



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
March 8, 2017

Liberty and Justice: Pretrial Practices in Texas

Texas Judicial Council to Release Pretrial Study and Bail Reform Legislation

WHO: Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge Sharon Keller
Sen. John Whitmire
Rep. Andrew Murr
Dottie Carmichael, Public Policy Research Institute

WHAT: In the past 25 years, the pretrial population in Texas jails has risen from just over 32 percent of the population, to almost 75 percent of the population. In most Texas counties, ability to pay financial bail determines which defendants will be released until adjudication of criminal charges. The Texas Judicial Council partnered with the Public Policy Research Institute to conduct a two-year study of pretrial and bail practices in Texas. Overall, the study indicates that a pretrial risk assessment can save money, strengthen public safety and improve outcomes for defendants. Sen. John Whitmire and Rep. Andrew Murr have filed SB 1338, SJR 50, HB 3011 and HJR 98 in support of the study's findings.

WHERE: Texas Supreme Court Courtroom
201 W 14th Street
Austin, TX 78711

WHEN: Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

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