



Beyond the Bench

Law, Justice, and Communities Summit

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Paul Quinn College
Dallas, Texas

Welcome

Dear Distinguished Guest,

Public trust in the courts is essential to our democracy. People with disputes among themselves or with their government must have confidence that courts will be fair to all and faithful to the rule of law, no matter what.

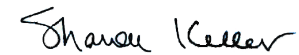
The many recent conflicts between law enforcement and communities, like the terrible events in downtown Dallas last July 7, have ratcheted up harsh exchanges that impede civil discourse and poison constructive dialogue. A survey conducted for the National Center for State Courts found that only 32 percent of African Americans believe that state courts provide equal justice to all. The Judiciary should do all it can to assure people that it will make every effort to respond positively to these challenges.

The job of every judge is to listen to people who disagree, to hear everyone out. The Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the State's two highest courts, have convened this Summit on Law, Justice, and Communities to listen and encourage you to hear each other out. We hope to find new ways to instill public trust in the courts, and to help fulfill the promise of justice for all.

Thank you for joining us in this courageous conversation.



Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Texas



Sharon Keller
Presiding Judge
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Summit Agenda

Morning

- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht,
Supreme Court of Texas
Justice Jeff Brown,
Supreme Court of Texas
Presiding Judge Sharon Keller,
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
Justice Eva M. Guzman,
Supreme Court of Texas
President Michael J. Sorrell,
Paul Quinn College
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Keynote Address**
Chief Art Acevedo,
Houston Police Department
- 10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Break**
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Viewpoints:
Life-Altering Moments**
Chief Judge Eric Washington,
D.C. Court of Appeals, Moderator
Richard Miles
Miles of Freedom
Arielle Clarkson
Paul Quinn College
Sergeant Willie Ford
Dallas Police Department
Emily Thompson,
Widow of Officer Brent Thompson
Senior Pastor Richie Butler
St. Paul United Methodist Church Dallas

Afternoon

- 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Box Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. When Intuition Fails: Mental Shortcuts and Unconscious Bias**
Dr. Jeffrey Rachlinski,
Cornell Law School
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m. Break**
- 2:10 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. Deconstructing Our Decision-Making**
Judge Scott McCown,
University of Texas School of Law, Moderator

Scenario: Youth arrested in school for 2nd degree felony

Panelists:
CPS Caseworker, Principal, Law Enforcement, Mental Health Provider, Prosecutor, Defense Lawyer, Faith Leader, Judge, Youth
- 3:35 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Break**
- 3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. From Words to Action: Developing a Plan**
- 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Looking Forward**
Dr. Tony Evans,
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship



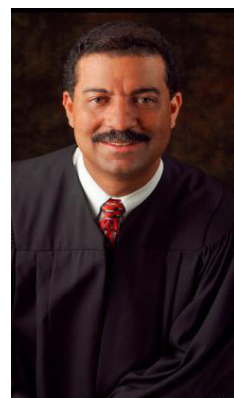
Michael J. Sorrell

Michael J. Sorrell is the 34th President of Paul Quinn College. Under his leadership, the school has become one of the most innovative small colleges in America and is rapidly becoming a model for urban higher education by focusing on academic rigor, experiential learning, and entrepreneurship. President Sorrell earned his Ed.D. at the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. and M.A. in Public Policy from Duke University. He graduated from Oberlin College with a B.A. in Government.



Police Chief Art Acevedo

Art Acevedo was sworn in as the Chief of the Houston Police Department (HPD) on November 30, 2016, and is the first Hispanic to lead the HPD in the fourth largest city in the nation. He began his career as a patrol officer and rose through the ranks to become Chief of the California Highway Patrol in 2005. He later left California for Texas to become Chief of the Austin Police Department (APD), where he served nearly a decade. Acevedo worked steadily to strengthen bonds between the community and police, and re-engineered APD into a data driven and intelligence led policing organization.



Chief Judge Eric Washington

The Honorable Eric T. Washington was appointed Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2005 and is currently serving his third consecutive four year term as Chief Judge and as Chair of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration for the District of Columbia. Chief Judge Washington, a past President of the Conference of Chief Justices of the United States, is a nationally recognized leader on Access to Justice issues and works tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of the rule of law and the role of the courts in our democracy.



Dr. Jeffrey Rachlinski

Dr. Jeffrey Rachlinski is the Henry Allen Mark Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Psychology from Johns Hopkins University, a J.D. from Stanford Law School, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Stanford. Dr. Rachlinski's research interests primarily involve the application of cognitive and social psychology to law with special attention to judicial decision-making. He has presented his research at over 70 judicial education conferences, which have included over 5,000 judges in a dozen states and three countries.



