

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

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Misc. Docket No. 08- **9160**

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**APPROVAL OF AMENDED LOCAL RULES FOR  
DISTRICT COURTS AND COUNTY COURTS AT LAW IN EL PASO COUNTY**

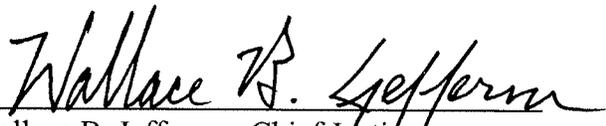
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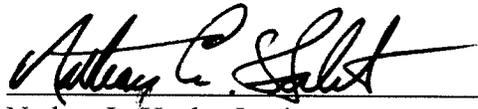
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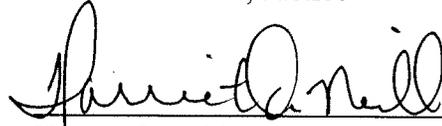
**ORDERED** that:

Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 3a, the Supreme Court approves the following Amended Local Rules for the District Courts and County Courts at Law of El Paso County.

In Chambers, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008.

  
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Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice

  
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Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

  
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Harriet O'Neill, Justice

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J. Dale Wainwright, Justice



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Scott Brister, Justice

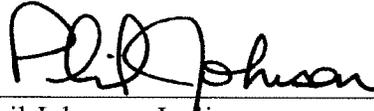
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David M. Medina, Justice



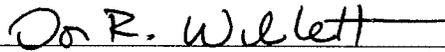
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Paul W. Green, Justice



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Phil Johnson, Justice



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Don R. Willett, Justice



**COUNCIL OF JUDGES ADMINISTRATION**  
EL PASO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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EL PASO, TX 79901  
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SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

**MR. BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE**  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS  
SUPREME COURT BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 12248  
AUSTIN, TX 78711

**DEAR MR. HAWTHORNE:**

**ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND AN AMENDMENT TO THE LOCAL RULES FOR EL PASO COUNTY: RULE 2.03 (I) "POWERS AND DUTIES OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE".**

**THE EL PASO COUNCIL OF JUDGES APPROVED THE RULE ON AUGUST 28, 2008 WHICH WAS SIGNED BY LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE PATRICK GARCIA AND APPROVED BY JUDGE STEVEN ABLES, OUR REGIONAL PRESIDING JUDGE.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES, I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU PRESENT OUR AMENDED RULE TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR THEIR APPROVAL.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.**

**SINCERELY,**  
  
**MARTHA A. BANALES**  
OFFICE MANAGER

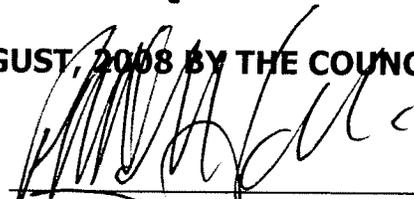
**ENCLOSURE**

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT IS MADE TO THE LOCAL RULES OF EL PASO COUNTY IN REFERENCE TO "RULE 2.03 POWERS AND DUTIES OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE" WHICH WILL ADD (I) TO RULE 2.03:

**RULE 2.03      POWERS AND DUTIES OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE:**

- (A) THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE SHALL BE EX OFFICIO THE PRESIDING JUDGE FOR THE STATUTORY, CEREMONIAL, AND OTHER FUNCTIONS REQUIRING A PRESIDING JUDGE AND SHALL ALSO BE EX OFFICIO THE PRESIDING JUDGE AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS, AND OF THE ADULT PROBATION BOARD.
  - (B) THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE SHALL HAVE A VOTE ON ALL MATTERS.
  - (C) NO FAMILY LAW CASES SHALL BE FILED ON THE DOCKET OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FROM AND AFTER TAKING OFFICE AND DURING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE.
  - (D) THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES SHALL BE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES ADMINISTRATION OR SUCH OTHER PERSON, AS THE MINUTES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES, WHICH SHALL BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES AT ALL REASONABLE TIMES.
  - (E) THE JUVENILE JUDGE SHALL BE THE PRESIDING JUDGE AND CHAIR OF THE JUVENILE BOARD, WHICH SHALL BE GOVERNED BY ITS OWN RULES.
  - (F) THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES SHALL BE THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES ADMINISTRATION UNDER ITS ADMINISTRATOR. THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES ADMINISTRATION SHALL PERFORM SUCH DUTIES AS SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO IT FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES.
  - (G) THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OR A MAJORITY OF THE JUDGES WILL CALL MEETINGS OF THE JUDGES AT LEAST ONCE EACH MONTH (GENERALLY THE LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH), AND AS NEEDED.  
THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE SHALL PRESIDE OVER SUCH MEETINGS AND IN HIS/HER ABSENCE THE DISTRICT JUDGE SENIOR IN LONGEVITY PRESENT AT THE MEETING SHALL SERVE AS TEMPORARY CHAIR.
  - (H) THE DISTRICT JUDGE SENIOR IN LONGEVITY WILL EXERCISE THE POWERS OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE IN THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR INCAPACITY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE.
- (I) IN ORDER TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE EL PASO COUNCIL OF JUDGES' POLICY OF MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO OF EXISTING DOCKETS UPON THE CHANGE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF ANY COURT, THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, UPON A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES, SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER ANY ONE OR ANY NUMBER OF CASES FROM ANY COURT TO ANOTHER COURT OF EQUAL JURISDICTION.**

**ADOPTED ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2008 BY THE COUNCIL OF JUDGES, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS.**



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JUDGE PATRICK M. GARCIA  
LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

SIGNED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008.



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JUDGE STEVEN ABLES  
REGIONAL PRESIDING JUDGE

SIGNED THIS 22 DAY OF Sept, 2008.