

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 91-2049

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Texas seeks to ensure that all litigants, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, judges, court personnel and all other participants in the judicial process are treated in a manner free from gender bias; and

WHEREAS, the principle of equal treatment of all persons before the law is essential to the very concept of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Texas is concerned about the extent to which persons may be denied equal justice or equal treatment within the judicial system on the basis of their gender; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the judicial system and the citizens of Texas to determine whether gender bias exists in any aspect of the judicial system in the State of Texas, and if such bias exists to develop appropriate methods of reducing and ultimately eliminating such bias;

THEREFORE, the Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints and convenes a Gender Bias Task Force to consider whether gender bias does exist in the judicial system in Texas, and, if such gender bias does exist, to determine the nature and extent of such bias and to propose measures for its reduction and ultimate elimination;

The Gender Bias Task Force shall be free to examine any aspect of the judicial system in carrying out the above described charge, including, but not limited to, the following areas of concern: the judicial process and court procedures, judicial administration, and substantive and procedural law:

Courtroom Environment, particularly as related to treatment of litigants, witnesses, jurors, and attorneys;

Economics, especially as related to access to the courts, court awarded attorney's fees and expert witness fees, temporary spousal maintenance, property distribution in domestic relations cases, and damage awards in personal injury actions;

Access to Judgeships and Other Positions in the Judicial System, including appointment to State Bar and Judicial Committees;

Juvenile and Adult Sentencing;

Treatment of Victims of Crimes;

The judicial system's treatment of cases involving physical and mental abuse, especially as related to domestic violence, sexual assaults, other sexual offenses, and various forms of physical and mental harassment;

Court Administration, particularly as regards the hiring and treatment of judicial employees and the opportunities for advancement;

Child support, custody, and visitation.

If the Gender Bias Task Force determines that gender bias exists in any aspect of the judicial system in Texas, then the Task Force should suggest programs and mechanisms for reducing and eventually eliminating such bias, including: standards designed to eliminate gender bias; educational programs calculated to increase the sensitivity of judges, judicial employees, the legal profession, and the public to the existence and effects of gender bias; and appropriate procedures, including statutory rule changes, designed to eliminate or reduce gender bias in the Texas judicial system.

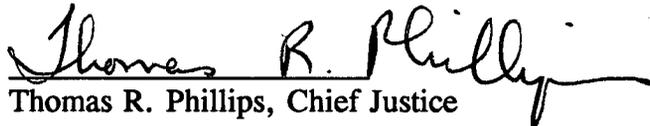
Justice Oscar H. Mauzy is hereby appointed liaison to the Gender Bias Task Force and authorized to convene the Commission, which will elect its own chair.

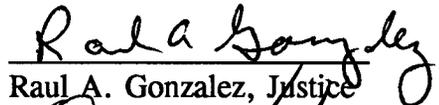
The following persons are appointed as members of the Gender Bias Task Force:

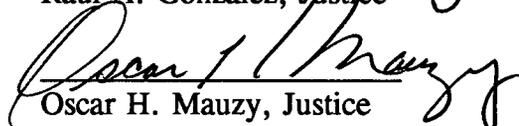
Justice Oscar H. Mauzy, Austin
Judge Charlie Baird, Austin
Chief Justice Alice Trevathan, Houston
Judge Ruth Blake, Tyler
Judge Glen Ashworth, Kaufman
Senator Peggy Rosson, El Paso
Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Austin
Representative Nancy McDonald, El Paso
Representative Senfronia Thompson, Houston
Dean Barbara Aldave, San Antonio
Professor Neil Cogan, Dallas
Jesse Oliver, Austin
Jan Sanders, Dallas
Evelyn Parmer, Ft. Worth
Pat Smothers, San Antonio
Kathy Grant, Austin
Nancy Harrington, Conroe
Peggy Menchaca, Houston
Magistrate Judith Guthrie, Tyler
Betsy Julian, Dallas
Audrey Seldan, Austin
Lynn Carter, Austin
Carolyn Moore, Lubbock
Vincent Perini, Dallas
Iris Robinson, Houston
Barbara Rosenberg, Dallas
Patricia Hair, Houston
Norma Levine Trusch, Houston
Barbara Kazen, Austin
Blanca O'Leary, Houston
Janiece Longoria, Houston
Cindy Garcia, Houston

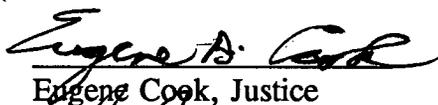
The Task Force shall prepare a report to the Supreme Court and the Texas Legislature by June 1, 1992, outlining the results of its investigation. If the Task Force determines that no gender bias exists in the legal system in the State of Texas, it shall so state in its report. If the Task Force determines that gender bias does exist in the judicial system in the State of Texas, it shall describe, to the extent practicable, the nature and extent of such bias, and set forth recommendations for the elimination or reduction of such bias.

IN CHAMBERS, this 12 day of June, 1991.

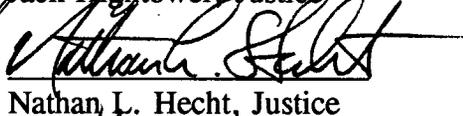

Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

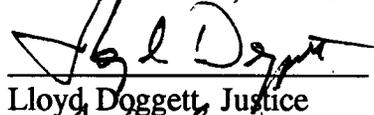

Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice

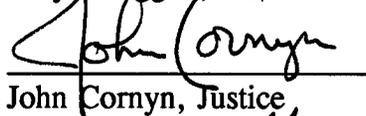

Oscar H. Mauzy, Justice


Eugene Cook, Justice


Jack Hightower, Justice


Nathan L. Hecht, Justice


Lloyd Doggett, Justice


John Cornyn, Justice


Bob Gammage, Justice