 14th Court of Appeals, Houston
Hon. Scott Jenkins, Judge, 53rd District Court, Travis County
Hon. Tryon Lewis, Representative, Odessa
Hon. Kelly Moore, Judge, 121st Judicial District, Terry & Yoakum
Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County
Mr. “Hank” Nuss, Welder Leshin, Corpus Christi
Hon. Glenn D. Phillips, Presiding Judge, City of Kilgore
Hon. Polly Jackson Spencer, Judge, Probate Court #1, Bexar County

Members attending by phone were Judge Russell Casey and Mr. Richard Figueroa.

¹ The meeting may be viewed on the State Bar of Texas website <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/TSCSearch2.asp>

Members not in attendance were Rep. Roberto Alonzo, Mr. Richard Battle, Chancellor Robert Duncan, Ms. Allyson Ho, Ms. Ashley Johnson, Chief Justice Sherry Radack, Judge Linda Rodriguez, and Senator Royce West.

MINUTES

With a quorum present, Chief Justice Hecht called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Minutes were amended and voted upon. After vote, the [August 22, 2014](#) meeting minutes were adopted as amended.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Texas Indigent Defense Commission Report

Mr. Edwin Colfax, Grants Manager for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, provided an overview and requested approval of the resolution for [Additional State Funding for Indigent Defense](#). After a motion from Judge Bellair and second from Judge Moore, the resolution was approved.

Legislative Proposals

Mr. Slayton presented the following resolutions:

[Ensure Adequate Funding of the Courts](#). After a motion from Judge Bellair and second from Judge Nash, the resolution was approved.

[Adequate Funding of the Court E-Filing System](#). After a motion from Judge Phillips and a second from Justice Boyce, the resolution was approved.

[Supporting Funding for Civil Legal Aid in Texas](#). After a motion from Judge Nash and a second from Judge Jenkins, the resolution was approved.

[Judicial Compensation Commission Recommendations](#). Mr. Slayton reviewed the Judicial Compensation Commission Report Executive Summary – pages 1-3 of its [Report to the Legislature](#)) - After a motion from Representative Lewis and a second from Judge Bellair, the resolution was approved.

Chief Justice Hecht noted that a resolution for judicial selection had not been included. Mr. Slayton reviewed results from a 2014 Texas Judicial Selection Survey done by Texas Tech University.

Next, Mr. Slayton presented the resolution for the [Elders Committee Recommendations](#). Judge Spencer updated the Council on the [Elders Committee Report](#) and the [Guardianship Study](#). With a motion from Judge Spencer and a second from Mr. Nuss, the resolution was approved.

Mr. Slayton reported on the [Juvenile Justice Committee](#) meeting held in September. He then presented the resolution for [Decriminalizing Failure to Attend School](#).

After discussion, Mr. Nuss proposed an amendment to delete the second to last recital, (studies have consistently shown that youth involvement in the criminal justice system can have lifelong consequences for future criminality) and to delete the first recommendation (decriminalize

failure to attend school). Judge Phillips seconded the motion. Vote to amend resulted in four in favor, seven opposed.

Judge Nash made a motion to table. Judge Jenkins seconded the motion. Prior to the vote, Judge Nash withdrew the motion to table.

Judge Nash made a new motion to accept the resolution without amendment. Judge Spencer seconded the motion. Vote to approve resulted with seven in favor, four opposed.

Next, Mr. Slayton presented the resolution for the [Revisions of Statutes to Contemplate Court Technology](#). After a motion from Judge Bellair and a second from Representative Lewis, the resolution was approved.

Mr. Slayton presented the resolution for the [Eligibility for Specialty Courts](#). The proposed resolution included language expanding eligibility for both veteran courts and drug courts. After discussion, a vote to include the expanded veteran courts language failed with four in favor and five opposed. The vote to include the expanded drug courts language resulted in seven in favor and three opposed. Judge Phillips made a motion to amend the resolution so that it only related to drug courts. Justice Boyce seconded the motion. The resolution was approved as amended.

Mr. Slayton presented the resolution for the [Assessment of Court Costs in Multiple-Count Criminal Actions](#). After a motion from Judge Bellair and a second from Judge Jenkins, the resolution was approved.

Mr. Slayton presented the resolution for [Supporting Grant Funding for Legal Services for Veterans](#). After a motion from Judge Phillips and a second from Representative Lewis, the resolution was approved as amended.

7th Administrative Judicial Region Presiding Judge Dean Rucker presented the following three resolutions on behalf of the Children's Commission:

[Supporting Texas Family Code Amendments Related to Indigent Parents Involved in Child Protective Services Cases](#). After a motion from Judge Bellair and a second from Judge Jenkins, the resolution was approved.

[Supporting Texas Family Code Amendments Related to Case Transfers in Child Protective Services Cases](#). After a motion from Judge Jenkins and a second from Judge Nash, the resolution was approved.

[Supporting Texas Family Code Amendments Related to Indigent Parents Involved in Child Protective Services Cases \(Managed Assigned Counsel Program\)](#). After a motion from Judge Moore and a second from Representative Lewis, the resolution was approved.

New Business

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members – Chief Justice Hecht recognized Representative Tryon Lewis for his service to the state, the judiciary and the Judicial Council and present him with a recognition certificate.

Next Meeting

Chief Justice Hecht announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held on February 20, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Nathan L. Hecht
Chair

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