

**STATE OF TEXAS**  
**RESOLUTION**  
**of the**  
**TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**Improving Transparency from the State Commission on Judicial Conduct**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct reviews allegations of misconduct made against Texas Judges; and

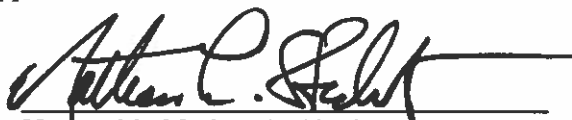
WHEREAS, examples were reported to the Public Trust and Confidence Committee regarding complaints made to the Commission about specific judges, but the Commission deferred action and further investigation due to pending criminal investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes a balance needs to be struck between confidentiality during the investigation process and transparency in judicial conduct complaints; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes increased public understanding of the complaint process, from filing to resolution, would maintain and increase public confidence in the process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council urges the Legislature to:

1. Require the State Commission on Judicial Conduct's annual report to include the number of complaints that have been deferred pending criminal investigation and the number of complaints referred to law enforcement;
2. Require the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to include on its website an index of pending cases by case number that includes the current status of each case and the age of each pending case; and
3. Require the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to post simple directions on its website with instructions about how to file a complaint, map out in clear and concise detail how a complaint makes its way through the process from filing to resolution, and clarify that confidentiality regarding a complaint applies to the Commission and not to the complainant.



Honorable Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council