Judge Scott McCown

Scott McCown is a Clinical Professor and Director of the Children's Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law. Previously, Judge McCown served as a state district judge, and by special assignment presided over a child protection docket. He later served as executive director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a think tank focusing on the challenges facing low-income Texans. In both 2005 and 2011, Texas Monthly named Judge McCown one of "the 25 Most Powerful People in Texas Politics," calling him a "voice for the voiceless."



Dr. Tony Evans

Dr. Tony Evans is founder and senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, founder and president of The Urban Alternative, former chaplain of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, and present chaplain of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. Dr. Evans has written over 100 books, booklets, and Bible studies including his legacy work, "Oneness Embraced," and his vision work, "The Kingdom Agenda." His radio broadcast, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans, can be heard on nearly 1,000 US radio outlets daily and in more than 130 countries.

Deconstructing Our Decision-Making: The Facts

James

- A 16 year-old boy
- Grew up in an urban community
- Removed from his parents' home by Child Protective Services when he was eight for neglectful supervision
- Currently placed in a foster home in a rural area of Texas
- James reported a history of being bullied at his current school
- James recently received an in-school suspension for a school fight with no witnesses or injuries

James's Family

- Parents struggled with poverty, domestic violence, and substance use
- Father is currently incarcerated and mother's whereabouts are unknown
- Paternal grandmother cared for James for the past eight years, but recently died
- Two siblings also entered CPS care with James, but they were recently separated

Incident

- James was confronted by two other students at lunch outside the school, near a retaining wall
- James asserted a classmate named Matthew pushed him
- James struck Matthew once, causing him to fall backwards
- Matthew hit his head on the retaining wall and sustained a serious injury
- The principal of the school called Emergency Medical Services to the scene
- The School Resource Officer called for backup
- After a foot chase, James was apprehended by police and placed in a choke hold
- James was eventually charged with a second-degree felony

Panelists

Bishop Aaron Blake, *Greater Faith Community Church*
Patricia Cummings, *former Prosecutor*
Tamara Hansen, *Child Protective Services*
Principal Joe LaPuma, *Creekview High School*
Kevin Lee, *Paul Quinn College*
Sergeant Lawrence Lujan, *El Paso Police Department*,
Judge for Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Carmen Roe, *Carmen Roe Law Firm*
Chief Paul Thompson, *West Rusk County Consolidated ISD*
Dr. Griselda Villalobos, *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*
Judge Cynthia Wheless, *417th District Court, Collin County*

Questions to Consider*

- What assumptions have I made about people based on their cultural identity, profession, or background?
- How might my assumptions influence my decision-making?
- What efforts have I made to challenge my assumptions?

*Adapted from the NCJFCJ "Courts Catalyzing Change" Bench Card

Acknowledgments

Beyond the Bench Planning Committee

Chief Art Acevedo	Presiding Judge Sharon Keller
Chaplain Dannie Archie	Judge Lawrence Lujan
Erwin Ballarta	Mary McQueen
Gary Bledsoe	Sarah Cotton Nelson
Justice Ada Brown	Carmen Roe
Justice Marc Brown	Judge Michael Schneider
Judge Darlene Byrne	David Slayton
Sheila Craig	Michael J. Sorrell
Rick Figueroa	Konstantina Vagenas
Michelle M. Fraga	State Rep. Jason Villalba
Chantel Hobbs	Judge Carlos Villalón, Jr.
Sam Houston	Chief Judge Eric Washington
Marie Jamison	Judge Cyndi Wheless

Special Thanks to the Following Individuals and Organizations

Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.	Mary McQueen
Dallas Faces Race	National Ctr. for State Courts
Dallas Police Association	Office of Court Admin.
Judge Camille DuBose	Operation Blue Shield
Judge John Delaney	Paul Quinn College
Deborah Fowler	Mena Ramón
Judge Rob Hofmann	Judge Robin Sage
Michelle Hunter	State Bar of Texas
Rhonda Hunter	Supreme Court of Texas
Judge Clay Jenkins	Children's Commission
Justice Michael Massengale	Texas Dept. of Public Safety



Supreme Court of Texas

Front Row: Paul W. Green, Chief Justice Nathan L Hecht, Phil Johnson
Back Row: John P. Devine, Debra Lehrmann, Don R. Willett,
Eva M. Guzman, Jeffrey S. Boyd, Jeff Brown



Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Front Row: Michael Keasler, Lawrence E. Meyers,
Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Cheryl Johnson, Barbara Hervey
Back Row: Kevin Yeary, Elsa Alcalá, Bert Richardson, David Newell